

The Friends of Old St Paul's Society Inc

Newsletter May 2023



Dear Friends,

Firstly, the warmest thank-you to all who came to the Friends AGM held on 28 March, braving horrendously wintry weather on what should have been a mild late-summer evening! The Friends Committee for 2023 is Elizabeth Kay (Chair), Jane Aim (Past Chair), Brian Pike (Treasurer), Carla Wild (Secretary), David Trott (Musical Director), Marie Gillies (Minute Secretary), Marguerite Beere, Jay Benton, Crispin Kay, Jillian Wellings and Helena Walker.

Next month we look forward to seeing you **Tuesday 6 June 2023** at 12 noon, to mark the Consecration of St Paul's church on 6 June 1866. We will have a short Choral Eucharist followed by light refreshments. We are delighted that the Revd Canon Katie Lawrence, acting Dean of Wellington Cathedral, has agreed to officiate.

We are also excited to announce that Old St Paul's wonderful winter concert series is back with 12 weeks of **Musical Punch over Lunch**. Take a break from your day with an exciting range of musical treats, from classical to jazz, the RNZ Airforce Band, the Pacific Connection Choir, and the enchanting small musicians of Arohanui Strings. Every Thursday, 12.30 to 1.15 pm, from 11 May to 27 July.

Check out the full programme at: <https://visitheritage.co.nz/whats-on/musical-punch-over-lunch>

Those attending the Friends AGM in March were treated to a fascinating illustrated talk by Margaret Cull on the creation of Old St Paul's magnificent new altar and prayer desk hangings. Margaret, with Wellington Cathedral Linen Guild members Dorothy Bradey and Anne Williams, spent over three years designing, stitching, producing, and finally installing the beautiful new altar frontal and prayer desk hangings. This called for high levels of talent, skill, and knowledge, and very accurate measuring!

The exquisite stitchery of the flowers (red manuka, Mount Cook lily, Chatham Island forget-me-not, NZ clematis and Pohutukawa) – in vibrant shades of blue, green, red, and white, needed to be worked in fine silk thread.

Margaret brought along samples of the gorgeously coloured silk threads used, for us to handle and see up close.

Pure silk threads, which are expensive and hard to come by, are not much used these days in church embroidery. Applique work, such as the gold fabric and stitching of alpha and omega symbols, has become more popular.



Margaret was able to draw on the Linen Guild's stocks, left over from the embroidery of the Cathedral's magnificent phoenix altar frontal, created for the new cathedral when it opened in May 1964.



Do go by Old St Paul's soon to admire the new frontals. They ensure the sanctuary area is the highlight of the building, immediately drawing the eye to the altar area as you enter, as architect Frederick Thatcher intended. All the historic frontals can be seen in the display cabinet in the north transept.

A special thank you to all our members who have kindly renewed their annual membership subscriptions, and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined. The Friends are hugely grateful for your support.

We particularly thank those of you who generously included a donation. As a non-profit organisation, we rely on your support to help ensure Old St Paul's remains a vibrant landmark in Wellington's cultural heritage.

Advance note for your calendars! Our annual **Citizens Christmas Carol Service will be Tuesday 5 December 2023**. Do plan to bring all your family and friends along, as this event is especially designed for families with children. Singing lovely old traditional carols in an Old St Paul's beautifully decorated for Christmas is always a magical start to the Christmas season.

We are keen to extend our database of members' email contacts so that we can quickly and easily keep you up to date. If you have received this newsletter by post and would like to move to e-mail, please do get in touch with Carla: membership@friendsofoldstpauls.org.nz

Please do feel free to share our newsletters with your family and friends. We would be delighted to have them sign up and join us, so the Friends can continue our tradition of strong practical support towards the preservation of Wellington's most visited and beloved heritage building.

We look forward to seeing you at the 157th Commemoration Service on **Tuesday 6 June 2023** at midday.

Ngā mihi nui

Elizabeth Kay, Chair

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