

366th Festival of the Clergy Support Trust: Tuesday 11 May 2021

This is the annual choral Festival at St Paul's Cathedral, celebrating the work of the charity with three cathedral choirs.

Many Livery companies and Guilds do attend the service (75 in 2019) as they celebrate their long history and the creation of the charity by city merchants in the mid-1600s. Indeed they hope to deepen the relationship and Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney recently joined the trustees in 2020.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, the Festival had to cancel the physical service in 2020 – they believe this is the first time in its history (including WWI and WWII). But the Charity is adamant that will not happen this year. With the current uncertainty and ongoing restrictions, the trustees have opted to have an online version, albeit as close to the physical service experience as possible.

To maintain the quality, Livewire/HatTrick (BBC Proms, Have I Got News For You) will be producing the video which they will film in the respective cathedrals. The Bishop of Durham (Paul Butler) will give the homily and the usual testimonials from the people they support will be filmed on-location. This is being done very much in conjunction with St Paul's, indeed it will appear on their **YouTube** channel, with the aim it will have as much a sense of place as possible.

The basic details of the virtual event are:

- 366th Festival of Clergy Support Trust
- The choirs of Southwark, Liverpool and St Paul's will sing their own anthems and a joint hymn
- 6pm on 11 May 2021
- <https://www.clergysupport.org.uk/festival>
- Livery companies that have supported the charity in the past year will be featured on this webpage, in the video and in the Order of Service (digital and physical copies will be available)

The Charity will be contacting the clerks directly, asking them to share the details with their Masters and members; as well as some print advertising and social media to encourage 'attendance'. They are keen that this enjoyable, high-quality event reaches as many people as possible and hope that the online format will make it even more accessible.

Pandemic-allowing they are looking forward to returning to St Paul's on Tuesday 10 May 2022 in person for the 367th Festival of Clergy Support Trust. A significant effort will be made to ensure this makes up for the two missed years and is a spectacular event.

Information provided by:

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