Award for ‘a glorious restoration’

The work at Christ Church has recently been recognised at the Royal Fine Art Commission Trust’s Building of the Year Awards 2005 with a special award for ‘A Glorious Restoration’. The Commission’s award recognizes the ambitious scale of the restoration project at Christ Church, the determination and hard work of all those involved and the superb results.

On 16 June 2005, the Friends, Rector and PCC of Christ Church Spitalfields received the special award marking the successful restoration of the church at a ceremony celebrating some of the most exciting building projects completed in the UK during the last twelve months.

The annual award from the Royal Fine Art Commission Trust, sponsored by British Sky Broadcasting, is made to a new building or building scheme of outstanding architectural merit. The panel of judges is chaired by the Lord St John of Fawsley. Each year there is an overall winner and there are also special awards for commended buildings. This year’s awards were presented by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton.

A film showing all the buildings nominated and the eventual presentation of awards can be seen on Sky Artsworld channel on Thursday 28 July at 7pm and will be repeated on Friday 29 July at 2pm.

Other news

English Heritage recently chose Christ Church as the venue to launch the first definitive report on heritage skills, Traditional building craft skills: assessing the need, meeting the challenge.

The report was presented by David Linford, Chairman of the National Heritage Training Group, Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage and Peter Lobban, Chief Executive of CITB-Construction Skills. The detailed report sets out, region by region, the present and expected demand for different traditional crafts; it attempts to address how these demands can be met by increased focused training provision and the sort of funding which will be required to support this.

Christ Church was the ideal venue for such an event as so many of these specialist skills had been utilized in the restoration of Christ Church with the results there for all to see.

Dates for your diary

Open House London 2005

Saturday 17 September 10am–5pm,
Sunday 18 September 1pm–4pm

Christ Church is participating once again with over 500 venues in London for this weekend festival of architecture. Open House London provides the chance to see inside significant buildings not generally open to the public. Supporters may be interested to know that on the Saturday morning there will be bell ringing demonstrations organised by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and an opportunity to visit the ringing chamber.

Tour of Hawksmoor’s London churches

Demand for the tour that the Friends organised in May was so great that we have decided to
arrange a second one for this year on Saturday 24th September. We are delighted to have as our expert guide Andrew Martindale, formerly senior caseworker with the Georgian Group and currently Director of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland. We look forward to seeing many of our supporters at all these events.

Support

Although the restoration of the nave of the church is now complete, there is still vital work to be done: the complete restoration of the fine 1735 Richard Bridge organ; refurbishment of the crypt area to support the work in the church; and other smaller items such as restoring the monuments and buying suitable church furniture.

If you would like to support the ongoing work of the Friends, please consider making a donation by filling in the form enclosed with this newsletter. Every donation counts and is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Cards and booklets published by the Friends

Enclosed with this special edition of *Columns* is an order form for the cards, books and leaflets currently available from the Friends. All proceeds go towards the restoration work at Christ Church.
How to support the Friends

To become an acknowledged Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a minimum annual donation of £25 (£30 for overseas). You can contribute towards the restoration of Christ Church or the Richard Bridge Organ. Supporters receive the Friends’ newsletter Columns and advance notice of tours, lectures and other special events that the Friends organise.

You can give money in several ways:
• by payroll giving through Give As You Earn
• with a credit or debit card through our web site.

Or, by completing the appropriate parts of this page:
• by Standing Order (helping us to plan ahead and keep down administrative costs)
• by bank or CAF cheque.

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For further information about Gift Aid, see this link at HM Revenue and Customs’ website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pdfs/ir65.htm

Please allocate my donation towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields
- The Richard Bridge Organ

We would like to acknowledge gifts of £25 or more in Columns, but if you wish to remain anonymous please tick the box below:

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Data Protection Act 1998: the information you provide will only be used by the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields and will not be passed to any other organisations.

Thank you. Please return the completed page to: FOCCS, FREEPOST, LONDON E1 6BR