

FRIENDS NEWS



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“WHAT DID THE ROMANS EVER DO FOR US?”

Sometimes it's a bit difficult to see exactly what benefits there are from membership of a Friends organisation. As in the Monty Python film the tangible benefits need to be questioned and explained.

Traditionally people belonged to Friends groups because they wanted to provide a little extra support to a charity dear to their hearts. Rarely did people join because in doing so they received something for themselves: free entry, a discount in the café or shop, a free book or a membership badge. However, things are different now, not least because there are so many calls on our inclination to be philanthropic.

At Southwark we can't offer you free entry to the Cathedral if you become a Friend because thankfully we don't charge. The Chapter wishes to make the Cathedral free to all who wish to come, although it does rather hope you will be generous by putting something in the donation box as you leave!

We can't offer you an unrestricted discount in the shop or refectory for a more legal reason: HMRC are very strict about the financial benefits of membership. What we can do is offer the discount on specific occasions, which we do. The Shop Manager

and Refectory Manager are generous to the Friends and in each newsletter we will advise you of the days you are able to request a discount using the discount card enclosed with your newsletter.

So what can the Friends do for us?

Through your membership you are connected to and supporting a vibrant, living Cathedral full of energy, life, love and happiness. An inclusive church which provides support to anyone in need. You are helping preserve a beautiful building, full of rich heritage, for future generations.

Your membership enables the Friends to give support to the Cathedral through carefully considered projects. At their quarterly meetings the Trustees of the Friends scrutinize requests for funding received from the Cathedral. These discussions can be fairly lengthy and periods of 'full and frank discussion'! As a member you can be absolutely sure the money we receive into the Friends funds is given to the Cathedral for projects which are carefully considered. You can find a full list of the gifts given to the Cathedral on the website at www.southwarkcathedral.org or I will happily send you a hard copy if required.

Most recently we have funded: the new website at the Cathedral together with a refreshed library of photographs; a refurbishment to the sound system in the Cathedral; supported the Girls' Choir tour to

Prague; flowers for Easter and Christmas; and the Easter gift of chocolate eggs to all who attend the Services on Easter Day. We will be considering requests to replace the cassocks for the men of the choir and new vestments at the next meeting. A longer-term project is to fund the repairs to the Jubilee Cross.

It is worth noting the Friends are only able to allocate funds to projects which benefit the Cathedral directly.

Also there are the bits and bobs of membership which are pleasant things to have: four newsletters a year full of opportunities to attend special events at the Cathedral, visits to unusual places, attendance at talks and events unique to the Friends; frequent discounts in the shop and Refectory; and priority tickets for unique events held at the Cathedral such as the Blessing of the Bells Service and the Advent Carol Service, and invitations to events at The Deanery hosted by the Dean.

Going forward to help the Friends grow and helping recruit new Friends.

During Lent perhaps you could help us by talking to your friends, family and church members about the Friends. As we have said above there are a host of benefits to membership and 'something for everyone'. Our events are not expensive financially nor do they require you to do anything other than come and enjoy them. Our evening at the Deanery just before Christmas is a charming evening of friendship and fun with some delicious food and drink for good measure.

Legacies

One of the best ways we can help into the longer term is by remembering the Friends in your Will. In recent years a Legacy from Easter Hunter of £55,000 enabled the Friends to support the huge cost of fire protection work in the roof space above the nave. Whilst the total expense was more than we had available to give, the Cathedral was able to apply for a grant to meet the remaining cost. Without the initial grant from the Friends this would not have been possible.

We hope you will feel the Friends are a worthy custodian of your legacy.

Legacies have been left for specific reasons ie to help pay for flowers at Easter and Christmas. Other gifts and legacies have helped increase our Friends Foundation Fund which currently stands at over £250,000. This money is divided between two Investment Funds, half with M&G and the remaining half with CBFCE. The interest from these funds provides a return each year which we use as the money to fund smaller gifts to the Cathedral as requested.

The Friends exist to cherish the Cathedral and to provide the finances for items which might be beyond the purse strings of the Cathedral. To continue to do so we need Friends, so please help us to grow and thrive.

FRIENDS EVENTS IN 2018

Annual General Meeting Saturday 12 May

Our meeting will begin at 2.30pm and after the Dean's Question and Answer we will have tea. Choral Evensong begins at 4.00pm. All

papers will be sent in the next newsletter mailing prior to the meeting. Tickets are free of charge but we would ask you to register to attend.

At the Cathedral you will be able to visit the stone carvers in the Churchyard – more information in the What's On and further into this newsletter.

