

FRIENDS NEWS



SUMMER 2021 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



FROM THE CHAIR

Clare Johnson

A positive thing to have come out of the lockdown in my opinion has been the online broadcasting of talks and lectures by authors, experts and venerable institutions – including Southwark Cathedral – for all to enjoy. This year I've attended book launches, academic lectures, talks, exhibition previews, plays and of course Cathedral events, all without leaving the house. Highlights have included the Dean's talk with Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, in April and also the programme of talks that our own Guy Rowston has kindly been giving for the Friends. Guy has led three virtual walks around London for us – through Westminster, Camden and the Strand – and has treated us to illustrated talks on the hidden treasures of Southwark Cathedral, as well as its stained glass and monuments. Guy's final virtual walk in the series is on 10th July when he will be leading us along 'The Street of Shame'. Tickets are £5 and you can buy them online or email/call Kate Dean. Thank you to Guy, and also to all the Friends who have supported us by attending.

Coming up, we are hoping to begin our practice walks for the pilgrimage to Canterbury (see enclosed booklet) and we are planning a group trip to the Thomas Becket: Murder and the Making of a Saint exhibition at the British Museum (for how to register your interest message Kate in the office). Finally, we have made it simple to join the Friends online so please do let your friends know if they're interested in joining us.

CATHEDRAL RE-OPENING

The Cathedral is slowly reopening and now you're able to visit without the restriction of only visiting for private prayer or to attend a service. The shop and café are open each day and Friends receive a discount of 10% on purchases. Please use the voucher within this newsletter to show in the shop or café when you pay.

Café opening hours

Daily 10am to 5pm in the café. In addition there is a 'pop-up' café in the churchyard at the weekend (weather dependent)

Shop opening hours

Monday – Saturday 11am to 4pm
Sunday - 11am to 3pm

Friends Voucher

To request your 10% discount in the café or shop please cut out and use the voucher on page 4.

DEAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Each year the Dean writes an annual report which is available to read on the website. If you would like a hard copy please contact the office on 020 7367 6724 or send a stamped addressed envelope and we will send you a copy

FAREWELL

Bridget Abbott says goodbye after 29 years as Cathedral Secretary

The Cathedral office is always busy with a diverse range of tasks taking place keeping the Cathedral open. This month Bridget Abbott says goodbye after 29 years. She has been working in the Cathedral office as Cathedral Secretary and is one of the longest standing, serving members of staff.

Bridget writes:

“After nearly 29 very happy years working at Southwark Cathedral, the Covid pandemic has helped me decide it’s time to retire and concentrate more on family and making sure I start on my ‘to do’ list.”

“I came one evening to help my friend Leah (Cathedral cleaner and tea lady) wash up after an event at the Cathedral. I have to say I’d never heard of the Cathedral and didn’t have a clue where it was! That was a start of many washing up evenings with Patrick and Margaret Stables always taking us home. I met the Office Girls - Liz and Kate and once they knew I could type I joined them in the office a few hours a week. And that’s how it all started. Kate is still a great friend to me.”

“David Edwards, Roy White, Paul Timms and his brilliant Vergers. Garry Swinton, Peter Wright, our lovely John Trevor Williams, Eric Tucker and Roger Royle stand out as my first working memories. Jo Churchill was Secretary of the Friends and Mavis Fabling helped her keep everything organised. So, with the Cathedral family being so welcoming, it was an easy decision to stay.”

“There’s many many stories I could tell of things which have happened over the years but I’ll save them for another day or maybe even a book, if ever I get time.

What has always been clear over the years is just how important The Friends are to the life of the Cathedral from Jo, Sarah King, Kate and of course yourselves. You should all be proud of how well you look after our beautiful Cathedral and now I’m leaving the Cathedral as a working environment I have asked Kate if I can join you too.”

“So, looking forward to getting to know you all”

We wish Bridget a wonderful retirement and look forward to welcoming her back to a Friends event very soon.

FRIENDS EVENTS



Virtual walk

Online illustrated virtual walk with Guy Rowston – Saturday 10 July at 11am
This month we follow the road that leads from Charing Cross to Blackfriars, in company with Dr Johnson, Rumpole of the Bailey and Marje Proops. We learn of the early days of printing, London’s oldest pub, the other Hodge, a riverside theatre, a royal

palace and a notorious women's prison. For tickets: <https://thestreetofshame.eventbrite.co.uk> The Zoom link to join this walk will be sent a couple of days before the event.

Programme of walks

Last year we hoped to make a pilgrimage from Southwark to Canterbury Cathedral to mark Becket 2020. Sadly events overtook us and we were not able to undertake the walk. Instead, this year, we have planned a series of interesting walks in anticipation of making the pilgrimage from Southwark in stages from January to September. The enclosed booklet should give you all the information you need and also includes links to book.



Annual General Meeting

The Friends Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 19 June at the Cathedral and via Zoom. You will need to book to attend in either mode as there are limited 'in-person' places. The meeting starts at 2.30pm. If you are wishing to join us online the Zoom link will be sent out on Thursday prior to the meeting.

Quiz Night – Friday 1 October

Booking information will be in the next edition of the newsletter but why don't you start organising your team now.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tessa Bartley

There has been an extraordinary international response online to content shared by Southwark and other cathedrals on social channels during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral are looking to build our own reach across social media and will be publishing a series of members' profiles to promote our work and to encourage more supporters to join our community, ultimately supporting the maintenance, repair and beautification of the cathedral. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and share our posts on your own channels to help us reach a wider audience. If you would like to submit your profile to be shared on social media, please contact Kate Dean. @S_warkFriends

KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact Kate by phone: 020 7367 6724
by email: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org
by post: Friends Office, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

Follow us on facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Please email the office if you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

FRIENDS VOUCHER

10% OFF

in the Shop and Café