

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2020

FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE'S RAMSGATE



Welcome to the 2019 Friends' Newsletter. If you remember last year's Annual Review, you will see that we're doing things differently this year. Even the title is different! The reason for the change is to keep costs of production and postage to a minimum. We hope you approve and enjoy reading what follows. My report is divided into two halves: **looking back** and **looking forward**.

LOOKING BACK The Year just passed saw lots of activity at the Shrine. Below I list some of what went on:

10,000 visitors including groups from Belgium and Germany

Four parish pilgrimages

Meetings with local teachers

Scheme to bring Canterbury architecture students to the Shrine established

Administrator interviewed on BBC South East News about swastikas painted on doors

St Augustine Week visit from Mgr. Keith Newton who celebrated the Mass and presided at the Blessing of the Sea

Augustine Sermon preached by Fr Peter Littleton

Lecture by Dr Robert Gallagher on the Charters of Augustine's Mission

Talk by Abbot Lawrence, 'Monastic Memories'

Mass in celebration of 90 years of Priesthood with Fr Luiz Ruzillo

Deanery Corpus Christi Procession

Augustine Camino featured on Radio 4 and in The Tablet and The Guardian

Pugin Boat Trip

Catriona Blaker on Herbert Minton and the Administrator on Pugin's Catholicism

New altar frontal installed and blessed

Performances of volunteer Sue Cole's dramatic version of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales by U3A

Details of music at the Shrine are in Ben Scott's report. But as the *Priest* Administrator I must mention the daily liturgical life, supplemented in the past year by the transfer of all-day Adoration and Benediction from St Ethelbert's to St Augustine's.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are registered as participants in the internship / work experience programme at Christ Church Canterbury University to visit local schools as 'ambassadors'

Pugin hatchment restoration planned

Work on five stained glass windows booked (made possible by £2000 donation from a parishioner)

New partnership with St Ethelbert's School for regular use of Shrine by pupils

Pugin tiles to be installed in Kent Steps

St Augustine's Week May 24th to 30th including: Blessing of the Sea, Procession to Augustine Cross and Sermon, chant workshop, lecture by Dr Michael Bintley, Camino walk (see website next month for full programme).

Pugin Week September 8th to 14th (programme to include first performance of a play about Pugin's life)

May I conclude with a plea to those of you who have not renewed your subscriptions to do so if you support us. The HLF grant did not cover all necessary repairs to the roofs and stonework: we continue to need generous Friends

Fr Simon Heans Shrine Administrator

Friends Report

From the Membership Secretary, Jane Rowland

Since its inception in 2011 the Friends have been a major champion and invaluable part of the project to restore Pugin's "child" in Ramsgate, St Augustine's church. The Friends' support has been vital at every stage of development, from saving St Augustine's from total dereliction through to building up the magnificent centre and church it is currently, including the restoration of the magnificent organ. The Shrine and National Pugin Centre provides a proper welcome and experience for our visitors from across the country and the world.

There are two types of membership, Annual, whereby a subscription is paid on a yearly basis starting in December, and Life, whereby a once off payment is made. Currently the annual fee is £15, which has increased from the £10 it was at the start of the project. The Life Membership is £150. Payment can be made by cheque, card or standing order.

Unfortunately, membership has gone down steadily over the past three years. Currently there are 155 Life Members, only 16 of whom joined since mid 2017. Of the 245 members marked as Annual members only 18 were added since 2017. Of these 245 annual members only 98 paid their 2018/2019 subscription. As a number of members pay by standing order it may well be that once the remaining bank statements are received for 2019 this number will increase.

However, even though the major HLF project was completed successfully, there are numerous repairs that are still needed as well as the regular on ongoing maintenance within the Shrine. Therefore, the continued support of the loyal Friends is still very much relevant.

News from the Library and Archives

Catriona Blaker

When planning took place in 2015 for the future organisation and running of what was to become the St Augustine's Education, Research and Visitor Centre, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), and with their guidance and support, one stipulation was that there should be an archive and library. The HLF rightly felt that any Visitor Centre embracing the words 'Education' and 'Research' in its title should be able to provide items to further these ends.

When the quest for archival material was made known, there were many most generous donations, mostly from Pugin scholars, and also from Pugin descendants. Some material has been bought at auction, also. The story which the HLF-funded Visitor Centre tells is not exclusively of Pugin and his family and influence but also of the landing of St Augustine in Thanet in 597 and the momentous results of this event. In consequence, some of the content in the archive, and particularly in the library, relates not only to Pugin but also to early Christian history and to the local history of East Kent. Pugin and St Augustine together make a powerful and strongly interconnected theme.

The archive and books have now been catalogued, and a description of their overall content, but not the catalogue itself, which will probably be refined further, can be found on www.augustine-pugin.org.uk, under 'Collections'. It is challenging to build an archive from scratch, but we hope that what has now been assembled will be of interest, and that members of the public can, strictly by appointment, view what we have. Of course St Augustine's is also the proud possessor of an unrivalled collection of Pugin-designed church plate, but that does not come under this scheme.

