SOUTHWARK • CATHEDRAL •

The Baptism of Christ

Sunday 12 January 2020

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral.

We are a community that seeks to enfold all people in the love of God. If you wish to speak to a priest after the service, if you wish to find a corner to pray, if you wish simply to find some peace, please feel free and welcome to do so.

Communicant members of all denominations are welcome to receive Communion at this service; please come forward as directed by the Stewards. If you do not wish to receive Communion but would like a blessing, please bring the service booklet with you.

Participation. If you have been a regular worshipper at the Cathedral for six months or more, please ensure that your name is added to the Cathedral Electoral Roll – ask Stewards for details or email cathedral@ southwark.anglican.org

Giving. Regular worshippers are asked to join the Planned Giving Scheme by setting up a banker's order. This greatly helps the Cathedral with financial planning. A form is available from the Stewards.

Visitors are asked to use the yellow envelope for their offering towards the work and worship of the Cathedral. If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the details on the envelope to enable us to claim back the tax as Gift Aid. We are now able to receive your offering using a debit or credit card, Apple or Android Pay. If you would like to use this, please see a Steward near the doors to the Link after the service.

You can also donate to the Cathedral by texting SWKC19£amount you wish to give to 70070

Children and young people during the 11.00am Eucharist.

Crèche (0–4) Queen Elizabeth Room

Junior Xpress and Youth Xpress will not be meeting today.

Following the Choral Eucharist tea and coffee are served.

E Newsletter. Sign up on our website to receive the latest news from the Cathedral. Your details will only be used by Southwark Cathedral and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Listen up!

Sermons delivered in the Cathedral are available as text from southwarkcathedral.org.uk/ worship-and-music/worship/sermons/, together with a pdf of this weekly sheet. They can also be streamed from podbean.com/podcast-detail/8kqha-3bb8f/Southwark-Cathedral-Sermons-Podcast .

Keep in touch

southwarkcathedral.org.uk twitter: @southwarkcathed facebook: /southwarkcathedral 020 7367 6700

A Safe Church

Any issues relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults should be directed to the Cathedral Safeguarding Officers:

Matthew Knight matthew.knight@southwark. anglican.org 020 7367 6726

Cherry James cherry.james@southwark.anglican.org

Helen Quintrell hmqmc3@gmail.com

Jill Tilley jill.tilley@southwark.anglican.org

Concerns can be brought to any member of the clergy.

Cathedral Listeners

Two people are available every week in the Retrochoir after the 11.00am Choral Eucharist, to offer a confidential listening ear in a friendly and informal environment. This is an opportunity for pastoral care rather than counselling.

They can be identified by a blue ribbon and Cathedral badge and will be available for 45 minutes after the service. Everyone is welcome to use this service and to make it known to others.

Today's Services

8.30am Morning Prayer – Southwark Cathedral

Officiant The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean **Readings** Psalms 89. 19–29; Exodus 14. 15–22; 1 John 5. 6–9

9.00am Eucharist – Southwark Cathedral

Preacher The Right Reverend Peter Price **Readings** Isaiah 42. 1–9; Acts 10. 34–43; Matthew 3. 13–end

9.30am Eucharist - St Hugh's

Preacher Charlie Bell, Ordinand

11.00am Choral Eucharist with Commissioning of JX and YX Leaders – Southwark Cathedral President and Preacher The Right Reverend Peter Price Setting Spatzenmesse · Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Stand Entrance Hymn NEH 56

> Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise, Manifested by the star To the sages from afar; Branch of royal David's stem In thy birth at Bethlehem; Anthems be to thee addrest, God in Man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; And at Cana wedding-guest In thy Godhead manifest; Manifest in power divine, Changing water into wine; Anthems be to thee addrest, God in Man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul; Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might; Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill; Anthems be to thee addrest, God in Man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, Mirrored in thy holy word; May we imitate thee now, And be pure, as pure art thou; That we like to thee may be At thy great Epiphany, And may praise thee, ever blest, God in Man made manifest.

Christopher Wordsworth

Commissioning of JX and YX Leaders

The Commissioning takes place after the first hymn and Greeting. During the final verse of the hymn, JX and YX leaders come to stand on the first of the west steps; the children in JX groups sit on the floor behind them, at the bottom of the steps.

