

'Friends' Summer Vespers

This year our summer celebration of sung vespers was blessed with one of the most beautiful of English sunny summer evenings. The sun shone through the cathedral's West window gently casting its blessing on our devotions. In his inspiring homily Bishop Richard reminded us that it was not necessary, as the prophets and Apostles thought, always to look upwards, or literally to climb mountains, to see and experience our Lord's presence. Our Faith teaches us that His love is always within us and around us, supporting us, guiding as and giving us strength to resist temptation and follow his teachings in our daily lives. The choral input from the Lewes Schola Cantorum contributed uplifting spiritual beauty to the occasion. Following the service we were delighted to have been invited by our Honorary President, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, to the Collector Earl's Garden where we were pleased to host a champagne reception with canapes. Martin Duncan, Head gardener, conducted a guided tour of the gardens sharing fascinating information about its design layout and maintenance. Chris Hartgroves and his two friends contributed relaxed, 'easy listening' jazz. Members took advantage of the opportunity to talk informally to Bishop Richard as he mingled with the group



It was a splendid evening. We hope people will be enthused by reading about it and be encouraged to become members. If the Friends are to remain strong its membership needs constantly to be replenished. The Cathedral is a magnificent monument to our Faith, proclaiming the gospel to the thousands who pass along the A27 every day. It attracts pilgrims from all over the world who come to worship there and admire its splendour. It needs to be cherished by everyone in the Diocese and beyond.

The annual fee is very modest (£20 or £30 for two people at the same address). Corporate membership is also available at £50. Trustees are continuing to try to visit as many parishes as possible to talk about the Friends but in the meantime more information may be obtained from Lindsey Stratford in The Friends Office on 01903 884567 or via Email at aruncathfriends@btconnect.com