A by-product of the collections has been the enjoyable task of drawing from them to make small temporary exhibitions in our three museum-standard display cases. The current exhibition, prompted by the arrival in St Augustine's of the replica altar frontal from the Jesuit church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair, includes what altars meant to Pugin himself, what altars he intended for his 'own child', St Augustine's, his concept of appropriate furnishings for the altar (here we have lent heavily on the church plate) and fitting vestments for a priest, illustrated with plates from Pugin's own *Glossary of Ecclesiastical Ornament and Costume*. As with all such projects, not only the public have benefitted from them, but also those people engaged in setting them up. It is a learning curve for all, and we very much hope that soon interested parties will be able to look at and learn from our archives and books too, and also – importantly – that Pugin, no mean collector himself, would approve our endeavours.

Music at St Augustine's

Ben Scott Organist and Director of Music

Since my last report on the Music Department there have been many exciting developments. Most importantly, we continue to sing the liturgy at the 12 noon Sunday Mass (Extraordinary Form). There are currently ten on the choir roster and a new recruitment drive will start before Holy Week. Entrance to the choir is by formal audition or as a singing lesson for those with less musical training. Many existing choir members are also having regular singing lessons to maintain vocal technique and vocal health.

Recently the choir has been exploring, and performing from, historical manuscripts, including the chant book in use in Pugin's time. We are finding that this "mensural" and historic approach to chant (which is being revived globally) is more coherent in conveying the liturgical texts. This year the choir will perform the entire Holy Week liturgy, including Tenebrae; probably the most challenging task for a choir in terms of endurance. Other commitments for this year include the annual Pugin requiem and the Mass for the Feast of St Augustine. We also continue to sing Vespers (with Benediction) at 6.30 pm on the 1st Sunday of the month and provide music for Holy Days, funerals and weddings.

I am delighted to announce that our 2019 concert series proved to be a success and after review we have concluded that the best pattern is four choral concerts throughout the year, that is one per quarter, and five summer organ recitals. In 2020 we currently have the following performances planned, but please check the website, Facebook or email for updates:

Organ Recitals 2020

Saturday	May 23rd	<i>Jeremiah Stephenson</i>	All Saints, Margaret Street
Saturday	June 20th	<i>Ben Scott</i>	Shrine of St Augustine
Saturday	July 25th	<i>Charles Francis</i>	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
Saturday	August 22nd	<i>Tim Parsons</i>	Holy Trinity, Folkestone
Wednesday	September 30th	<i>Francesca Massey</i>	Rochester Cathedral

Choral Concerts 2020

Saturday	March 21st	<i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i>
Thursday	July 9th	<i>Leas Court Music</i>
Saturday	December 12th	<i>Thanet Chamber Choir</i>

In addition, the group "Turbulent Priest" is due to perform in Pugin week (TBC)

Finally, I would like to let you know about ongoing work on the organ. This work of bringing the organ up to standard is currently in the second phase and funds are urgently needed to carry out some essential repairs, including replacing the soundboard of the Great Division and re-configuring the Pedal Division of the organ. We plan to complete this within five years and sponsorship is urgently needed to ensure this can happen. We greatly appreciate your generosity in helping to fund the first phase of the restoration, continued support will ensure that the work can continue.

If you are interested in helping to fund these repairs please contact me. Thank you once again for your continued interest and support for music at St Augustine's.

The Pugin Cope and Altar Frontal



Pugin enthusiast, Nick Beveridge, contacted the Shrine last summer to tell us about the cope (pictured opposite) that he had acquired on ebay! He wrote saying that he would like to loan it to the Shrine.

Nick lives in New Zealand but told us that he was travelling to this country soon and would be bringing the cope with him. Our resident Pugin scholar, Catriona Blaker, had met Nick in the past and agreed to put him up overnight. In fact, Nick was in England on a Pugin pilgrimage visiting buildings in the Midlands.

The photo opposite shows Nick with his cope in the sacristy of St Augustine's. It is one of four in this style, the others being in the Victoria and Albert museum. Thistles wind their way through the fabric. Unfortunately the hood is missing but that can be seen in the black and white photo opposite on the illuminated display screen. The cope

The photo opposite shows the altar frontal donated to the Shrine by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street. Fr Dominic is pictured third right next to Fr Simon Heans (Administrator) and Kevin Flynn, who together with Site Manager Anthony Jinks (squatting on the left), created the frame for the frontal. Next to Anthony are Fr Gabriel Dias, a great friend of the Shrine who celebrated an EF Triduum last year and will be coming to do the same this year, and Fr Christopher Basden, the new Rector of the parish of Ramsgate and Minster.

The frontal is a glass fibre replica of the high altar frontal in Farm Street. Although lacking the strong colours of the original, the figures are well-defined and gold paint enhances the whole.

Its theme is typology and shows, on the left, the sacrifices of Abel and Noah, and on the right, those offered by Melchizedek and Abraham. These scenes are interspersed with figures of angels; the central panel is of the Crucifixion, the fulfilment of the sacrifices depicted to either side.