Private tour of the Tower of London and Ceremony of the Keys Wednesday 6 June

The Tower of London needs no introduction. This is an hour long private tour which begins at 8.30pm and concludes with the Ceremony of the Keys. Locally there is a restaurant and I am happy to book a table for us to share a meal together which would not be part of the ticket price. Please indicate on the booking form if you would like to have a place reserved for you – the table will be booked for 7.00pm.

Tickets: Friends £45, Guests £48.50

Open Garden Squares Day Saturday 9 June

Once again the Friends will have a pop-up café outside the Deanery for the Open Garden Squares Day. We hope to see you at some point during the day. Access to the garden will be by ticket available from the OGS website or on the gate.

Tour of the Supreme Court Friday 6 July

The home of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is a Grade II listed building, situated on a site closely linked with justice and the law for nearly a millennium. This building is the third courthouse to be built on the site since 1807 designed by James Gibson.

Our tour is at 3.15pm but I suggest we meet at 2.15pm to allow time to visit the café and the exhibition etc. The tour will last approximately one hour which may mean the time is limited afterwards.

Cost: Friends £8, Guests £9.50

Come and Sing Saturday 7 July

This year the rehearsal and performance will be the choruses of Handel's Messiah under the direction of Peter Wright. Tickets are £10 and you can order them via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/come-and-sing-handels-messiah-parts-one-and-two-choruses-tickets-42592347859> If, however, you would like to take advantage of a special offer when purchasing multiple tickets (each 5th ticket is free when booking a group) you will need to apply to the Friends office

Between the Covers Saturday 8 September

Behind locked grilles in the Cathedral Library is a small but interesting collection of antique books. The oldest volume dates from 1545. The centrepiece of the collection is a significant number of the works of Lancelot Andrewes with a first edition of his collected sermons in its original binding and another copy from the library of Charles I. There's a history printed by the 17thc printer Christopher Plantin and an elegant New Testament using John Baskerville's typeface. There's an 18thc guidebook to the church and a cautionary tale of 'The Mousetrap Maker and the income tax supposed by anticipation to be written in the year 2000' and on the way, we look at binding and the skilful art of marbling.

Coffee will be served at 10.45am with the illustrated talk beginning at 11.00am. After

the talk a light lunch will be available.
 Tickets: £10.00 – Friends, £11.50 – Guests

Quiz Night
Friday 5 October

This is now one of our most popular events of the year – gather your team members soon and book to join us for this fun evening.

LOOKING INTO 2019

Views of Southwark
Saturday 12 January 2019

From medieval illumination to French Impressionists, artists have depicted the Thames upstream from London Bridge for six centuries. Some strove for accuracy (and sometimes failed) others for artistic achievement. An hour of a wide variety of visual impressions.

CATHEDRAL SHOP
Easter Opening

Maundy Thursday 10.00am – 4.00pm
 Good Friday CLOSED
 Saturday 10.00am – 5.30pm
 Easter Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm
 Bank Holiday Monday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Dates available for Friends discounts in the shop
 12 May – Annual General Meeting
 9 June – Open Gardens Squares Day
 7 July – Come and Sing Event
 8 September – Between the Covers talk
 5 October – Quiz Night
 Plus the dates Cathedral talks as advertised here and in the ‘What’s On’

TALKS

In the enclosed ‘What’s On’ page 7 is devoted to Heritage talks. Some of these talks are free but others have a charge. Friends are able to purchase tickets at a reduced rate although to do so you are not able to use the Eventbrite link. You will need to either go into the shop and pay for your ticket or apply through the Friends office in the usual way. Please ensure you enclose a stamped addressed envelope or we will not be able to return a ticket to you.

24 March: Stories of Women - Day of Talks
 £12.50 Standard; £11 Friends

12 April: The Last London- Talk by Iain Sinclair
 £7 Standard; £6 Friends

16 May: Candlelit Photography Evening
 £10 Standard; £8.50 Friends

28 June: John Lewis Stempel – Where Poppies Blow: The Natural History of the Western Front. £4 Standard; £3 Friends

24 September: Neil Faulkner – Lawrence of Arabia’s War. £4 Standard; £3 Friends

LONDON CRAFT

9 – 13 May
 The London Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be holding natural dyeing demonstrations in the Churchyard on the 9 and 10 May. Heritage Stone Carving students from the City & Guilds London School of Art will also be in the Churchyard throughout the week demonstrating their carving skills.

Thursday 10 May
 Tim Crawley Head of Heritage Stone Carving at City & Guilds will be giving a free talk in the Library at 7.00pm on the history of stone carving.