After the Greeting and Welcome, the Sub Dean moves to the top of the steps, the Education Officer goes to the south lectern.

Sub Jesus taught in the temple when he was twelve years old

Dean

All And all were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Sub Our help is in the name of the Lord

Dean

All Who has made heaven and earth.

- Ed Mr Sub Dean, I present to you N (and N) who desire(s) to be
- Officer commissioned as Junior and Youth Express leaders who minister among the children and young people of the Cathedral congregation in worship and prayer.
- Sub Those who minister among the children and young people in Dean worship and prayer share the responsibility of teaching and shaping

the faith of those in their care.

N (and N) you wish to be commissioned for this ministry as Junior and Youth Express leaders in this cathedral.

Will you fulfil your role with dignity and with reverence? Leaders With the help of God I will.

Sub Will you seek to help others to worship God?

Dean

Leaders With the help of God I will.

- Sub Will you commit yourself to this task and will you be diligent in
- Dean carrying out your responsibilities?

Leaders With the help of God I will.

To each the Sub Dean says (shaking each by the hand)

N I commission you to minister among the children and young people of this Cathedral Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When all are admitted he says

Almighty God who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them; that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The newly commissioned leaders kneel and the Sub Dean blesses them.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

The service continues with the Prayers of Penitence.

During the Gloria, JX leaders on duty process out with the children down the central aisle to go to their groups. Other JX and YX leaders return to their seats.

Sit First Reading

Isaiah 42.1-9

Read by Desmond Aduku.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it. who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

All

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29.1-9

At the beginning the response is played by the organist, sung by the choir and then sung by the congregation. It is sung once by all at **R** below.



Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. ${\bf R}$

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; **R**

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ${\bf R}$

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. ${\bf R}$

Second Reading

Acts 10. 34-43

Read by Philip Feakin.

A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree: but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Stand Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Sentence

This is my Son, the beloved: listen to him.

Gospel

Matthew 3. 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Sit Sermon

The Right Reverend Peter Price

Chorale Prelude

Recercar primi toni · Alessandro Poglietti

Sit Intercessions

Led by Malcolm Baines.

Offertory Anthem

I said to the man · Piers Maxim



The sinless one to Jordan came to share our fallen nature's blame; God's righteousness he thus fulfilled and chose the path his Father willed.

Uprising from the waters there, the voice from heaven did witness bear that he, the Son of God, had come to lead his scattered people home.

Above him see the heavenly Dove, the sign of God the Father's love, now by the Holy Spirit shed upon the Son's anointed head.

How blessed that mission then begun to heal and save race undone; straight to the wilderness he goes to wrestle with his people's foes. Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin go forth with you, a world to win; and send the Holy Spirit's power to shield them in temptation's hour.

On you shall all your people feed and know you are the Bread indeed, who gives eternal life to those that with you died, and with you rose.

> George B Timms; Swiss traditional melody in Reichart's Frohe Lieder für deutsche Männer, 1781.

Stand Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer E

Communion Anthem

The Lamb · John Tavener

Stand Final Hymn

SP 126 (tune Merton NEH 5)

Word of God, renew your people, make us now your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.

Word of hope and Word of healing, make us now your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.

Word of peace and Word of justice, make us now your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time. God alone the power we trust in, make us now your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.

To the waters lead your people, make us now your living sign. Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.

Bernadette Farrell

Voluntary Final (Triptyqe) · Jean Langlais

12.45pm The Blessing of the River

See separate booklet.

All are welcome to join in the Blessing of the River Thames. We shall gather at the font before going together onto London Bridge.

Afterwards all are welcome to come for refreshments in the Garry Weston Library.

3.00pm Choral Evensong

Preacher The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean
Readings Joshua 3. 1–8, 14-end; Hebrews 1. 1–12
Setting in A · Herbert Sumsion
Psalm 46
Responses Humphrey Clucas
Anthem When Jesus our Lord · Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn

CP 93 (tune Offertorium NEH 310)

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, he did not come for pardon, but as his Father's Son. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins. to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss: for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the Dove descended on him, the Son of Man. the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make, this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

Fred Pratt Green

Hymn NEH 425

O love, how deep, how broad, how high! How passing thought and fantasy That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake. He sent no angel to our race Of higher or of lower place, But wore the robe of human frame, And he himself to this world came.

