

ST. JAMES'S
CHURCH
PICCADILLY

RESTORATION
APPEAL



THE ST. JAMES'S CHURCH RESTORATION

The Appeal Committee

Rupert Hambro (Chairman)
Christopher Bodker
Simon Critchell
Rev Dr Charles Hedley
Andrew Love
Councillor Alexander Nicoll
Roger Sharpley
Giles Shepard CBE

Christopher English OBE (Secretary)

PICCADILLY
APPEAL



The St. James's Church Piccadilly urgently seeks to raise £3.5 million

The money is urgently needed to restore this magnificent Wren church, consecrated in 1684, so that it may serve the community for a further 300 years.

The Appeal – Key Works

- The restoration and replacement of the roof
- Renewal of the electrics
- Repair of the walls and tower
- New organ
- Restoration of the Grinling Gibbons organ casing
- Internal restoration
- New pavilion for welfare work



Appeal



THE BISHOP OF LONDON

I love St James's Piccadilly and wholeheartedly support the Appeal that is being launched for the restoration programme. The Church has always been able to embrace every shade of humanity Blake, the greatest prophet of London was baptised here but St James's also features in Vanbrugh's play *The Relapse*.

Someone asks Lord Foppington "pray which church does your lordship most obliged with your presence?"

The peer replies "Oh St James's Madam: there's much the best Company". "Is there good preaching too?" Lord Foppington "Why faith Madam, I can't tell. A man must have very little to do there that can give an account of the sermon".

Actually, in our own day, the preaching is solid and challenging and St James's continues to serve its locality and to provide the welcome together with counselling and care for whoever may seek it.

The church and the surrounding buildings were very severely damaged during the Second World War and the last major restoration programme was in the 1950's. In order to prepare St James's for the next 300 years, as a spiritual and cultural centre, it now requires your help to restore it to its original splendour.

This was Sir Christopher's Wren's only opportunity to build on a green field site and the result exemplified his ideas of what a parish church ought to look like. We have received a precious inheritance and I very much hope that you will feel inclined to preserve and develop it for Christian centuries to come.

Richard Chartres

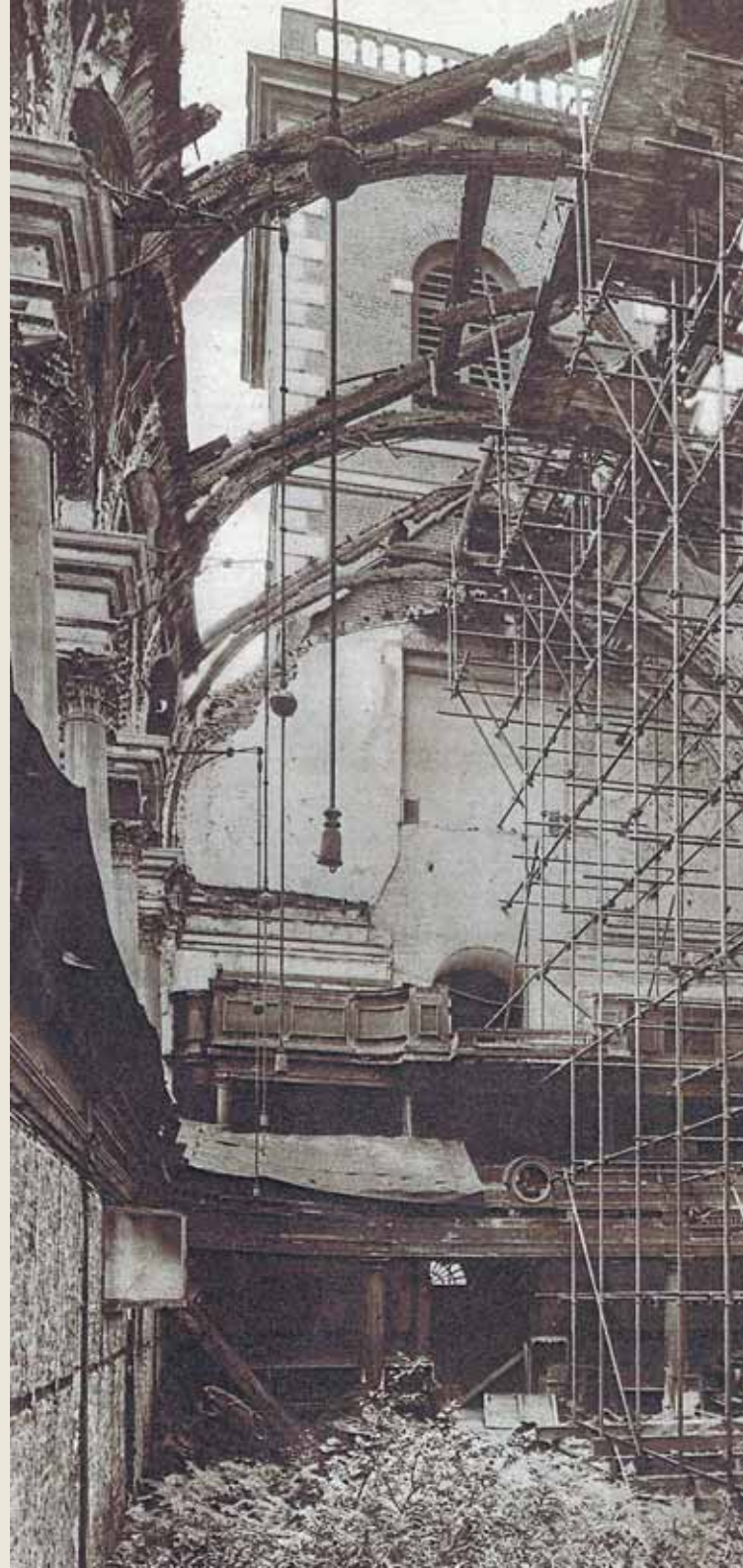
The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres DD FSA
THE OLD DEANERY, DEAN'S COURT, LONDON EC4V 5AA

