

The **FRIENDS** of the **HOLY FATHER**

----- ANNUAL REPORT ----- MAY 2014

THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the thirty second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Holy Father will be held on **Thursday 12th June 2014 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 The Rt. Rev Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia.



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 Thursday 20th June 2013
- 3 To receive the Report of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2013
- 4 To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2013
- 5 Election of Council:

Chairman	John Dean
Vice Chairmen	Martin Dean David Murphy
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton
Hon Treasurer	Alan Warren
Other Council Members retiring by rotation:	
	Mary Maxwell
Introduction of our new ecclesiastical adviser	
	Fr Guy Sawyer

- 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 Bishop Alan Hopes, the Council and each other.
8.30 pm (approx)	End of Meeting.

Annual General Meeting 2013



We were delighted to welcome Archbishop George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff to the Meeting. Archbishop Stack described his meeting with Pope Francis at the ad limina visit to Rome; he had been an hour late having spent much time with the sick. John Paul II, the Bishop considered, was the “Pope of Hope”, Benedict XVI the “Pope of Faith and Reason”; Francis, the “Pope of Charity”.

Dr Straiton described the itinerary of the then forthcoming Pilgrimage to London in September with visits that included the Tower of London, Lambeth Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Charterhouse and a trip to St Albans to visit the Cathedral and then Abbots Langley for the birthplace of Nicholas Brakespeare, Pope Adrian IV.

A Born Prince



Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1286) is one of those men of whom humanity will always be proud. His qualities compel sympathy; his defects, if he has any, are seductive; his sanctity has nothing esoteric or effeminate or intimidating; his natural gifts rouse general admiration; his teaching has so much freshness, so much poetry and serenity that even the most blasé can find there reasons to love life and to believe in divine goodness. This man, so chivalrous, always marches nobly to the lofty ends he sets before him. He has nothing to do with mediocre thoughts, pious deceptions, petty means. If he reveres all the élites, if he obeys with a good grace his equals and even his inferiors, he has nothing of that sycophantic servility which belongs to slaves and flatterers. In fact, he is a born prince, and why should he flatter, since he despises all temporal wealth? He leaves honours to others, he strips himself for

conflict, thinks not of the morrow, abandons his woodland lodging to an ass which insists on occupying it. What money he has he gives to him who needs it; when he has more he runs after beggars to give them his clothes.

From Omer Englebert's *St Francis of Assisi*.

Monsignor Ralph Brown (30th June 1931 - 6th January 2014).

Our ecclesiastical adviser Mgr. Ralph Brown died peacefully on 6th January 2014; 50 years a priest in 2009, “doyen of Canon Lawyers”, personal assistant to Cardinal Hume and national Co-ordinator of the Papal Visit to Great Britain in 1982, Protonotary Apostolic, President of the Old Brotherhood of the English Secular Clergy.

Westminster Cathedral was packed for his funeral Mass in Westminster Cathedral on 21st January at which his old friend Archbishop George Stack gave the homily.

...This intelligent and gifted man would have made a success of whichever career he pursued. His army experience in Korea and with his beloved Middlesex Regiment marked him out as a leader of men. His dabbling with a career in the city was cut short when Mgr. Derek Worlock presented him to Cardinal Griffin. His ordination to the priesthood began a love affair with Westminster Cathedral where he lived for most of his priestly life. He liked priests. He was a valued member of Clergy House. His Presidency of the Old Brotherhood of the English Clergy was something very close to his heart. In all this time he was successfully pioneering the work of the Westminster Tribunal and the Canon Law Society and developed a world-wide, deepening understanding of the healing remedy of the nullity of marriage.



He certainly knew every jot of the Canon Law of Marriage. But it was his passion and compassion for justice and truth and the healing of broken lives which were the hallmark of everything he did. ...

