



Headlines from the Hall 19 December 2018

Dear Merchant Taylor

We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy 2019.

It's all been very jolly in the Hall, and last week we held three very festive events.



The Grand Staircase 2018

Bach's Christmas Oratorio - 10 December

200 people came to the Hall on Monday night for a concert of Bach's Christmas Oratorio directed by OMT Alexander Hamilton (now organ scholar of Westminster Abbey) and performed by his ensemble of musicians, the Kilgour Consort.



Five soloists and 24 musicians sang and played beautifully and the acoustics in the Hall worked delightfully to bring this remarkable Christmas piece to life.

To see the pictures click [here](#).

Vernon's Anniversary Service - 11 December

The next day over 300 people filled St Michael's Church on Cornhill for some Christmas carols (with the organ on full throttle), an inspiring sermon from our Chaplain, the Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell, and some sublime singing from the Merchant Taylors' Boys' Choir.

We all filed back to fill the Great Hall, Parlour, Cloisters and Pavilion afterwards and enjoyed some fabulous food and wine together.



John Sichel, standing in for the Master, gave a speech to thank our outgoing Membership and Communications Officer, Kym Ash, for her 13 years of dinners, events, services, welcoming, guiding and general marvellousness. Her great big smile will be very much missed by all and we wish her all the best in her retirement and new life as Mrs Carter.

We also said goodbye to Diana Watson, the Education Officer, who is leaving after nearly six years with the Company. She is off to Shanghai to explore the social finance market in the APAC region, working with an organisation that incubates new not-for-profit companies, before moving on to Hong Kong and Singapore. We know Diana will do brilliantly, as she did here.



Diana Watson with Martin Clark, chairman of the Education Committee, at the Doctors' Dinner

The Master's Charity and the LFF nominated charities were represented on the stage which was where we unveiled our new contactless giving machine, which proved a great success with the membership, raising over £2000 over the afternoon. This will be present at all Company events in the future, for when you're feeling spontaneously benevolent towards our needy causes.

For pictures of the event, click [here](#).

Doctors' Dinner - 13 December

It may have been barely above zero outside but Thursday saw another packed Hall, as Court, honorary Freemen, Masters, Prime Wardens and Clerks from the Great 12, membership, head

teachers, head boys and girls, governors and representatives from our schools all came together for Doctors' Dinner in the Great Hall.



The Merchant Taylors' School's Choir sang again from the balcony, and we heard words of wisdom from our guest speaker, [Sir John Armit CBE](#).

To see the pictures of the event, click [here](#).

Dates for the 2019 Diary

- 16 January 2019** - Quiz Night for all. Click [here](#) for details.
- 8 February** - Membership Lunch
- 13 February** - Livery Dinner
- 4 March** - Concert by Merchant Taylors' and St John's Schools
- 14 March** - Freeman Dinner
- 26 March** - City Drinks
- 29 March** - United Guilds Service
- 10 April** - Bindings & Admissions
- 15 April** - Wylford's Anniversary Service
- 10 May** - Membership Lunch
- 4 June** - City Drinks
- 18 June** - Election Service & Barbecue Supper
- 24 June** - Election of Sheriffs (Lunch for Court and Livery)
- 2 July** - Livery Dinner
- 4 July** - Company Golf Day

See you next year, Merchant Taylors!

**To find out more, or to add to these listings, please contact
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