For us baptized, for us he bore His holy fast, and hungered sore; For us temptations sharp he knew; For us the tempter overthrew.

For us to wicked men betrayed, Scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed; For us he bore the cross's death; For us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again, For us he went on high to reign, For us he sent his Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All honour, laud, and glory be, O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee, All glory, as is ever meet, To Father and to Paraclete. Amen.

> Latin, 15th century Translated by Benjamin Webb

6.00pm Service of Light

See separate booklet.

Prayers

All those for whom prayers have been asked this week

Alex Whindle, Alice Hilborn, Andrew McCall, Angela Stephens, Angie Brown, Angus McLeod, Belinda Manns, Beryl Charlton, Brenda Bartlett, Brian Kendall, Brian Young, Charlotte Davis, Christine Jenkins. David Southwell. Dinah Kormi, Dorothy Lucas, Elisabeth Dunman, Elizabeth Hall, Elizabeth Thompson. Elizabeth Waters, Ivy Brown, Jane Kindred, Jane Lister. Jennifer Barter, Jim Callaghan, Jim Callaghan, Joan Lawrence, John Noble, Kathrine, Kay Grimshaw, Lascelles Alexander. Linda Scott Garnett, Michael Meade, Naomi Shaw, Nathan Clegg, Owen Northwood, Patricia Lea, Patricia Nebbia, Pisca, Robert Alexander, Robert McConnell, Sally Hollowell. Sam Jenkins. Sarah Beston, Sarah Rawlins, Si Foster, Sylvia Clark, William Brown.

The Departed

Andrew Palmer, Bishop Ronnie Bowlby, Erika Aichinger, Graeme Holdaway, Johnny Cue, Patrick Fan, Phyllis Still.

Clergy preaching away

The Missioner at St John the Evangelist, Angell Town

Our Mission Allocation Partners for January

<u>Manna Society</u> Support for homeless people in Southwark; links with the Robes Project.

<u>USPG United Society –</u> <u>Partners in the Gospel</u> An Anglican mission society supporting churches around the world in their mission to bring fullness of life to the communities they share.

More information and the latest news from our mission allocation partners:

southwarkcathedral.org.uk/ community/Mission-allocation

If you are ill or in hospital

Please do let us know so the Cathedral community can pray for you and we can be in touch. Please contact the Sub Dean, michael. rawson@southwark.anglican.org

Today

11am – 5.45pm **Measuring to the Saint**

In Medieval times, if you needed spiritual or physical help or healing, your body could be measured from head to toe with a length of string or thread, which would be sent to the nearest Cathedral or Abbey, where the monks would make a candle from it, light it and pray for your eternal soul. This practice was called Measuring to the Saint.

Artist Michelle Rumney is using this medieval practice as inspiration to create the 2020 Lent Art Installation. The artwork will also explore the idea of pilgrimage and the routes that connect us through the centuries.

So far Michelle has collected 254 lengths of string and aims for a further 550 opportunities to measure! This will add up to the full 86 miles to Canterbury, the length of the pilgrimage that the Friends will be undertaking next year. The resulting human lengths of string will be used in her installation, connecting them together to veil the altar during Lent.

This Week's Services

Monday to Friday

8.00am Morning Prayer 8.15am Eucharist 12.30pm Midday Prayer 12.45pm Eucharist 5.30pm Choral Evensong (Evening Prayer on Wednesday)

Saturday 18 January

9.00am Morning Prayer 9.15am Eucharist 4.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 19 January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Morning Prayer 9.00am Eucharist Preacher: Canon Wendy Robins,

Assistant Priest

9.30am Eucharist at St Hugh's Preacher: The Reverend David Adamson, Curate

11.00am Choral Eucharist Preacher: Canon Wendy Rot

Preacher: Canon Wendy Robins, Assistant Priest

3.00pm Choral Evensong

Preacher: The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean

6.00pm Service of Wholeness and Healing

Things to do this week

Monday 13 January 1.10pm **Organ Recital** Stephen Disley, Assistant Director

of Music

Tuesday 14 January 3.15pm **Music Recital** Students from City Lit

Sunday 19 January 10.30am **Coventry Cathedral Choral Eucharist**

during which a group from Southwark Cathedral will receive the Cross of Nails (see notice on page 20).

