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THE BUTTRESS

PRESERVING BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

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THE CHAIRMAN WRITES...

Advent is the moment that we start the preparation for Christmas and it is a moment when we look forward with hope and expectation to what lies ahead.

At this year's Fitzhardinge Dinner, we launched a major new fundraising challenge to find £1.25m to rebuild our Cathedral Organ, which really is one of the finest in the country, to full working order. You can read more about its fascinating life and history on pages 4 & 5.

I am very pleased to be able to report to you that, thanks to the generous support of trusts and individuals, our aim of raising more than half the money for the restoration by Advent this year has already been achieved!

We are therefore now busy planning and getting relevant permissions for the programme of work. The whole process may take around 2 years to complete during which time the organ may have to be removed from the Cathedral and a temporary instrument installed. We also want to upgrade our sound system which is failing and unfit for hosting large services, theatre, cinema and concerts and this will cost in the region of £250,000.

Join us and be a part of this special moment in our Cathedral history as we rebuild our wonderful organ for the next generation of worshippers and musicians.

The campaign to raise the additional funds begins immediately and we are appealing to trusts and supporters locally, nationally and internationally. We hope that the story of our organ, and the importance of music and sound at the Cathedral, resonates with as many people as possible.

When you're visiting over Advent, do take a moment to witness our Rose Window stepping out from its scaffolding like an emerging chrysalis, suddenly spectacular in colour and light. The Dean has described this moment as like discovering a long-hidden jewel and he is right. Christ in Majesty now looks over the congregation and City. We thank our generous donors, once again.



Stephen Parsons
MBE DL Chairman

Meanwhile, we're carrying out fabric improvements across the Cathedral - you can read more about these on page 8.

Thank you all for your generous support of Bristol Cathedral both financially and emotionally. We are a small team working together to preserve this building for those who come after us.

I wish you all well, and look forward to seeing and speaking with many of you over the Advent and Christmas period and in the coming New Year.

**Stephen Parsons, MBE, DL
Chairman**



THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE FITZHARDINGE SOCIETY, 2017

On 28 September, 140 guests gathered to enjoy the annual dinner of the Fitzhardinge Society. Our thanks to SLX for their spectacular lighting and Fosters Catering for the delicious food. We are especially grateful to Fitzhardinge member Kathy Clark, who provided the stunning flower arrangements and fellow member Alastair Currie, whose event team made sure that the evening ran smoothly.

An excess of £5,000 was raised, all of which will be put towards the beginning of our organ project. Thank you to all who joined us and shared in this special evening together.



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL ORGAN

Our organ is a treasure of national importance. It is now in need of a thorough rebuild to make it fit for its role in 21st century cathedral music. Master of the Choristers and Organist Mark Lee tells us more...

When first built in 1685 – the year of the birth of J S Bach and George Frederic Handel – the organ at Bristol Cathedral represented one of the finest achievements in organ building. Its builder, Renuus Harris, dominated English organ building, and ownership of an instrument of his would have represented a considerable feather in your cap, together with a considerable investment. Its history is fascinating and unique. The cases, together with their pipes, allegedly from the workshop of Grinling Gibbons are magnificent examples of 17th century carving, and would have been front and back of a screen mounted organ - they were moved to their current position in the Quire bays in 1860. This instrument, which attracted considerable praise, was unaltered for 100 years, when some small additions were made. It had no pedals - 10 large pedal pipes were added in 1838 – they're still with us. By 1860 it was all looking decidedly dated.

With the appointment of Hubert Hunt as Organist in 1901 things moved on apace. The new nave meant the organ was now inadequate for the building, and by 1906, largely thanks to a substantial donation of half the cost from Mr H O Wills, it was possible to commission Messrs J W Walker to build a new instrument. This was dedicated on 8 October 1907, with an opening recital by Sir Walter Parratt, Organist of St George's Chapel, Windsor playing music by Mozart, Schumann, Franck, Bach, Parry and Saint-

Saens, and charging 10 guineas for the privilege. At the dedication service prior to the recital, the Cathedral was resplendent with a "vast congregation", according to the local press, though the Duke of Beaufort and Lord Fitzharding, who were away from home, wrote to the Dean expressing regret at their inability to be present. The Cathedral Choir was joined by Wells Cathedral Choir consisting of "14 lads and 10 song men." At this time the internals of the organ were all brand new, as was half the pipework, only the best of what was already there being retained. This organ represented the absolute culmination of the very fine work coming out of the Walker factory from 1890 onwards. It stands as the last and finest of the best period of the English Romantic organ. In 1990 it was modestly restored by N P Mander of London, when it remained virtually unchanged. This was the only significant work that had been done to it since its creation 83 years before.

