

# SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆



## The Dean's Annual Report 2021

# Contents

- 3** The Dean's Report
- 31** Summary of Annual Accounts 2020
- 37** Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd
- 41** Fundraising
- 45** Learning Centre
- 49** Unity Group
- 53** The Cathedral School of St Saviour  
and St Mary Overie
- 57** Southwark & Newington  
Lancelot Andrewes Deanery Synod
- 59** The Mothers' Union Cathedral and  
St Hugh's Branch

# The Dean's Report

by the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean

**Diaries are amazing documents. Our local community is particularly associated with Bridget Jones and her diary. You can always find people standing by the side door of the Globe pub just up from the Cathedral having their photo taken in the place where Bridget emerged from her flat and where the famous fight between her two suitors, played by Colin Firth and Hugh Grant, took place.**

That was all fiction, however, whereas the great 17th century diarist Samuel Pepys was a real and regular visitor to Bankside and the vicinity of St Saviour's Church, which was then the parish church of the area. He knew that there were great ale houses in the area and that then, as now, it was a good place for a night out. He lived through momentous times in London and his diary makes fascinating reading. We know all about his accounts of the Great Fire in 1666 but I was interested to find out about what he lived through in the previous year, the year of plague.

This is what he wrote as part of the entry for Wednesday 7 June 1665:

'This day, much against my will, I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and "Lord have mercy upon us" writ there; which was a sad sight to me, being the first of the kind that, to my remembrance, I ever saw. It put me into an ill conception of myself and my smell, so that I was forced to buy some roll-tobacco to smell to and chaw, which took away the apprehension.'

Pepys's apprehension on that first sighting of plague-ridden houses was something that none of us thought we would experience ourselves. The arrival of the Coronavirus – Covid-19 – on the global, national and local scenes was something that none of us had anticipated, though with hindsight we should have done. Just as our Risk Assessment back in 2017 didn't mention the potential risk of a terrorist attack on the Cathedral, we hadn't factored-in the arrival of a global pandemic. As I write this report, we are still working through what we have been facing together, over a year after the arrival of the first cases of the virus, over a year after we were first forced to enter lockdown.

We had all recognised in the last half century that the world was getting smaller; that the ease of travelling made the other side of the world feel as though it was just next door; that news and opinion travel as fast as the speed of light and that in John Donne's words "No man is an island" but this life-threatening pandemic arrived and was known about as a consequence of all of that. An outbreak in an area of China that most of us had no knowledge of suddenly affected every part of our lives and would ultimately lead to the death of well over 120,000 people in our own country and a shattering of our economy, the re-configuration of our high streets and the decimation of the worlds of hospitality and entertainment.

It has been a year unlike any other and this Annual Report will be like no other. In some ways it is hard to know how to properly reflect on it, when so much was cancelled, so much was lost, so much was 'put on hold'. A huge amount has, in fact, happened however, and we need to record that.

I therefore want to take you back through that year, a year in some ways we might want to forget, but that we can't afford to forget. It has changed our life and will always have changed our lives. To try and remember where we have been I have gone to two places: the Cathedral's YouTube platform and to the folder on my computer in which I save all the prayers that I am asked to write. Between both these sources I hope that I can do justice to this year which has been like no other.

The year began as all years seem to begin with post-Christmas breaks and a re-engagement with what the months ahead held in store after the fun of Advent and Christmas in the Cathedral. The Cathedral diary was full. We are fortunate to have a very good Board of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises (SCE) who look after the commercial activities of the Cathedral. The Board is chaired by Barbara Lane and we were delighted this year to welcome as directors Jessica Kingsley and Hanif Barma who, along with Richard Holman, Canon Michael Rawson and I, make up the Board. In September 2019 we welcomed a new Commercial Director, Emma Allen, who came to us from the Postal Museum and was gearing up to really moving things on. With Rose Harding, Helen Caruth and Şahika Yilmaz looking after the Conference Centre and Events; Jon Dollin, Richard Baker and Tony Aarons looking after the shop and Emily Thorne looking after visitor engagement, we were in good shape for increasing income which would enable the mission and ministry of the Cathedral to further expand. SCE was budgeted to bring in over £400,000 of profit, the biggest source of income for the Chapter. Leafi had arrived as our new catering partner and Rod Kemp, assisted by Elaine McAllister and the team, were ready to tickle our taste buds with new offerings, sourcing lots of products from the Borough Market. Low food miles and excellence were to be the hallmark of the food offering.

We were going to begin the year with something very exciting. Netflix was returning to film part of the fourth series of *The Crown*. We were particularly excited because they wanted to include the choir in what they were filming. We had already played St George's Chapel, Windsor in the first series so we were glad to be back. In February the crew and the cast descended on us and took over the whole of the Cathedral. The boys and men of the choir had to be clean shaven by the makeup department, have any visible piercings removed, have hair cut to a respectable length and acquire good slicked down partings. Red cassocks were brought in so that they could look like a choir from a royal chapel. It was wonderful and a pleasure to meet Olivia Colman again who hadn't been in the Cathedral since she filmed a scene for TV adaptation of *The Night Manager* some years before.

Those of you who watch *The Crown* may have spotted the Cathedral and the choir. Mentioning that gives me the opportunity to thank Ian Keatley (Director of Music), Stephen Disley (Assistant Director of Music and Organist) and our Organ Scholar, Alex Knight, as well as all the choristers, both boys and girls, and the lay clerks for all the work they have done around music during this year.

For most of the year of course, the choristers have been unable to sing. For those few months when we were able to have them back, it was lovely to see and hear them. The lay clerks have been working all the way through the year but often in situations that none of us expected to be in. For the first lockdown they began recording from their bedrooms and sitting rooms and putting together various anthems and other pieces of music for us to use in our broadcasts. We are enormously grateful to them for the way in which they have co-operated and worked with us to maintain the musical elements in all our services. Initially of course we were also using recorded music by our choir as well as by the Merbecke Choir, under the direction of Emily Elias who has herself been furloughed for most of the time.

Most of you will be aware that professional musicians are able to claim extra fees when music is broadcast or recorded. This would have been a challenge to the Chapter at this time and so we have been most grateful to the lay clerks for working with us on this. We are also grateful to the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund and the Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund for supporting the work of lay clerks across the cathedrals this year and to Tom Poole, our Fundraiser, has been working hard to make sure that we have benefitted from all the funds and grants that became available over the year, these music funds included.

We have a very close team of staff at the Cathedral and in times of crisis this always shows. Such an *esprit de corps* is built up by doing things together. Each year we have a day out to somewhere nice but not too far away, and we have a Christmas dinner. We also try to go to the theatre together when we can and when there is something that would appeal to people. We are grateful to

Robert Biden for helping to make this happen. Rob is part of the verging team led by Paul Timms, with Simon Gutwein, Jamie Collins and, up until the spring, David McEvoy. When the pandemic struck and the Cathedral closed, David made the decision to resign and give his attention to his own church in Greenwich. We are grateful to David for the time he was with us and for his wise and quiet demeanour. The vergers are the lynch pin in so much of what happens and that became very apparent this year and I will return to that later.

Southwark being the original theatre district of London, we still have a number of theatres in the area and the parish. The Globe on Bankside is, of course, the most significant but so is the Menier Chocolate Factory on Southwark Street. It was there that we had our staff night out at the end of January, packed into the performance space, a sell-out evening to watch a production of Sandy Wilson's *The Boyfriend*. Looking back a year on, it was a great evening and for most of us, I presume, the last time we were in the theatre.

One of my particular joys in ministry has been taking groups of pilgrims to the Holy Land. At the very end of January there was a special treat, a weekend trip to Jerusalem to take part in the 100th anniversary celebrations of St George's College. This is within the Cathedral close and was the place where I spent most of my sabbatical in 2016. Canon Richard Sewell, an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral, is Dean of the College and it was good to be there with him and his colleagues celebrating the life of the College and looking forward to all that lay ahead. It was also good preparation for the Ecumenical Pilgrimage which was to take place about six weeks after we returned.

Before we could fly off again, however, there were two important tasks, both of which were fundamental to our life as a cathedral.

One of the most important areas of our life in recent years has centred round safeguarding. When I arrived in the diocese in 1995 as Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark 'child protection' (as it was then known), was just being rolled out across the parishes. In the years that have followed, we have learnt a huge amount and discovered just how badly our safeguarding of each other and especially the most vulnerable in our communities has at times been.

In the last decade safeguarding policies, procedures and practices have risen up the agenda – literally – and into every aspect of our work. Regular visitors to choral services will have seen Choir Chaperones at work. This is a group of people whom we employ to care for our young people when they are with us. They work alongside the Chapter's Safeguarding Lead, at present our Comptroller, Matthew Knight, and the Cathedral Safeguarding Officers: Cherry James, Helen Quintrell and Jill Tilley. With our Education Officer, the Revd Lisa Bewick, and our musicians they train us and monitor our procedures and help us be a safer church for all.

All cathedrals at the present time are being audited by a team of independent auditors to see just how we have been doing in this area of our life. In February it was Southwark's turn. The diocese had already been audited; this audit was to focus on the Cathedral. The audit was undertaken by a team from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and was conducted over two days. However, the preparation for this took more than six months of intensive work by all in our safeguarding team who were working with our Sub Dean, Canon Michael Rawson. The diligence of Matthew Knight, the professional skill of Lisa Bewick and the clear-sightedness of Michael were an amazing combination with the unfailing support of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Kate Singleton and her team at Trinity House.

The audit was a bit like a school OFSTED in that we had to show that we had all our policies and procedures in place. Many people were interviewed, including choristers and choir parents. One thing the auditors wanted to find evidence of was that there was a culture of safeguarding in the Cathedral so we had been praying a great deal about that. This is the prayer I wrote for that piece of work, which I hope we can continue to pray:

### **A Prayer for a Safer Church**

*Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'* (Matthew 11. 28–29)

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 safer 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.



The resulting audit report was a real affirmation of our life and work. A few areas were highlighted for us to address, but nothing was found to be lacking and the community was praised for the ethos that we have. Safeguarding is never a job done, never a task completed but always part of our ongoing life. I am grateful to all those who continue to help make Southwark Cathedral a 'safer church' for all.

In May 2017 the Cathedrals Working Group (CWG) began to meet. This was a national initiative established by the Archbishops' Council to address some fundamental issues relating to the governance and financing of cathedrals in England. The task arose as a consequence of what had happened in both Peterborough and Exeter which had threatened the life of those cathedral communities to the core. Amongst the members of the Working Group was Jennie Page, Chair of Southwark Cathedral Council. Along with the other members of the Council: Patrick Buckingham, Cyril Chantler, Daniel Chumbley, Eric Collins, Richard Cornwell, Roxanne Eversley, Richard Hearn, Kim Hitch, Helen Quintrell, Michael Rawson and Jill Sandham, Jennie gives amazing service to us. She has such wisdom and experience, something recognised by the wider church but known by us. As Dean I am forever grateful to Jennie for being alongside me as a wise owl, a bit of a Jiminy Cricket and a critical friend. I personally owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

The CWG reported back to the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod in June 2018. The report was hard hitting and required immediate work on a new legislative Measure that would fundamentally change the way that all our cathedrals are governed. This will include coming under a new regulatory framework and the oversight of not just the Church Commissioners but also the Charity Commission. I was delighted to be asked to chair the Revision Committee for this Measure and in February 2020 to present our work to Synod when it met in Westminster. As it turned out, this was our last in-person meeting. It was vital though that the work progressed.