Future Events and Services

Monday 20 January 11.30am-4.00pm **USPG London Regional Day**

Following on from the success of previous years, USPG are holding a day for anyone interested in their work. Everyone is invited – you don't have to be an existing supporter or volunteer of USPG to attend.

Come along and meet others who have a passion for global mission and hear how USPG's world church partners are putting God's love into action – and be inspired! They hope to see you at the USPG offices, 5 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DB.

If you'd like to attend, please book your place via uspg.org.uk/regionaldays

Saturday 25 January 12.30pm Annual Diocesan Guild of Servers' Eucharist

Monday 27 January 2.30–4.00pm Gravetalk: A space to talk about death, dying and funerals

presented by Guy's and St Thomas' Chaplaincy. There will be cake, talk and the opportunity to ask questions. Spaces are limited, so please book your place with natasha.kuler@southwark. anglican.org

General Notices

Sunday 2 February 1.00pm Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting

The Cathedral with St Hugh's Branch of the Mothers' Union will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Queen Elizabeth Room. All are welcome to attend.

The Licensing of the Rev. Rachel Young

The Succentor, Rev. Rachel Young. will be licensed as the Associate Vicar of Rotherham Minster at a service on Monday 9 March at 7.30pm. If you would like to support her and attend the service, please contact her by Sunday 16 February (rachel.young@ southwark.anglican.org) so that the organisers can know how many people to anticipate. Rotherham is off Junction 33 of the M1 and there is parking on the streets and in car parks around Rotherham Minster, It is a 5 minute walk from Rotherham train station and about a 15 minute drive from Sheffield train station.

2020 our year of Vision

The three words which define the vision of Southwark Cathedral are 'Inclusive : Faithful : Radical' but what do these words actually mean? In 2020 there will be an opportunity to engage with each of these words through speakers, preachers, events, quiet days and study. The spring term will focus on Inclusive. So look out for details of what is going on and take your part in living out that 2020 Vision.

Canon Gilly Myers

On Sunday 15 December it was announced that the Reverend Duncan Myers has been appointed as the Anglican Chaplain to the University of Surrey and Priest Vicar at Guildford Cathedral. Duncan will begin his ministry with his licensing in Guildford Cathedral today. Sadly we also had to announce that Canon Gilly Myers, our Canon Precentor, will be retiring and moving with Duncan to Guildford. Gilly has been at Southwark Cathedral for almost 8 years. She is one of the most experienced Precentors in the world of English cathedrals and she will be sadly missed by all of us. Gilly's final Sunday at Southwark Cathedral will be on 1 March. Our prayers are with them both as they prepare for this big change in life and ministry.

Junior Xpress Volunteers

Junior Xpress meet weekly during the 11.00am Eucharist in school term time for worship and craft activities linked to the week's Gospel.

We are looking for new volunteers to work and minister with our JX groups. Materials for the sessions are provided and two volunteers are present for each session.

More information: The Revd Lisa Bewick (lisa.bewick@southwark. anglican.org or Canon Michael Rawson (michael.rawson@southwark. anglican.org)

Robes Winter Night Shelter

The Robes team will be running our weekly night shelter for 11 weeks. To help our guests we would welcome donations of men's shaving products, men's deodorants and new socks and underwear. Please leave any donations with the Vergers. Thank you.

The Waterloo Foodbank

The Waterloo Foodbank needs your help to replenish its resources. They are especially looking for:

Tinned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit and also rice (500g bags), pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, porridge, long life milk, biscuits, chocolate, tea, coffee, cocoa, toiletries and household goods such as laundry powder.

Please leave your goods at the Cathedral Shop. Thank you!

The Food Bank at St. George the Martyr needs new volunteers in respect of both the Monday sessions (9.30– 11.30am) and Thursday sessions (2.30–4.30 pm). Volunteers would not be expected to commit to attending every week, once or twice a month or even less would still be helpful. Please apply by email to Alice Deschampsneufs, aliced@btinternet.com

Contactless Donation Boxes

The two new contactless units have arrived and are currently in use by the stewards after the services. These units will soon sit on their own podiums doubling as dual cash/contactless donation boxes.

