

Columns

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THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH SPITALFIELDS
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 276056

The newsletter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields who are leading the restoration of Nicholas Hawksmoor's church, one of the most important Baroque churches in Europe.

Please support us by subscribing or making a donation: use the form with this issue, or telephone the Friends' office, 020 7859 3035, or visit our website: www.christchurchspitalfields.org

Crown and mitres returned to Christ Church

High at the west end of Nicholas Hawksmoor's glorious interior the crown and two mitres are returned to their home. The size of these impressive objects can only be appreciated close up. Now back at the top of the organ case they look absolutely magnificent and perfectly scaled.

Built in 1735 by Richard Bridge, the wonderful instrument is being restored by William Drake's expert craftsmen. The eighteenth-century carving is exquisitely beautiful and full of life and movement, but it was found to be badly cracked and riddled with woodworm. The painstaking work to splinter, tie and glue the broken pieces and the delicate re-carving of missing pieces is bringing this magnificent piece of furniture back to its full glory.

The state of the organ case has had a big effect on the programme of the works, but it has been possible to return the top section of the case to the church while work continues at the workshop on the lower sections. These include the panels with intricately carved musical instruments. Work on site has to be scheduled around a busy church and the summer music festival concerts.

It is intended to bring the rest of the case back at the beginning of next year and install it in order for it to be decorated.

Meanwhile, in the organ builder's workshop in Buckfastleigh, craftsmen are working on the restoration of the soundboards (illustration p. 2).

These large wooden chests support the pipes and are of complex construction. Beneath the pipes are sliders which move from side to side to allow wind to pass to the sets of pipes selected by the organist when she or he draws out one of the stop knobs. Underneath the soundboard is a wind chest which houses the "wind" (compressed air), and contains the mechanisms (valves or pallets, pull-down wires) which cause the pipes to "speak".

Current work includes work on the actions which connect the keys to the valves (pallets); these are moving wooden parts (trackers), and roller-boards (illustrated p. 2,) which align the actions with the appropriate pallet.

Case decoration

The Friends have received tenders from a number of leading specialist decorators and their methodologies and prices carefully examined. The trustees are delighted to have appointed David Luard as the contractor to



carry out this work. His name will be familiar to many of our Supporters: he has had a long association with Christ Church. In 1998 he dismantled the galleries at the west end of the church and together with architect Red Mason examined and revealed conclusive evidence of how they would first have looked (*Columns passim*). More recently he has advised on the pulpit project and will be overseeing its restoration.

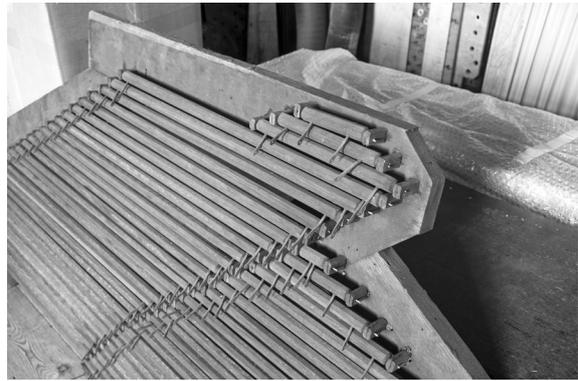
David Luard has recently restored historic joinery and carving following a fire at the Stationers' Hall. He has led the conservation of fire-damaged Grinling Gibbons carvings in John Evelyn's chambers at 1 Essex Court and was also conservator for the Grinling Gibbons' carved reredos at St James's Church Piccadilly.

He was winner of both the 'Gold' and 'Restoration' Awards at the 2010 'Wood Awards' for work carried out at Stoke Newington Council Chamber and Assembly Rooms. Luard is Historic Consultant to the London DAC.

The decorative scheme for the organ case is based on the detailed report on the painted, gilded and varnished surfaces of the organ case commissioned by the Friends from Catherine Hassall. Using this report, samples of the colours will be tested and the approved results will be made up in a traditional lead based paint. The decoration is scheduled to begin in January 2013.

