



The FRIENDS of the
HOLY FATHER
Annual Report - May 2016

**THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the thirty sixth Annual General Meeting of The Friends of the Holy Father will be held on Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 6.45 pm in Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street Westminster London SW1P 1QN. For security reasons tickets will be issued. Please see enclosed note. The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by the Annual Mass at the high altar of Westminster Cathedral which will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

23a Vincent House
Vincent Square
LONDON SW1P 2NB

Dr Michael Straiton KCSG, MB BS
Hon. Secretary

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015**
- 3 To receive the Report of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2015**
- 4 To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015**
- 5 Election of Council:**

Chairman	John Dean
Vice Chairman	David Murphy
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton
Hon. Treasurer	Alan Warren

Other Council Members retiring by rotation:

Mary Goodwin

Hazel Allport (not restanding but Fiona Murphy standing for election to the Council in her place as Membership Secretary)

6 Election of Independent Examiner

To appoint Mr Gerard A Smith FCCA as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

TIMETABLE

5.30 pm	Mass in the Cathedral
6.45 pm	Annual General Meeting in Vaughan House
7.30 (approx)	Reception with buffet at which Friends have the opportunity to meet Cardinal Nichols and other Friends, the Council and each other.
8.30 pm (approx)	End of Meeting.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
	2015 £ Income	2015 £ Expenditure	2014 £ Income	2014 £ Expenditure
1 Income Donations	150,215		7,683	
2 Income from and Expenditure on charitable activities				
Members' subscriptions	7,787		9,893	
Meetings and pilgrimages				
Annual general meeting	505		625	
Pre and Post Pilgrimage meetings	396	465	702	736
	8,688	465	11,220	736
3 Allocation of governance and support costs Support				
Leaflets and stationery		1,558		800
Postage and website		801		833
Mass offerings		–		100
		2,359		1,733
Governance				
Annual general meeting		555		799
Council meetings		65		–
Council member's travel		841		–
Independent examiner's Fee		1,700		1,696
Bank charges		232		160
		3,392		2,655
Total governance and support costs allocated		5,752		4,388

4 Analysis of charitable grant expenditure The charity's main objective is to support the Holy Father by contributing grants to assist in defraying the expenses of his apostolic ministry.

	Grant Funded Activity	Support and Governance	Total 2015	Total 2014
Grant to the Holy Father as sponsorship of the conference of world mayors on People Trafficking and the setting-up of new website "endslavery.va".	125,000	4,751	129,751	–
Grant to the Holy Father to refurbish and re-equip the Pontifical Swiss Guards' Gymnasium in the Vatican	8,343	317	8,660	–
Grant to the Holy Father relating to meetings and conferences at the Pontificia Academia Scientiarum	18,000	684	18,684	–
Support and governance costs – 2014 (there were no charitable grants made in 2014)	–	–	–	4,388
Total	151,343	5,752	157,095	4,388

TRUSTEES

Brian Callaghan, FCA
John Scanlan, KCSG, KGCHS

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman	John Dean BA, DipLaw, DipLP
Vice Chairmen	David Murphy, MA and Martin Dean KCHS MA (died 28.12.15)
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton, KCSG, MB, BS
Hon. Treasurer	Alan Warren ACIB, BA, KC*HS
Other Council Members	Fiona Murphy BA ,MCIPR, MCIM Mary Goodwin, DCSG, DGCHS Margaret Hood Mary Maxwell, DSG, DC*HS Ann Ross, DC*HS LRCM Ivor Thomas BA (Hons), PGCert, QTLS
Ecclesiastical Adviser	Father Guy Sawyer

Registered charity number 280489



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HOLY FATHER

23A Vincent House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NB

Website: www.thefriendsoftheholyfater.org

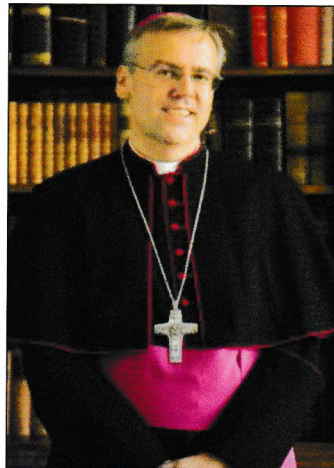
The Good Samaritan



Welcoming the stranger is at the heart of the Christian message. Pope Francis made an emotional visit on 16th April to the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos and took home to the Vatican twelve persons – three Muslim families of four – who will be looked after by the Catholic Sant' Egidio charity which will care for them and help to find them work.