Synod accepted the work of the Steering and Revision Committees and subsequently has been approved as a new Cathedrals Measure. At the time of writing, this is now making its way through its parliamentary stages which should result in Royal Assent. Then the work will really begin as each cathedral prepares new Constitutions and Statutes. We are fortunate to have not only Jennie to help us with this but also one of our Cathedral Wardens, Daniel Chumbley. Daniel, with his fellow Warden Linda Hutchinson serve our community in so many ways but in this task Daniel brings his lawyer's mind and training. We are grateful to him and Linda for all that they do.

As all this was going on, news began to emerge of an increase of infections from this new virus. Some said it was just like a bad case of the flu, others that it was 'fake news', others that it was a new plague that would hit us but at the moment its impact seemed a long way off. Therefore at the beginning of March Bishop Christopher and I set off for the Holy Land on an ecumenical pilgrimage with 67 people who were mainly from our cathedral and St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark. The leadership team also included Bishop Paul Hendricks, Assistant Bishop in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, Fr Philip Andrews, assistant priest at St George's Cathedral (since then appointed Private Secretary to the Archbishop) and Canon Wendy Robins who is always everywhere with her camera.

We have wonderful ecumenical relationships with Rouen and Bergen and locally with St George's Cathedral and the Norwegian Church in Rotherhithe. We are grateful to Andrew Viner who heads up this work for us with the members of the Unity Committee. One tremendous piece of work that they completed at the beginning of 2020 was our admission to the Community of the Cross of Nails. This ecumenical community is centred on Coventry Cathedral and the cross that was formed from mediaeval nails fallen from the roof structure after the bombing and destruction of the cathedral in the Blitz. In January the Dean of Coventry, the Very Revd John Witcombe, came to the Cathedral to admit us to the Community. The Cross of Nails now stands on the altar in the Chapel of St Francis & St Elizabeth. Later in 2021 we hope that Bishop Christopher will designate the chapel as a place for prayer for all victims of violent crime in the diocese and beyond. Part of our commitment is to say the Litany of Reconciliation each Friday and this we have done, even through the whole of the lockdown, online or in the Cathedral.

On 3 March we left Heathrow Airport and flew to Tel Aviv. It all worked perfectly: we didn't lose anyone, the coach was there when we arrived, we got to the hotel in Jerusalem quickly, the rooms were all to everyone's satisfaction. When we got up the next morning, however, we heard that infections in Israel/Palestine were on the rise and things were beginning to close down. When it was the day to go to Bethlehem we discovered we couldn't, the border with the Palestinian Authority had been closed but not to worry, the Comboni Sisters on the edge of Bethany made us very welcome. By the time we got to Galilee, things were much worse; we received a message from the Parish Priest of Christchurch Nazareth: did we mind not coming to Mass on the Sunday said the normally very welcoming Fr Nael; the diocese had requested all churches be closed to visitors so we all went with our RC sisters and brothers to the Mass in the Basilica instead. Things kept changing until in the end our flight was brought forward and we almost fled from the country on one of the last flights out. To be honest, it was a fantastic pilgrimage but for the organisers just a little stressful!

We returned and life began to change.

One big change before we set off was the departure of one of our liturgical team. The Revd Rachel Young joined us in 2017 replacing Fr Stephen Stavrou as our Succentor. She and her husband Nigel were a wonderful addition to our team. Rachel had taught music before ordination and she brought these skills with her. She is one of the kindest, nicest, most hard-working people I have known. She brought people together to form a music group for two of the 'Southwark at 6' services: the Service of Light and the Service of Wholeness & Healing and their contribution transformed those services. Her exquisite playing of the oboe in *Gabriel's Oboe* by Ennio Morricone from the film *The Mission* which she played for the first anniversary of the London Bridge attack was very moving. We knew that she was looking for new opportunities closer to where her husband was working as a lecturer back in Hull so when a job opened up using music for mission at Rotherham Minster, Rachel applied and was appointed. Thank you, Rachel for all you and Nigel brought to us.

A few weeks after Rachel left Canon Gilly Myers retired. Gilly arrived, with her husband the Revd Duncan Myers, to be our new Precentor in September 2012. Gilly had worked at Durham and Manchester cathedrals and had a wealth of experience to bring to the task. It was a hard job in that her predecessor (me) was around and that never makes life easy but Gilly and I had known one another for years and thought that we could make it work. Gilly's capacity for work, her eye for detail, her persistence and imaginative skills, not least in crafting the most beautiful texts, were what she brought to us in abundance. She sang beautifully and loved engaging with people at every level. Her liturgical skills helped us to negotiate the tricky response to terrorist attacks and royal visits alike. She worked with the Metropolitan Police, the Armed Forces, Southwark Council, the national church, charitable bodies and private individuals with real skill.

Gilly was one of the first women to be ordained to the priesthood. In her ordained ministry from 1995 onwards she has brought a passion for liturgy to the Church of England that is recognised by many people. Life is never easy for ordained couples; inevitably one has to follow the other in appointments. When Duncan decided to apply for a post he really wanted in Guildford, Gilly decided that this was to be his moment and that she would retire and follow him instead of him following her. It was testament to their love and relationship that she should do this. We miss them both and their family. Fortunately we have their daughter Carrie and son-in-law Mark still in the diocese and we know we will not lose touch with Gilly.

The third member of the liturgical team was also going to leave us, but not by choice. Elaine Dawson was administrator to the Canon Precentor. Sadly, as a consequence of the pandemic, Elaine was one of those we had to make redundant. Elaine was a wonderful colleague, support and administrator. We wish her well and thank her for all she did and the way she did it. We are also grateful for the ongoing work of Linda Ridgers-Waite. Linda, as a volunteer, supports the Succentor and whilst we haven't appointed anyone to that post, Linda has continued the valiant work of looking after the rotas. This has been a real challenge in lockdown but she has kept in touch with all our liturgical volunteers: Readers, Intercessors and Eucharistic Ministers and with our team of Honorary Minor Canons. Michael Lewis and Mark Charlton have done the same with our Guild of Servers and Luke Camden, the Captain of the Tower, with the Bellringers. To all of them and Patricia Ellis who looks after the Flower Guild, Odette Penwarden who looks after the Guild of Stewards and Comfort Omotosho who looks after the Hospitality Team, thank you. Some of you have been able to exercise your ministry as lockdown and release has allowed. Others like the Hospitality Team have been unable to do anything at all but your constant readiness to assist has helped us in so many ways. All these volunteer ministries are vital to our life and will be in the future.

We are also grateful to Caroline Clifford and Heather Smith, our Reader and SPA respectively, for their continuing ministries, despite all the challenges.

Before we left for the Holy Land, Lent had begun and the Lent Art Installation had arrived. Each year for the last ten years we have had a major installation, usually at the High Altar. They are all different and special and last year's was no exception.

The Lent Art Installation for 2020 *Pilgrimage* was the work of the artist Michelle Rumney. Reflecting on the ritual of pilgrimage and the fragile but powerful strength of our connections with each other through time and space, the artwork traced Thomas Becket's last journey from Southwark to Canterbury 850 years before. Twelve wax candles representing people with a connection to pilgrimage, including Thomas Becket and Marion Marples (who led many pilgrimages from Southwark), lined the High Altar rail. These candles, as tall as the person they represent, were to be lit in their memory every day throughout Lent. Lengths of string representing the 850 people 'Measured to the Saint' by Michelle formed a veil which served to mask the altar itself.

This was the prayer I wrote to accompany the installation

### **Pilgrimage**

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jeremiah 1. 5)*

God,  
you formed me and love me.  
Each hair on my head you know,  
not a cubit to my height can I add,  
every day of my life is counted.  
You do not compare me to others  
but hold before me the measure of holiness.  
May I live up to the measure of your love  
and burn as a light before your face  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

Sadly, few people were able to enjoy the installation in person. As we returned from the pilgrimage it was clear that the level of infections as a consequence of Covid-19 were rapidly rising. Of even more concern were the increasing number of deaths. By the time Mothering Sunday was approaching, it was decided that we couldn't have a congregation in the Cathedral but we could stream our services from the building, so that is what we did. Patricia Ellis had bought all the daffodils for distribution – what would we do with them? We just placed the boxes of flowers outside the Cathedral with a message from us all of 'Prayers and best wishes for Mothering Sunday.' The flowers disappeared!

The Association of English Cathedrals (AEC) asked me to write a prayer as we entered the pandemic. This is what I wrote then:

### **A prayer during the Coronavirus pandemic**

Loving God,  
source of healing and comfort,  
fill us with your grace,  
that the sick may be made whole,  
that those who care for us may be strengthened,  
that the anxious may be calmed,  
and those most vulnerable be protected  
in the power of Spirit  
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

By this stage I was both Dean and the liturgical team, working with Evelin Arweck (Designer), I began planning with Paul Timms and Ian Keatley what Holy Week would look like without a congregation. It looked okay on paper and we thought we could make it all work. Then on Monday, 23 March 2020 the Prime Minister made a statement. We would be entering a total lockdown and that would include all places of worship for all faith communities. Priests, ministers, imams, rabbis would not even be allowed into their sacred buildings to stream services; the doors had to be locked.

I was due to preside at the Eucharist on 24 March, which I did with Paul Timms the only other person present. I am not ashamed to say that I cried when the service came to an end and we walked away from the altar. When would we be back again? We simply didn't know. It was heartbreaking.

Life isn't for sitting down and being miserable, however.

John Keble wrote a beautiful poem back in 1822 which we sing as a hymn.

New every morning is the love  
Our wakening and uprising prove;  
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,  
Hover around us while we pray;  
New perils past, new sins forgiven,  
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

The new day brings the possibility of new beginnings. So on Wednesday 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, we got up and began our broadcasting of Morning Prayer at 9.00 am and Night Prayer at 8.00 pm and that pattern of online worship twice a day has continued and is continuing. I am so grateful, as I think we all are, to Mark Charlton for his support in this. Not only is Mark the voice in the background responding to the psalms and the prayers but he is also the one who has helped us manage and develop our online presence. Mark in his day job is Director of IT and Data for the Diocese of Southwark and the Cathedral, so he understands how computers work but we had never tried broadcasting. This was a new venture and an adventure.

The hall of the Deanery became a chapel and a film studio combined. A tabernacle was set up for the Blessed Sacrament as we couldn't access the tabernacle in the Cathedral. We learnt how Facebook works and YouTube and how to get it onto the Cathedral website. We had to learn quickly because Passion Sunday was fast approaching and we would need to broadcast a Eucharist.

