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## Give a Gift, Light up a Life this Christmas

Happy New Year to all of you, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break over the holidays.

Thank you so much to all of you who donated to the "Give a Gift" scheme before Christmas. We managed to collect just over 300 presents in the end, which were shipped off to the Salvation Army and received with huge thanks.

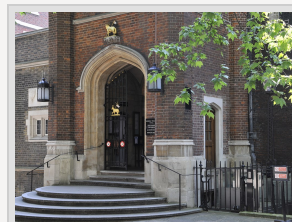
I hope to run the scheme again next December and hopefully we can beat the staggering number of donations from 2015. The picture to the right shows just a small selection of what we collected.



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## Access to the Bar Awards - Can you provide a placement in chambers or on the bench?

The Middle Temple Access to the Bar scheme was set up to encourage able students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented backgrounds with the potential to be successful barristers to make a more informed choice about a career at the Bar. The original eight Awards, named after Michael Sherrard, have been added to with 5 COMBAR Awards and most recently ten Jeremy McMullen Awards. More information can be found by clicking [here](#). It is an extremely worthwhile scheme, as illustrated by this [report](#) from one of the 2015 award winners.



Each award consists of one week of work experience in chambers and one week as a marshal with a judge, which typically take place at the end of June and beginning of July, however we can be flexible with dates. If you would be able to assist with either of these types of placements we would be most grateful. Please contact Sally Yorke ([s.yorke@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:s.yorke@middletemple.org.uk)) if you are interested in getting involved or for more information.

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# Vanity Fair - 8-10 January 2016

This dazzling, ensemble-led production of Declan Donnellan's frenetic adaptation of Vanity Fair, William Makepeace Thackeray's satire of social mobility, is coming to the historic Middle Temple Hall this week. Fast, brash and full of song, Vanity Fair will delight audiences in the beautiful setting of Middle Temple Hall, where Thackeray himself was once a member. Expect experimental lighting, high-octane physical storytelling and laughs aplenty.

Tickets: £45, £35 and £25.

All proceeds will go towards the Middle Temple Scholarship Fund.

Bookings via [www.vanityfairplay.co.uk](http://www.vanityfairplay.co.uk).



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## Treasurer's Reception - Wednesday 13 January 2016

Official invitations have now been sent out. We look forward to seeing those of you who are able to join us to welcome the 2016 Treasurer, The Rt Hon Lord Justice Christopher Clarke, for the Treasurer's Reception on Wednesday 13 January 2016.



The reception is preceded by Evensong at 17:30 in Temple Church.

If you have not yet RSVP'd please do let me know if you plan to attend at [benchers@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:benchers@middletemple.org.uk). Spouses/partners are also invited.

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## Drop-In Mindfulness Sessions - Thursday 14 January 2016

Middle Temple will be hosting Drop-In Mindfulness Sessions every Thursday for 6 weeks, starting on 14 January 2016, between 18:00 and 19:00, in the Sherrard Room.



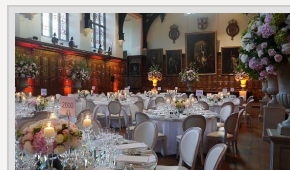
The sessions will be led by Duncan Steen, who has taught meditation and mindfulness for 25 years, all over London, including the City Lit, LSE, YMCA and BA.

There's no need to book. Just drop-in and bring a £5 donation with you.

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## Wedding Open Day - Sunday 17 January 2016

Middle Temple is hosting a Wedding Open Day on Sunday 17 January 2016 from 10:00 to 16:00. Brides, grooms, family and friends are invited to explore our stunning rooms available for civil ceremonies and wedding receptions. Guests will enjoy a glass of Buck's Fizz and a selection of delectable canapés created by the in-house culinary team, before touring the impressive Hall and Bench Apartments beautifully furnished for a wedding. Preferred wedding suppliers will be on hand to advise including florists, photographers, theming and table dressers, entertainment, transport and a chef from the Middle Temple culinary team.



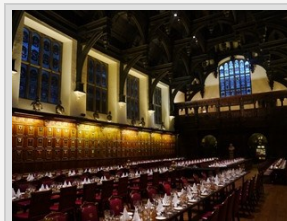
One to one appointments with our Events Team are also available; please contact the events team on [events@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:events@middletemple.org.uk), or telephone 020 7427 4820.