Annual General Meeting 2015

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Nicholas Hudson, auxiliary Bishop in Westminster, to the meeting that followed his celebration of our Mass for the Pope's intentions in the Cathedral. He joined us at the buffet supper afterwards. Bishop Nicholas recalled that when he was Vice-Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome in 2004 he met some of us with Mgr Ralph Brown when on pilgrimage to Rome. By the mid-fourteenth century many pilgrims from England were



coming to Rome and there was a need for their accommodation and care while in the city. John and Marjory Kemp, rosary sellers, sold the house in the Via Monserrato to the newly formed Guild whose purpose was to provide lodgings and care for sick and poor English pilgrims. It continues today as the V.E.C.

Father Guy Sawyer expressed his delight in attending his first AGM after being appointed as our Ecclesiastical Adviser following the death of Mgr Ralph Brown.

Hazel Allport

Hazel has retired from the Council and the post of Membership Secretary after 25 years' service. Many members will remember the kind letters she sent to members and donors. She succeeded Rosemary Rendel, the historian and secretary of both the Catholic Record Society and the Friends of St Thomas More. Our first Membership Secretary was Winifred Herring who had been the secretary to playwright Terence Rattigan for many years. The new Membership Secretary is Fiona Murphy, the widow of the architect Gerald Muphy, himself a long-standing member of the FHF. Fiona has had a career in public relations in finance, science and the arts.

Martin Dean KCHS



We are very sad to report that Martin (father of our Chairman) died peacefully just after Christmas. He was one of a group of members of the Catholic Union of Great Britain who founded the FHF in 1980 and remained its Vice Chairman until his death. He was senior partner in the firm of solicitors, Messrs Blount Petre for many years and was a Trustee of and acted for many Roman Catholic charities, over a period in excess of 60 years. His expertise was vital in forming the Society as the proposed transfer of funds to a foreign individual (ie: the Pope) gave rise to legal issues. Martin consulted a leading QC however and together they were able to persuade the Charity Commission to register FHF on the basis that the Archbishop of Westminster was the office-holder and representative of the Pope in the UK. Six of the founding Council members were welcomed to Rome when our trustee Bishop Agnellus Andrew was appointed pro-president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in the Vatican and who introduced us in the Vatican.

Saint Peter in Rome



After the Ascension, St Peter travelled and preached in Asia Minor and for a few years he was Bishop of Antioch. (St Peter's Church in Antioch above). He then went on to Alexandria where he ordained St Mark as Bishop. It was after this that the Apostle came to Italy.

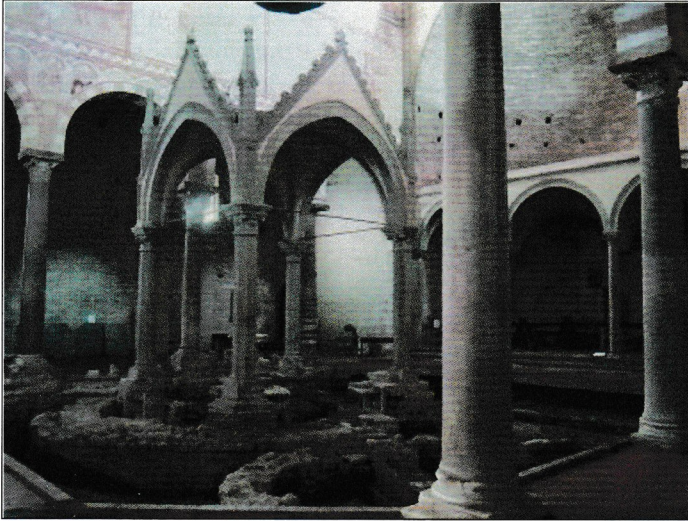
There is a legend that it was at Pisa that the boat in which St Peter was travelling, landed at the ancient port of that city with St. Mark and St. Dionysius and two disciples, St Apollinaris and St Martial.

