



Rosary Shrine News

MAY 2017

- Welcoming Visitors
- Conserving Heritage
- Building our Community
- Inspiring Hearts & Minds



Powerful concert launches St Dominic's as a cultural venue

On Monday 1st May, our church resounded with the exquisite 1610 Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Monteverdi, attended by around 250 people. The performance by Camerata of Curiosities and His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts was moving and prayerful, and puts the Shrine on the map as a venue for musical events. We were especially pleased to welcome so many visitors to the church for the first time as they took up this opportunity to discover one of the treasures of Christian culture.

A FULL PROGRAMME

The Shrine's first year of operation has seen a programme of events including illustrated talks on

the Rosary mysteries, a retreat weekend for young adults, a conference on St Thomas Aquinas and the Rosary, as well as regular Shrine devotions on Saturday mornings and visits by a variety of pilgrim groups.

Over the coming months, a pilgrimage to Italy's Rosary Shrine at Pompeii is planned, and more groups are due to visit St Dominic's. The programme for 2018 is currently in preparation, and will be available in time for the first anniversary of the Shrine in October.

Forthcoming events can be seen at our website:
rosaryshrine.co.uk/calendar



Achievements

Since the launch of the Shrine appeal in March 2016, funds raised so far have already enabled a variety of works to be completed.

The wrought-iron screens of the Rosary chapels were repainted and regilded, enhancing the appearance of these chapels in preparation for the Shrine's inauguration. The sacristy was gutted and refitted. In addition, the stone and brickwork of the Assumption chapel, which had suffered the worst water damage of all the side chapels in the past, was thoroughly restored. In the parish hall, new more comfortable chairs were acquired, and the hall was also redecorated to make it a more attractive venue for holding talks and events, as well as welcoming groups of pilgrims to the Shrine.

Current works in the church

Part of the goal of the Shrine fundraising campaign is to improve facilities at the church to welcome visitors, as well as creating a better experience for parishioners.

At the moment we are

investigating options for the major task of replacing the obsolete heating system in the church. The sound system will also be upgraded later this year, and an architect has been commissioned to explore options for better toilet facilities.

The improvement of the fabric of the church also continues: the rest of the Lady Chapel is the next area in which work is planned. This will include the cleaning of stonework and restoration of the ceiling.

See over for details of fundraising progress.



Fundraising Update

Patrons: Princess Josephine Loewenstein, Countess Dora della Gherardesca

Thank you for
your support!



Wendy's jump for the Shrine

In response to the fundraising campaign for the Rosary Shrine, parishioner Wendy Searle volunteered to do a sponsored parachute jump to raise money for this new project. Her courage has already generated a great response, with over £1,200 given in advance of the jump, and further sponsorship pledged. Last Saturday, 29th April, Wendy successfully completed her skydive, and has provided us with the evidence to prove it!

If you would like to sponsor Wendy after this brave endeavour, you can do so here:
rosaryshrine.co.uk/donate/support-shrine/.

We need your help!

You don't need to jump out of a plane, but we are looking for creative ways to fundraise for the Rosary Shrine fund. Sponsored events are great because they can bring in new donors from among our friends and colleagues. Or perhaps you would like to organise a charity event, or an auction of promises, or a Rosary Shrine Bake Off, perhaps...

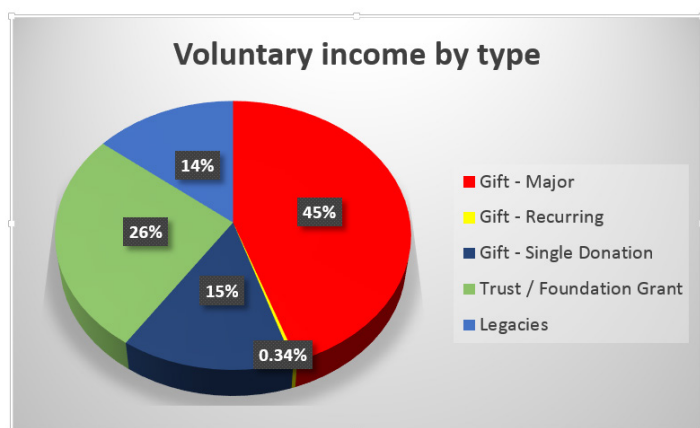
Fr Thomas would be pleased to talk over your ideas, so just speak to him or email thomas.skeats@english.op.org

In Memoriam

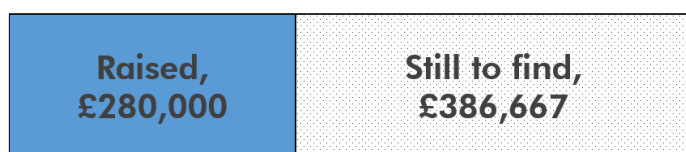
We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of those whose legacies we received recently. Of your charity, please pray for:

- John O'Neill

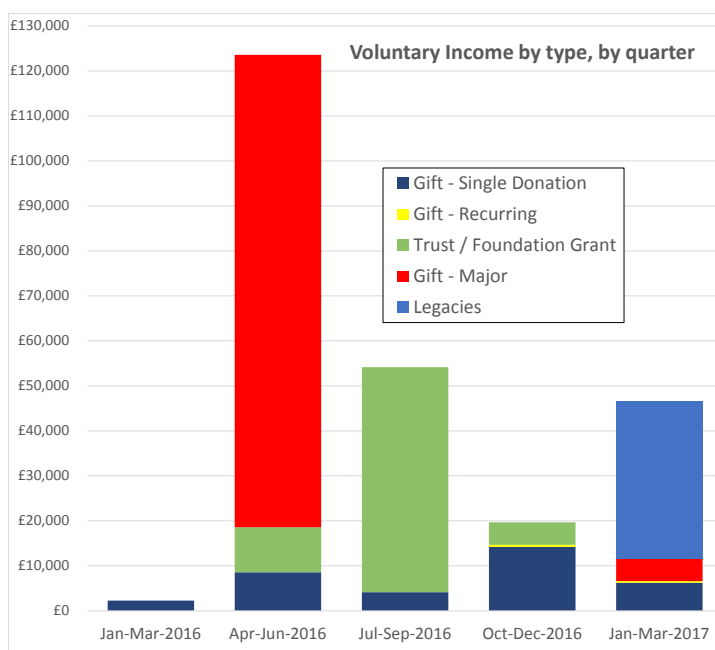
Latest Fundraising Figures



Progress against target



We offer special thanks for the support given so far by Miss Jeanne Bisgood's Charitable Trust and the Hobson Charity Ltd, as well as several major donors.



For news, events calendar, online giving: www.RosaryShrine.co.uk

St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Rd, London NW5 4LB

The English Province of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) is a charity registered in England and Wales (231192) and in Scotland (SC039062).