Canon Jay Colwill, our Canon Missioner, was the first to preach in this way, recording his sermon and uploading it to Mark so that we could include it in the service. By the following week, Palm Sunday, we had asked members of the congregation at the Cathedral and at St Hugh's to record readings and intercessions and upload them. A group met with me on Zoom and we recorded the 'Reading of the Passion' for that Sunday's service. In the week that followed we kept as full a Holy Week as we could: a Watch of the Passion, Stations of the Cross and an Easter Eucharist straight from the Bishop's Chapel at Bishop's House in Streatham.

It was a roller-coaster ride. The AEC asked me to write another prayer for use in all cathedrals as we entered this lockdown and this is what I wrote then:

### **A prayer in lockdown**

*The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked. (John 20. 19)*

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake.  
Amen.

What was incredible was to see the numbers of people attending Morning and Night Prayer increase each day. I had decided that I needed to say something about the reading each morning. We know as Christians that we are fed 'by word and sacrament'. There was no sacrament, but there was the word. It has been the most incredible privilege to do this and I know my colleagues who began sharing in this ministry from the summer onwards agree with me. Whatever it has done for the congregation, we too have been fed and encouraged to do some theology and biblical studies and I think understand each other so much more than we did before. This is not to say that it is not without its challenges. Reflecting on the ten plagues that Moses brought on the people of Egypt in the Book of Exodus, day after day at the beginning of the lockdown, was, let's say,

interesting. There have also been incredible passages from St Paul's letters that need quite a bit of interpretation for a 21st century 'woke' audience.

It certainly hasn't all been one way, however. The response of our online community has been incredible. From the beginning we started a 'Chat to the Preacher' each Sunday following the broadcast of the Eucharist. These have been wonderful gatherings and conversations. Canon Leanne Roberts, Canon Treasurer, has offered online sessions to deepen our thinking. All my colleagues – Michael, Jay, Mandy, Leanne, Wendy, David and Lisa have played their part.

From the 'get go' (as people now seem to say), I decided I needed to be up front about the financial situation we were facing. Matthew Knight, Comptroller, together with Toyin Tukasi (Cathedral Accountant), assisted by Marie Aké (Finance Officer), with the Finance Committee headed up by Richard Cornwell, worked hard on preparing three scenarios for our financial planning based on three, six and nine months of closure. None of the models looked good and it did seem clear that we would run out of money by Candlemas, 2 February 2021. Southwark Cathedral Enterprises had closed down completely, none of that profit would be forthcoming. There was a gaping hole in the accounts and the cash flow.

We looked at the staff and sadly decided we had to let a few people go. David McEvoy resigned as I have already mentioned; Elaine Dawson was made redundant. We also had to lose Şahika Yılmaz who took the bookings for the conference rooms. Sahika was a delightful colleague, from Turkey, who had been working in the UK in marketing for some time. She arrived as a temp and we kept her on. We were delighted when she and her fiancé were married in Istanbul in the autumn. We wish her every blessing. 'Tebrikler' as they would say in Turkish: 'Congratulations'.

Helen Caruth's post was also made redundant. Helen was with us for 17 years. She arrived as Receptionist but quickly became the face of the Conference Centre: welcoming our clients, making sure rooms were perfect and were set up with everything clients required. Helen brought her love of style and colour to our working, masterminding the re-decorating and re-carpeting of the rooms; she is a woman of artistic style. We do miss her, her laugh, her friendship and her skills. We wish her and her husband, Barry, every blessing and happiness in whatever the future holds.

The fear of the Chapter was, however, that the financial support that the congregation gives might fall away. We should have had no such fear. Without the usual Church of England embarrassment regarding talking about money, I appealed to the online congregation to help and the help has flooded in. We have been overwhelmed by the sheer generosity of so many who have not just maintained their giving but have sent in special gifts throughout the year. The



continuing commitment to stewardship has helped us to survive and more than survive. I can only say, thank you.

Alongside all this we were delighted (as were many), when the Chancellor of the Exchequer unveiled the Job Retention Scheme – ‘Furloughing’. It was a word that I was familiar with from Mirfield days. Brethren of the Community of the Resurrection would come back to the Mother House of the Community for a break from wherever they were living and working – South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sunderland – on furlough. Now we use the phrase all the time. It has been a lifeline but has been a massive piece of work for Toyin. Each week the members of the Senior Management Team have reviewed who is furloughed and who is not and whether any changes to that need to be made. It is for Toyin to then make the rather complicated returns to HMRC.

Some members of staff like Emily Thorne who joined us as Visitor Engagement Officer in January 2020, Bridget Abbott, Natasha Kuler and Julia Tchoudinova have been furloughed most of the time. Thanks to them for their continuing support.

The vergers whom we house: Paul, Simon and Jamie, have worked full-time throughout this year. They are given accommodation because they are on 24/7 call out in case of an emergency. Our insurers required that the Cathedral was inspected every day during lockdown. This has been the responsibility of the vergers throughout the pandemic, coming in and checking everything, keeping everything working, clean and safe. Rob, who isn’t housed by the Cathedral, has been furloughed.

Ian Keatley, our Director of Music, has worked full-time throughout looking after whatever music we could have. I have watched him in the Deanery garden (which we share) recording numerous click tracks to send to the lay clerks so that they could record their separate parts on video to be spliced together for the online liturgies. Stephen Disley and Alex Knight have been furloughed and brought back to work as required. Toyin, Matthew, Tom Poole (Fundraiser) and Evelin Arweck, have worked throughout. Marie Tims, my PA, has worked between one or two days a week and Rose Harding and Jon Dollin similarly as the need has arisen. The clergy have, of course, worked full-time. Martin Smith, who heads up the facilities and maintenance team has been on and off furlough as required and his team, James Calthrop, György Szabó and Norette Sakir, have mostly been furloughed. All other staff have basically been furloughed. I want to thank each and every one of them for their flexibility and willingness to co-operate in this. Initially we topped up the furlough grant to 100% but it became clear we couldn’t sustain that. Those who are paid the London Living Wage have received that throughout but others on furlough have taken a pay cut. We must not forget this. Their generosity has helped us survive. I applaud what they have done for us.

At the same time, the Church Commissioners have been magnificent. Michael Minta and Carol Fletcher in particular have been an enormous support to us. Tom Poole has applied each time money from the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund has been available. We have been open and honest about our needs, we have only asked for that which will really make a difference and in this the Commissioners have supported us. Where grants would normally be paid across the year, they have come in a single sum which has really helped cash flow. Capital works grants from central government administered by the church have also meant that we could do some jobs that needed to be done.

An application by Tom to the Government-funded Culture Recovery Fund in September resulted in two tranches of money which has enabled us to do three pieces of work. The hot water in the heating system has not been flowing through to the Vestry, the new Chapter Room, the new Song School and the Shop from the nave. We knew there must be a blockage or leak; that is now all being rectified. We wanted to remove the step from the nave to the north transept to increase accessibility; that is now done. We also wanted to clean and conserve the remains of the 12th century Prior's Doorway between the nave and the Sacristy with a view to making this accessible to the public, this is also now complete. In total we were given £93,850 which is 80% of the cost and through generous personal donations and money from the Southwark Cathedral Development Trust, the work has been financed. We are grateful to the members of the Fabric Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the wonderful Canon Charles Pickstone, the skill of both our architect, Kelley Christ and our archaeologist, Jackie Hall, as well as Tom's amazing grant application writing skills for all this.

Being online meant that we had to re-imagine everything but Mark and I quickly learnt what the possibilities were. Following on from Easter we had the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May. We had learnt that people loved sending in photos of themselves to create montages proclaiming peace and other uplifting, community building messages. For VE Day we invited pictures of family members who had served in the War. The result was an incredible tribute to so many people. Our great friend Timothy West recorded a reading from his back garden. We know that Tim and his wife Prunella miss coming to the Cathedral so much and with everyone else who feels the same, we send our love.

Rogationtide arrived and instead of Beating of the Bounds in the normal way, we took the camera out and prayed our way round some of the significant locations in the parish. The online audience loved it. The garden at All Hallows Church, our bombed out church on Copperfield Street was celebrating 40 years of being cared for by the local community. So with Kevin Jones and George Nicholson, we recorded a service in the garden, a celebration of that beautiful oasis of peace.

There was also talk, however, of the lockdown being eased and the Cathedral being allowed to re-open. It was a tricky thing to manage. How would we make it Covid secure? How would we look after our staff and all those who would come? Emma Allen, as Commercial Director took a lead on this with Martin Smith, Paul Timms and others. A one-way route was established, barriers and banners were purchased, sanitiser stations set up around the Cathedral and Eventbrite bookings for services set up by Jon Dollin. The Stewards, Welcomers, Day Chaplains and Guides were all geared-up to come back and we thank them for their willingness to play their part. Canon Michael did risk assessments for all the services that would begin in the Cathedral and Lulu Nongauza, one of the Stewards, came in to play the role of a visitor as we made a short film to welcome people back and show them what to expect.

We had to think what we would do about streaming of services, as so far we had simply been using a phone and we needed something better than that. Mark began looking at various possibilities and getting a temporary arrangement into the nave. We became aware of a very good camera which would be ideal for the vergers to use for broadcasting Morning Prayer. Thanks to the Friends of the Cathedral we were able to purchase it. The Friends, led by Clare Johnson and supported by Kate Dean, are always there when we need them but after all, 'that's what friends are for!' To all the Trustees, a very real thank you for financial support through the year in many different ways. In the initial lockdown, Friends Quiz evenings were held on Zoom and latterly there has been a series of fascinating talks. An online soirée was held in the run-up to Christmas and on all these occasions it has been great to see one another, even if only on screen.

The streaming has continued and has also improved in quality. Mark has been supported on Sundays by Tim Putnam, who brings his professional skills to the task. As this will be a feature of our life from this point onwards, however, we need to get a permanent solution installed in the Cathedral and a team of volunteers who can look after the streaming on a Sunday.

As we moved ahead to the re-opening, the AEC asked me to write another prayer that all cathedrals could use as we all prepared to welcome back people.

## A prayer as our Cathedrals re-open

*Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
(Psalm 24. 7)*

Holy God,  
as we open our doors  
and welcome in those who will come  
may we recognise you among them.  
As we make our churches safe to enter  
and care for those who come  
may we recognise you as our strong defence.  
As we say our prayers  
and light our candles  
may we recognise you in the midst.  
As we resume our life  
and live our life  
may we recognise you as our life  
today, tomorrow and always.  
Amen.

One of the things that we had been reminded of in the first stage of the pandemic was what a global community we are part of and what a global reach Southwark Cathedral has. The online community embraced people not just who would call Southwark Cathedral their church, or the cathedral for their diocese, but people from much further afield. There are people with us each day from places as far apart as Tokyo and Washington state. We have congregation members in South Africa and Australia. It is incredible. We wanted to celebrate this global perspective because we were all in this together, a global pandemic.