At the place where St. Peter baptised the first converts, he instructed the people to build a church and call it Ad Gradus Arnensis – near the landing steps of the Arno. The great basilica that replaced it is called San Pietro in Grado, originally by the shore, it now lies proudly on the plain two miles inland. Ancient remains are preserved (pictured overleaf).

According to legend the first people to whom St Peter preached in Rome were the Jews, the persecuted slaves of the city, downtrodden and reviled by the Romans. It was the Jews who formed the nucleus of the first Christian community there and began that wonderful underground life and worship, laying the faith like rich seeds in the warm earth. For twenty-five years St Peter watched over his Christian flock in Rome.

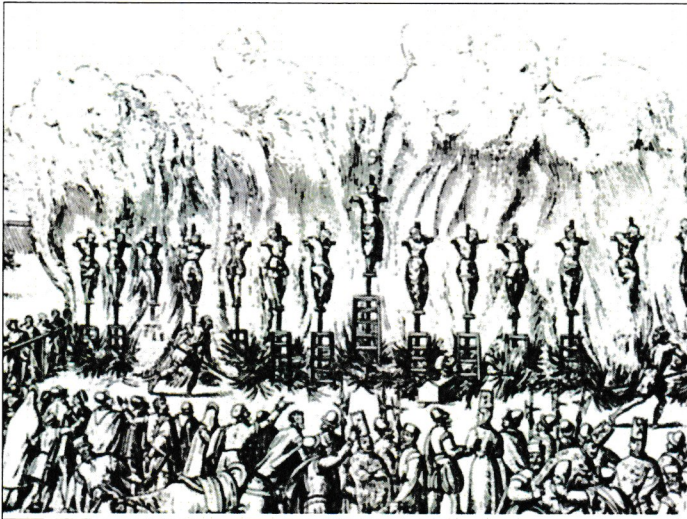
At the end of that time he was accused of casting a spell over one of the Emperor Nero's favourites, Simon Magus, who in a seizure of some kind fell dead at the Emperor's feet. The Christians besought St Peter to save himself, and the Apostle reluctantly agreed to leave the city until the trouble had blown over. He went out along the Appian Way but as he walked he saw a vision of his Lord. Peter said to him Domine, quo vadis? – "Lord where are you going?" Jesus answered sadly "To Rome, to be crucified anew." The Apostle, full of joy at this revelation of the will of Christ, turned and went back to Rome.

Saint Peter in Rome (continued)



On 18th-19th July AD 64 a fire broke out in Rome; it soon spread and within six days, three-quarters of Rome was destroyed and thousands of the populace had lost their lives. A rumour spread that the Emperor Nero had started the fire to clear a huge area in order to build his planned Golden House. Nero took fright and cast the blame on the innocent Christians who had refused to worship him as a god. He turned the attack on them into cruel sport to amuse the Roman crowds.

The senator and historian Tacitus (AD 56-117) wrote in his *Annals* 15.44 :



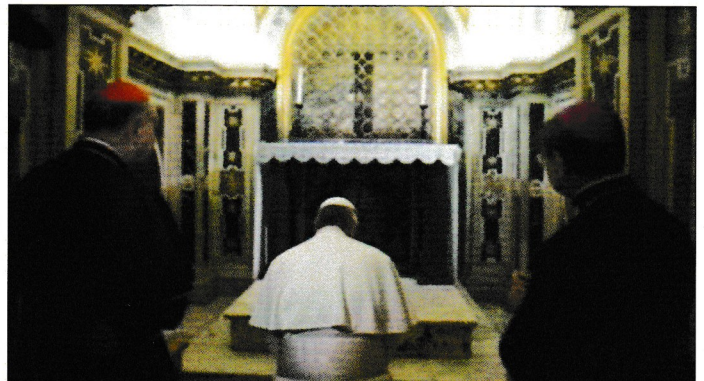
“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from which the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly,

an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired”.

In his last days of freedom, St Peter wrote his second epistle and made arrangements for his successor. For eight months he was confined in the Mamertine prison, a captivity said to have been shared by St Paul, and the two apostles were led forth together to die. Pictured below is the prison with the hole in the roof, down which prisoners were lowered.



