

## 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Competition Winners Announced



LONDON (10<sup>th</sup> August 2011)

Michael Murphy from London has been announced as the overall winner of the St Paul's Cathedral 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Competition. Michael took the title after capturing the judges' imagination with this stunning photograph of the dome illuminated red to mark World AIDS Day.

In addition to the overall winner, nine other winning images were chosen by the judges. All ten photographs will be displayed in the crypt as part of the digital timeline outside film experience *Oculus: an eye into St Paul's* from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August until late 2011. To see all the winning images visit [www.stpauls.co.uk/photocomp](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/photocomp)

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Treasurer of St Paul's and one of the judges, said of the winning image:

*"Amongst so many poignant photographs of the cathedral this one stood out. It captures the cathedral by night as it responds to an urgent situation in the world. The darkness and snow seem to retreat from a warmer light than the streets can give and which is centred on the dome. It is almost as if the dome is on fire, not in a Blitz this time, but in solidarity with those who live with HIV/AIDS. Michael's photograph beautifully structures a meditation."*

Michael Murphy, the winner of the competition, said:

*"St Paul's Cathedral has long been one of my favourite buildings in London, and after reading their announcement about lighting the dome red to raise awareness for World AIDS Day I knew I didn't want to miss the opportunity to shoot this iconic building in a unique way. I spent a couple of hours shooting the cathedral from various locations and perspectives on this cold night at the start of December but it was this, my final shot of the night, that I was happiest with. I had packed up my camera gear at the south end of the Millennium Bridge and was simply walking past this spot on my way back home. The snow had just started to fall, the coldness crept in and the streets were deserted. The movement of snow in the strong solitary beam of light is what most caught my eye, and so I just had to unpack my equipment and set up for one last shot."*

Overall winner Michael Murphy will also be awarded one of an exclusive edition of 25 glass vases specially made by the Venice-based firm of Salviati to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Paul's

Cathedral. Michael's winning image will also appear on the front cover of the next edition of *Dome*, the magazine issued to cathedral supporters and friends.

The photo competition was launched to celebrate the cathedral's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the completion of the £40m restoration project. Amateur and professional photographers were invited to submit their best exterior shot of the building to [www.flickr.com/groups/stpaulslondon](http://www.flickr.com/groups/stpaulslondon)

The judging panel was made up by The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral, photographer Peter Smith and Meryl Doney, curator and member of the cathedral's Visual Arts Policy Committee.

The ten winning images were:

Overall Winner: Michael Murphy, St Paul's – World Aids Day

- Adrian Sturgess, Follow the lights
- Bob Fancy, South Bank View of St Paul's
- Dean Austin, mirrormirroronthewall
- Gerry Molumby, St Paul's in the 'wren' from Tate Modern
- Kurt Roberts, St Paul's Moon Eclipse
- Laura Fitzpatrick, St Paul's inside a modern cross
- Leigh Wood, St Paul's pigeon
- Michael Murphy, Sunny St Paul's
- Paul Evans, View from Tate Modern

-ends-

**For more information and images please contact Hannah Talbot, Press & Communications Officer, on 020 7246 8321 or email [hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)**

Note to editors:

**St Paul's Cathedral** is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

### **The Programme of Cleaning and Repair**

In June 2011, one of the largest and most impressive restoration projects ever undertaken in the UK was formally completed. The St Paul's Cathedral programme of cleaning and repair has cost £40m, taken 15 years, and is the first time in its history that the building has been comprehensively restored inside and out.

Since the project of cleaning and repair commenced, the exterior and interior of the cathedral have been beautifully restored. Once blackened and damaged, the west front now rises majestically at the top of Ludgate Hill. The interior of the cathedral has been transformed by state of the art conservation techniques and the light that now floods the space highlights the Portland stone used in the cathedral's construction and brings mosaics, carvings and sculpture to life.