



Aldersgate Ward Club

Founded 1860 Revised 1909

Master: 2017-18 Dr Antony J Richards

Dr Antony J Richards

Website: www.aldersgatewardclub.co.uk

- Event:** Christmas Carol Service and Dinner, St. Olave Hart Street, Tower Hill.
- Date:** Thursday 14th December 2017.
- Meet:** Arrive at St. Olave Hart Street at 6.15pm for carol service at 6.30pm followed by dinner at 8.00pm at the Windsor Fenchurch.
- Location:** St. Olave Hart Street and then at New London Street.
- Numbers:** Limited to 30 persons only.
- Cost:** £30 – Includes the carol service and dinner with wine.
If the event is oversubscribed a ballot will be held with all applications received by the closing date being given equal consideration.
- Travel:** By far the easiest method is via Underground to Tower Hill from where both locations are a 2 minute walk. There is also on-street metre parking in the area (free after 6.30pm).

Dear Member,

Being related to Ebenezer Scrooge the prospect of carols does not fill your new master with undiluted joy, so I have tried to organize something different for the members this year.

The church we are visiting is St. Olave Hart Street, one of the few surviving medieval buildings in the City of London, and the burial place of Samuel Pepys. But why is it named St. Olave? In 1951 King Haakon VII of Norway laid the foundation stone for the restoration of the church (following bomb damage in World War II) and in doing so maintained the link with King Olaf, who fought beside Etheldred the Unready against the Danes at the Battle of London Bridge in 1014. King Olaf died in 1025 and was canonized for his services to Christendom with a wooden church being erected on this site in his honour. It was subsequently replaced by a 13th century stone church, which forms the crypt of the present 15th century church.



Dickens mentions the church in *The Uncommercial Traveller* as the church of St. Ghastly Grim because of its gateway of skulls and crossbones. Betjeman described the place as being ‘a country church in the world of Seething Lane’.



And what of the Pepys connection? Pepys referred to the church as being ‘our own church’ and it was largely through his vigilance that it survived the Great Fire of London for it was he who had many of the wooden structures around the church removed. Previously in 1660 he had had an outside stairway and a small gallery built leading from the Navy Office in Seething Lane so that he could attend the church without getting wet. Today Pepys, along with his wife Elizabeth may be found buried in the nave with a monument to Pepys by Sir Arthur Blomfield on the spot where the gallery used to be. It is also the burial place of one ‘Mother Goose’ in September 1586, and so what better place to hold a Christmas carol service (if you must!)?

Our service though is going to be slightly different since due to the Norwegian connection we are going to be sharing our service with the Anglo-Norse Society who will be singing some of the carols in Norse. Viking dress is not obligatory and you are asked to leave your helmets and axes at the door. **A collection will be made during the service.** It should be a unique event!

Following carols it was intended to return to London via a Bavarian Bierkeller, but unfortunately this was not to be since with typical German efficiency the establishment wanted full payment and menu options in October. Hence we will now be returning to London via Windsor, or the Windsor Fenchurch to be precise. This is a busy City pub adjacent to the church and Fenchurch Street station of Monopoly fame. We will be occupying the mezzanine level where a full 3-course festive dinner with wine will be served at a most reasonable rate.

I do hope that you will support what promises to be a night to remember and help your master get into the spirit of Christmas (for once!).

Best wishes,

Antony Richards

Booking Form

Christmas Carol Service and Dinner Thursday 14th December 2017

Please return to Dr Antony J Richards,

I wish to reserve ___ place/s at **£30.00 each** for the **Christmas Carol Service and dinner** and enclose a cheque for a total of £___ made payable to the Aldersgate Ward Club.

CLOSING DATE – THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2017

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your confirmation unless you provide an e-mail address below in which case your confirmation will be e-mailed to you just after the application closing date.

Name:

Name of Guest:

Address:

Telephone: Email:

Menu Options

(Please tick as appropriate)

[A]

[B]

Starter

Rich Tomato & Jersey Cream Soup (V) [A] [B]

Classic Prawn Cocktail [A] [B]

Chicken Liver & Pork Pate [A] [B]

Mains

Hand-Carved Turkey with all the trimmings [A] [B]

Festive Turkey Pie [A] [B]

35-Day-Aged 10oz Rump Steak with peppercorn sauce [A] [B]

Cheesy Smoked haddock bake on wilted spinach [A] [B]

Davidstow Cheddar Cheese, Cornish Clotted Cream & Leek tart (V) [A] [B]

Bah Hum Burger with Christmas trimmings [A] [B]

Desserts

Crimbo Pudding with custard (V) [A] [B]

Cookie Cream Profiteroles (V) [A] [B]

Chocolate Fudge Cake with ice cream (V) [A] [B]

Wine

Red [A] [B] White [A] [B] Rose [A] [B]

Any Dietary Requirements:

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