Tradition holds that St Peter was crucified upside-down, at his own request and the exact spot is marked by the end of the Clementine Chapel situated in the underground grottoes of St Peter's Basilica. It is considered, after extensive archaeological excavation, that this is the exact spot where the Prince of the Apostles was crucified and where his blood was shed. This Chapel was constructed over the site in 1123 and has remained untouched ever since. St Peter's tomb is nearby, directly under the high altar of the Basilica.



Anglo-Saxon Kings who visited Rome



There have been close links between Britain and the Holy See since early times. The first Anglo-Saxon monarch to set foot in Rome was Caedwalla, King of the West Saxons in 689. Bede tells us that having most vigorously governed his nation for two years, he quitted his crown for the sake of the Lord and an everlasting kingdom, and went to Rome when Sergius was Pope. He was baptised on Holy Saturday, 689 and being still in his white garments he fell sick, and was set free from the bonds of the flesh on 20th April. He was only thirty when he died and in baptism had taken the name Peter.



Ina succeeded Caedwalla as King of the West Saxons. He reigned for thirty-eight years before following the example of his predecessor and, with his Queen, Ethelberga, went off to Rome in 726. The holy couple lived unrecognised, serving the poor and waiting on pilgrims.

Realising that many of his fellow - countrymen were lodging near St Peter's, Ina established a hospice for for them and bought a piece of land where they could own own property

and help one another. This has always been known as the Saxon Borgo. The Hospital of the the Holy Spirit now stands on the site of the Saxon hospice and the Church of St. Maria in Sassia stands nearby on the site of the first church where King Ina and his Queen are buried. Furthermore, Ina started "Peter's Pence", the annual gift from every household to the Pope, which has survived to the present day. Ina is depicted in the glass window of the church at Curry Rivel, examining the architect's plans for the new Minster at Glastonbury.

Offa, King of Mercia (*coin below*), seized the throne and established supremacy over many lesser kings. He



consolidated his position by marrying his daughters to the kings of Wessex and Northumbria, and was the first ruler to be called 'King of the English'. By the end of his reign, Offa was master of all England south of the Humber. He had Offa's Dyke built, a frontier

barrier of a continuous ditch and bank that ran 149 miles along the frontier between the Mercian and Welsh kingdoms 'from sea to sea'.

Offa had dealings with the emperor Charlemagne and he visited Rome in 792 to strengthen his links with the papacy. The English penny (silver currency) was introduced during Offa's reign.

In the first recorded coronation in England, Offa's son Ecgrith, was consecrated in 787 during Offa's lifetime in an attempt to secure the succession. However, Ecgrith died childless, months after Offa. Offa's success in building a strong unified kingdom caused resistance in other kingdoms. The Mercians' defeat at the hands of Egbert of Wessex at the battle of Ellendun in 825 meant that supremacy passed to Wessex.

King Sebert of the East Saxons, who was converted to Christianity by Mellitus, the first Bishop of London in 604, built an abbey church on what was known as Thorney Island as it was covered in brambles, and installed a Benedictine community there. It was later known as Westminster.

St Edward the Confessor, (1002-1066) had made a vow to make a pilgrimage to the tomb of St Peter in Rome but found it impossible and unsafe to leave his people in England. The vow was commuted by the Pope on condition that he rebuilt the Abbey of St Peter in Westminster. This was undertaken and the new Abbey was rebuilt in the Norman style and was consecrated shortly after the King's death in 1066.

The Great Reformer



The author Austin Ivereigh and Jack Valero (right), co-ordinator of Catholic Voices, meet Pope Francis.

Austin Ivereigh's book **THE GREAT REFORMER – Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope** is well written, full of information and is a very good biography of Pope Francis.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York commented:

We learn and appreciate the circumstances and influences that shaped Jorge Bergoglio's journey: first as a young Jesuit leader, then as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and now as shepherd over one billion Catholics. The many fascinating events and challenges recounted in The Great Reformer demonstrate that the key to understanding Pope Francis and his vision for the Church begins above all by recognizing his unfailing faith in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Published by Henry Holt and Co. 2014.
ISBN 978-1-62779-157-1. (hard cover). Price £20.99p.