BOMB DAMAGE - 1940



Excerpt from 'The Illustrated London News'
August 9, 1947

For nearly seven years St. James's Piccadilly, has stood roofless and ruined, a poignant reminder of the air attacks of the "Big Blitz" winter of 1940-41. A portion of the south aisle was temporarily repaired so that services could be held; and last year, as the result of a suggestion made by the late Lord Southwood, the churchyard was made into a garden of remembrance to commemorate London's fortitude during the war. Repair work will shortly start on the north wall, which has become unsafe. St. James's Grinling Gibbons carvings include the font at which Lord Chesterfield and Lord Chatham were christened; and among the well-known men buried there are the two Willem Van de Veldes (marine painters), Gillray the caricaturist and "Old Q.," the fourth Duke of Queensberry.





An International
Preservation Organisation

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND IN BRITAIN

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London, SW1W 0DH
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SAINT JAMES'S CHURCH - Piccadilly.

Step away from the cars and people on Piccadilly for a moment into the churchyard of St. James's Piccadilly and you are calmed by the presence of Sir Christopher Wren's elegant and simple church. It feels local, in the best sense, you are at the heart of the village of St. James's and the bricks and stones of the 1680's are calming and comforting. Wren himself thought highly of this church describing it a, "beautiful and convenient". It is one of his simplest designs and it was also, as he proudly told the Commissioners for Fifty New Churches in London in 1711, "the cheapest of any Form I could invent".

Five bays long, three aisles wide, a western tower and short chancel and there you have it - a model urban parish church - and one much copied around the world.

It's not so cheap to restore a church today that was consecrated in 1684 and badly bombed in 1940. The World Monuments Fund in Britain understands the problems of the careful restoration of a London church -we are working on Nicholas Hawksmoor's St. George's Bloomsbury- and commends this Appeal to raise more than £ 2 million to restore Wren's simple masterpiece.

Inside beneath the plaster barrel vault there is Grinling Gibbon's lime wood reredos and his organ case - moments of masterly and life like carving that enrich the galleried interior. All will be well and London's village secured for centuries providing this Appeal is a success. St James's Piccadilly is at the very heart of the capital - long may it be there and bring harmony and peace to Piccadilly

COLIN AMERY - Director WORLD MONUMENTS FUND IN BRITAIN

Chairman: The Viscount Norwich **Founding Chairman:** The Hon. Clive Gibson **Director:** Colin Amery
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Registered Charity Number 1045907

St. James's not only has immense importance for the area immediately around it but also forms part of the great architectural heritage of Wren buildings in London.

The Post-War restoration is now in desperate need of repair. Damp and general deterioration of the fabric mean that there is now a great deal of urgent work required in order to restore Wren's only surviving West End church to its original glory.

