



fly the flyer

Summer events

The 7th Annual Dinner

Friday 17th June in the Church 7.15 for 8.00 pm

The Annual Dinner has become the premier event of the summer season. Over a hundred guests enjoy fine home cooked food and good company.

It's a great evening. Why not join us?

Tickets £40 rogerfine@gmail.com phone: 01273 328179



Photo Osler

Unfenced

Friday 27 August in the Church 6.30 pm

Three perfectly-blended female voices, the most sophisticated piano accompaniment you can imagine and an old-fashioned string bass.

The world of classic songs is the main playground, mixing well-known numbers with those that are less familiar and throwing in some downright left-field choices. Hoagy Carmichael, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Cole Porter, Noel Coward, Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams - are just some of the composers whose work is featured.

£30 Concert with supper in vicarage garden

£10 Concert only

Booking details later



Photo Unfenced



Membership 2016 Have you renewed?

Single £15 couples £20

We must apologise for the delay in sending out reminders to some Friends. We hope that you have now received a reminder either by email or in the post from Nicola Coleby, Membership Secretary.

Enquiries Nicola@friendsofsaintmichaels.co.uk

Cheques to Friends of St Michael's: £15 single; couples £20

Please post to: Parish Office Victoria Road Brighton BN1 3FU

David Beevers on the Western Rose Window

The great western rose window is a prominent feature of the so-called 'New Church', designed by William Burges in 1868 but built after his death in 1881 in a modified form in 1893-95 by the executant architect J S Chapple, Burges's friend and office manager. In 1895 the window was filled with stained glass by a designer and manufacturer who had worked with Burges for many years. Although the glass was cartooned fourteen years after Burges's death, it owes much to him and it is even possible that the artist who provided the cartoons, Horatio Walter Lonsdale (1844-1919), used designs already drawn up by Burges in 1868. The glass certainly looks more of the 1860s than the 1890s, but this could be due to the consistent medievalism of H W Lonsdale and the glass painter William Worrall who worked for the London firm of Saunders and Co, founded by Burges's collaborator W Gualbert Saunders. After Saunders left for the Continent in 1870 his assistant, William Worrall, ran the firm and continued to use the name Saunders and Co in order to perpetuate its Burgesian traditions. Cartoons for the glass were provided by Horatio Lonsdale in 1895 working from his studio at 3, John St, Bedford Row, London. Lonsdale had worked with Burges on all his principal commissions, amongst which were Cardiff Castle (1868 onwards); St Fin

Barre's Cathedral, Cork (1869); Tower House, Melbury Rd, London, Burges's own house (1875-78); and Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute, for the 3rd Marquess of Bute (1879-90). Lonsdale's work covered interior design, furniture, mural painting and stained glass. Trained as an architect, he was in effect Burges's draughtsman, illustrator and cartoonist.

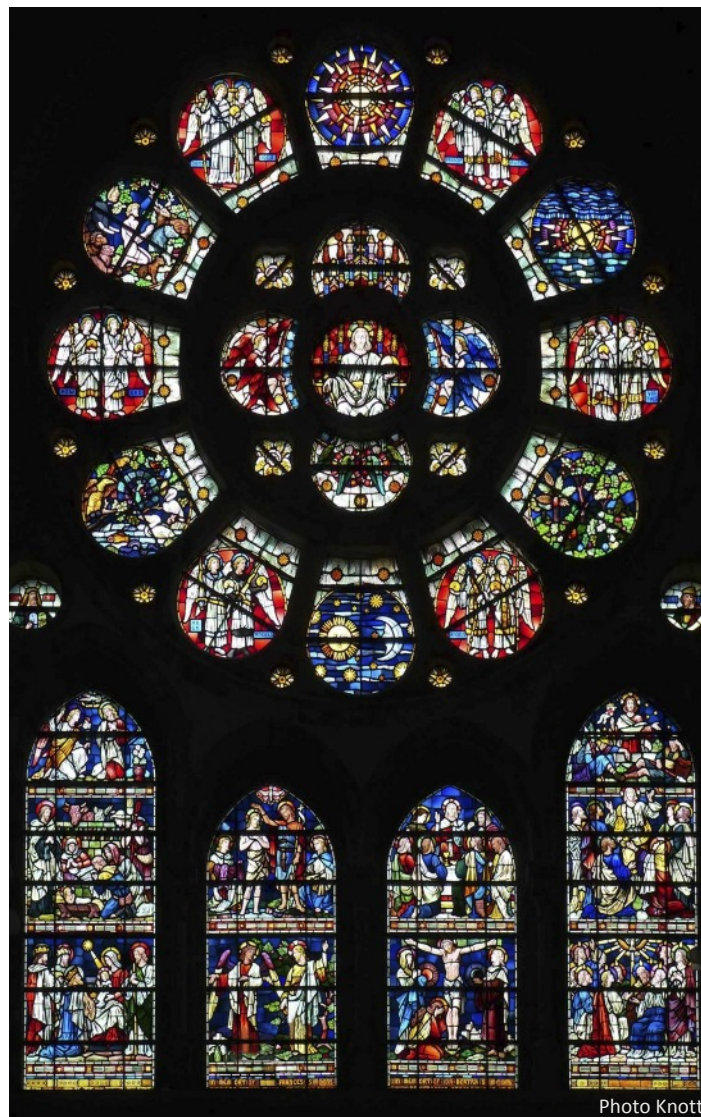


Photo Knott

The glass glows with iridescent hues when the sun is in the right position.