So we began a series of weekly 'Messages from the Anglican Communion' and asked our friends throughout the Communion, led by our four Canons Theologian, to record something for us in which they reflected on how the pandemic was impacting them and their communities. We had the most amazing contributions from Hong Kong, Australia, Texas, Turkey, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Europe, Kenya and Canada to name but a few and we were delighted when the new Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, brought this to a conclusion. It was a wonderful project to be involved with.

Every aspect of our life was caught up in the pandemic. As restrictions were eased we began to be able to do some things. The café took part in the 'Eat Out to Help Out' initiative. We had performances of Shakespeare plays in

the churchyard alongside the seated figure of the Bard. This has been loaned to us by Nick Roditi who has been developing and uncovering the site of the Courtyard Theatre in Shoreditch. We had hoped to display part of his wonderful collection of paintings created by students of the Cyrene College in Zimbabwe as part of our celebrations of the Lambeth Conference. The Conference was postponed and it became clear that the exhibition would be better located elsewhere. We were delighted though that Rose Harding could be involved in the promotion of 'The Stars are Bright' exhibition at the Theatre Courtyard Green Rooms from July to October.

Shakespeare stayed with us, however, and welcomed performers to the churchyard. It was wonderful to see some live, open air performances. The audience was distanced and enthusiastic. The highlight for us was an evening with Timothy West, Arthur Smith, Rick Jones and others when we could bring our relationship with the Bard into a real celebration.

Part of the day-to-day ministry of the church also involved what are called 'the Occasional Offices': 'hatch, match and dispatch' as clergy often call them – baptisms, weddings and funerals. Baptisms have been difficult with Covid restrictions and limitations on numbers have curtailed how we would normally celebrate marriages and hold funerals in the Cathedral. The Cathedral clergy played their part in officiating at funerals and Canon Michael Rawson volunteered to be part of the chaplaincy team at Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals. Fr David Adamson took on responsibility at St George the Martyr Southwark, the principal part of his curacy, for the running of the community kitchen, feeding programme and food bank. This has been more than a labour of love. David has given himself to the task in a way that is humbling to witness. Priesthood is about feeding the flock. David has done this in a self-sacrificial way.

In the midst of making fresh pasta and bread and cooking hundreds of chickens, David and his fiancée Amanda Hill, a member of the Cathedral Chapter, were also planning their wedding. As the date in September approached, we were all worried that the 30 person maximum number would be changed and all the plans put in disarray. God was good, however, and the wedding went ahead in the Cathedral and the distanced reception in the Garry Weston Library. It was not quite what the happy couple had imagined but it was a very, very happy day. It is probably the first time in the 1,400 year history of the place that a member of the clergy married a member of the Chapter but it is always good to create new history. Congratulations Amanda and David, who are now surnamed Adamson-Hill. Subsequently David has been appointed as the Associate Priest in the Parish of Croydon with Special Responsibility for St George's, Waddon. He and Amanda – and their yet to be born baby – move in May so more of that in next year's Dean's Report.

Whilst the pandemic has been upon us, other things have happened as well which have had an effect on our lives. On 25 May 2020 in Minneapolis, George Floyd was brutally killed by police officers in full view of cameras. For 8 minutes and 46 seconds an officer knelt on his neck as he cried out "I can't breathe". His death caused a revival in the #BlackLivesMatter movement in the USA and across the world. Crowds took to the streets and in Bristol the statue of the slave trader Edward Colston was thrown into the harbour. It was a wake up call to us all, whoever we are and whatever our ethnic background.

The Chapter has responded in a number of ways. We immediately asked Guy Rowston, former Warden, Honorary Archivist and member of the Fabric Advisory Committee, to undertake an urgent review of the monuments and memorials in the Cathedral. His report to Chapter highlighting a number of tablets commemorating parishioners who had investments, for instance in the South Sea Company, as well as the Comper reredos in St Andrew's Chapel, have led us to work with our Education Officer on the interpretation of these.

Secondly, we are now using UKME rather than BAME to describe minority ethnic members of our community. BAME suggests that black and Asian people are a minority: that is only true in the UK; in other places they are the majority ethnicity. UKME describes it more accurately and all the Chapter policies and documents will be revised to reflect this.

Thirdly, we have sought ways to increase the visibility and participation of our UKME sisters and brothers in two ways. Online worship and working with St Hugh's, which is a black majority church, has enabled us to invite readers and intercessors particularly from diverse backgrounds. Wherever possible we have intentionally included a UKME brother or sister every week in the online liturgy. We hope you have noticed this. We will be working to make this part of our life all the time. We also undertook a special project for Black History Month. For each of the four Sundays, I recorded an interview with UKME members of our congregations: Lulu Nongauza, Tomi Ogunjobi, Eric Collins and Joseph Goba. We are grateful to each of them for sharing their story as part of the Sunday evening online service. The lay clerks recorded music using the great tradition of Spirituals from the United States and Caribbean. It was an amazing witness which we want to repeat but also repeat for our LGBT members. Sharing our stories is a vital part of the process of getting to know each other and valuing each other.

Bishop Christopher asked me to write a prayer for use in the diocese about #BlackLivesMatter and this has now been incorporated in to the Diocesan Anti Racism Charter.

## #BlackLivesMatter

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3. 28)*

God of all,  
who loves each of us for who we are,  
to whom each life matters,  
who counts the hairs on our head  
who knows when a sparrow falls;  
teach us to love as you love  
to respect, to honour, to care  
and to protect  
each of our sisters and brothers,  
that your embracing,  
including kingdom  
may come now  
and your love be known  
by all, always.  
Amen.

It is always good to work with the diocese and to do all we can do to support the ministry of our Diocesan Bishop. We are blessed that Bishop Christopher has just celebrated the tenth anniversary of his enthronement in the Cathedral. The Cathedral is the seat of his bishopric and the Cathedral houses his chair of teaching. I was delighted to be invited to be a member of the Coronavirus Task Group that Bishop Christopher set up before the first lockdown was introduced. With the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, the Archdeacon of Greenwich and Lewisham, the Ven Alastair Cutting and the Director of Communications, firstly Canon Wendy Robins and since her move to the Cathedral, Sophia Jones, we have met at least once a week, initially twice a week, to prepare guidance material for the parishes and institutions of the Diocese and to try to make sense of all that has come to the church from central government and the national church institutions. It has been hard work but, I hope, much appreciated.

This is just one way in which we are able to support the Bishop. My colleagues, the three Diocesan Residentiary Canons, the Missioner, the Chancellor and the Treasurer, have the focus of their work in the diocese. Canon Leanne Roberts has been Treasurer since 2011. She is the Diocesan Director of Ordinands. With her team, which has included until recently the Revd Andrew Zihni, she should be congratulated on the number of vocations to ministry of all kinds from this diocese. We have the largest number of ordinands in training from any diocese and Leanne and her colleagues have been working tirelessly to increase the number of UKME ordinands. Amongst those preparing for ordination it has

been good to have Charlie Bell with us on a two year placement and before him Lotwina Farodoye who was ordained deacon in September.

Canon Jay Colwill has been Missioner since 2018. His responsibility is encouraging mission in the diocese and this embraces work with children and young people and also the work of JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation). It is a huge job. In addition to that, at the Cathedral Jay has been helping us take forward our mission and witness online. His insights are always invaluable.

Up until September the Chancellor was Canon Mandy Ford. The role of the holder of that canonry has been the care of ongoing training and education for clergy and laity in the diocese. During the year Mandy was appointed Dean of Bristol and in September with her partner Anne moved to that city. She has a huge task to do, not least in the aftermath of #BlackLivesMatter and the place of Colston in the life of the city but Mandy has huge skills in the work of reconciliation. We are grateful to her for all she brought to our learning programme in the Cathedral, not least around the areas of human sexuality. The course that she wrote for us has subsequently been published so that others can benefit from it.

In addition, and as a former teacher, Mandy line managed our Education Officer. The Revd Lisa Bewick has been ordained since her initial appointment. She is curate at St John's Waterloo but has been ministering from time to time at the Cathedral as well as running the Learning Centre, now based in the Susanna Barford Room, with her team of volunteers. The Centre is looked after by the Trustees of the Education Trust. They have a hard job to do as we try to work when, how and if schools will ever return for visits as they did in the past. We are grateful to those in the Circle of Support and all the Trustees for their continued confidence in what we do and what we offer. Whilst there are no children coming for the traditional work of the Learning Centre, Lisa has been working with Canon Michael Rawson on our own offering to children, young people and their families with a weekly blog, activity packs and seasonal events when these have been possible.

Bishop Christopher appointed Canon Wendy Robins to succeed Mandy in a slightly re-shaped role. Wendy and her family, Alan, Robyn and William have been part of our community for a long time but it is good to have Wendy as a proper member of Chapter. She was installed on Sunday 13 December and it is great to have her wisdom and skills as part of what we do.

As well as considering our response to #BlackLivesMatter the Chapter has had a great deal on its agenda. Throughout the last year, as soon as the lockdown began, we began to meet on Zoom. The members of the Chapter which includes Canons Michael, Leanne, Jay, Wendy and Andrew; the two Wardens, Linda Hutchinson and Daniel Chumbley; the representatives of the congregation,



Helen Quintrell and Amanda Adamson-Hill; the Bishop of Southwark's appointees, Peter Haddock and Canon Joabe Cavalcanti, with the Comptroller and me as Chair, have adapted to this way of working. Emily Halton, who was made redundant from her work as Administrator of the Learning Centre, though she has stayed in our employment as Safeguarding Administrator, has begun to take the minutes to relieve Marie Tims of that job as she uses her 'unfurloughed' hours to support me. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was re-scheduled to September when we could have a mixed-mode meeting with some people in the nave and some online. One of the principal tasks before the Chapter has been working on the Masterplan. Helen Quintrell, supported by her husband Mike, undertook a fact finding questionnaire of the congregation. Thanks to all those who took part. With Canon Michael Rawson, Helen has gathered the responses and fine-tuned the Masterplan, drawing out of it our immediate priorities. This has been a huge piece of work and it will help us as we re-focus our life as we come back into the Cathedral.

There was a great deal of sadness in 2020 and because of the restrictions often not the opportunities to express the sense of loss that many were feeling. It was therefore very difficult when we had to break the news that our Cathedral cat, Doorkins Magnificat died on Wednesday 30 September. She had been living in retirement with Paul Timms, the Dean's Verger, since the end of 2019 and died in his arms following a stroke. Doorkins came to Southwark Cathedral in 2008 and made her home with us. She had been living wild until she saw a place of sanctuary at Southwark Cathedral, and she gradually began to trust those who fed and looked after her.

She remained an active and fearless cat, wandering around the Cathedral and outside during her time with us, until the London Bridge terrorist attack in 2017. At that time, she was shut out of the Cathedral for a number of days and once inside again, she did not leave the warmth of the place which she had come to think of as home and where she knew she was safe.

Doorkins went into retirement when she could no longer see and the Cathedral was then not a safe place for her, as she could not navigate it without mishap. Her last months were very happy and she was well loved in her place of retirement.

