

Press release: 14 December 2021

Fulham Palace announces a new chair of trustees

Fulham Palace Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of a new chair of trustees. Paul Gray was confirmed in the role on 22 November 2021, and will officially take over from Mariana Spater on 7 February 2022. The current chair, Mariana Spater, will stay on as a trustee and member of the finance, risk and audit committee.

Paul began his career in arts and heritage in 1995 as a marketing specialist. After senior roles at Kew Gardens, Turner Contemporary in Margate and Historic Royal Palaces, he became chief operating officer at the National Gallery in May 2018. Paul's knowledge and understanding of the complexities of managing a historic building and garden open to the public, in addition to his commercial management



expertise, will be a valuable asset to Fulham Palace Trust. After undertaking the Getty Leadership programme in 2015, Paul has held non-executive director/trustee roles at Chelsea Physic Garden for eight years and has been a member of St Paul's Cathedral Council for six years.

Mariana Spater, chair of trustees 2017 - 2022

I am delighted to welcome Paul as my successor as chair of Fulham Palace. I know he will be a very positive force for the coming years and I am honoured to be invited to stay on as a trustee and look forward to working with Paul as

part of the team for the next phase in the Palace's long history.

Paul Gray, appointed chair of trustees February 2022

I'm delighted to be selected as chair of the Fulham Palace Trust. Historic buildings and gardens are my passion, and there are few places in the country better to feed that passion than Fulham Palace. The Palace has come a long way in the last ten years under the leadership of the previous chairs, first Tim Ingram and then Mariana Spater and I look forward to heading the charge for the next phase of developments!

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

About Fulham Palace

Fulham Palace is the historic home of the Bishops of London. Purchased in AD 704, for centuries the Palace and surrounding estate served as a country retreat for the bishops and their families before becoming the Bishop's permanent residence in the early 20th century. Following the last Bishop's departure in 1973, Fulham Palace Trust, an independent charity formed, to manage the 13-acre botanical garden and historic house. Fulham Palace Trust is an independent charity dedicated to the ongoing preservation, restoration and interpretation of this historically important site.

Restoration and renewal

In May 2019 Fulham Palace Trust completed a £3.8 million three year restoration project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Discovering the Bishop of London's Palace at Fulham project included increased visitor access to some of the oldest parts of the Palace, bringing key historic rooms back to life. The project also included improving access around the botanic garden and replanting historic varieties of plants.

Fulham Palace has a wealth of things to see and do all year round, from finding out about the lives and characters of the Bishops of London in the museum to having lunch in the drawing room café or a walk through the Palace's garden, including a look at fresh produce grown at the Palace on

the market barrow. Free tickets to visit the museum can be booked in advance through the Palace's website, fulhamapalace.org

Current opening hours

Entry to Fulham Palace is free except for special tours and events. The Palace and garden are open throughout the year at the following times:

- Museum and historic rooms: Weds - Sun 10.30 – 16.00 (last entry 15.30). The museum and historic rooms will close for the holidays on Sun 19 December and reopen on Mon 17 January.
- Café: daily, 9.30 – 16.00, daily. The café will close for the holidays on Sun 19 December and will reopen on Tues 4 January.
- Shop: Wed – Sun 10.30 – 16.00 or online, with click and collect and delivery options. The shop will close for the holidays on Sun 19 December and reopen on Mon 17 January. The online shop will close on Mon 13 December and will reopen on Mon 17 January.
- Botanic garden: dawn until dusk
- Walled garden: daily, 10.15 – 15.45.

Access

The Palace and garden are accessible to people with disabilities and assistance dogs are welcome. Limited disabled parking is available to book.

Travel:

Fulham Palace is located on Bishop's Avenue, Fulham, London, SW6 6EA just off Fulham Palace Road (A219). It can be reached easily by a tube to Putney Bridge Underground Station (District Line) and train to Putney Station (Southwest Trains, travel time approximately 15 minutes from central London) and by local buses stopping on Fulham Palace Road, Fulham High Street or Putney Bridge Approach (14, 22, 39, 74, 85, 93, 220, 265, 270, 414, 424, 430). Metred parking is available on Bishop's Avenue.