



Our vision is to return the exterior to its pre-war condition

Pillar Three: The Exterior Island

As well as the restoration and modernisation of the structure of the church, Pillar Three will develop the church to ensure the exterior is in keeping with local improvements.

The Harrison & Harrison organ, donated by the USAF, will be totally renovated to ensure it maintains its reputation as one of the best instruments in London.

The new Crypt access point on the Southside of the church, will allow visitors to visit the Crypt without causing disruption to the main church.

Our vision is to return the exterior to its pre-war condition. Lift the paving and with expert tree surgeons deal with the London Plane tree roots which are lifting the paving. Once relaid the area will be safe for the public to use.

The cast iron railings will be installed and an “Al Fresco” seating area created at the East End of the church so the local community and visitors may sit and relax with refreshments from the cafe in the Crypt.



Become a Supporter of the St Clement Danes Church 1941 Appeal

To help restore, preserve and modernise St Clement Danes Church and our national memorial of Remembrance for future generations to come, please consider supporting our appeal by donating, or leaving the Church a gift in your Will.

If you would like to help or would like further detailed information, please contact our Development Director at:
developmentdirector@stclementdanesraf.org or call 07305 773 028 to discuss how you might be able to help.

Thank you.



For more information please go to <https://stclementdanesraf.org> or scan this code:



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St Clement Danes Church

THE 1941 APPEAL



1941 Appeal

St Clement Danes Church, the Central Church of the Royal Air Force and national Memorial of Remembrance has launched its 1941 Appeal in commemoration of the fearless pilots of the RAF and Allied nations and to safeguard the future of St Clement Danes Church for generations to come.

In the 1950s the RAF launched a worldwide fundraising appeal to restore and rebuild the church after the inferno which all but destroyed the church on the night of the 10th & 11th May 1941.

Once rebuilt, to Sir Christopher Wren's original designs, the church was reconsecrated on the 19th October 1958 in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as the Central Church of The Royal Air Force.

Today, we are honoured to have His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as our Patron for the 1941 Appeal and are delighted to have his approval of our restoration plans for this historic Grade 1 listed London landmark.

Importantly, the Church houses the national Books of Remembrance, each with the hand written names of over 125,000 RAF service personnel who paid the supreme sacrifice whilst protecting the skies from approaching tyranny.

The RAF is now launching a new worldwide appeal to rebuild the steeple, to open and expand the lower crypt floor to create a "well-being" and education centre and to restore the exterior of the church, to its pre-war glory.

Please help us to restore and modernise St Clement Danes Church for the use of all our communities. This leaflet gives you a brief synopsis of the 1941 Appeal. For more details and further information please contact our Director of Development (details on the back page).



Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your support.

*Air Vice Marshal Alan Gillespie
Chair of Trustees
St Clement Danes Church Fund.*



The 1941 Appeal is a five year project with three separate but distinct elements as follows

Pillar One: Restoration of the 1719 James Gibbs Gothic Steeple

The Bell tower and Steeple acted as a chimney on the night of the 10th & 11th May 1941, with flames from the inferno funnelled hundreds of feet into the night sky.

The intense heat caused unseen damage to the Gothic Steeple, resulting in microscopic fissures in the Portland Stone. Over the last 80 years, water has seeped into the stone and reached deep inside to the metal clamps holding the Steeple together.

Over time, these clamps have rusted and expanded causing the Portland stone to crack and break up. An inspection of the Steeple in 2016 revealed the alarming extent of the damage and necessitated the immediate shoring-up of the Steeple.

Pillar One will entail the disassembly of the Gothic Steeple, stone by stone, the removal of the steeple from site, careful examination and where necessary the damaged Portland stone replaced. The Steeple will then be returned to site and rebuilt.



This pillar will take 72 weeks and is the most urgent and essential element of the 1941 Appeal. We need to secure £2,000,000 to start this part of the project in the Autumn of 2022.

Open the Crypt the full length of the church and develop a world class space

Pillar Two: The Expansion of the Crypt to provide a centre of well-being for humanity in a contemporary world

The current Crypt is only a third of the length of the Church. Investigations have indicated a void behind the dividing wall. The vision for Pillar Two is to open the Crypt the full length of the church and develop usable space that will benefit diverse communities.

A well-being centre will be established for the use of forces charities as a drop in centre serving those with mental, financial and other vulnerabilities, with our partner charities regularly working from the crypt to help those in need of support.

The Education Centre will help Key Stage 1 to 4 pupils develop their learning to achieve National Curriculum targets in English, Mathematics, History and Art. We will engage with expert external partners to develop and deliver a learning resources pack for Primary and Secondary schools.

Our vision will also deliver a resource for the community and visiting performers and artists. With a new access point from outside, visitors will be able to use the cafe and visit the church shop. Meeting rooms and much needed wash room facilities will be available, and when booked, the Crypt can be converted into a superb venue for concerts, art exhibitions, conferences for the benefit of the local community and businesses.

Importantly, this will generate a sustainable income for the Church and draw inward investment from tourism and visitors to the area.

