

THE FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS.



WHY ORGANISATIONS ESTABLISH “THE FRIENDS OF.....” It should be noted that “The Friends of....” indeed any organisation, is normally instituted, endorsed and promoted by the Organisation. There is no known official examples of active “Friends Groups”, who claim to support an organisation that would not seek, and would not have, the support of that organisation. Indeed, throughout the world such a group, without that mandate, would be a misnomer in any culture, country, or in religious or secular life. (Those who were in a “Friends of Mother Teresa Group”, some decades ago, will recall she personally curtailed, and limited, the role of the organisation that then existed, in her name, at that time to ensure it could only operate in a way that respected common practice, civil law, and that she would feel comfort with. We are unsure if they continue, but her Congregation were clear they must work within her guidelines, and norms.)

Our own Cathedral of St Barnabas offers a model, familiar, to everyone in The Diocese, and Country (Westminster and Birmingham Cathedral also have such Organisations) We quote their brochure: **“Establishing a Friends of St. Barnabas Cathedral”**: The idea emerged from the Cathedral Chapter and is currently being driven to establish a Group of Friends to support the Cathedral Church, by prayer, encouragement of social and cultural opportunities, and financial support for the demands made to ensure it the Cathedral receives the promotion in these areas that it so richly deserves”.

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Definitions of friendship: : a friendly feeling or attitude : kindness or help given to someone "He was encouraged by the *friendship* his co-workers showed him."

The best definition comes from Jesus him himself: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." And challenges us all to give of ourselves to the community in which we live. John 15:13

AS PARISHES, are central to the mission, life, and structure of the Church, it is hoped people fully appreciate their domicile decides which parish they are in. Many of the great Churches of our land, have a "friends group" which largely consists of former Parishioners living outside the Parish, and well wishes and supporters from afar. We have been encouraged to promote membership of "**The Friends of St Barnabas Cathedral**" which, of course, is our own cathedral, and details of it on are our joint Parish website, and our Parish Facebook Pages, and can be accessed with this link: http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/05_download/Newsletters/436%20Brochure%20-%20Cathedral%20Friends.pdf

Further our recent discussions about outreach, and welcoming people back, has led to the plan that each Parish have an "**Official Friends of..... Facebook Page**" and a Page on our website, but please beware of imitations.. On them we will publish genuine news from our geographically distant friends, and supporters, and any stuff Parishioners suggest might interest them. We hope those distant friends will join us spiritually in prayer, visit us often, and maybe as circumstances allow support us financially! True friends share and make themselves present in different ways.

People living in a Parish are Parishioners, and friends would be those geographically separated from the parish, for family, work, or other such matters. We, of course, already have a Facebook page, and website, for our Parishioners.

We hope you consider supporting the Friends of St Barnabas Cathedral, and contribute, and promote, our soon to be launched "Official Friends of.." Facebook page, and website page to serve the usual purposes, and intent, of such a group in any place throughout the world, and remember the example of Saint Mother Teresa, who recognised that such groups have to serve an agreed purpose and have love and charity at its heart.

FACEBOOK OR WHATTSAPP: If either Parish sets up a new Facebook page or WhatsApp group we will announce it publicly. **Only ones** we advertise are **recognised and endorsed by their respective parishes:**

<http://www.facebook.com/stmarysbrigg>

<http://www.facebook.com/staugustinewebsterbarton>

Our public groups on WhatsApp are:

ST MARY'S PARISH BRIGG

LUMEN CHRISTI @ BARTON

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