All of us here today are a testament to the effect of Ralph's life on others. His gift of friendship, his ability to link people together and maintain contact with each other. We call it communion. The birthday cards and anniversary greetings. The letters of congratulation or the words of support in a bereavement. All done with a military precision on one hand, but with a sincere and loving heart on the other. His family and friends were an enormous support to him and were a source of great pride and joy. His co-ordination of Pope John Paul II's visit in 1982 resulted in the Friends of the Holy Father. They, and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, testify to the energy, efficiency and enthusiasm he brought to the work of these organizations. The Polish community honoured him too, with the Order of Merit because of his work for them. Many of us never learned the distinction between the words "pilgrimage" and "holiday" in the journeys he led with these organizations and the adventures they shared.

I must obey the request, or was it an order, which he gave me in the instructions in his will ... I quote " ... it will obviously be appropriate to mention purgatory in the homily. Please read this passage from **To be a Pilgrim** by Cardinal Hume (pp 228-229)" -

Judgement is whispering onto the ear of a merciful and compassionate God the story of my life which I have never been able to tell. Many of us have a story, or part of one at any rate, about which we have never been able to speak to anyone. Fear of being misunderstood. Inability to understand ourselves. Ignorance of the darker side of our hidden lives, or just shame, make it very difficult for many people. The true story of our life is not told, or only half of it is. What a relief it will be to whisper freely and fully into the merciful and compassionate ear. After all, that is what he has always wanted. He receives us, His prodigal children, now contrite and humble, with an embrace. In that embrace we start to tell him our story. And He begins that process of healing and preparation which we call Purgatory.

A message from Mgr Peter Wells at the Vatican Secretariat of State was read out at the Mass -

I received with sadness your news about the death of the Reverend Monsignor Ralph Brown. His many contributions to Catholic life in England were felt far beyond, especially with his dedicated involvement with the Friends of the Holy Father. As a priest, friend, canonist and administrator, he will be greatly missed by many.

I have the honour to assure you that His Holiness, duly informed, will remember Monsignor Brown in his prayers. In commending his noble soul to the merciful Father, Pope Francis cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all who mourn his passing, and in a special way, to the Friends of the Holy Father.

*With personal good wishes, I remain
Yours sincerely*

*Monsignor Peter B. Wells
Assessor*

Saint John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council in 1962

The American Franciscan Fr Berard Doerger OFM said " How do we assess the impact of the Council? I'd like to propose 10 remarkable achievements. These I consider the most important and lasting fruits of Vatican II."

1. **Renewing the liturgy.** The Council's call for renewal included the Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, sacraments, and the liturgical year. This liturgical renewal emphasized the Mass as the prayer and sacrifice of priest *and* people united in Christ, the call to active and intelligent participation



by the whole body of Christ, and openness to incorporating worthwhile customs and traditions of every culture and people.

2. **Placing greater emphasis on sacred Scripture.** The Council called for a much fuller menu of readings from both the Old and New Testaments in the Sunday and weekday Lectionaries of the Church. Since the Council urged more study and reading of Scripture, an impressive number of aids to the study of the Bible, as well as an increase in Bible-study groups, has appeared on the scene.
3. **Viewing laypeople as equal members of the Church.** All the Church—pope, bishops, priests, religious, and laity—are equal members through Baptism. All share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly roles of Christ. All are called to holiness no matter what vocation or occupation they embrace in life.
4. **Reinstating the baptismal catechumenate.** The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is “a process of formation” and “school of the faith” (*General Directory for Catechesis* 91) for unbaptized adults seeking Church membership. The entire Christian community helps prepare catechumens to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It is the inspiration and model for all catechesis (GDC 90).
5. **Restoring the ministry of permanent deacons.** Calling to restore the ministry of deacon, a ministry of service with roots in the early Church, the Council named the deacon’s tasks: baptize, reserve and distribute the Eucharist, assist at and bless marriages, take Viaticum to the dying, proclaim Scripture, instruct, preside at prayer, administer sacramentals, and officiate at funerals and burials.
6. **Rethinking the concept of authority.** Viewed in the spirit of the Gospel, authority is not authoritarianism and domination but a *service of love* in imitation of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all.
7. **Encouraging collegiality throughout the Church.** Shared ministry and authority are recognized between the pope and bishops, the bishop and priests of a diocese, the pastor and parishioners of a parish, and the superiors and members of religious orders and congregations.
8. **Acknowledging God’s presence beyond the Church.** Vatican II acknowledged the work of the Spirit in the communities of our separated Christian brothers and sisters and in other world religions. Ecumenical efforts foster unity among all Christians and greater communication and dialogue with and respect for other religions.
9. **Upholding the right to religious liberty.** The Council recognized the right of every individual to join the religion of one’s choice and opposed the use of force, physical or otherwise, imposing one’s religious beliefs and practices upon others.
10. **Accepting the world.** We see the world and its inhabitants as *essentially good*. We never lose hope in the restoration of all things, a restoration that has begun with the coming of Christ and will reach its fulfillment and perfection when Christ comes again in power and glory at the end of time.