The Church is still a vibrant hub of worship and pastoral care for many visitors each year and is a focus of regular spiritual and cultural events. The restoration will allow St. James's Church Piccadilly to continue to serve the Greater London community for centuries to come primarily as a place of worship. It will also preserve Wren's favourite church for future generations.



THE CURRENT



NEED FOR RESTORATION

'I think that it
may be found
beautiful and
convenient.'

Sir Christopher Wren



HISTORY

Following the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, Henry Jermyn, Earl of St Albans, obtained permission from the King Charles II to develop part of the estate that had belonged to St. James's Palace.

Naturally Henry Jermyn turned to his friend Sir Christopher Wren to create the parish church. St. James's was completed and consecrated in 1684

It is well known that Wren regarded St. James's as one of his best churches. He was not given to boasting but in his 1708 report to Parliament, Wren wrote of St. James's: 'I think that it may be found beautiful and convenient.'



Certainly St. James's became the prototype for many urban churches both in this country and in the new colonies. Old North Church Boston, built in 1723 was the first church in North America to be modelled directly on St. James's and like St. James's it is light and airy with a gallery supported by fluted square pillars.

In the best 17th-century tradition the interior is quiet yet sumptuous. With barrel-vaulted ceilings gilded plaster mouldings and slender Corinthian columns. On the plain white walls the only decoration is the capitals of the columns, which have St. James's scallop shell overlay. The configuration amply allows the congregation to see and hear well.



City of Westminster

**COUNCILLOR SIMON MILTON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Tel: (020) 7641 2228
Fax: (020) 7641 3156

Restoration Appeal for St James's Church, Piccadilly

St James's Church, Piccadilly is one my favourite churches in the City of Westminster. It has been a much loved part of London's rich heritage for over three hundred years and also serves as a vital hub of the local community.

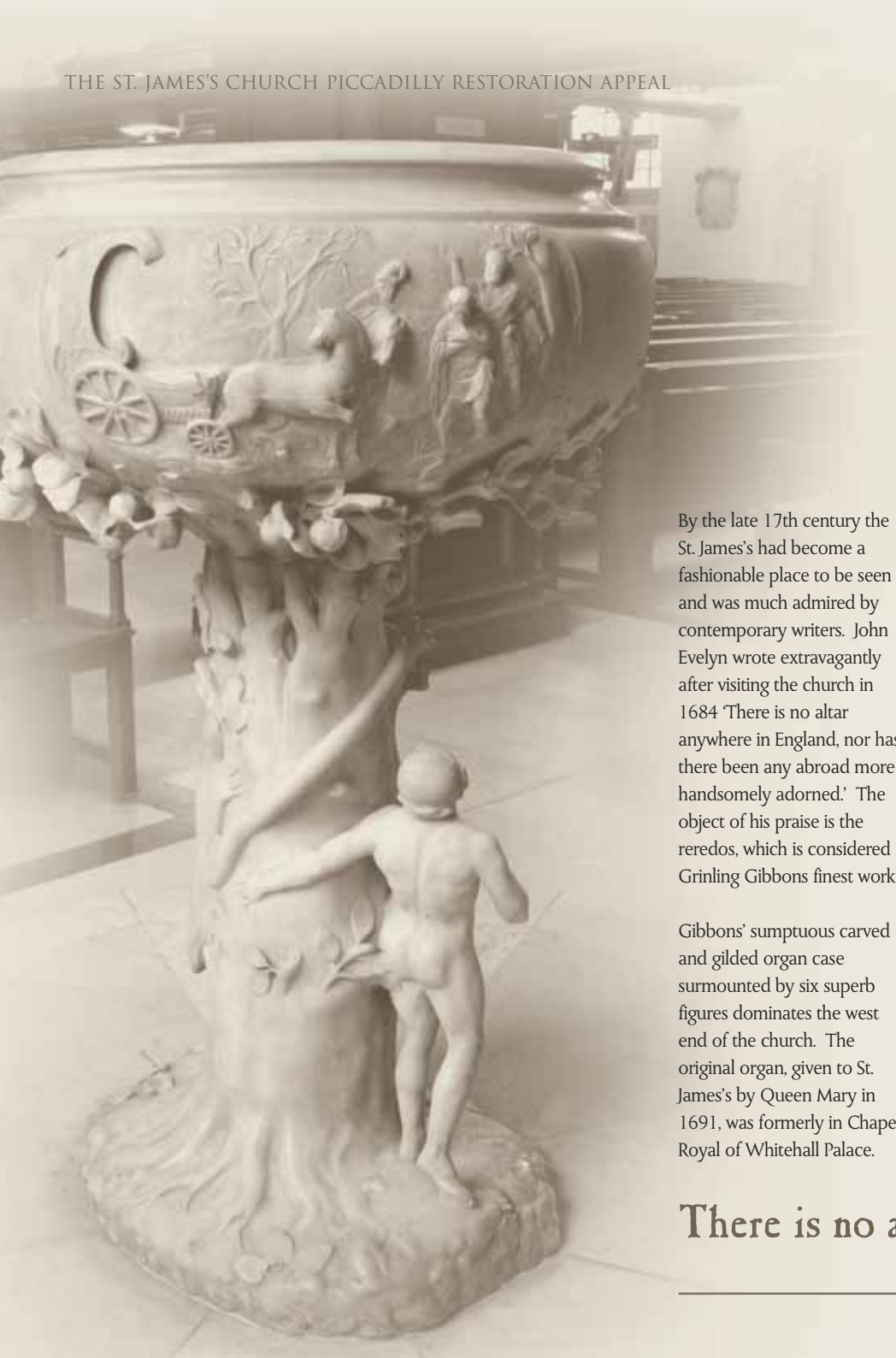
On behalf of Westminster City Council I very much hope that sufficient funds can be raised to restore the church to its former glory, in a sensitive and appropriate way.