We decided that Doorkins deserved to be brought back home for a Service of Thanksgiving and a burial in the churchyard, both places she had made her own. At the service (which was live streamed), Paul Timms paid tribute to her and one of our lay clerks, Augustus Perkins Ray sang a song by Samuel Barber. It was a moving service that was not without controversy: some had questioned whether it was right in the midst of a pandemic to have a service for a cat. I said in my homily on that occasion:



'The challenge is not so much about why we as a community would dare to have a service for a cat in the middle of a pandemic but why it should be that the church seems to be in so many places unwelcoming to those who don't see themselves reflected in our life, why it should take a stray, feral and at times unfriendly cat to bring the domestic to a place that couldn't domesticate her. Why did we, who pride ourselves on a tradition of inclusion, need a cat to actually understand what the stranger in the midst really means.'

To date, over 70,000 have watched the service on Facebook and YouTube and we continue to get thanks from people for the help we have given them to face loss at this time with a message of hope about a little cat.

The strange thing was that on the day of the service, 28 October, our new cat should arrive. Hodge is a rescue cat who has come to us via Cutcuddles Sanctuary here in south London. He is a lovely little boy cat and I know you will love meeting him. He already has more Twitter followers than me and a range of gifts in the on-line shop! The launch of that shop has been an important move and has meant the shop has been able to continue trading whilst non-essential shops have had to close. Then we went into another lockdown and the Cathedral was closed, although this time we could live stream from the church. The AEC asked me to write a suitable prayer.

### **A prayer for the Second Lockdown**

Lord Jesus,  
who entered the locked room  
and made yourself known to your friends;  
be with us in this lockdown  
that we may be aware of your presence  
and know your blessing upon us.  
Amen.

We were wondering what would happen about Christmas. December is the big month for us, welcoming so many people to the Cathedral for services and concerts. It was clear that wasn't going to happen this year. The Robes SleepOut became a Robes SleepIn. This was masterminded by Maggie Still and her team and was an amazing achievement, raising what we could through our own version of a TV appeal evening like *Children In Need*. Watching George Martin, who has chaired the Trustees of Robes for the last ten years, and acted as the appointed representative from the Cathedral community, receive a surprise gift on his doorstep live-streamed was incredible. A real Cilla Black *Surprise Surprise* moment! It was amazing, though exhausting, fun. Bishop Christopher and I then rolled out our sleeping bags and slept, well distanced in the retro choir and rose early in the morning to celebrate the Eucharist online.

The Advent Procession became yet another online experience with music from the lay clerks and readings from members of the congregation pre-recorded in their own homes but we knew that not long after Advent had begun we would be allowed to re-open. Knowing, however, that most people would not be able to come to the Cathedral to enjoy a carol service, we recorded a very special 'Journey to Bethlehem' involving people from the local business community and residents in a fresh re-telling of the Christmas story. We filmed in the Market Porter pub, in Bread Ahead, on the stage of the Globe Theatre, in the headquarters of News UK, at the construction site of the Thames super sewer, at the front door of a private home and Cathedral School. It was incredible and shows just what friends we have in the local community and what we can do together. Huge thanks to Rose Harding for arranging what was a very complicated piece of work and to Colin Head of Ash Productions who was working with us on and off throughout the year.

In the diary of the Cathedral and of the Archbishop of Canterbury had been a booking made a few years ago. Marion Marples (sadly now no longer with us) and her husband Leigh Hatts, came to see me about the Becket 850th anniversary. Did I know that Becket's final sermon in London was preached in the Priory of St Mary Overie on 11 December 1170 and that he spent the night here? Actually, no I didn't. We were determined to commemorate it, however. Sadly all the planned commemorations at Canterbury Cathedral had to be postponed so instead of the Southwark service being the last in a whole season of spectacles, it was the first. The easing of the lockdown meant the service could proceed and Archbishop Justin joined us.

Our friends at St George's RC Cathedral, Southwark happen to have a relic of St Thomas Becket housed in a stunning reliquary designed by Augustus Pugin. They brought this along and the relic was placed on the altar. It was an incredible ecumenical act.

In his hard hitting sermon and reflecting on the courage of Becket to speak truth to power, the Archbishop said this:

'When children go hungry in 21st century Britain, we must speak – because God says so in scripture. We heard it in the Magnificat just a few moments ago.

When aid to the world's poorest is cut, we must speak – because Christ commands a bias to the poor, not the trickle-down theory of economics; to love our neighbours like the Good Samaritan did when the "neighbour" was just a human being in trouble from an enemy country of which he knew little.

When the refugee or the immigrant are vilified. When a Muslim woman cannot go on public transport without insult, or a Christian cannot read a bible without persecution. When a man has his neck knelt on til he suffocates. When a pastor is arrested for speaking of Christ, the Church

of that and every country must say this is wrong, whatever the democratic vote or popular thinking or Government collusion.'

It was a magnificent endorsement of everything that Southwark Cathedral continues to stand for: Inclusive : Faithful : Radical.

Christmas was as lovely as it could be under the circumstances. Every seat was taken at our services, the Diocese joined us in one special carol service broadcast to all the parishes. It wasn't what we were used to but we remembered that the Incarnation happened in a mess. As I said in my Christmas sermon:

'We need this Christmas, whatever the restrictions; we need this child, however tiny and vulnerable. We need the hope and the peace that the baby represents, we need the man who raises our humanity towards divinity, who embraces life in all its messiness.

These past tough months, if they've taught us anything, have taught us how much we need each other, how inter-dependent we are, how much we need to feel a touch, hear a voice, see a face. We've learnt what community is really about, what is of the essence of relationship, what is the substance of what can often be insubstantial. We have learnt how we need proximity, how distance can be destructive to our sense of self, our sense of well-being.'

We approached New Year's Eve hoping to see the back of the year and looking forward to something better, another year of grace and the AEC asked me to write a prayer.

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

*And the one who was seated on the throne said 'See, I am making all things new.'* (Revelation 21. 5)

God of new beginnings,  
of hope and deliverance,  
dawn us with fresh opportunities,  
equip us for new tasks,  
fill us with eager longing,  
thrill us with fresh starts,  
that with the past behind us  
we may look to all that lies ahead  
with faith in Jesus,  
hope in you  
and love for all.  
Amen.

As I write, we are approaching Holy Week and Easter and the re-opening of the Cathedral yet again. It has been a momentous year. I cannot believe what we have lived through. We have survived it, however, and we didn't run out of cash, or out of hope. To all of you, whatever role you have played in this story, in this year, thank you. There is just a final prayer, the one I was asked to write for the first anniversary of the Lockdown. I offer it to you.

God of all that has been, that is, that is to come  
as we reflect on the year that has past,  
those we have lost,  
those we have missed,  
the contact not made,  
the hopes dashed,  
new things discovered,  
new opportunities seized,  
new love embraced,  
we thank you that you have been with us  
and brought us to this day.  
Stay with us  
as we step into your future  
with faith and hope and love  
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Nunn', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal flourish.

Andrew Nunn  
Dean



# Summary of Annual Accounts 2020

by Matthew Knight, Comptroller

2020 has been an exceptional year and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our income and expenditure has been huge. When I last reported to the APCM in September 2020 the projections were dire and we were facing a cash crisis within six months. I am happy to be able to report that the situation has stabilised and our financial survival is no longer a cause for concern. However, the pace of progress out of lockdown during 2021 will be a strong determining factor in our recovery and we are not out of the woods yet.

What follows is a summary of the Annual Accounts to 31 December 2020. The full report is available on the Cathedral website together with this short summary.

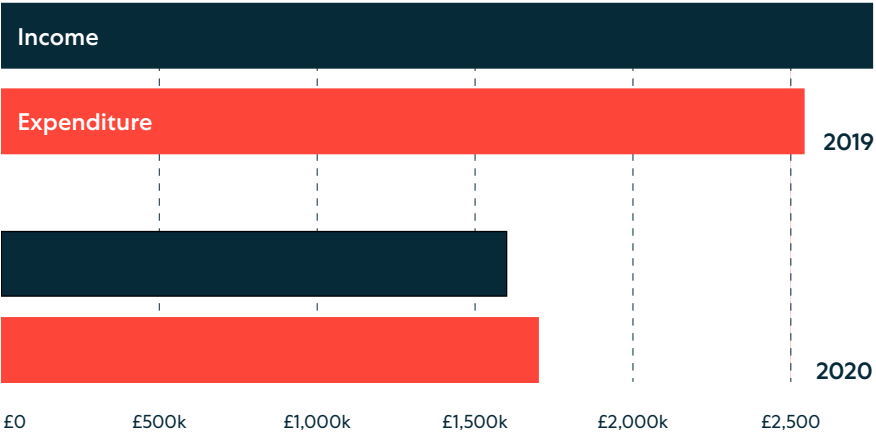
As usual, I must thank my colleagues Toyin Tukasi and Marie Aké in the finance office for producing the figures once again and the volunteer team of money counters who have continued to count the collections and shop takings every week when the Cathedral has been open. These are Toyin's sixteenth set of Cathedral accounts and my seventeenth, and also my last as Comptroller. I am pleased to be able to leave the Cathedral with a healthy cash reserve in place, despite the huge challenges of the past year. When I arrived at the Cathedral in 2005, we were servicing debts of more than £600,000 relating to the under-funding of the Millennium Buildings and investment in our staff accommodation. The cost of debt and interest payments was more than £100,000 a year. After some turbulent years and some hair-raisingly low cash balances, Toyin and I have made it our mission to restore stability to the Cathedral's finances. With the support of our colleagues on the Cathedral staff, and year-on-year growth in our commercial income from Southwark Cathedral Enterprises, we had managed to eliminate all our debts and build up a cash flow



reserve of over £600,000 before the pandemic struck. As a result, we have survived 2020 much better than feared and the diversity of our income streams has meant that Southwark emerges more strongly than some of our sister cathedrals who are reliant on overseas visitor income.

I am delighted that we have received a totally clean bill of health from our auditors as we have done for many years and I want to pay particular tribute to Toyin Tukasi in my final report for the tremendous work she has done in transforming the Cathedral's finances, for her unerring accuracy and attention to detail and the quality of the information she has produced for the various committees that look after our financial affairs.

Summary of the year overall

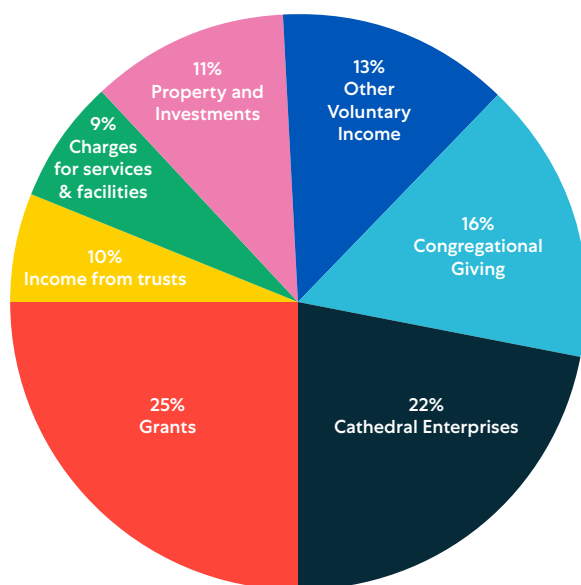


2019 vs 2020 comparison of income and expenditure

In 2020, our income was badly hit by the reduction in commercial income due to the pandemic and, while our costs were also reduced due to the closure of the Cathedral site for long periods, our expenditure exceeded our income with an overall deficit (before investment losses) of £87,870. There was a decrease in our unrestricted funds (which we use for almost all of our day-to-day activities) of £130,069 (before investment gains) following on from a decrease of £60,000 in 2019.

