

# The Friends of Old St Paul's Society Inc

## *Newsletter and*

## *Notice of AGM Tuesday 19 March 2024*



Dear Friends,

*Bolton Street Cemetery*

**We look forward to welcoming you to the Friends AGM on Tuesday 19 March, at 5.30pm in Old St Paul's Church, Mulgrave Street, Thorndon. The Notice of Meeting/Agenda is attached to this newsletter. We are delighted that our guest speaker will be Kate Fortune, of the Friends of Bolton Street cemetery, now known as the Bolton Street Memorial Park.**

Many Old St Paul's early parishioners lie in Bolton Street. Set aside by the New Zealand Company in 1840 in Wellington's initial town plan, Bolton Street is the city's oldest cemetery. The first burials took place in 1841. Fifty years later it was almost full, and a new public cemetery opened in Karori in 1891.



**Come and hear Kate talk about early cemetery inhabitants and their links with Old St Paul's, then join us for a glass of wine.**

With 160 cruise ships visiting Wellington city, plus the summer wedding season, Old St Paul's Property Lead, Grant Collie, and his team have been keeping busy. If you have out of town guests, do take them to visit Old St Paul's, and check out the display on the Friends newly re-installed original tenor bell. Mid-May will see the return of OSP's popular **Thursday lunch-time Concerts**. Come along for an exciting musical programme, beginning on **21 March with the talented Scots College Jazz Band**, 12.30 to 1.15 pm. See more details at Old St Paul's at: <https://visitheritage.co.nz/whats-on>

In December, it was wonderful to return to a full church of 450 people for the Friends annual Citizens Christmas Carol Service, and to welcome so many families and children to a beautifully decorated Old St Paul's Church.

A huge thank you to all who helped ensure a splendid evening: Marsden School's premier choir, *Altimisse*, and talented soloists, with director Maaike Christie-Beekman, a wonderful hand-bell performance by the Marsden Bell Ringers choir, directed by Marsden Head of Music, Marian Campbell, the inspiring playing of Hutt City Brass with director Matt Stein, and the magnificent Three Kings bass soloists.



*Marsden School's  
Alissime choir and  
soloists, with  
director Maaike  
Beckman-Christie  
Friends Christmas  
Carol Service, 2023*

Our thanks also to Revd Stephen King who led the service with Sarah King, Marsden School Chaplain, and the team of readers, especially Heritage NZ CEO Andrew Coleman and City Missioner Revd Murray Edridge. A huge thank you to the Harbour City, Guardian, and Wilson Funeral Homes, who generously designed and printed the stunning service sheet. And as always, special thanks to Friend's Musical Director, David Trott, who masterminded the service and provided organ accompaniment.

Thank you everyone for your support and your generous response to our pantry goods collection, which helped fill the shelves of the Wellington City Mission's Social Supermarket at Christmas.

Check out more images on our **new website** - <https://www.friendsofoldstpauls.org.nz> and look out for details of this year's Friends' **Citizens Carol Service in early December 2024.**

Watch also for details of our **June Commemoration of the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Old St Paul's** consecration, 6 June 1866. This is always a lovely midday winter service, followed by a light finger food lunch.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with family and friends. And do encourage them to join the Friends and our mailing list, so that we can continue to support the preservation of Wellington's most magnificent heritage building. If you are still receiving our newsletter by post and would like to receive it by e-mail, please contact the FOSP Secretary Carla – [fospmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fospmembership@gmail.com). We would also love to hear from you if you would like to join the Committee.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the Friends AGM on Tuesday 19 March 2024.**

Ngā mihi nui,

*Elizabeth Kay, Chair*

The Friends of Old St Paul's Society Inc.  
PO Box 38423, Wellington Mail Centre, 5045 Wellington, New Zealand  
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