The restoration of the 1735 Richard Bridge organ in Christ Church Spitalfields is a project of national importance and its return will be the crowning glory of one of the finest Baroque buildings in England.

We are extremely grateful to our Supporters for their generosity. Recent donations have been especially encouraging and they have included a generous grant of £15,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. This



The rollers are mounted on a "roller-board" and are part of the mechanism that transfers the organist's action in pressing a key to the valve in the soundboard which, if the slider board is open, allows the pipe to "speak".

grant has given a much-needed boost to the fundraising campaign. On making this award, Chairman, Guy Weston said "The Trustees are delighted to support this project".

However, we still need to raise £250,000 to complete the works including £40,000 for the gilding of the front pipes. These magnificent pipes will be returned to the organ towards the very end of the project. In Christ Church itself there is very little painted decorative work, the glorious gold of the gilded front pipes will shine out at the west end of the nave.

For details of this and for other specific items to fund please contact the Friends' office.

The soundboards, large wooden chests that support the organ pipes.





New website

The Friends' web-site is changing...

We are delighted to be able to announce that our website has a whole new face. With the help of designers Tamasin Cole and Jane Harper at Harper & Cole you will see an improved design with a new focus on news of the current organ project.

We are very proud of our photographic record of Christ Church particularly of the main restoration between 2002 and 2004. We have started a similar documentation of the organ project and shall be adding to this as the project progresses.

You will also be able to see a complete record of the Friends and search for photographs of the monuments in Christ Church and their transcribed inscriptions.

Supporters will continue to be able to give online and will now also be able to buy cards and leaflets through the site. With this new facility we can now take donations over the telephone.

Please let us know what you think, your feedback will be welcomed.

Events

**Tour of Hawksmoor's London Churches,
Saturday 2 March 2013**



After a long break the Friends are running one of their popular tours of Hawksmoor's London Churches. The tour offers a unique opportunity to visit all six of the remarkable Hawksmoor churches built by the Commissioners of the Fifty New Churches Act of 1711.

In recent years the individuality of Hawksmoor's commanding style has been increasingly recognised and after earlier neglect he is now acknowledged as one of the major architects of the European Baroque.

We will be accompanied by expert guide Andrew Martindale, Director of Heritage Management at Historic Scotland. Andrew's enthusiasm both for Hawksmoor's churches, and the wider context of eighteenth century religious buildings, derives from detailed study while working at the Georgian Group, where he was Senior Caseworker.

Meeting outside St George Bloomsbury, we will visit St Alfege Greenwich, St Anne Limehouse, St George in the East, St Mary Woolnoth, and finish at St George Bloomsbury.

We will also visit the restored Christ Church Spitalfields and pass St Luke Old Street with its unusual spire by Hawksmoor.

We will travel in a comfortable bus with good views, and lunch in Spitalfields is included – drinks may be purchased.

Places are limited and will be allocated as received. Booking is essential.

New Christmas Card 2012

The new card is captioned "Detail from the exuberantly-carved 1735 organ case at the bottom of the towers, showing a violin, a recorder, a shawm or oboe and a trumpet, with fruit and flower, swags and tassels."



Readers may recognize this image from *Columns* 34 and notice some differences between the two pictures. In particular the bell of the trumpet and the scroll of the violin have been painstakingly repaired.

Cards (5" x 5") will be high quality and in full colour with envelopes and will be available from our website and from the church. Cards are £5 for packs of 10 plus postage.

Columns

We are hoping to be able to send *Columns* and updates to our Supporters electronically as much as possible. We will still continue to use the post but if you would be happy for us to email you please let the Friends' office know: friends@christchurchspitalfields.org

Thank you

The Friends are grateful for the generosity of the many individuals and organisations who support the Restoration and Organ Appeals. We would like to thank the law firm Ashurst for generously providing an office; for printing this issue of *Columns* and other printed material. Thank you to our volunteers who come and help both in the office and at special events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those

who prefer to remain anonymous and those who give to the restoration by standing order, thereby saving on administrative costs.