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## All Inn Dining - Monday 18 January 2016

All Inn Dining is a great opportunity to meet fellow Benchers, members and students. Feedback from student members suggests that this is one of the evenings they most look forward to.

For more information and to book tickets please contact me at [benchers@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:benchers@middletemple.org.uk).



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## London Art Fair Private Viewing - Wednesday 20 January 2016

London Art Fair is the UK's premier Modern British and contemporary Art Fair. The 28th edition of the Fair brings together over one hundred carefully selected galleries from the UK and overseas, with two curated sections, Art Projects and Photo50, running alongside the main Fair, at the Business Design Centre, London N1.

We have managed to acquire a limited number of invitations to a Private Viewing on Wednesday 20 January 2016, from 18:00 to 21:00. This is an exclusive, invitation-only evening reception providing you with the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of the Fair's exhibiting galleries, whether you're buying art for the first time or developing your collection. Complimentary drinks will be provided.

To receive a Private Viewing invitation (admits two persons), please send me an email at [benchers@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:benchers@middletemple.org.uk), or collect one from the Membership office in the Treasury.



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## Burns' Night - Saturday 23 January 2016

On Saturday, 23 January 2016 join us for Burns' Night at Middle Temple. Both dining and non-dining tickets are available. There are discounts for group bookings so please do feel free to bring guests.

The evening will involve a champagne reception, four course dinner and reeling. Highland dress or black tie are a must as we celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns.

Please note that all bookings are through the Treasury and tickets for Burns' Night cannot be placed on Bench Bills. For more information and to book tickets please contact the Treasury on 020 7427 4800.



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## A Night with Dame Sian Phillips and the English Chamber Choir for the Suited & Booted Charity - Monday 25 January 2016

On Monday 25 January from 19:00 join the Charity Suited & Booted Charity for a night with Dame Sian Phillips, the English Chamber Choir and Cyrus the Magician.



Suited & Booted works with the public agencies to help unemployed and vulnerable men (including ex-servicemen and ex-offenders) get into work. By its support, Suited & Booted helps to transform lives by providing interview clothing, boosting confidence and self-esteem, and increasing the likelihood of success for its clients.



For over four decades, the English Chamber Choir, and its conductor, Guy Protheroe, have been at the forefront of the English choral tradition and London's musical life. One of the best known and busiest groups of its size, the Choir prides itself on the variety of its repertoire and the diversity of its engagements. The evening will also include a variety of non-musical items.

For more information and to book please visit the [registration website](#).

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## Middle Temple Survive and Thrive Programme- Monday 29 February 2016

Join us for the second event in the Middle Temple Survive and Thrive Programme, "How to think like the SAS, perform like an athlete and bounce-back like an entrepreneur", with guest speakers Andy McCann, a leading sports psychologist, James Pereira QC of Francis Taylor Building Chambers and Master Anna Ford.



- Could your working style be more effective?
- Is the perceived risk of failure impacting on your wellbeing and performance?
- Do you want to strike a better balance between your work and private lives?

If you answered yes to any or perhaps all of these questions, rest assured, you are not alone. Whether you're a Clerk or a High Court Judge, we have all felt overwhelmed at times. These feelings can affect self-confidence, performance and place you in a vicious circle of stress. Tap in to the tools used by other high performing professionals – such as athletes, soldiers and public figures. Break bad habits, form better ones and cope with the difficulties of our professional lives by attending our second event in the Middle Temple Survive and Thrive Programme.

This event is free to attend for members and is accredited with 2 hours of CPD. For Bench bookings please contact me at [benchers@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:benchers@middletemple.org.uk).

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## More Inn Events - Looking forward to February

- 9 February 2016 - Honorary Bench Call
- 12 February 2016 - Music Night: *Callum Au Big Band*
- 13 February 2016 - Ordinary Dining Night
- 14 February 2016 - Sunday Lunch
- 15 February 2016 - Guest Lecture: *David Anderson QC*
- 16 February 2016 - Reader's Feast: The Rt Hon Sir Richard Aikens
- 25 February 2016 - Private Guest Night



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## Upcoming Bar Council International Events and Opportunities

The Bar of England and Wales is very internationally orientated. A significant proportion of its members have an international practice and that number is increasing all the time. Clients in need of international legal advocacy or advisory services in any field of law can find the right experts at the English Bar.

The Bar Council International Committee and team work to promote both the interests of the Bar and the rule of law abroad.

Each month in the Middle Temple eNews we will be including a link to their [upcoming international events and opportunities](#).



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