



DOORKINS MAGNIFICAT RETIRES

Recently it was announced that Doorkins, the cat who lives in Southwark Cathedral, has retired to more comfortable surroundings now that old age has finally caught up with her. The Dean, the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, has issued this statement to the congregation.

‘When Doorkins arrived at the Cathedral back in 2008 we didn’t know her name, we didn’t even know she was a ‘she’; she was just a little cat, without a home. Through the kindness of the vergers she found her way in, enjoyed the food and the warmth and, eventually she made her home with us. When our former Dean, Colin Slee, died she spent his final night beneath his coffin, she met the Queen (though slept through the experience), she had a book produced about her and over time became a Twitter celebrity. She was out of the Cathedral when the terrorist attack happened in 2017 and when, finally, she got back into the church, her home, she never left again. We have come to know her and she has come to know us and the thousands of people who have made friends with her, people who love her. Over the last few months we have noticed that she has not been so well. Her hearing and her sight have deteriorated and that came to a head last weekend. She can no longer find her way around and what was her place of comfort and safety became hazardous and

this was confirmed for us when went to see the vet last week who told us that old age has caught up with her. So she has retired and moved to her retirement home, with one of the vergers, where she is warm and safe and being pampered, just what she deserves. We will continue to hear news of her. But at this point I simply want to thank her on all our behalves. She has become the feline face of Southwark Cathedral, a symbol for many of our openness, our inclusiveness, our hospitality and our humanity. She is still part of the family but now taking a well-deserved rest.’

At the last count Doorkins had 5,499 Twitter followers. She will continue to play a role in the life of the community but from her new home.

BECKET 2020

As you will remember from our last newsletter next year will see numerous events to commemorate the life and death of Thomas Becket. At Southwark we will be marking the anniversary with a pilgrimage walk from Southwark to Canterbury. This will take place from 23 – 30 May with opportunities to stay overnight on the way. We will arrive in Canterbury on Saturday 30 May.

In anticipation of the pilgrimage we are organising some practice walks and there are two more planned. These are free to

join and you do not need to book. The arrangements for meeting are given in the outline for each walk

PRACTICE WALKS

Saturday 23 November

North Greenwich – Lesnes Abbey

led by Barbara Moss

The next walk in preparation for the 2020 Becket pilgrimage is from North Greenwich to Lesnes Abbey, founded in 1178 by Richard de Lucy as an act of penance for his participation in King Henry's quarrel with Becket. Depending on conditions, we shall finish at Abbey Wood station, or continue to Erith making the total distance walked about 10 miles. The walk follows the Thames Path and the Green Chain Walk. Meet at North Greenwich station (Jubilee Line) by the exit towards the O2 at 10.30. Refreshments are available at the Thames Barrier and at Lesnes Abbey, or bring a picnic.

Saturday 11 January

Regent's Canal

led by Mike and Carolyn Lawson

For our first walk of the new year we will meet at 10am by the Paddington Bear statue on Platform 1 at Paddington Station (between McDonalds and the 1st Class Lounge) for a walk of approximately ten-and-a-half miles.

We walk along the Paddington Arm of the Grand Canal to Little Venice.

From there we take the Regents Canal for our walk and leaving as it passes through Islington Tunnel (960m) to take our lunch break in Islington. There are various places

available, but our leaders particularly recommend The Nag's Head!

After lunch we meet up again and walk along Duncan St, crossing the course of the New River to re-join the canal for the afternoon section. A refreshment break is scheduled in the afternoon at West India Quay before continuing to the end of our walk at Canary Wharf Station – on the Jubilee Line.

It is possible to leave this walk at various points, such as King's Cross - Granary Square, Camden Lock, or Islington.

ROME, BRITAIN AND THE ORIGINS OF LONDON

15 November



This lecture will be held after Choral Evensong (approximately 6.15pm) and is a joint venture with the Greater Chapter. Martin Millett FBA, Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, will deliver this illustrated lecture in the Nave of the Cathedral.

Southwark Cathedral lies over part of a suburb of Roman *Londinium* and the Cathedral is itself one of many sites that has seen archaeological exploration over past decades. Traditional views of the Roman Empire have seen the development of provinces like Britain as passive receptors of 'civilization' from a militaristic imperial system, with little role for indigenous people. This talk will explore aspects of the archaeology of London which suggest a different history, with active participation by the inhabitants in the creation of a dynamic city occupied by a diverse community.

Tickets: £10 either from the Friends office on via Eventbrite romanlondon.eventbrite.co.uk

BALLOONAMANIA BELLES

23 November



Illustrated lecture with Sharon Wright,
author – Saturday 23 November

Award-winning journalist, Sharon Wright, has recently published a book revealing the hair-raising adventures of the feisty female ballooning heroines of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of these early

flights began here in Southwark. Sharon will give an illustrated talk revealing the astonishing stories of the fabulous female pioneers of balloon flight. (This talk was scheduled for earlier in the year but unfortunately was postponed).

The talk will begin at 11am with coffee available from 10.50am. A light lunch will be served after the talk. This promises to be an enlightening and light-hearted look at an unusual topic – Sharon is entertaining and passionate about her subject and there will certainly be some laughs.

“More than a century before the first aeroplane took flight women were heading for the heavens in crazy, inspired contraptions that could bring death or glory and all too often, both. Women were in the vanguard of the Balloonomania craze that took hold in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and swept across Europe and then the World. Their exploits were a vital element of our first voyages into the sky. When women’s options were often severely limited by law and convention they managed to join the exhilarating quest for spectacle, adventure and danger among the clouds. Many of the brightest stars of this extraordinary era of human flight were women. From the perilous ascent in 1784 by feisty French teenager Elisabeth Thible, female aeronauts have never looked back or down. Who were these brave women who took to the air when it was such an incredibly dangerous and scandalous thing to do?”

Tickets: £9.50 (to include a light lunch) available from the Friends office or on Eventbrite balloonamaniabellestalk.eventbrite.co.uk

ADVENT TEA

Sunday 1 December

One of our most popular events of the Friends calendar is the Advent tea which precedes the Cathedral Advent Carol Service. Afternoon tea will be served in the Garry Weston Library from 5pm and seats are reserved in the Nave. The Advent Carol Service is a very special Service and highly popular.
Tickets: £10.50

CHRISTMAS SOIREE AT THE DEANERY

18 December

This year we return to The Deanery for our Christmas Soiree. Light refreshments will be served on arrival at 7pm and some carol singing to ease us into the festive season. We will end with Christmas coffee and mince pies at 8.45pm.

Tickets are strictly limited, available from the Friends office and must be booked in advance: £25

THE MOTHER OF THE BRONTES

Saturday 2 January 2020

Illustrated lecture with Sharon Wright, author. This groundbreaking biography of Maria Branwell reveals a remarkable woman who has spent 200 years in the shadow of her gifted children, Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte. The witty, clever and resilient lady of letters, wife of Patrick and mother of genius has been missing for too long. The extraordinary Bronte's were a family like no other and it all began when Maria met Patrick. Sharon Wright has told the story of this fascinating lady for the first time and in this illustrated lecture she will share with us the story of a chance meeting, unlikely romance and family life with the most gifted literary siblings the world has ever known. The lecture begins at 2.30pm after which tea and cake will be served.
Tickets: £7

CONTACT THE OFFICE:

Email: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org
Telephone number 020 7367 6724
Address: Kate Dean, Friends office,
Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge,
London SE1 9DA