The Kent Steps Project

In partnership with the Pugin Society



The poster is titled 'In Step with Pugin' in a large, stylized blue font. Below the title, it says 'Inspiring students since the 1830s' in red. The main text describes a free exhibition of porcelain tile designs inspired by Augustus Pugin, designed by students from Royal Harbour Academy and Chatham & Clarendon Grammar. It provides the location (McGillan & Woodell Gallery, 43 Queen Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9DZ) and dates (9th to 23rd January 2020). A portrait of Augustus Pugin is on the right. The poster is decorated with a grid of colorful tile patterns on the left and right sides. Logos for Ramsgate Town Team and Historic England are at the bottom right, and a banner at the bottom states 'Project developed in conjunction with the Pugin Society'.

In Step with Pugin
Inspiring students since the 1830s

A free exhibition of porcelain tile designs inspired by the work of **Augustus Pugin** for the Kent Steps in Ramsgate.

Designed by students from Royal Harbour Academy and Chatham & Clarendon Grammar.

McGillan & Woodell Gallery,
43 Queen Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9DZ.
9th to 23rd January 2020

Project developed in conjunction with the Pugin Society

Supported by Ramsgate Town Team and Historic England

Pugin was thirteen when he began his career as a designer and that was the age of the pupils who came to the Shrine last year to find inspiration for their tile designs to be fitted on the risers of the Kent Steps, linking the Harbour to the main coastal road above. The tiles will be installed in March. You can watch a video of the pupils visit to St Augustine's at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VB9UEnfKNJA>

Bee Particulars

Kevin Flynn Shrine Volunteer and Apiarist

Kevin has been a regular volunteer (Tuesdays and Fridays) for many years. In addition to working at the Shrine he is an experienced bee keeper. He was asked to share some of his insights into this ancient art.

The aspect of beekeeping that many people fear is the swarming. They think the bees are angry and dangerous. However, this is not the case. What is happening is that the bees are simply looking for a new home. The reason for this is that the colony has grown too large and so they need to split. To stop this happening too soon a pheromone produced by the Queen is passed to each bee to suppress the swarming instinct.

When the colony becomes too large (over 50,000) the swarming instinct takes over and the colony sets about creating queen cells into which they place an egg. This develops into a larva and then the worker bees produce Royal Jelly to feed the larva which causes it to change from a worker bee to a Queen. Workers then seal the cell and a new Queen emerges after about 14 days. By then the old Queen has stopped laying and has slimmed down. She will leave the hive with half of the colony to start a new colony.

Kevin's honey is a best seller at the Shrine shop

Faith Increases in the Augustine Camino

Andrew Kelly

The BBC, Guardian and the Tablet all covered the Augustine Camino in 2019. The route was featured on the Radio 4 Sunday programme in May including comments from Fr Simon and Prior Francis at Aylesford Priory. Ruth Gledhill at the *Tablet* described the first leg of the route from Rochester Cathedral to the Friars while the *Guardian* listed it amongst a roundup of pilgrim routes in the UK and Europe. *Articles in Christian Today*, *Independent Catholic News* and the *Church Times* completed a successful year of media coverage.

<http://augustinecamino.co.uk/press/>

2019 was also a good year for church support. Fr Simon was appointed chaplain to the Augustine Camino by Archbishop Peter shortly before his retirement. Prior Francis has also been very supportive. The Augustine Camino Guidebook is now sold in the Friars bookshop and pilgrims arriving at reception are greeted with a map and information about the route. The Church of England has been typically generous. Canon Mathew, Precentor at Rochester Cathedral, has been giving pilgrim blessings to groups as they set off. Canon Emma Pennington and her team at Canterbury Cathedral greet our pilgrims, leading them to the martyrdom before heading down to the crypt for a blessing. All along the route church wardens and volunteers open churches to allow access to treasures that would otherwise be hidden or overlooked. Meeting them is one of the very special aspects of the pilgrimage.

2020 is the 800th anniversary of the translation of Thomas Becket's relics to the Trinity Chapel in Canterbury, which was specially built for the purpose. Preparations include a website

<https://becket2020.com/> and series of events leading up

Canterbury Pilgrim Festival as well as the free walks for Pugin Week and the Anglican Day of Pilgrimage. We have also been broadening the range of accommodation available which now includes everything from hotels to hostels to campsites.

For the new walking season we are creating a Compostela (certificate of completion). This will have the same rules as for the Camino de Santiago – to walk at least 100km (the length of the Augustine Camino) and to have at least two pilgrim stamps for each leg of the journey. New stamps this year have been made by churches all along the route with only another three required to achieve our objective.

The winter has been unusually active with lots of enquiries and even two pilgrims. With 2020 having been named the Year of Pilgrimage by the English Cathedrals and not forgetting the Becket anniversary we can expect to see a significant increase in pilgrims this year.

The Augustine Camino is the long-distance pilgrimage route from Rochester Cathedral to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate.

Andrew Kelly is the founder of the Augustine Camino



the Feast on 7th July (I will be leading a pilgrimage). Rev Willis, the Dean of Canterbury, has been to Rome to ask to borrow a vestment of St Thomas which he hopes to display in the Cathedral.

Much work has been done to increase engagement with the Augustine Camino. This has included regular tours of the pilgrim sites in Canterbury and participation in the