Sadly, it has got to a stage where things are failing on a daily basis – in September we were without it completely – and there is never more than 90% of it working at any one time. Cars are my favourite analogy, as all my choristers will testify. It is a 1907 car. If you owned one, you would bring it out twice a year and show it off on sunny days, and then put it back carefully. It would be very difficult to drive, and you wouldn't



use it as your daily driver. The organ of Bristol Cathedral is the 1907 car that we are taking to the shops and on the motorway every day. It was built, in Tottenham Court Road, by men in bowler hats, stiff collars, ties and waistcoats in an era before health and safety. What it requires is a complete restoration, while retaining all of its tonal majesty and ensuring that the instrument is accessible, responsive and reliable.

Today's renovation largely concerns the connection from key to pipe, which is currently via puffs of wind running through miles of lead tubing.

How fast the pipe reacts depends on how far the puff of air has had to travel, and whether the lead tubing has deformed over the decades, preventing the flow. It is impossible to get all parts of the instrument to speak simultaneously, and on a 3 day tuning visit 2 of those days will be spent

getting the puffs of wind to run around the organ unchallenged. We are taking thorough, professional advice on the best methods of proceeding with the work, in a way that is sympathetic to our outstanding heritage and in keeping with the individual character of the instrument. Pipes which haven't been heard for 20 years because of their inaccessibility can be made to speak again.

This is a Herculean task, costing in excess of a million pounds. But music is the beating heart of worshipping life in Bristol Cathedral, and this organ, which is a rare and remarkable survivor of a brief era when organs were individually hand crafted, pipe by pipe, and their musical quality beyond reproach, deserves the highest level of attention. In its 110 year history, to say nothing of the 332 year history of its magnificent cases, it has matured and seasoned and gained the tonal standing of a Stradivarius violin (the words of an organ builder, not my own...). Let's make sure we give it every chance to shine to its greatest glory, and commit to it at the highest level in common with those forebears who built the nave of this Cathedral, and had this glorious instrument created in the first place.

Thank you.





OUR ORGAN AND SOUND APPEAL HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thanks to the generosity of trusts, businesses and individuals, we are already over half of the way towards reaching our target of £1.5million for the renovation of our organ and the installation of a new sound system. There are lots of ways that you can be involved with this landmark project for the Cathedral:

Give a Gift

Every penny given will help to rebuild our magnificent organ, install a new sound system, and sustain the tradition of choral music which rings from the walls. Gifts can be given as a one-off donation, or over a number of years. Exclusive events and opportunities will be made available, depending on the size of the gift.

The enclosed donation form is here for your consideration.

Choir Piccolo: £500

Solo Tromba: £5,000

Great Reeds: £10,000

Find out more

We will be holding a number of receptions with the Dean and Mark Lee, Master of the Choristers and Organist, where you can find out more about the project and how you can be involved. Look out for dates in the New Year.

Tell your friends

We would love for people across the city and region to be involved with the rebuilding of our organ. Why not host a musical tea party, bring friends to a concert or recital, or arrange for a private tour with members of the Cathedral team.

**Contact Naomi naomi.miller@bristol-cathedral.co.uk
0117 9468184 to talk about ways that you can become involved.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



An incredibly popular event in previous years, we are delighted

to offer a **tour of the Cathedral, with Keeper of the Fabric,**

Jon Cannon. Jon's enthusiastic

and highly knowledgeable tours are a real treat, whether you are new to Bristol Cathedral or have been visiting for years. **The tour will take place on Saturday 3 March 2018 and tickets are £10.** This event is for members only.

On **Sunday 13 May at 2.15 pm**, we are invited to **Berkeley Castle** for a private tour followed by afternoon tea in the Great Hall. Join us as

we discover more about the family behind the founding of Bristol's Augustinian Abbey. This event is for members only. **Tickets are £25.**

Save the date! The annual **High Sheriff's Concert** will take place on **Friday 8 June**, with a theme of Celtic Connections. More details and an invitation will follow in the new year.

Please contact **Wendy Pradalie** wendy.pradalie@bristol-cathedral.co.uk **0117 946 8184** to book. Please make all cheques out to 'Bristol Cathedral Trust' or make an online payment using the bank details on the back of the magazine.



FABRIC PROJECTS

As well as planning for the renovation of the organ, the Cathedral will be delivering a number of fabric projects and repairs across the Cathedral site many of which are supported by the work of the Trust.

Cloister Doors

In early 2018 beautiful new glass doors will be installed in the Cloister which will simultaneously improve draft exclusion, light and accessibility.

Lay Clerk Vestry

Improvements will be made to the Lay Clerk Vestry, where the adults of the choir prepare and robe for services. The space also provides access to the charming Sub Croft chapel, used for services when the main building is in use, such as during UWE graduations.

Café and catering

Following the arrival of new furniture earlier in the year, the Café design and decoration will continue to be refurbished, and the slype kitchen, which services Sunday coffees and a growing demand for event catering, will be improved.

Floors and Access

Public accessibility and wheelchair access must be improved in and around the Cathedral, especially in the Cloister and outside the verger cubby office.