Let us hope that the result of this restoration will be that St James's Church will be still ably serving the local community for another three hundred years to come.

Yours sincerely

SIMON MILTON

P O Box 240, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, LONDON SW1E 6QP.
Main Switchboard 020 7641 6000 LONDON Ds 2310 VICTORIA



By the late 17th century the St. James's had become a fashionable place to be seen and was much admired by contemporary writers. John Evelyn wrote extravagantly after visiting the church in 1684 'There is no altar anywhere in England, nor has there been any abroad more handsomely adorned.' The object of his praise is the reredos, which is considered Grinling Gibbons finest work.

Gibbons' sumptuous carved and gilded organ case surmounted by six superb figures dominates the west end of the church. The original organ, given to St. James's by Queen Mary in 1691, was formerly in Chapel Royal of Whitehall Palace.



There is no altar anywhere in England,



Of the many distinguished names associated with St. James's, William Pitt, Britain's youngest Prime Minister, and William Blake, the poet and artist were baptised here. Handel, when he was attached to the household of Lord Burlington and Sir Isaac Newton were worshippers at the Church. Many figures from the literary and arts world are also buried here. James Gillray, the caricaturist and James Christie the auctioneer. Also Francis White, founder of the



famous coffee house and Tom d'Urfey, the writer of bawdy songs as well as Juan Famenias Floris, the founder of the world famous Jermyn Street perfumer; Floris and the first English professional woman painter, Mary Beale.

It was not until 1954 that St. James's was rededicated after restoration of the severe war damage.



nor has there been any abroad more handsomely adorned.' John Evelyn, 1684

ST. JAMES'S TODAY

“All will be well and London’s village secured for centuries providing this Appeal is a success. St. James’s Piccadilly is at the very heart of the capital - long may it be there and bring harmony and peace to Piccadilly”

Colin Amery - Director WORLD MONUMENTS FUND IN BRITAIN



We offer worship and pastoral care, welcoming some 5,000 visitors each week from all over the world; we care for disadvantaged people, provide a meeting space for local groups and a venue for concerts and recital. We have a café and a market in our grounds.

St. James's is a place with a great history and a long tradition of welcoming artists, poets, actors, playwrights, musicians and performers to express creativity and spirit. We provide a place where people of any faith or none can explore the sacred in life.





ST JAMES'S CHURCH

197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL, Tel. 020 7734 4311, Fax 020 7734 7449, email - rector@st-james-piccadilly.org
Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Hedley, Clergy: The Revd Meg Johnson, The Revd Hugh Valentine.

St James's Restoration Appeal

St James's Church is a remarkable and iconic building. Sir Christopher Wren expressed a profound satisfaction with his design for it, saying that in St James's he had come closest to fulfilling his vision of what a church should be and its design became the model for numerous colonial churches across the world.