Pope Francis’ Prayer intentions for 2014.

June

- **Unemployed.** That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.
- **Faith in Europe.** That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.

July

- **Sports.** That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.
- **Lay Missionaries.** That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

August

Refugees. That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights.

- **Oceania.** That Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.

September

- **Mentally disabled.** That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.
- **Service to the poor.** That Christians, inspired by the word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

October

- **Peace.** That the Lord may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence.
- **World Mission Day.** That World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.

November

- **Lonely people.** That all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others.
- **Mentors of seminarians and religious.** That young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.

December

- **Christmas, hope for humanity.** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.
- **Parents.** That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Saint John Paul II's visit to a leper colony on May 4th 1984.

The Italian photographer Arturo Mari was the Vatican photographer during the entire twenty-seven year pontificate of Saint John Paul II. At any Vatican function and all of his apostolic journeys around the world, Mari was always present with his camera.

During his 1984 apostolic journey to Korea, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Thailand, Saint John Paul II visited the Sorok-do Leprosarium off the south coast of Korea on May 4, 1984. The protocol called for the Pope to visit the Sorokdo Pavilion, give a speech on suffering, then depart. Instead he stayed for hours with the lepers.



Lepers without hands, some blind and many hobbling with sticks, eagerly awaited the arrival of the Pope amongst the rain-swept pine trees. Tears rolled down shrivelled faces as his helicopter flew overhead before landing. They emerged from the shelter of the trees as the Pope threw open his arms and called out to them in Korean "My beloved friends, I embrace you!". In a state of high excitement they cried out as the Pope walked among them, placing his hand on the head of each one. He seemed absorbed in the need to make physical contact with these solitary and broken people. The Pope waved away security men who were anxious to escort him to a waiting car, and continued with his thoughtful stroll among the trees. He was then driven to the colony's refectory, where he knelt to wash the feet of fifteen lepers.

Arturo Mari Pope John Paul II's personal photographer who accompanied him everywhere recalled that day -

He touched them with his hands, caressed them, kissed each one. Eight hundred lepers, one by one. One by one. For me he was a man of God. I can

guarantee you he was a living saint, because everything I could see with my eyes, hear with my ears, you cannot believe that this man could do so much.

450th anniversary of Michelangelo's death



Michelangelo (6 March 1475 – 18 February 1564), the Italian sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer of the High Renaissance is held to be one of the greatest artists of all time and was often called in his lifetime *il divino* (the divine one). One of his greatest masterpieces is the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**.

It took four years to paint and occupies 2,000 square feet of space - the equivalent of one sixth of a football pitch. There are 12,000 visitors to the Chapel every day.

A project to improve the lighting was undertaken to celebrate the landmark anniversary of the death of the great artist. The lighting company Osram is installing 7,000 LED lights to illuminate the frescos as if by natural light. The lights have been specially designed to be gentler on the paintings and to

consume 60 per cent less energy than the existing system.

1350th anniversary of the Synod of Whitby – AD 664.

The northern Anglo-Saxon kingdom had been evangelized by monks from St Columba's Irish monastery on Iona, whereas in the south of England the Faith had been reintroduced by the Roman monks sent by Pope St Gregory the Great to Kent. Minor liturgical practices had developed between the north and south of the country. Irish monks shaved the front of their heads, the Romans the top making a circular tonsure. Also, there was a discrepancy in the calculation of the date of Easter. King Oswiu of Northumbria was celebrating Easter when his wife, who had come from Kent, was still fasting in Lent and celebrated Easter a week later.

