

Photography by Henry Gaskell

From the beginning...

“ I was in the church when through the door, a large dog appeared; it came up, licked my arm and withdrew. Somewhat puzzled, I followed and, passing between thick fuschias, came out on to the Rectory lawn. The house was hot, silent and overgrown. The guttering was loose, the paint almost entirely worn away. ”

So wrote Roger Gaunt, of one afternoon in the summer of 1957. The Rectory had been unoccupied for some years. To the Diocese it was redundant and beyond repair: to Roger Gaunt, it was magical and he had the vision to see what it could become.

The following summer, having obtained permission from the Diocese to take over the Rectory, Roger Gaunt organised working parties to restore the house to some sort of habitable condition for holiday parties – youth groups, university reading parties and clergy and their families. This involved far more extensive work than had at first been realised, amounting to saving the building which had been decaying for some years.

In August 1958, one of these working parties was heard singing madrigals and motets in the garden, so the parish invited them to sing some motets at Sung Eucharist. As a result, Canon Prior and Rebecca St John Manser invited Roger Gaunt to hold a Festival of Music and Drama in the following year.

“Young man, that was very agreeable. You will do us a Festival here next year. I will do the publicity – three concerts, I think – and all for a shilling. Good day to you.”

And so it was, in 1959, that a Festival of Music and Drama was presented – a violin sonata, some songs and motets and a play. The scale was modest. The audience was small. It was a humble beginning but, over the next fifty years, it was to flourish to become the Festival we know today.

St Endellion Golden Jubilee Appeal

From modest beginnings fifty years ago, the St Endellion Easter and Summer Festivals have grown and flourished to become one of the most important cultural events in Cornwall and the South West.

As we embark upon a second half-century, we have a renewed vision of how the church, the rectory, Glebe Farm and the church hall - the St Endellion 'campus' - can become a centre for fresh artistic and spiritual expression. The hope is not only to provide the music festivals with the outstanding home they deserve but to enable a year-round cycle of other festivals, retreats and courses to make the unique charm and inspiration of the St Endellion experience available to a much wider audience. To render that vision in bricks and mortar we need to raise funds, which is why we are launching our Golden Jubilee Appeal.

We aim to raise £1.5million with the principal objectives being to:

- Convert The Stone Barn to provide sleeping accommodation for young musicians and youth groups
- Convert The Old Dairy into a new adaptable space for rehearsals, workshops and recordings
- Upgrade The Church Hall to provide a better kitchen, a universal access WC, a Parish Office and storage facilities
- Create a Bursary Fund to enable young people, who may not be able to afford the cost, to participate in the Festivals and the other events which will be developed within the Arts and Spirituality programme

The Golden Jubilee Appeal is your chance to help us build on the achievements of our first half century and make the next fifty years more remarkable still. For further details about the Appeal and tax-efficient giving, please go to our website: www.endellion.org.uk

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Candida Lycett Green
Mark Padmore
A N Wilson
The Endellion String Quartet

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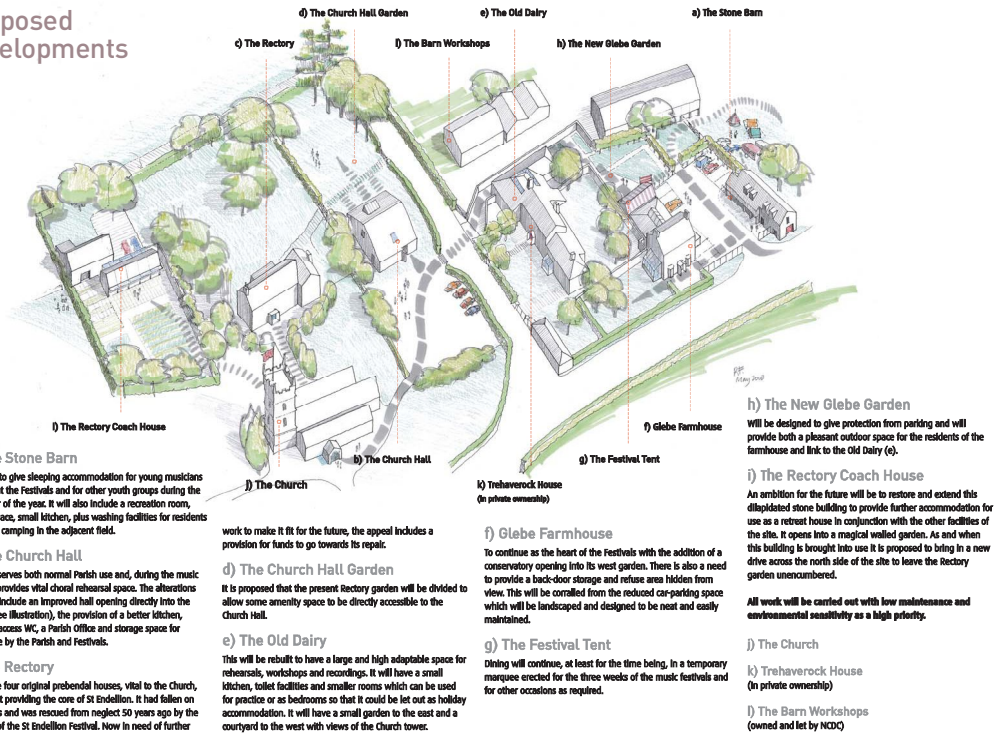
Appeal Committee

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St Endellion Festival Trust, Registered Charity Number: 1124805



Proposed developments





The Rev Bill Ince, Bishop of Truro (1997-2009)

“I passionately want to protect what St Endellion and its Festivals stand for.