The Days of Creation are depicted in the gigantic cartwheel which forms the rose window; beneath, in the four lancets, are scenes from Christ's life on earth from the Incarnation to the Resurrection. The Days of Creation was one of Burges's favourite themes, first used by him in the west rose window of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork in 1876. The twelve lobed lights alternate between the heavenly hierarchy and the creation of the world. Because of the dedication of the church, angels are well represented and between the creation scenes are representatives of some of the nine orders of angels in heaven: at 1.00 Principalities; at 3.00 Virtues; at 5.00 Angels; at 7.00 Archangels; at 9.00 Powers; at 11.00 Dominions.

Shimmering and glistening, the glass is as Pre-Raphaelite as the more famous Morris windows in the 'Old

The lobed lights depicting creation

Looking at the window as if it were a clock face. Prominent scenes include trees and flowers in the 4.00 position; the sun, moon and stars in the 6.00 position; fishes and birds at 8.00; and the animals with Adam who names them at 10.00.



Trees and flowers



Sun moon and stars



Fishes and birds



The animals with Adam

Preparing for the Annual Dinner

Alison Minns finds nothing is left to chance

If you're after a gastronomic experience in splendid surroundings amongst great company you're advised to head to St Michael's on Friday 17th June

This is the date The Friends put on their renowned Annual Dinner. So impressed have I been with the three dinners I have attended that I decided to take a peek behind the meticulous planning and preparation that goes into such a major event.

Over two months beforehand a group of around eight committed cooks gather round a table and start the serious planning. The number of people and tables is agreed – this year (as previously) 110 people at 11 tables. Fewer means less money raised for the Friends. More is too cramped.

Tasting session to choose the main course

The price of the meal is carefully considered. It must be good value, but of course the prime purpose is as a charity fundraiser.

This year it was regretfully decided to raise the ticket price a little. The cost had remained unchanged since the original dinner seven years ago. It is still a bargain for a welcome drink and a delicious four course locally sourced and locally cooked meal, not to mention the beautiful ambience of the church and the chance to share a home-cooked meal with congenial company.

At the planning meeting the group discusses a range of menu options and a choice of two starters, two main courses and two desserts is agreed upon to trial cook and taste. Each volunteer

cook opts to prepare one or two of the dishes and a trial tasting is held a month later.

At this sampling session decisions are made to keep one of each of the courses. Dishes may be discarded at this stage because of taste, aesthetic considerations (does it look too bland on the plate?), potential difficulty of last minute presentation on the night (too fiddly to serve), lack of equipment such as ramekins to serve 110 of the dish, and of course, the cost of ingredients. Delicious, relatively simple to prepare and serve and cost-effective – these are the key components of the final choice of dishes.

The decision-making and tasting of the menu is the fun part. But more needs to be done before Friends can tickle their taste-buds. Musicians need to be hired (this year it's jazz), decorations



Photo Minns

need to be arranged (petals on the tables, light projections on the ceiling), raffle prizes bought, serving staff hired and bar staff identified, wine and drinks purchased, tables, crockery and cutlery hired, bin bags and similar less glamorous paraphernalia organised and publicity arranged.

It's a huge undertaking but the volunteers and helpers now work to a tried and tested formula. So... if you want to help the Friends raise money (last year we raised a mammoth £3,500) and enjoy a good meal into the bargain, then don't delay in buying your ticket.

See front page for booking details

A letter from Chris Dawes Chairman of The Friends

Dear Friends,

David Beevers' description gives life to the detail of the magnificent Rose Window which many of us have enjoyed over the years for its colour and charm.

The Rose Window has unfortunately suffered from time and weather and the Friends were asked to contribute towards the significant costs of urgent repair to the stonework and glazing. We thought that the Rose Window is such an important part of St Michael's that a substantial contribution towards its repair was warranted and, although we felt unable quite to match the church's own funding, have agreed to contribute £10,000 towards this work. We were very pleased that a further generous contribution has been made through the Friends by Alison Minns, editor of *The Flyer*. This is in memory of Alison's husband, Christopher, whom she sadly lost in January. A celebration of Christopher's life was held at St Michael's on 13 February. We are most grateful for Alison's gift as a symbol of appreciation for the Friends who supported her during Christopher's illness and her bereavement. It is particularly fitting that Alison's contribution in memory of Christopher is to St Michael's stained glass, since Christopher was an expert on glass and Alison's contribution will help keep this fine glass firmly in its place.

Thank you Alison.

Chris Dawes

Our Patron Sir Roy Strong honoured

Friends of St Michael's Patron Sir Roy Colin Strong, CH, FRSL was made a Companion of Honour for services to culture in the 2016 New Year's Honours List.

Art historian, museum curator, writer, broadcaster and landscape designer, Sir Roy has served as director of both the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

He is a valued supporter of The Friends, attending the annual dinner and appearing "in conversation" with Charles Saumarez Smith.



Friend and café volunteer Jane Gray sheds light on activities in the Church Hall

St Michael's is very fortunate in having a spacious hall directly linked to the church. It has been the venue for many Friends' events including jazz evenings, an Indian evening and lunches following the very popular tours by David Beevers. The kitchen has also been used to prepare and serve meals for over 100 people for the Friends annual dinner.

There are many other uses to which the hall is used as it provides a flexible space with good facilities. Events range from children's parties, through a mothers' support group to zumba classes.

Over twenty five years ago volunteers started serving breakfasts in the hall on Saturday mornings. Bishop Martin of Chichester helped celebrate the recent twenty fifth anniversary by joining the breakfast and even bringing in eggs laid by his own chickens. The volunteers now run a café on Tuesday and Thursday

mornings with a menu of breakfast, brunch and snacks. This has become very popular, particularly the smoked salmon and scrambled eggs. [I can vouch for the substantial breakfasts and congenial company on Saturdays. ed.]



Photo Gray

The main purpose of the hall lettings and café is to raise much needed funds for the fabric and running of the church so the monies complement the efforts of the Friends.