Consecrated on July 13th, 1684, this remarkable building ever since been a continuous centre of prayer and ministry. During the second war the church was badly damaged but never closed. The south aisle remained open for services even though much of the rest of the church was wrecked.

In the early days, with two daily sittings for morning and evening prayer, fashionable and eminent congregations crowded in to hear the top speakers of the day. Today, with the changing face of London, St James's houses a lively church community and continues to serve the locality both as a place for quiet prayer and recollection right at the heart of Piccadilly, and also as a centre for lively debate. The fine Wren building has stood the test of time and is as suited for today's church as it was on the day it was built.

Sadly, however, although the suitability of Wren's design is not in doubt, the condition of the building now leaves much to be desired. The extensive post-war repairs are worn out and substantial money is needed to restore it for the twenty-first century.

This fine building remains what it was built to be - a working church with a congregation drawn from across London, but the cost of repairs is far more than any congregation could reasonably bear alone. I urge you to support our appeal to restore this historic church to its original glory so that its presence may again express the fine quality of the heart of Piccadilly.

Charles Hedley

(The Revd Dr Charles Hedley - Rector of St James's)



What You Can Do To Help

Methods of giving

Gift Aid, legacies, a gift in memory and share giving are effective and attractive methods of donating to St. James's Church, although by no means the only ones.

Gift Aid

Since April 2000, Gift Aid has been the principal means for making a tax-efficient gift to charity. There is no longer any upper or lower limit to the value of a gift under the scheme.

If you are a standard-rate UK tax-payer, St. James's Church can reclaim £282 from the inland revenue for every £1,000 you donate. We reclaim the tax by forwarding details of your gift to the Inland Revenue. If you are higher-rate taxpayer, you can also reclaim £231 on every £1,000 you donate (assuming a basic rate of tax of 22%, and a higher rate of 40%). Simply enter the details on your tax return.

Companies may also claim relief from corporation tax on Gift Aided donations to St. James's Church.

Please see the examples set out in the table below.

Gift	Net cost to basic rate taxpayer	Net cost to higher rate taxpayer	Gross value to St. James's Church
£1,000	£1,000	£769	£1,282
£3,900	£3,900	£3,000	£5,000
£23,400	£23,400	£18,000	£30,000

Legacies

A legacy to St. James's Church is one of the most generous gifts you can give. There are two main ways to give:

You can leave a purely financial legacy by naming a sum of money.

Alternatively, and this is what many people do, you could simply leave what is known as a 'residuary' legacy, leaving us a proportion of your estate after all other legacies and expenses have been paid.

All bequests to the church are exempt from Inheritance Tax (40% at April 2004).

So should you decide to leave a legacy, in grateful thanks for your generosity, your name will be inscribed in the Roll of Honour Book here at St. James's Church.

A Gift in Memory

Making a donation to St. James's Church in memory of a friend or relative is a special way to remember them.

Many people now prefer to give a donation to charity instead of giving flowers at a funeral.

All gifts in memory receive an individual acknowledgement and the next of kin are advised of the names of donors and the total amount of the specific Memorial Fund.

Donor Recognition

St. James's Church believes that all donors, whether big or small, have the right to be recognised publicly if they so wish. For further information you may contact the Secretary in confidence.

Share Giving

Giving shares is a remarkably tax efficient way to support St. James's Church. Instead of donating money you simply transfer shares. Any individual or company can do this with large or small amounts of shares.

Giving Shares as an Individual

If you donate shares there is a potential double tax advantage: not only is the gift exempt from Capital Gains Tax but also you can claim income tax relief on the value of your donation. This means that giving shares is especially attractive for higher rate tax payers and people whose shares have been significantly increased in value.

For example, if you are a 40% tax payer and you give shares worth £10,000 to St. James's Church, you can claim income tax relief of £4,000. So your donation has effectively cost you £6,000.

In addition you would be exempt from any Capital Gains Tax due if the shares had increased in value and you had sold them.

Giving Shares as a Company

Companies can similarly claim corporation tax relief by giving shares to St. James's Church.

The St. James's Church Piccadilly Restoration Appeal
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London SW1Y 6LX
Telephone: 020 7292 3785
Facsimile: 020 7292 3778



First Phase Already Completed

Grinling Gibbons Reredos