I want this parish to be a kind of beacon. I want this part of North Cornwall to be a place where the arts are celebrated and explored, not just for their own sake but because they are themselves a window of transcendence through which we can glimpse, albeit darkly, something of the mystery of God.”



Richard Hickox, CBE
Music Director, St Endellion Festivals and Music Director of Opera Australia

“There is a spirit in St Endellion Church, on which we all feed. The place is a magnet for many of us as well as a refuge. The festival concerts are unique in blending professional and amateur yet the place seems to raise us to musical heights we find difficult to repeat anywhere else. Lovers of the Arts and anyone who appreciates the value of artistic opportunity for the young must support this appeal. Together we can ensure that St Endellion’s next fifty years are even more glorious than the last.”



Patrick Gale
Novelist and Chairman of the St Endellion Summer Festival

“The St Endellion Festivals are the reason I moved to Cornwall in my twenties. Discreet, unsponsored, idiosyncratic, they’re as much a cornerstone of Cornish culture as the Minack Theatre, Barbara Hepworth and the pasty. For musicians, they’re glorious busman’s holidays, a rare chance to rediscover the joys of making music with friends and family in a space whose sacred intimacy allows for an intensity of performance few concert halls or opera houses can match. For the audience, they are artistic feasts.”



Fr John May
Priest-in-charge, St Endellion

“My first experience of a St Endellion festival, last summer, was glorious: the music, the sheer bustle of life about the place, the sense of mystery and beauty opening up on holy ground as if the gates of heaven were open. No wonder people come back again and again. I eagerly await this year’s festivals and to seeing you all again, and to working with you in the hope that the future is every bit as exciting as the past.”



Mark Padmore
Tenor

“I first came to St Endellion in 1983, a year after I had finished at university. The essentials were the same then as now – great music in an inspirational setting performed with lashings of enthusiasm. If I ever need inspiration I know where to come to the beautiful church and soul-enriching Festival of St Endellion.”



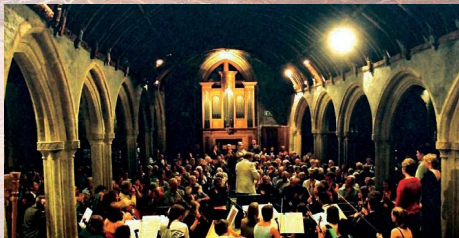
The Lady Mary Holborow
Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall

“As Lord Lieutenant I would like to offer my congratulations to the St Endellion Festivals on reaching such an important milestone. Over the years I have seen what an impact they have had on the county, particularly North Cornwall, with the marvellous music they bring here. We all greatly look forward to Festivals at Easter and in the summer. Bishop Bill’s vision is a bold and compelling one and I wish all concerned every success with this Golden Jubilee Appeal.”



Andrew Watkinson
Leader, Endellion String Quartet

“It was at St Endellion more than anywhere that I discovered the joy and excitement of performing music. The atmosphere of the small but glorious church, which at Festival time seems to expand to twice its actual size, creates an extraordinary intensity and immediacy of communication. By borrowing its name for our quartet we have been lucky enough to take a bit of this atmosphere with us and also been able to point people around the world back to St Endellion and its unique Festivals.”



Photography by Mike Evans

‘Cornubia, Land of the Saints’ by John Miller
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St Endellion Golden Jubilee Appeal



Photography by Henry Gratian

“...indeed the church gives the impression that it goes on praying day and night whether there are people or not.”

John Betjeman, Collins Guide to English Parish Churches, 1958



www.endellion.org.uk

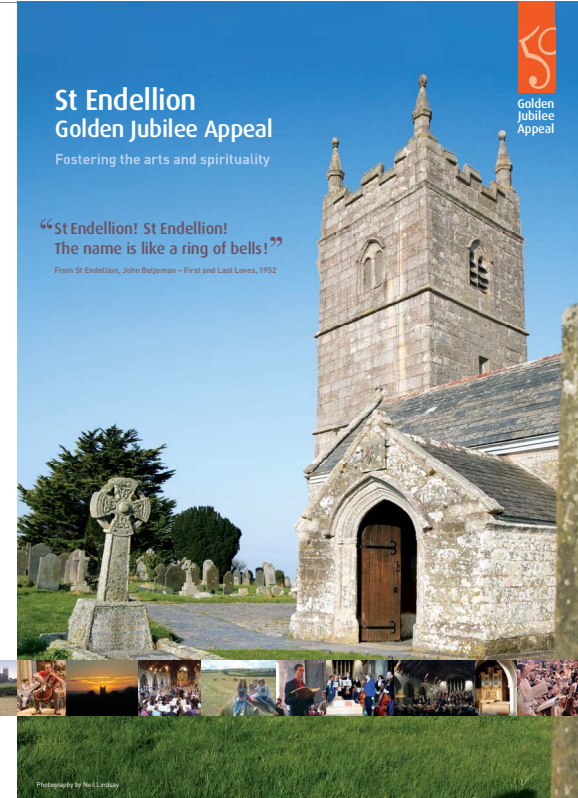
St Endellion Festival Trust, Registered Charity Number: 1124805

St Endellion Golden Jubilee Appeal

Fostering the arts and spirituality

“St Endellion! St Endellion!
The name is like a ring of bells!”

From St Endellion, John Betjeman – First and Last Loves, 1952



Photography by Neil Lindsay