Thank you to all who have supported this project.

The Community of the Cross of Nails

At the recommendation of the Unity Group, the Chapter of Southwark Cathedral has decided that the Cathedral should join the Community of the Cross of Nails (the CCN).

The CCN is a world-wide interdenominational network of churches and other Christian organisations who share a network of common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation by healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference, celebrating diversity, and by building a culture of peace. It has its roots in the post-war re-building and re-birth of Coventry Cathedral and takes as its inspiration the words of Jesus on the cross "Father forgive".

The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, has generously contributed to the purchase of the Cross of Nails for the Cathedral so that this can be a significant and permanent addition to the Chapel designated to St Francis of Assisi and St Elisabeth of Hungary. This chapel will have a new designation for reconciliation in our own communities here in South London. This will be the focus for the Cathedral's membership of CCN, with a particular emphasis on the problems of youth violence and knife crime.

CCN partners engage with the challenges faced by many communities where a just and inclusive society is crucial for stability and peace. The Cathedral has for many years enjoyed a rich and engaging link with the Cathedral in Bergen, Norway. We are therefore delighted that Bergen has also decided to join the CCN, and to do so at the same time as Southwark. We see our membership as an extension of our ecumenical work, and having Bergen as a CCN member as well as a friend will, we are sure, give added poignancy to that relationship.

The Crosses of Nails of the two cathedrals will be blessed at a service at Coventry Cathedral next Sunday -19 January. Rev. Canon Gilly Myers and Paul Timms (Dean's Verger) will be representing Southwark with others on that occasion. Members of the congregation at Southwark are warmly invited to attend that service and lunch will be provided by Coventry Cathedral afterwards. If anyone who is attending the service on 19 January has not already notified Andrew Viner of their intention to do so, please get in touch with him so that we can inform Coventry of the numbers who will be going.

The following week, 26 January, Southwark's Cross of Nails will be presented at our 11.00am Eucharist by the Dean of Coventry, The Very Reverend John Witcombe at which the Bishop of Southwark will preside. We will be joined at that service by friends from Southwark's link Cathedral in Rouen, representatives of other CCN partners and other guests. Following the 9am Eucharist there will be a presentation on the CCN by John Witcombe in the Library.

For further information about the CCN and Southwark's membership, and to advise that you will be attending the service at Coventry on 19 January, please contact Andrew Viner at:

andrew@andrewviner.co.uk

Members of the CCN comprise a network of ordinary people who work to learn the things which make for peace and the skills to seek peace and to pursue it in our relationships and in our everyday lives. This is an exciting development for Southwark Cathedral and a new challenge as we go forward at the start of a new decade. A litany of reconciliation will be prayed weekly in the Cathedral by Day Chaplains and there will be opportunities to become involved by attending pilgrimages at Coventry aimed at strengthening the purposes of the CCN and its community. Please look out for future announcements and please do ask about how to get involved with our membership.

Safeguarding Update

We are grateful to Helen Quintrell and Jill Tilley, two of our Parish Safeguarding Officers, for the time and commitment they have given to offering safeguarding training to staff and volunteers. With over 500 volunteers helping in the ministry of Southwark Cathedral that is a huge task. Some people ask why they need this training if they don't work with children and young people. The simple answer is that creating a safe church for every person is a responsibility that we share. It is important that we are all committed to caring for one another appropriately and being able to spot the signs of abuse, be that sexual, physical, emotional or even financial. As we enter the New Year we will be making final preparations for the independent audit of the cathedral. Please keep all who are working towards this in your prayers and the members of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) team who will be working with us.

We will continue to pray this prayer.

Loving God,

you hold the most vulnerable in your embrace, you reach out to those with greatest need and strengthen us in our weakness. May we build a safe church for the youngest and the oldest, the weakest and the most vulnerable, the needy and the excluded. Empower us to act with wisdom, compassion and love that our community may be safe for all, a reflection of all we see in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA: Scripture quotations from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.