

FRIENDS NEWS

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Bishop of Southwark

One of the most heartening scenes in the Church's year is the cheerful throng converging from all quarters for the Midnight Mass. All are welcome to cross the threshold into this light at any time of year, but particularly so on this night of nights when we shall gather once more to welcome "all wonders in one sight, eternity shut in a span, summer in winter, day in night." Now, as she has for a hundred and twelve years as a Cathedral, and for many generations as a Parish Church and Priory, Southwark Cathedral prepares to open her doors and turn on her lights. Christmas is a focal point of the Cathedral's ministry of welcome, of care and concern for one and all. This year, those lights and those open doors will have an extra, sombre resonance. For as we all painfully recall, the Cathedral was at the centre of terrible atrocities committed on the night of 3rd June, when eight people were killed and forty-eight injured on London Bridge and in Borough Market and many more were traumatised and drawn into the unfolding horror of it all. The Police had to search every building to make sure no terrorists were hiding, and were forced to break through the Cathedral doors. Carpenters and glaziers have been busy this Autumn, but the old oak door of the Vestry still bears the scars of forced entry – in which we may see a faint reflection of the Risen Christ bearing the marks of his passion.

For a week the Cathedral was off limits inside the crime scene cordon, doors shut and lights dark. The life of prayer continued: the Diocesan Pentecost Service was relocated to St Mark's Kennington, the Daily Office and celebration of the Eucharist to St Hugh's Church and the Chapel of Guy's Hospital. And on regaining access we re-hallowed the Cathedral as well as the adjacent market and streets. I do not know when last a Cathedral had to close her doors in this way. All the more reason to turn on the lights and open the doors with an undaunted spirit of Advent and Christmas welcome, proclaiming boldly that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

Lately I have often recalled the words of the Parish Priest of St Clement's, Notting Dale, where Grenfell Tower stood and stands. Asked what he did when awakened in the small hours of that terrible night, he said "I went to the Church, I opened the doors and I turned on the lights." Within a few hours St Clement's Church was the centre of a humanitarian relief operation, offering Christ's holy hospitality to all in need. And that, though thank God not always at moments of such crisis, is what the Cathedral Church has striven to do for so long: to open the doors and turn on the lights and welcome all people.

It would not be able to do this without the stalwart support of the Friends. In this year when all have sensed peril, menace and anxiety, this ministry of open doors that you make possible is more necessary than ever. I

want to express my personal appreciation for the Friends of Southwark Cathedral, giving generously a most precious gift: love, time, skill and treasure to sustain this Cathedral Church and its ministry.

May you have a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and may the light of Christ shine on you in the Coming Year through the open doors of Heaven.

EVENTS

Christmas Market

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 December

Below there is plenty of information to entice you to join us for the Christmas Market on one of the three days.

In addition we are looking for willing volunteers to help run the 'Christmas Snug' on Saturday 2 December, selling mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies as well as selling raffle tickets.

An extra bonus for Friends visiting the Christmas Market this year is an enhanced discount in the Cathedral Shop – for the three days of the Market Friends will be able to take advantage of a 20% discount.

Advent Tea

Sunday 3 December, 5pm

Each year the Friends have the opportunity to join together at the beginning of Advent. The Cathedral Advent Carol Service is particularly beautiful: lit by candles, the choir moving around the building to sing in different locations. Prior to the Service afternoon tea is served in the Garry Weston Library.

Tickets: £10.50 – Friends, £11 – Guests.

Soiree at the Deanery

Wednesday 13 December, 7.00–9.00pm

Limited tickets are available for this highly popular event. Sparkly wine and canapes, carol singing, Christmas coffee and mini mince-pies – the perfect start to Christmas!

Tickets: £28.50 – Friends, £30 – Guests

Notelets for Christmas



The Friends have a new notelet, this year designed by Ali Walker. Packs of these cards will be available at the Christmas Market or can be ordered from the Friends office. There are 5 cards in a pack which costs £2.50 or 2 packs for £4.

GIFTS FROM THE FRIENDS TO THE CATHEDRAL

Cathedral website

We all know how much we now rely on websites for the information that we need. They are the libraries, the noticeboards, the

signposts, the advertisements, the friendly adviser and more, all rolled into one. As with all things they need renewing and refreshing and sometimes rebuilding. We have been fortunate to have the support of the Diocese over the past nine years in maintaining and updating our website and we are extremely grateful to Canon Wendy Robins and Steve Harris for their support over the years for without them we would not be where we are. However, the time has come for us to develop a new one and to take on responsibility for making sure that it is everything that we would want it to be. We are.

