



Restoration Update

St Paul's Church, Mill Hill

*The Church That Wilberforce Built
18 33 — 2008 Celebrating 175 years
December 2008*

Our vision to restore the past, build for the future and serve the community is now a reality. The church is beautifully restored, the Wilberforce Centre is thriving and we continue to grow spiritually as a church. **Thank you** for your generous support throughout the project.

Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Restoration and Reordering of St Paul's Church

A Service to mark the end of the project was held at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Sunday 8th June. The Service of Thanksgiving, which was presided over by the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres, was attended by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, Andrew Dismore, MP for Hendon and some 370 supporters of the project and members of the congregation.

The service included readings about William Wilberforce, who built the Church, and Amazing Grace, the well known hymn written by fellow anti-slavery campaigner John Newton. The church also welcomed Samuel Wilberforce and his wife Sarah to the service. Samuel is one of 250 living descendants of William Wilberforce. Samuel and his father have tried to continue the family tradition by campaigning against modern forms of slavery.

For St Paul's Church, the celebration was the realisation of a vision that was born some 8 years ago to restore the past, build for the future and serve the community. The vision has involved securing the long term future of the Grade II listed building, increasing capacity for the growing congregation, creating a more flexible church interior to meet the needs of today's worship, creating additional Church and community facilities in the crypt, building a new entrance area on the north side of the Church and very importantly ensuring the building was fully accessible for disabled visitors. Collectively, these physical developments will enable St Paul's to enhance its spiritual mission and community outreach and to develop its heritage and educational programmes.



The Bishop of London

Photo by Murray Thompson

The Wilberforce Centre

In September the new Wilberforce Centre in the crypt of St Paul's opened its doors for the first time. The Wilberforce Centre is being used by the church as well as offering space to community groups and organisations for regular meetings and events. The Mill Hill Historical Society, Good Neighbours Scheme, The Mill Hill Preservation Society and the Circassian Circle Folk Dance are the first groups to book events at the venue which we hope will become an integral part of community life in Mill Hill.



Church Open Mornings

St Paul's Church is open most Saturday mornings between 10am—12noon for visitors. In the new entrance foyer you will find a temporary exhibition on the restoration and reordering project. To view the Church at any other time please contact the Parish Office on 020 8906 3793 to make an appointment.

Coffee Pot

During term time *Coffee Pot meets* in The Wilberforce Centre between 8.30am and 10am, Tuesday—Friday. This is an opportunity for a coffee, croissant and chat and is proving to be really popular so do join us if you can. From time to time we have charity events, the most recent being a pink themed event for Breast Cancer.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event
You raised
£ 270
For Breast Cancer



Accessible Church

An important part of the restoration and development project has been the introduction of disabled facilities. In the new entrance foyer a lift has been installed to take visitors to and from The Wilberforce Centre (the crypt) and the church. In both the Church and Wilberforce Centre we have loop systems which require a hearing aid to be switched on to the T position for sound amplification.

In The Wilberforce Centre, a disabled toilet as well as ladies, gentlemen and baby changing facilities have been installed.

Externally, ramps have been incorporated in the design to enable visitors to access both the crypt and Church from street level without having to negotiate any steps.

Collectively we hope these improvements will enable our disabled and frail guests to visit with confidence.



St Paul's Church Organ Appeal

The organ appeal has been a great success with over £100,000 being raised for the restoration. The organ was returned to St Paul's in July 2008 and has undergone a period of settling in and fine tuning. Today, its sound and appearance are both magnificent. It would not have been possible without the support of the congregation, the wider community and The Wyndham Charitable Trust. Thank you to everyone who has supported the appeal and sponsored pipes in memory of loved ones or to mark a special occasion. A few pipes remain for sponsorship. Please contact Chris Wong at The Parish Office for details.

To celebrate the return of the organ we will be staging a concert in the New Year. Details of this will be available soon on our website and through our Restoration Updates.

Photographs below....



The organ in the west end of church above the extended gallery

The oak console