Southwark Cathedral Enterprises has generated healthy profits in every year of its existence but the effect of the pandemic meant that our retail, conference and events businesses were closed for most of the year. As a result, the Company made a loss of £29,464 compared with a profit of £383,002 in 2019. The Company was therefore unable to make a charitable donation of its profits to the Cathedral in 2020.

## Income: Where does the money come from?



2020 analysis of the sources of the Cathedral's income

The total income for the Cathedral (including Enterprises and investments) was £1.6 million in 2020 compared with £2.3 million in 2019.

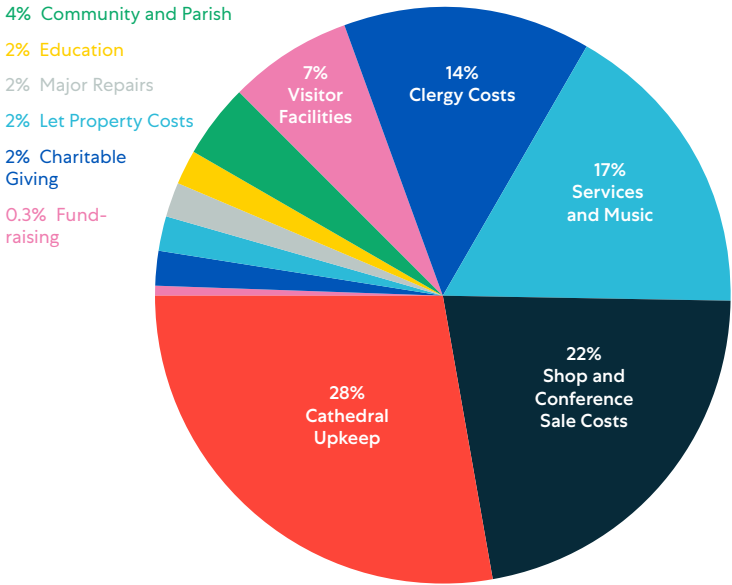
The proportion of income coming from congregational giving was 16% of the total. This represents £255,000 which is considerably down on the £378,000 received in 2019. This is largely due to the loss of collections taken at services, as for much of the year services took place online or with much reduced congregations and no collection plate used. Our stewardship giving remained constant throughout the year, however, and was supplemented by a large number of one-off gifts in response to appeals made at the end of our daily online worship. The commitment of our congregation towards regular giving has never been as important as it was in 2020 when so many of our other income-generating activities were not able to take place.

The turnover of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd declined from £820,000 in 2019 to £355,000 in 2020 meaning that the proportion of the Cathedral's total income fell from 37% to just 22% last year.

Income from charges and fees for special services was reduced by more than half when compared with 2019 but the proportion of income from grants increased from 10% in 2019 to 25% in 2020 reflecting the level of support

received from the central church (in the shape of the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund and Choirs Emergency Fund) and from local government and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

**Expenditure: Where does the money go?**



2020 analysis of the Cathedral's expenditure

The total expenditure by the Cathedral (including Enterprises) was £1.7 million in 2020 compared with £2.2 million in 2019. The closure of the Cathedral site led to a reduction in costs and there were no major fabric repairs carried out as has been the case in previous year. The effort by all departments to manage their budgets extremely carefully and to minimise waste also played a part in keeping costs down.

Major areas of expenditure are Clergy Costs (£235,000), the cost of maintaining the Cathedral and its precincts, including major repair and restoration works (£520,000), and the cost of conference and shop sales (£384,000), the largest part of which covers staff costs and purchasing stock for the shop. 10% of income from the Planned Giving scheme is given away for a variety of local, national and international charitable purposes. In 2020, this amounted to £30,000 and is included within the Charitable Giving total in the chart.

A professional survey of all our residential properties was undertaken in 2019 and identified more than £600,000 of expenditure that would be required within the next five years. This presents a real challenge to the Chapter at a time when its reserves were still not as high as we would wish and, in fact, have been reduced by the effects of the pandemic. We hope to return to budget surpluses from 2022 onwards to allow us to make the necessary investment in our property portfolio.

The early projections for 2021 are less bleak than when I spoke at the APCM in September 2020. We are fortunate to have received financial support from the Dean of Southwark's Fund and also have a loan agreement in place with the Diocese to provide additional funds if required. We were able to satisfy our auditors that we are a 'going concern' and our cash flow projections bear this out. We will not run out of cash to sustain our day-to-day activities. The work we had already done to build up cash reserves has helped us through the current crisis but we will need to re-build those reserves once again to provide security against future unexpected events.

The next two to three years are going to be very different from what we had originally set out in our Masterplan covering the next five years. We now need to prioritise our financial sustainability over some of the plans we would like to have been working on and to focus on our core mission and ministry and how to resource that at a time when we will not be able to rely on commercial income.

# Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd

by Emma Allen, Commercial Director

**Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd (SCE) is wholly owned by the Chapter, and manages the main commercial activities of the Cathedral, including venue hire, the shop, programmed events, guided tours, the catering contract and visitor-related income. Profits are Gift-Aided to the Cathedral.**

### **Overview of 2020**

2020 was an extraordinary year. The Cathedral suspended all commercial operations from 18 March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Cathedral re-opened on 4 July 2020 on a phased basis, beginning with prayer only, before gradually being able to hold performances and visitor events across the summer and garner a reasonable footfall in order to re-open the shop in October.

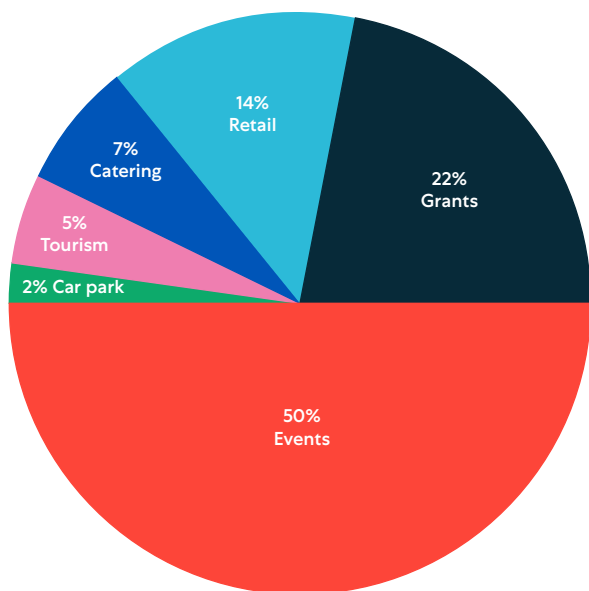
SCE turnover was £354,971 down from £823,367 in 2019. The Company made a loss of £29,464 and was not able to make a Gift-Aided donation to the Cathedral. SCE does not expect to make a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels until the end of 2023.

At the beginning of 2020, SCE budgets carried the cost of eight members of staff. By the end of 2020, SCE staffing had reduced through redundancy and reduction of hours. SCE also took full advantage of the Government's Job Retention Scheme (JRS), furloughing members of staff on a full- or part-time basis. We are grateful to the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund, who allocated further funds to support the Commercial Director's post.

In addition to this, SCE was able to take advantage of Government business support grants which equated to £27,000.

### **2020 analysis**

The chart overleaf shows the contribution to overall turnover made by each commercial business stream managed by SCE. The contribution from catering shows the rent payable based on a percentage of sales and minimum guarantee.



2020 analysis of contribution of individual business streams to overall turnover

Despite being significantly affected by the pandemic, events hire was by far the largest turnover of all the commercial activities, generating revenue of £179,200. This was due to a successful first two months of the year which featured a lucrative filming in the Nave for Netflix. The established concerts and recitals client base held socially distanced events in the Nave throughout the summer and autumn as permitted by Government guidance, which also helped income generation. The conference centre did not fare as well upon re-opening, with clients limited by social distancing and instead choosing to hold meetings online. Advent and Christmas events were effectively cancelled due to London lockdown restrictions.

The shop, café and tourism turnover are driven by visitor numbers. In previous years it has been difficult to get accurate visitor numbers due to the multiple entry points on site. In response to the pandemic, the Cathedral has implemented a one way route with separate entrance and exit points which has assisted with the accuracy of visitor numbers. Total visitor numbers for the year were 46,200, of whom 25,700 visited in January and February. Total visitor numbers in 2020 represent a drop of 74% against the previous year.

Retail income is historically made up of shop sales, lavatory token sales and revenue generated through a partnership with London Pass. In July, an online retail offer was introduced, giving the congregation and visitors the opportunity

to support the Cathedral from their homes through a range of seasonal and best selling products. The shop turnover for the year was £48,860, of which nearly £16,000 was made through the online shop. The online shop spend per transaction is positive and can be built upon in future years. The physical shop was open for only three and a half months cumulative in 2020. Best selling ranges across the physical and online shops were linked to Doorkins the Cathedral Cat and Christmas ranges. Christmas continues to be the busiest time of the year for retail at the Cathedral.

SCE also began to explore the possibility of producing Cathedral-based publications, progressing proposals for three publications that are now in the development stages. By producing our own publications, SCE can boost the respected Southwark Cathedral brand and provide consistent profitable income across an extended period of time through our own retail outlets and wholesale. We anticipate that at least one publication will be available for purchase in early 2022.

Tourism income is compiled of sales of the visitor leaflet on the welcome desk, pre-booked tour groups and programmed events. Turnover for 2020 was £17,500 of which £12,300 was generated through programmed events which took place over six months of the year cumulative. These events took place 'socially distanced' with a successful programme across the summer in the churchyard through partnerships with theatre groups.

The Cathedral catering partner is Leafi, who took occupancy of the café in August 2019. A decrease in footfall in the local area as well as social distancing restrictions has meant that Leafi had to pivot their offer for 2020, taking up additional opportunities beyond the physical café site. Working closely with the events team, Leafi has provided a bar and light snacks for our hired and programmed events and for Christmas set up a mulled wine and mince pies stand in the churchyard, which proved to be very popular. SCE continues to work closely with Leafi to ensure a long and successful partnership.

SCE's contribution to the Cathedral is wide-ranging. The Commercial Team take ownership of delivering an engaging and holistic visitor experience for those who come on site, regardless of their motivation. In addition to this, key objectives include driving visitation and broadening the demographic of those who visit the Cathedral. Whilst the reason for coming into the Cathedral may not always be to worship, delivering these objectives boosts the opportunity for increased numbers to engage with the Cathedral's core purpose. The team also manage the vast majority of *en masse* external communications via the website and multiple social media platforms, raising awareness of all areas of Cathedral life, commercial or otherwise. The team also contributes towards offering a warm welcome to those who come on site, a key area of focus for the Cathedral.