The Friends of the Cathedral have paid for us to have a new website; Jon Dollin and Ruth Miller have led the process of designing it. We are grateful to them and to all who have put time and energy into getting their pages ready to go live.

We are now at the point when the new Cathedral website can be unveiled. I hope that you are as delighted with the final result as I am and will take pride in maintaining the high standards with which we have begun. Remember, it is only as good as we make it. The prophet Isaiah said to the people of Israel 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace.' (Isaiah 52.7) The new website is the way in which we become those messengers, announcing peace, inclusion, welcome, proclaiming Jesus as Lord, all the things that we want to be known for. Enjoy the website and make it a real tool for mission.

Sound System

The Friends are also paying for work to be carried out to the Sound system in the Cathedral. It was hoped this work would be

completed ready for Advent and Christmas Services. Unfortunately, due to the pressures of the Cathedral diary work will be completed in January 2018.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

at Southwark Cathedral

Friday 1 December – Sunday 3 December

Now a regular feature of the festive season at Southwark Cathedral, this Christmas Market can be found in the marquee located on the north side of the Cathedral. The exhibitors have been selected for their high quality and unique products, the stalls are full of beautiful and delightful gifts many of which are hand-made.

A full list of traders can be found on the Cathedral website www.southwarkcathedral.org

Friday 11am-7pm

Join us after 5.30pm and receive a complimentary glass of mulled wine as you take the opportunity to shop during our late evening opening hours.

Saturday 10am-5pm

In addition to our Market in the marquee our 'Christmas Snug' will be open serving mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. Take a seat and enjoy a Christmas movie on our big screen, chat to your friends and take a break from the busy-ness of the festive season.

In the Cathedral there will be Christmas music provided by choirs and organists throughout the day. The Merbecke Choir will perform their concert at 7.30pm. Tickets available via eventbrite.

Music in the Cathedral

12.00-12.40pm - Stephen Disley
12.45-1.30pm - Edward Hewes
1.30-2.00pm - Bermondsey Voices
3.00-4.00pm - Merbecke Choir

Sunday 10am-5pm

Our last day is Advent Sunday, a final opportunity to purchase something special for Christmas. As well as the usual Cathedral Services throughout the day, the Cathedral Advent Carol Service by candle-light will begin at 6pm.

Raffle

The Friends Christmas Raffle always offers some fabulous prizes and this year is no different. Through the generosity of local businesses we have a great selection of prizes on offer. Tickets will be available to purchase on all three days of the Market and the draw will take place on Sunday 3 December at 4pm. However, Friends can purchase them in advance and we have enclosed 2 books of raffle tickets for you to either purchase yourself or maybe sell to friends and family.

Raffle Prizes

Aqua Shard - Champagne Afternoon Tea for two
Fish! - £100 voucher
Bread Ahead - £80 voucher
Konditor and Cook - £50 voucher
Neals Yard - £20 voucher
The Cathedral Refectory - Afternoon Tea for two
Penguin Random – a selection of books
A book - Doorkins the Cathedral Cat – signed by the Mayor of London, the Dean, the author and illustrator

FROM THE FRIENDS OFFICE

Kate Dean

Here we are again at the end of yet another eventful year. There have been lovely events to attend beginning with the Service for the Bells back in January. The Friends participated in Open Garden Squares Weekend in June setting up a 'pop-up' café outside the Deanery. We have supported the Cathedral at numerous events providing refreshments and hospitality for the Confirmation candidates prior to the Confirmation Service; for the Dean's Conference and the Pastor's Conference. The Friends were particularly involved in the launch of Stephen's Disley's new CD and the much publicised book written by Lisa Gutwein and illustrated by Rowan Ambrose about Doorkins our Cathedral Cat.

The end of the year is such a busy time and sometimes it's difficult to remember to enjoy the festivities. We hope you will be able to join us at the Christmas Market and spend a little time at the Cathedral at the beginning of Advent. It's a very special place and this year, as mentioned by the Bishop earlier, has experienced things which will mark a significant part of its history.

Thank you for your support throughout 2017. I hope you enjoy a peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at an event very soon.