Catholic Voices is a project which began in 2010 with the training of 24 lay people and a priest in preparation for the UK visit of Pope Benedict XVI and with the aim of improving the Church's representation in the media, above all in news programmes and debates. Since then the project has grown in many ways in the UK and has spread quickly around the world. There are currently 12 active Catholic Voices groups in the world: in Europe, the Americas and Australia.

The Church needs Art

Beauty has a uniquely persuasive power in the work of evangelization and the popes have encouraged artists to produce sacred images from the earliest times to the present day.

During the era of persecution in the Roman Empire, the catacombs were excavated for the burial of the Christian dead and decorated with paintings of biblical scenes and inscriptions. With the Edict of Milan in 313, the Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity as the official religion of the Empire and a burgeoning of artistic creativity followed. A letter of Pope Gregory the Great in 599 to the Bishop of Marseilles, criticising him for breaking images that people were adoring, declares:

“We commend your zeal against anything made by human hands being an object of adoration; but we signify that you ought not to have broken these images. For pictorial representation is made use of in Churches for this reason, that those who are ignorant of letters may at least read by looking at the walls, what they cannot read in books”.

The Vatican Museums, Galleries and Library house some of the largest collections of cultural treasures in the world. These have been gathered by the popes over the centuries for the purpose of assisting the propagation of the Gospel. Pope Paul VI entered into dialogue with artists and founded the Gallery of Modern Religious Art in 1973.

Continued overleaf

The Church needs Art (continued)

The Museum of Christian Antiquities, founded by Pius IX in 1854 with objects found mainly in the catacombs, was located in the Lateran Palace. Several years ago they were transferred to the Vatican Museum where they are now displayed by subject. The valuable collection of Christian sarcophagi of the 2nd to 5th centuries, which bear representations of scenes from the Old and New Testaments, including Adam and Eve, Jonah, the Massacre of the Innocents, the Miracles performed by Christ, the Good Shepherd and so on, is of the highest importance. Next to this is the Museum of Christian Inscriptions, the largest and most important collection of such memorials in existence. Many of these ancient carvings show the

ravages of time and need cleaning and restoring to be fully appreciated by the millions of visitors to the Vatican.

St John Paul II in his "Letter to Artists" of 4 April, 1999, declared: "In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art. Art must make perceptible, and as far as possible attractive, the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of God. It must therefore translate into meaningful terms, that which is in itself ineffable. Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colours, shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look or listen".

Pope Francis against Modern Slavery

Nigel Baker, the British Ambassador to the Holy See, at a 'Combating Human Trafficking Conference' in the Vatican in 2014, reflected on the work of the United Kingdom with the Holy See to combat Modern Slavery:

Pope Francis is on record as calling modern slavery "A crime against humanity". Over 200 years since the British Parliament abolished the transatlantic slave trade and began an international campaign, led by the Royal Navy, to eradicate it, the Home Office estimates that there are around 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK alone. Traffickers and organised criminals exploit millions of human beings around the world as commodities, forcing men, women and children to work in areas like prostitution and sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, organ trafficking and forced begging.

Britain's Modern Slavery Act comes into force in 2016. It is comprehensive and ground-breaking legislation that may be the model for other countries, and strengthens our powers to tackle this horrendous crime.

I have often spoken about the value of the global Holy See network, that extraordinary network of diplomats, Catholic NGOs, religious congregations, priests, bishops and lay people, that is arguably the world's most extensive soft power. With Pope Francis's encouragement, it is beginning to operate effectively against human trafficking. Its diplomats secured the only amendment possible to the UN Sustainable Development Goals last year, with the inclusion of a commitment to "end modern slavery and human trafficking" that binds all 197 UN members. In

April, the Holy See and the UK will highlight the issue at an event at the UN in New York. In the meantime, on the ground, Catholic networks like Caritas Internationalis and religious congregations are working every day in places like the Philippines, the UK, Italy or Lithuania, supporting victims, raising awareness, and reminding governments of their responsibilities.



FHF Chairman, John Dean with Nigel Baker at the Conference on Slavery and Climate Change in Rome in July 2015

Pilgrimage Due to the insufficient number of applicants, the proposed pilgrimage to Spain in September has been postponed. A journey to Rome in the spring "In the Footsteps of St Peter in Rome" is being planned for 2017 – further information will be forthcoming in the New Year.