Gatehouse Heating

Our beautiful 12th century Gatehouse houses many of the Cathedral's administration staff and clergy. A full refit of the radiators is needed to keep them safe and warm.

Inventory and Storytelling

We are currently embarking upon a project to preserve and protect the Cathedral's archives and inventory and to use the stories within it to inform new audiences about us and our role in the city over 900 years.

THE ROSE WINDOW UPDATE

Picture the scene – the Chapter Clerk in her dusty, cold Gatehouse turret, scratching out a funding application with a quill pen by guttering candlelight, to plead with the powers that be for funding to bring the Rose Window back to vibrant, colourful life.

Then, a few weeks later she hears that the request has been denied...

Well it wasn't quite like that – in reality the Chapter Clerk, Development Director and Cathedral Architect, laboured over a hot computer and on-line application form, but the outcome was the same. Despite our best efforts in 2016, we were not able to secure grant funding for a project which had been flagged as a priority in our 2012 quinquennial fabric review. We were stoic, as anyone who works with heritage buildings needs to be, but at the time I did not hold out much hope for getting the work completed any time soon.

And then, 'O frabjous day! Collooh! Callay!', we heard the amazing news that donors had heard about our plight and offered to fund the project in its entirety. I cannot easily describe the sheer pleasure and delight this news gave us – it was like the best red letter day you can imagine, and we were on a collective high afterwards. And now, a year later, thanks to the expertise of Ellis's and specialist Dan



Humphries, the work has been completed. I hope you enjoy the new light and colour that the window brings to the nave; it's a celebration of music and life with the restored image of Christ at the centre.

It is a privilege to serve your Cathedral, and there is nothing a Chapter Clerk likes better than being able to make important projects happen – to give the building the TLC it needs. Once we have the resources there is nothing we cannot accomplish, and I am incredibly grateful to the donors who were so generous and made this particular project possible. Thank you.



NEWS



Mr John Berkeley

We were very sad to learn of the death of Mr John Berkeley in early November. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. He and the family have always been very proud of the long connection between them and the Cathedral and he was a founder patron on the Fitzhardinge Society. His vision at the time is one that resonates with us today.

Bristol is blessed with a wonderful Cathedral. Members of The Fitzhardinge Society treasure it and will maintain it as my forebears maintained it. Bristol Cathedral will always be here, with the help of a growing Fitzhardinge Society, to serve the needs of generations to come. Bristol Cathedral – a symphony of space and light and stone – will be a place preserved for all those who love Bristol.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with all the staff at the Berkeley Estate. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Farewells

In September, the Cathedral hosted the Farewell service to Bishop Mike, Bishop of Bristol since 2003. The process for appointing the next Bishop is underway, with an announcement due in summer 2018. This Christmas, we say a very fond farewell to Robert Bull, Canon Pastor since 2010, who is retiring. We wish he and his wife Margaret all the very best in their new chapter. A new member of staff will join us in 2018.

Cathedral Shop

Over the past year, the Cathedral Shop has been growing increasingly successful, thanks to a lot of hard work by the team at Aslan Books and our loyal volunteers. This Advent, the Shop has a wonderful selection of Advent calendars, Christmas cards, gifts and books – do pop in for some Christmas browsing.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT BRISTOL CATHEDRAL



Bristol Cathedral will be marking the journey to Christmas with a variety of celebratory concerts, special services and moments for reflection.

Christmas is always a busy time in a Cathedral calendar and 2017 is no exception. The journey to Christmas will be marked with a variety of different events, services and concerts, all of which celebrate our journey from darkness into light.

- ✦ Sunday 3 December, 6pm
Advent Procession
- ✦ Sunday 10 December, 6pm
Advent Sacred Space
- ✦ Friday 15 & Saturday 16
December, 7.30 pm
Carols by Candlelight
- ✦ Sunday 17 December, 3.30pm
Family Carol Service
- ✦ Tuesday 19 December, 5.15pm
Shoppers' Carols
- ✦ Wednesday 20 December, 10am
Toddler's Carols
- ✦ Saturday 23 December, 6pm
& Christmas Eve, 3.30pm
Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols
- ✦ Christmas Eve, 11pm
Eucharist of
Christmas Night
- ✦ Christmas Day, 10am
Festival Eucharist
- ✦ Saturday 6 January, 12.30pm
Choral Eucharist for
the Epiphany



SUPPORTING YOUR CATHEDRAL

I would like to make a donation to Bristol Cathedral Trust

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I am a UK tax payer, and would like you to claim Gift Aid on all donations I make until I notify you otherwise.



I have a friend who I think would like to know more about Bristol Cathedral Trust and the Fitzhardinge Society.

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Please return this completed payment order within an envelope to:

The Fitzhardinge Society
c/o Bristol Cathedral Trust
College Green
Bristol, BS1 5TJ

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