

30 January 2020

**A TRUE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS**

**- CAROL SERVICE RAISES £53,500 FOR CHARITY -**

The Committee of ‘A Celebration of Christmas’ is delighted to announce that its inaugural carol service, which took place in Marlborough College Chapel on 19 December 2019, raised £53,500 for the Stroke Association. The service was the charity’s single biggest fundraiser from an event outside London.

Over 600 people attended the service and enjoyed a fabulous evening of beautiful music, popular carols and festive readings from celebrity guests including Strictly Come Dancing star Viscountess Emma Weymouth and radio and television broadcaster Chris Tarrant.

The headline sponsor was Cazenove Capital with 50 other organisations supporting the event, ensuring that every penny made from ticket sales went towards the vital work of the Stroke Association in Wiltshire. Tickets went on sale in October 2019 and sold out within 48 hours.

Due to the success of the 2019 service, the committee is delighted to announce that A Celebration of Christmas 2020 will take place on Monday 21 December in Marlborough College Chapel. Guests can register their interest to be notified when tickets go on sale through the website [www.celebrationofchristmas.co.uk](http://www.celebrationofchristmas.co.uk).

Rachel Inglefield, chair of A Celebration of Christmas said:

“The incredible amount raised is down to the generosity of all those people who were involved in the evening - our talented performers who gave up their time and immense talents, our generous corporate supporters and individual patrons and all those 600 guests who braved the high winds and rains to attend the service.”

Tom Allen Head of the Oxford Office at Cazenove Capital said:

“We are delighted to have been the lead sponsor for the inaugural ‘A Celebration of Christmas’. It was a truly wonderful evening and we are so pleased to have been able to help the vital work of the Stroke Association to rebuild lives after stroke.”

Amy Spencer, Regional Fundraising Manager at the Stroke Association said:

“The event was organised by a committee of wonderful volunteers. Thanks to all their hard work, we can help people affected by stroke in Wiltshire get the very best care and support they need. Stroke is the second most common cause of death in the world and can happen to anyone – babies, children, new mothers, as well as older people. On behalf of the Stroke Association, thank you to everyone who supported A Celebration of Christmas.”

The committee would be delighted to hear from any local businesses who would like to support the 2020 service.

- Ends –

**Notes to editors:**

**About the Stroke Association**

* Stroke strikes every five minutes in the UK and it changes lives in an instant.
* The Stroke Association is a charity working across the UK to support people to rebuild their lives after stroke. We believe that everyone deserves to live the best life they can after stroke. From local support services and groups, to online information and support, anyone affected by stroke can visit stroke.org.uk or call our dedicated Stroke Helpline on 0303 3033 100 to find out about support available locally.
* Our specialist support, research and campaigning are only possible with the courage and determination of the stroke community and the generosity of our supporters. With more donations and support, we can help rebuild even more lives.
* You can follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TheStrokeAssoc), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TheStrokeAssociation/) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/thestrokeassociation/?hl=en).

**About Cazenove Capital**

* Cazenove Capital is a leading provider of wealth management services for private individuals, family offices, financial advisers, entrepreneurs, trusts, institutions, and charities. The Oxford office serves a large area stretching across the West Midlands, the South, and the South West.

**For further information or photographs of the 2019 service:**

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