



Companions' Link January 2012

Chairman's Letter

We understand The Companions of Wellington Cathedral is the only faith-based organisation in New Zealand which has the privilege of enjoying the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As newly crowned Queen, Her Majesty memorably laid the foundation stone of our cathedral church on 13th January 1954 during the course of her coronation tour of New Zealand. Unfortunately the security issues caused by the "9/11" terrorist attacks led to the cancellation of Her Majesty's visit to attend the consecration of our completed cathedral church on 15th October 2011, but she was able to be present at a service affirming its completion on a more recent visit.

Each year a copy of our Annual Report is sent to Buckingham Palace and graciously acknowledged. It is very encouraging to us, Companions from all round our diocese and indeed further afield, to know that our Royal Patron shares our care for the well-being of our Cathedral Church of St Paul.

The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's Accession to the throne falls on 6th February. We have deemed it appropriate that the Companions' programme this year should celebrate that.

Consequently, our annual Garden Party has been moved from the day before the Patronal Festival, to the new date of Sunday 5th February upon the eve of accession day. Details are set out within.

Your committee is also working on a Diamond Jubilee programme to accompany our Annual Festival week-end and Annual Meeting on Sunday 20th May.

You may be interested to look up “Forms of Prayer with Thanksgiving to Almighty God...on the Anniversary of the Day of Accession” in your old copy of the Book of Common Prayer. It includes the much loved Prayer for Unity brilliantly penned at the time of the Restoration, for inclusion in the 1662 Prayer Book.

Blessings,

Bob

An Urgent Plea for Assistance!

During the summer months many visitors come to the Cathedral.

The Cathedral becomes part of their faith journey.

If you are available to give an hour or two to welcome visitors, please offer yourself by contacting the Cathedral Office. I met a man from Ireland in the Cathedral recently when clearing the Companions' mail. He told me he had known nothing of the Cathedral when he arrived at the railway station until he looked up to the sky line and saw the tower and cross.

New Members Welcome

We have a number of new members since our last mail out. We need to be on the look out, and approach some one to join during this special year.

Special Project 2011 – 12

By Easter, passersby will have seen all of the signs on Molesworth Street, which we agreed at last year's AGM to support financially. To date they have received much positive endorsement. Thank you to members who have given so generously.

Diary Dates

Sunday 5th February

Special Garden Party 3pm – 4.30pm, wet or fine, \$15 each.

Invitations have been extended to the Royal Commonwealth Society, The Association of Anglican Women and the Mothers' Union as well of course to all Companions and friends in the Diocese!

Your committee has planned a special event and will be ready to greet guests at 2.45 – 3pm. There will not be hat competitions this year in the categories of previous garden party events. Should any members require assistance with transport, please indicate by Friday 3rd February at the latest to the Cathedral Office: 472 0286

The Annual AAW Evensong will follow at 5pm and be joined by Companions. The Director of Music, Michael Stewart, is preparing the choir for special music

Farewell to Our President, Bishop Tom and Dwyllis -

Sunday 26th February 4pm Liturgical Farewell in the Cathedral followed by an event in the Loaves and Fishes.

Sunday April 22nd St George's Day

Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Service at the Cathedral 10 am

Sunday 20th May Companions Festival Week-end, AGM, Evensong and Dinner with Guest Speaker to be advised

Royal Snippets from London

Sunday 3rd June HM the Queen will attend a service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, London followed by a carriage procession.

Monday 4th June Jubilee Concert and the lighting of 2012 Beacons

Royal Ascot enclosure and next door Grandstand patrons this year must wear skirts of a modest length just above the knee or longer, hats or a head piece which has a base of 4 inches/ 10cm or more in diameter is acceptable as an alternative to a hat.

Reflections

The constant positive energy created by Companion members and friends – nearly 100 attended the Advent Soiree last November, including our founder Charles Tyrrell from Nelson

Thank-you to committee member Mary Houston who has managed the liaison with the AAW and MU on Companions' behalf for the Garden Party attendance

Thank-you to our Chairman Bob for his contributions of thoughtful prayer and energy at all meetings

Thank-you to the Property and Maintenance committee of Vestry who have been repairing the Cathedral Garden furniture

Congratulations to Rev Stafford Cull who celebrated his 80th birthday recently with Margaret, both loyal and supportive members of Companions

Belated Congratulations to Dean Frank who gained his Master of Ministry from Otago University Department of Theology and Religious Studies last year. His dissertation focuses on the vision of St Benedict who set out a way of living a balanced life for God in the midst of apparent chaos. "There is something unexpectedly contemporary about the challenge of the three vows – obedience, stability and continual conversion - to today's church, and especially today's cathedrals," writes Frank.

We have lost two loyal members – much loved Fred Coad and Elizabeth Giles. Our condolences go to their immediate families. They are missed.

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