Thank you to James Lloyd-Williams for his translation of the Hebrew on the monuments in the vestibule. These translations as well as transcriptions of all the Monuments can be found on the Friends' website.

We would also like to thank the following for their recent donations:

Gifts of £25 and over

Miss R G Ansell*
Mr R W Ayris*
Bruce A Bailey
Timothy Barker*
Hugh Brady
Mr E D Brownbill*
Mrs Sylvia Butler
Ms M Chambers*
John Critchley
J Davis
Dr Julia P Ellis*
John Falding
Mrs B A Glayzer*
F Leo Grant*
Mrs E Griffin*
Mr M G Hart
Achiya Hassan* *In memory of Mrs Ryan*
Hawksmoor Search Ltd
Mark Hobhouse*
Pam & Lawrance Hurst
Mary Knox*
Eleanor Martin*
Duncan McKay
Nadine Morgan*
Mr R C J Nelson*
E A Newlands
Dennis G Page*
Mrs Zara Perry
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Mr J Radway*
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Martin Sheppard*
Mary Peskett Smith*
Lady Stewart*
Jan Thornton
N E Trippett
Philip Vracas
R W D Warby
Timothy W Wells*
Gary Wiles*

Gifts of £100 and over

All Souls College
Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville*
In memory of Nicholas Hawksmoor
Brian Cleave*
Mr G A Collens
The Honorable Sir Anthony Evans*
Peter Evans*
Sir Donald Insall CBE*
Fiona Maccoll
The Modiano Charitable Trust
Prof Donald A Preece*
The Sainer Charity*
François Schmitt*
The Stephen Cockburn Charitable Trust*
In memory of Eric Elstob
Mrs M Summerson*
In memory of Mr S Summerson
The W & E Harris Charitable Trust*
In memory of Michael Gillingham

Gifts of £200 and over

Nicholas & Diana Baring
The Henderson Smaller Companies Investment
Trust plc*
Arabella Hobson* *In memory of*
Margaret Coppack (Festival Steward colleague)
Philip M Kershaw*
The Peguera Trust*
Jonathan Scott*
Elizabeth Shaw*

Gifts & Grants of £500 and over

The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund*
Mr S W Massil* *In memory of W I Massil*
Allan Murray-Jones*
The On Organ Fund*
Paul R Taylor*

Grant of £15,000

Garfield Weston Foundation*

** partly or fully for the Richard Bridge Organ Appeal*

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How to support the Friends

To become an acknowledged Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a minimum annual donation of £30 (£35 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:

- with a **credit or debit card** or **PayPal** through our web site.
- by **payroll giving** through Give As You Earn

Or, by completing the appropriate parts of this page:

- by **standing order** (helping us plan ahead and keep down administrative costs)
- by bank or **CAF cheque**.

Standing Order

Your bank and account details:

To Bank
of
.....
.....
..... Bank address
Sort code --
Account no

Please pay the Royal Bank of Scotland plc of 62-63 Threadneedle Street, LONDON EC2R 8LA, sort code 15-10-00 for the credit of The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields Account No 13075487 the sum of:

£ each month quarter year

Starting on dd|mm|yy (no earlier than one month from today, please) until further notice. This donation is in addition to*/replaces* previous Standing Orders, if any, in favour of the Charity. The Friends will process Standing Orders and forward them to your bank.

**delete as applicable*

Please complete the sections below:

I enclose my cheque for:

- £30 £50 £100 £250 £1,000
 other £ ...

Please make cheques payable to:
The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields

Please complete the sections below:

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If you are a UK taxpayer the Friends will be able to claim an additional 25% of your donation at no extra cost to you. All you have to complete the details below:

I am a UK taxpayer and would like The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields to treat all donations that I make (until I notify you otherwise) as Gift Aid donations. I understand that I must have paid an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax you reclaim on my donations.

Signature

Please allocate my donation towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields
 The Richard Bridge Organ

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Telephone

Email address

The Friends would like to acknowledge gifts of £30 or more in *Columns*, but if you wish to remain anonymous please tick the box below:

- Please do not print my name in *Columns*

Data Protection Act 1988: 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:
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