# Fundraising

by Tom Poole, Fundraiser

**In 2020, Southwark Cathedral's fundraising efforts focussed mainly on the financial challenges posed by Covid-19, including successful applications to support the salary costs and continuing ministry costs of the Cathedral through funding schemes set up by the Government (Culture Recovery Fund) and the Church Commissioners (Cathedrals Sustainability Fund).**

The Cathedral engages in fundraising activity to support its ongoing mission and ministry. The majority of voluntary donations came from members of the congregation and wider circle of support. Following the closure of the Cathedral in March 2020 (due to Covid-19), new ways of giving online were promoted, with Facebook Giving and text donations set up to provide additional ways to support the Cathedral.

An application to the Government-funded Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to fund essential repair works, including repairs to the heating system, repairs to the north transept floor, and conservation of medieval masonry in the nave was successful, and the Cathedral received a grant of £93,850 towards the £117,318 cost of the works, which started in October 2020 and were completed in March 2021.

A successful application was made to the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund for commercial staff employment costs support totalling £78,738. The Cathedrals Sustainability Fund also funded lay clerks' costs from September 2020 – December 2020 (£22,064). The Cathedral also received a music revenue funding grant of £35,300 from the Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund (for January 2021 – July 2021).

In addition, Southwark Cathedral Development Trust continued to receive valuable support from the Sanderson Foundation which made a grant of £10,000 to support the costs of the Fundraising Office.

Funding totalling £25,000 was received from Allchurches Trust in 2020, allocated to the Cathedral's running costs and the accommodation costs of the Assistant Curate and Education Officer. This annual grant support provides very important funding for the daily mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

Southwark Cathedral Development Trust continued to support the Cathedral's fundraising and raised £44,787 in 2020 from individual donors

and trusts and foundations. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral is also a much-valued source of support, and awarded grants to the Cathedral totalling £14,307 during 2020, including £11,014 towards repairs to the parish door, £2,793 towards the installation of the new organ console camera system and £500 towards the livestreaming of services.

**We thank the following trusts and organisations for their support in 2020:**

Allchurches Trust, Barclays, Cathedral Music Trust, Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, The Derek Hill Foundation, The Friends of Southwark Cathedral, The John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust, The Joseph Strong Frazer Trust, London Fire Brigade, Marsh Christian Trust, Morden College, PwC, The Sanderson Foundation, Southwark Council, Tideway, United St Saviour's Charity, The Williams Church Music Trust, Winckworth Sherwood, The Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

**We also thank everyone who supported the Cathedral in 2020, including donors who generously supported the following projects:**

Cathedral Choir

Merbecke Choir

Organ Console camera system

Prior's Doorway

Southwark Cathedral Development Trust Fabric Fund and Bells Fund

Please do get in touch if you or your organisation would like to make a gift to the Cathedral; we would be delighted to hear from you and to tell you about our current and upcoming projects.



# Learning Centre

by Lisa Bewick, Education Officer



## Most Popular Trails: Exploring Christian Symbols, God's World

## Most Popular Workshops: Victorian Experience, Clergy Hotseat

### Visitor numbers 2020

Primary	1,205
Secondary	339
Adult	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,604</b>

### The Work of the Learning Centre

2020 was a difficult year for the Learning Centre. The national lockdown meant that school visits stopped in March and did not resume at all in 2020. Even when pupils were in school, uncertainty and the need to 'catch up' meant that we received no bookings.

Junior and Youth Xpress sessions also stopped in March. Youth Xpress now meets online and a Junior Xpress blog provides activities for families in the Cathedral congregation to do together at home. Working together, Canon Michael Rawson and I also keep in touch with families via email. Before Christmas, a family service proved popular and was much appreciated by parents. A self-guided Journey to the Crib also provided families with the opportunity to visit the Cathedral and share activities together as we could not have the usual Crib Service.

Finances remain challenging for the Learning Centre, even more so without its main income stream, provided by school visits. The year will end with a significant financial deficit. In July, it was sadly necessary to make the Centre's Administrator, Emily Halton, redundant and in the latter part of the year, I have been furloughed for a number of my usual hours. The Centre has received no external funding but the previous work of the Trustees to improve the Centre's financial viability, as well as the lower salary costs, mean that we are still in a position where there are strong reserves – though these will need replenishing.

We continue to explore new ways of working, with plans to produce some digital resources for schools. We recognise that there are a vast number of high-quality free resources already available for schools and so we want to

ensure that our resources are distinctive and offer something different to the resources already in existence.

### Volunteers

Our volunteers have continued to be supportive of the Learning Centre throughout 2020. A good number of them keep in touch and are always glad to receive up-dates. Once school visits do resume (we anticipate that it may well be the latter part of the autumn term of 2021 that we begin to welcome schools again), it will be necessary to re-build the team.

### Circle of Support

We are grateful to the group of individual funders who support our work each year by pledging £120. We would not be able to continue to support the Cathedral's mission and outreach without them; since March, these supporters have played an even more vital part in maintaining the Centre. If you would like to support our work by joining, please [contact us](#) for more details.

### Funding

The generation of funds to run the Education Centre is facilitated by the Education Officer and Hon. Treasurer. In the year 2020, we received support from Southwark Cathedral and our Circle of Support.





# Unity Group

by Andrew Viner, Chair

*'But if we love God, inasmuch as we come near to Him by love of Him, so we become united by love with our neighbours, and inasmuch as we are united with our neighbours, so we become united with God.'*

(Abba Dorotheos of Gaza, 7th Century)

**The Cathedral Unity Group, which is an informally constituted group responsible to and reporting to Chapter under the auspices of the Sub Dean, is responsible for ecumenical outreach. It organises and encourages participation in ecumenical activities locally, nationally and internationally.**

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Group has only been able to meet on a very few occasions during the year. Nevertheless, we have continued our work on behalf of the Cathedral and in many ways, the past year proved to be a productive one.

### **Local Ecumenical Activity**

During the year, the Cathedral continued to build on its relationships with the South Bank Churches of which it is a member. This is an ecumenical grouping of missional and outward churches of various denominations in the South Bank area which includes the Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, Oasis and St John, Waterloo. South Bank Churches runs a food bank to which members of the Cathedral congregation contribute and despite the problems caused by lockdown, this has continued throughout the year. Indeed, the financial and economic pressures which were experienced by an increasing number of people brought new demands on the food bank.

The Unity Group participates on behalf of the Cathedral in the Unity Forum and normally meets with representatives from St George's Cathedral Southwark and St Olav's Norwegian Church in Rotherhithe. Normally, meetings are held on a regular basis and provide an opportunity to share experiences and to look at ways in which our various churches may work together. We had planned a further Unity Pilgrimage on the lines of the one held in 2019, but this had to be cancelled because of restrictions. We hope to revive our plans for future pilgrimages as soon as circumstances permit. We were sorry to say 'Good-bye' to Torbjørn Holt, Priest-in-Charge of St Olav's Rotherhithe, at the beginning of January. Torbjørn will be ordained as a Catholic priest in Norway in 2021. His replacement at Rotherhithe is Dag Magnus Hopstock Havgar with whom we look forward to working in the future.

In mid-December we were informed of the death of Derek Partridge. Derek was a member of the congregation at St George's Cathedral and had regularly

attended the Unity Forum for many years. Derek lived a long and outstanding life of service to his country, his community and his church. His contributions to the discussions at the Unity Forum were always positive, informed and clearly motivated by his deep Christian faith. Derek was a great advocate for ecumenism and a good friend to many of us at Southwark Cathedral. His funeral mass took place in January 2021 and Michael Rawson was invited to attend in an official capacity and to take part by reading one of the lessons.

The Robes Project reports to the Unity Group at each of its meetings by members of the project who are also members of the Group. The issue of homelessness, particularly in London, is one which continues to concern us all and is one which has been exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic and is likely to become even more acute as a result of the economic problems which it will cause. The Robes Project is an enormously successful ecumenical initiative which has now been in operation for ten years and which has facilitated change in the lives of numerous homeless people. The Cathedral SleepIN for Robes in 2020 was billed as 'the lockdown event of the year' and was successful in raising over £50,000. This was despite the difficulties which resulted in people having to sleep out in their own gardens, on balconies etc. rather than in the Cathedral courtyard. Jay Flynn of BBC Radio 2 fame hosted the virtual quiz.

### **The Community of the Cross of Nails**

In January, the Cathedral became a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails (the 'CCN'). The Community is a world-wide, inter-denominational network of churches and other Christian organisations who share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. We were greatly supported by the Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, who has an initiative of reconciliation for the communities of South London and he generously offered to contribute from his Special Fund towards the purchase of a suitable Cross of Nails for the Cathedral. The Cross of Nails was presented at Coventry Cathedral on 19 January 2020 and all members of the Unity Group were present in Coventry. The Cathedral was represented by Canon Gilly Myers and Paul Timms, who was previously the Head Verger at Coventry. The week after the Cross of Nails was presented, it was installed in Southwark Cathedral at a service presided over by the Bishop of Southwark and which was attended by some of our friends from Rouen Cathedral. The Cross of Nails was installed in the Chapel of St Francis of Assisi and St Elizabeth of Hungary, and that chapel was subsequently given an additional designation for the victims of violence. The litany of Reconciliation was read from in front of the altar of the chapel by Cathedral Day Chaplains at Fridays at twelve noon until restrictions prevented this: from that time on it has been included in the service of daily Evening Prayer

at 8.00 pm which has been streamed from the Deanery or from the homes of other members of the clergy at Southwark.

A commitment on joining the CCN is to establish a programme of reconciliation, and to that end the Cathedral has set up the CCN Working Group which will be looking at ways in which the Cathedral can improve the situation relating to youth violence and knife crime in the Diocese and beyond. The Group was able to meet on one occasion during the year which the Bishop of Southwark attended to set out his vision for our work in this important area. The Working Group is chaired by Canon Jay Colwill and Andrew Viner will provide the link between the Group and the Unity Group to which it will report.

We were delighted that our 'link' Cathedral in Bergen decided to join the CCN at the same time as Southwark Cathedral and their Cross of Nails was also presented at Coventry Cathedral on 19 January. Several members of the congregation at Bergen, together with their Priest-in-Charge, Hans Jørgen Morvik attended the service on that day and they met members of the Unity Group and others from Southwark Cathedral for fellowship during the weekend. On 2 February, Andrew Viner, representing the Dean, attended the service of installation of the Cross of Nails in Bergen Cathedral.

### International links: Bergen and Rouen

Despite the practical difficulties, we have continued to share our faith and our witness with Rouen and Bergen cathedrals during the year. Members of the Unity Group have maintained personal contact with members of both cathedrals and we have been able to share our concerns and our hopes with them as we all learned to live with the pandemic. As we have walked along the very difficult path which 2020 proved to be, we have lived and loved together and in the process, we have moved closer to one another and have learned to share our faith and our beliefs in a very meaningful way.