To settle the matter once and for all, Oswiu called a Synod at the monastery founded by his niece, the Abbess Hilda, at Whitby. Bishop Colman of Northumbria presented the Irish tradition, and Wilfrid, then Abbot of Ripon, spoke for that followed by the successor of St Peter. Oswiu recalled that he would be greeted at the Gates of Heaven by the Prince of the Apostles and elected to support the Roman tradition. The matter was settled.

Pope Paul VI – beatification on 19th October 2014.

Two weeks after the canonisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II, Pope Francis announced that Paul VI – Giovanni Battista Montini (26th September 1897 – 6th August 1978) - who died after a 15-year pontificate, would be beatified on the 19th October 2014. Paul VI brought the Second Vatican Council to a close in 1965.

Congratulations to Mary Maxwell

On 19th March Canon Christopher Tuckwell, administrator of Westminster Cathedral, was delegated by Pope Francis to invest our Council member Mary Maxwell with the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great. This was in recognition of her unstinting service as the Cathedral's Volunteers Co-ordinator and her work for and dedication to various organizations that include the Friends of the Holy Father, the Society of St Augustine of Canterbury and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

F.H.F 2014 PILGRIMAGE to ROME AND ASSISI 23rd – 29th September 2014

Our pilgrimage will take us to places associated with the life and times of St Francis in Rome and Assisi. For further information please write to our travel agent Philip Dean at Pax Travel, 57-59 Rochester Row, London, NW1 9JU. Tel 020 7485 3003

THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	2013	2012
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income	1,788	6,830
Investment income - interest receivable	20	22
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	11,485	11,423
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	13,293	18,275
CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Donation to support the Holy Father	46,700	-
Other charitable activities	1,342	1,985
	48,042	1,985
Governance costs	5,722	3,269
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	53,764	5,254
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(40,471)	13,021
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2013	82,056	69,035
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2013	41,585	82,056

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

CONSTITUTION

The Friends of the Holy Father is a membership society, governed by its Objects and Rules dated 23 June 1980 and amended on 23 June 2005. It is a charitable organisation registered under the Charities Act 1993 – Registration No. 280489.

PRINCIPAL AIMS

The objects of the Charity are the promotion and advancement of the Roman Catholic religion by supporting the Pope through the dissemination of the teachings of the Church and the establishment and maintenance of a fund, the income and capital of which are to be applied to assist in defraying the expenses of the Pope in furthering his apostolic ministry.

23a Vincent House
 Vincent Square
 London, SW1P 2NB

Dr Michael Straiton KCSG MB BS DO
 Hon. Secretary

THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	40,803	81,688
Debtors		
- income tax recoverable on gift aid donations	2,620	2,914
- other debtors	504	-
	<u>43,927</u>	<u>84,602</u>
Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors		
Creditors falling due within one year	(2,342)	(2,546)
	<u>41,585</u>	<u>82,056</u>
Net current assets		
	<u><u>41,585</u></u>	<u><u>82,056</u></u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds		
General funds	41,585	82,056
	<u><u>41,585</u></u>	<u><u>82,056</u></u>

Full accounts etc. will be available at the Annual General Meeting or on request.

PROPERTY TRUSTEES

Brian Callaghan, FCA
John Scanlan, KCSG, KGCHS

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman	John Dean BA, DipLaw, DipLP
Vice Chairmen	Martin Dean, KCHS David Murphy, MA
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton, KCSG, MB, BS, DO
Hon. Treasurer	Gregory Edwards, BSc, ACA (until 16 October 2013) Alan Warren KC*HS (from 17 October 2013)
Other Council Members	Hazel Allport Mary Edwards, DCSG DGCHS Jennifer Edwards, BSc (until 16 October 2013) Margaret Hood Mary Maxwell, DSG DCHS Ann Ross, DCHS
Ecclesiastical adviser	Mgr Ralph Brown (until 6 January 2014) Fr. Guy Sawyer
Independent examiner	Gerard A Smith FCCA
Bankers	The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, 24 Grosvenor Place London SW1X 7HP
Registered Charity Number	280489