

Press Release

Iron is a girl's best friend at St Paul's this Valentine's Day

Tuesday, 14th February 2012

Diamonds may be forever and a girl's best friend, but one Londoner has spurned the precious stone in favour of iron this Valentine's Day.

Martin Barratt, a managing partner at a London advertising agency, contacted the Cathedral hoping to find out a little more about the work of Jean Tijou, whose famously intricate work can be seen throughout St Paul's.

Martin's girlfriend, Janine Tijou, is a direct descendent of the French Huguenot ironworker, and he wanted to bring her to the Cathedral so she could see his work as a Valentine's gift.

But more than just providing information, the Cathedral staff jumped into action to lay on a private guided tour of all the Tijou ironwork within the cathedral, which includes the magnificent Tijou Gates at the High Altar and the railings which run up the famous geometric staircase.

And as a surprise to the couple, the Cathedral's shop also offered a decorative picture frame from its [Tijou range](#).

Martin said: "As well as being absolutely gorgeous, Janine is a talented soul and religious architecture is in her blood. Part of her work includes working with London's View Management Framework, keeping buildings such as St Paul's protected from new developments so it can be seen from all across London.

"I wanted to surprise Janine on Valentine's Day by bringing her to St Paul's to see the Tijou pieces and celebrate over 300 years of her family's connection with St Paul's Cathedral. To get our own private tour was fantastic as I had only contacted the cathedral for a little more information about Tijou. We are also thrilled with our gift and would like to thank everyone at the cathedral for looking after us so well."

USEFUL LINKS

[Jean Tijou](#) (Wiki)

[St Valentine](#) (Wiki)

[St Paul's Cathedral Shop](#)

ENDS

For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager, St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's 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 a 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.

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