We had a virtual meeting with our friends in Rouen and we looked forward to having a similar meeting with members of the congregation in Bergen.

In 2020 the Unity Group comprised Canon Michael Rawson, Andrew Viner (Chair), Marlene Collins, Guy Rowston, George Martin, Frances Goodchild, Helen Shipley, Frances Hiller, John Beynon, and Odette Penwarden.

During the year, Marlene Collins retired from the Group after serving on it for many years. Marlene was always a great supporter of, and contributor to, the work of the Group and to its role in furthering ecumenism. She was also most generous in her contributions of cakes and other refreshments at our meetings and in providing hospitality at events hosted by the Unity Group. We are very grateful to Marlene for all that she has done for which we say an enormous 'Thank you'. Marlene, we will miss you.

# The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie

by Filiz Scott, Headteacher

2020 has been a year that seen our school community pull together and find the positives, even when we cannot always be together in the same building.

Here are some of the successes of the school year so far:

### Staff Re-dedication Service

Father Michael led a service for all staff in the Retrochoir during one of the September INSET days. At the service staff asked God to renew and strengthen them for the year.

Everyone joined together in saying,

“Loving God,  
We commit ourselves to our school  
and to the children entrusted to our care.  
Enrich us by your grace  
and grant us your Spirit of service  
so that we may undertake the task set before us.”

This service stood us in good stead for the academic year ahead!

### Christmas

Christmas in a primary school is always a very bright and cheerful time of year and Christmas 2020 was no different. Each year group sang a Christmas carol which was recorded and shared with parents. Year 5 performed the Christmas play, *Mary, Mary* and Reception performed *The First Nativity*. We were so proud of the children; the videos were wonderful and really helped everybody to feel Christmassy. Every year group also decorated their classroom doors and windows with beautiful displays which linked to their chosen carol.

This is what one parent said about the Christmas videos:

‘This year, more than ever, these are appreciated perhaps more than you know and particularly precious to the family when they cannot be with and hold their grandchildren and great grand-children this year.’

Usually we have a Christmas Fair, organised by the Friends of Cathedral School fundraising group. This year the group used some of their funds to very kindly give back to the school community by paying for every class to watch a Christmas film, complete with snacks and a drink. This was very popular and a highlight for many children who really enjoyed sharing this special event with their friends in class.

## Online Learning

The staff, pupils and parents had to adapt so quickly to online learning, it has been incredible to see everyone's hard work and dedication to making sure all children could learn online. Teachers set work for children on a daily basis using home learning websites. Here is some feedback from the first lockdown.

'I wanted to hyper super thank all School staff to the effort in teaching remotely our kids! It is pretty useful for us, working parents, as beside of keeping them updated in their academic skills, also keep their mind busy in these difficult times. No words to describe how grateful we are! Please extend our thanks to all of you!'

'This is just a quick note to say thank you so much for all the effort that you are putting each day in the lessons that you are sending to us.

We have been working hard with the lessons, I am very happy with the results and also the kids are enjoying home schooling. The lessons are all very well prepared and that makes a huge difference for me (and I am sure for all the parents).'

As a school we listened to feedback and during the second school closure we extended our online offer to include daily explainer videos made by teachers to talk pupils through the work set for them each day. We also introduced regular online lessons in small groups, with a focus on improving writing; this was identified as an area some pupils found challenging when working remotely. Children enjoyed seeing their teacher and catching up with their friends during these sessions. We also produced learning packs for children, containing all the worksheets and work books pupils would need. We were so grateful to staff and governors, including Father Michael and Father David who helped deliver packs to each family.

One parent said: 'Thanks so much to the leadership and support teams and teachers, that we actually got a HAND DELIVERED school pack to our door. I'm nearly speechless (actually... I am never speechless) at the extra mile you've gone for this Lockdown 2.1.'

Families who did not have access to a laptop or tablet benefitted from the Government scheme which lent laptops to children who needed one.

## World Book Day

This year we celebrated World Book Day online. Children were invited to dress as their favourite character for the day and send in photos of themselves. Staff were videoed reading their favourite books for the children to enjoy with their families and collective worship was also linked, with a focus on the Bible.

## Year 6 Leavers' Service July 2020

Many thanks to Father Michael and Father David for organising a very special and intimate Leavers' Service for Year 6 pupils and parents in July 2020. Although the whole school could not be there, we managed to give the class a good send off, hearing their memories of Cathedral School, prayers and reflections on readings from Deuteronomy and Romans. The children were also treated to the theme from *Star Wars* being played on the organ which definitely raised a smile or two!

## Collective Worship Blog

Collective worship has always been a strength of the school; it is a chance to come together as a whole school at the beginning of each day to pray, sing, worship and give thanks. Since March 2020 daily acts of collective worship have been added to the collective worship blog by senior members of staff. This has been used by families when children were learning at home and in classrooms when school has been open. In the summer term the school had a focus on inclusion and celebrating what makes us special, as part of this we looked at the prayer that Father Andrew wrote (see page 23).

Members of the clergy from Southwark Cathedral have always visited school on a weekly basis to lead our worship. This year they contributed to the collective worship blog instead. The children have really enjoyed finding out more about the clergy through themes such as 'favourite prayers' and 'what brings me joy'.

Collective worship is also a chance for us to re-visit our school values: joy, goodness, peace, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness, self-control and love and reflect on how we can embody them. Our school values are known as the 'Fruit of the Spirit' and are particularly remembered when people think of 'God in Action'. It is God in action in our lives which helps to produce these fruits.

I hope this report gives you a flavour of a year in the life of Cathedral Primary School. As ever, it is an absolute privilege to work with such a dedicated staff and governing body who always have the learning and well-being of the children at the heart of their actions. The parent community have been wonderful and we also very much value to the support of the Southwark Cathedral community this year.



# Southwark & Newington Lancelot Andrewes Deanery Synod

by Amanda Adamson-Hill

## **Deanery Synod activity has been limited this year, in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic although Deanery activity has continued between clerical colleagues in Deanery Chapter.**

A new group of Cathedral Deanery Synod elected representatives were elected at the APCM in September 2020 and comprise:

John Beynon, Andrew Heaton, Amanda Adamson-Hill, Linda Ridgers-Waite, Guy Rowston and Mark Spencer-Charlton.

Canon Michael Rawson represents the clergy.

Our Area Dean is now Fr Jonathan Sedgwick of St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

Deanery Synod met in late 2020 to adopt the new Diocesan Deanery Synod model rules and will be meeting in March with Canon Jay to discuss the challenges that we have all faced during the pandemic, how our activity might change in light of the experience and think about our various priorities for 2021 and beyond.

# The Mothers' Union Cathedral and St Hugh's Branch

by Mary O'Neill, MU Branch Secretary

**As we sat down to reflect on 2020, it was surprising that despite the many months of closure the Mothers Union (MU) group was able to achieve as much as we did.**

In our MU community, Elisabeth Dunman and her husband celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, flowers and a card were sent to the happy couple. Mary O'Neill welcomed her first grandchild, Violet, born in September. Heather Smith started off the year with a spell in hospital which tested her with the prospect of staying off her feet. No mean feat as those of you who know her will understand. Not to be outdone, Heather later in the year announced her engagement to Augustus with a potential wedding in 2021. Congratulations Heather and Augustus, we look forward to the event in due course. Iris Mqotsi was hospitalised for a short time in November but thankfully able to return home in early December. Thanks be to God for her swift recovery.

The Branch AGM held in February was chaired by Canon Gilly Myers and this gave members a chance to wish her well for the future. Later in March at her final Choral Eucharist, Canon Gilly was presented with leaving gifts and a card from the MU Branch in appreciation of her support over the years.

The only regular meeting of the branch took place in late February just before lockdown was imposed. This meant, of course, that our usual fundraising cake sales were cancelled this year.

With the onset of lockdown, advice from the Diocesan MU Secretary advised us that:

'All 4th Wednesday Monthly MU Prayers in the Harvard Chapel would be cancelled until further notice. In the meantime, we should not stop our communal Midday Prayers and that we should designate 12 noon on the fourth Wednesday of every month for a time for all Southwark members to be "united in prayer" if not in practical outreach. Liz Pullen has offered to write a short service each month until further notice which Anne can circulate to branch leaders, who can in turn send round to their members.'

On Mothering Sunday, with churches closed, *Songs of Praise* was broadcast on BBC One at 1.15 pm. Katherine Jenkins joined members of the Mothers' Union at Worthing Hospital to hear about their work providing emergency maternity bags for new mums, and she then found out about the history of this Christian organisation with its four million members worldwide. Members were advised to watch this programme or record it to watch later. A chance to see how the work of the MU can help communities and celebrate our union.

Thanks to a break in the lockdown, during September we were able to celebrate the Annual Wave of Prayer. A socially distanced meeting was held in the Queen Elizabeth room praying for International Dioceses and attended by, amongst others, Comfort Idowu-Fearon, Diocesan President and the Woolwich Vice Chair Jennifer Davies.

Wider community and Diocesan meetings were mainly held online. Members were encouraged to join in where possible. Heather and Ada went to the March Diocesan Council meeting in person. Heather joined the Diocesan MU AGM in July and a November Branch Leaders' Meeting via Zoom.

In October Jennifer Davis, one of our Woolwich Area Vice Presidents, had asked Heather about booking a space for a 'special' Trustees meeting. Rose Harding, Cathedral staff, organised the Queen Elizabeth Room for Jennifer and her group, suitably distanced.

In October the MU Festival Service, held on Zoom, was led by Bishop Christopher. Bishop Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth, the proposed preacher, could not be present at the service, so a copy of his sermon was read by the Most Rev Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Comfort's husband.

The MU Advent Service, again held via Zoom, took place at St Bartholomew, Horley. The Archdeacon of Reigate, the Venerable Moira Astin preached, and the Revd Esther Foss, the MU Chaplain, led the Intercessions. Heather did a reading – Revelation 20. 1–7.

The MU Annual Retreat had had to be cancelled but Caroline Welby, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury kindly offered to lead a Retreat on Zoom on what would have been the final day of the Retreat.

A letter regarding a 'Families Worldwide' appeal from MU Staff at Mary Sumner House was circulated by the Diocesan President, Mrs Comfort Idowu-Fearon, emphasizing the current financial crisis facing our organisation. Members were asked to support and duly did so.

Comfort encouraged members to continue to uphold each other in prayer and keep in touch with each other during this pandemic, to continue to stay strong and not to be defeated by the Coronavirus.

The Cathedral and St Hugh's MU Branch are very grateful for the support given via emails from Anne Love and the Diocesan team throughout this pandemic. They have been particularly helpful and informative, especially when meeting together either socially or for the business of the Association in both the Diocesan and Branch context, has hardly been possible. We have had to rely on social media and online access for much of our worship, and Zoom for meetings. We are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to do so.

May God bless you all as you read this and please see any of our members if you are interested in joining our branch.

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