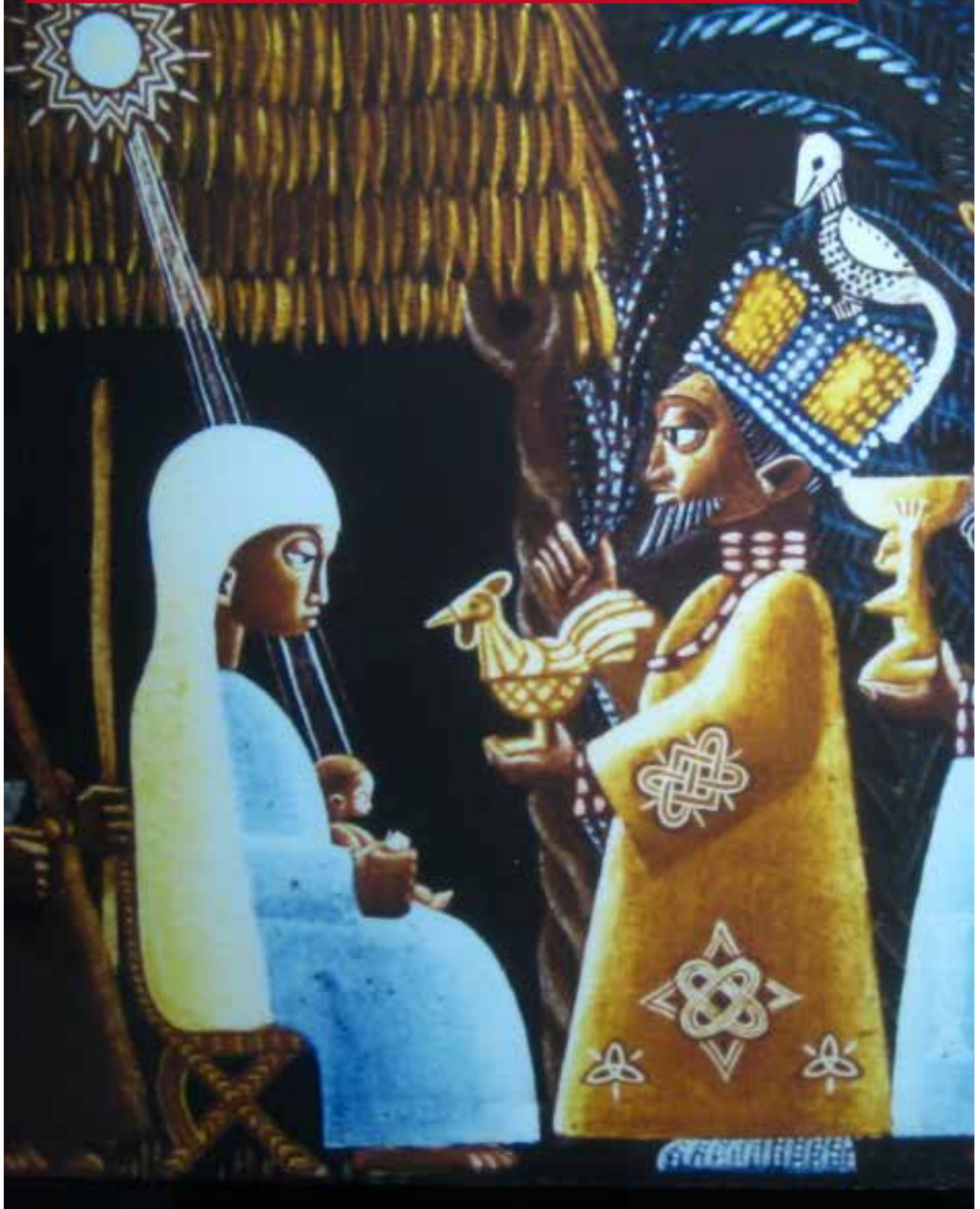


FRIENDS NEWS



WINTER 2021 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



A SIGN OF HOPE

Bishop Christopher

This year we are approaching Christmas in a way that is almost a return to normal. Although the challenges of the pandemic remain, the Cathedral has planned a full programme of services. There will be carolling and joy and, after all the preparations of Advent, the Christ-child will be born anew for us as we encounter him in the first Eucharist of Christmas. To prepare in this way is, in many ways, an act of faith. For none of us knows whether the arrangements we make will need to change, or whether what we plan will be cancelled. We are fragile parts of a fragile ecosystem—contingent—dependent on so many things. Yet each of us has the capacity for growth and for maturity, for hope and for fulfilment of hope. And so we prepare in faith for what God has in store.

There can hardly have been less propitious births than Christ's. Even his mother's journey to the place of birth was fraught. But there he lay—there he lies—the exemplar of contingency, dependent on his blessed mother for food, on a stranger for a cot, on God for his humanity. This was the moment of which prophets sang, and for which they longed. This tiny child, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory for God's people Israel, this tiny child is God incarnate—a true sign of hope.

The Christ-child is a sign of hope because in Christ God says, 'it will not always be this way'. Instead God says, 'Behold I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?' In Christ all things will conform eventually to their

purpose in God because the unchanging God took our changeable humanity and moved us firmly into the stability of the Divine life by submitting himself to the changes and chances of this fleeting world: a mother for food, a stranger for a cot. This Advent and Christmas I invite you to join the Dean and Chapter on the journey to the manger—a journey of faith, a journey of hope. A journey in which we encounter the source of our fulfilment and subsequent maturity.

I am grateful, as we approach the end of the year, to the Dean and Chapter, and the wider Cathedral family, for sustaining the Mother Church of our Diocese through the challenges of what has almost been two years of Covid. Their faith and hope and resilience and professionalism have ensured that Southwark Cathedral enters 2022 in good heart and robust shape. The Friends have played their part, too, and I express my thanks to you all for holding faith with the Cathedral in prayer and generosity.

May God bless you and those you love with peace and joy this Christmas and through coming year. And may your encounter with the Christ-child teach us how dependent we are on each other, and lead us into growth and maturity, into hope and the fulfilment of that hope, as we learn what God has prepared for those who love him.

+Christopher

CHRISTMAS SHOP

A new venture for the Cathedral

From Tuesday 9 November until Christmas Eve the Queen Elizabeth room at the Cathedral will be transformed into a Christmas shop.

With a number of new festive items for sale including sustainable and recycled decorations and candles, Fair-trade gifts, cards, calendars, books and of course Hodge the Cathedral cat merchandise. Show your support to the Cathedral shop as they continue to recover from the past 18 months with this new venture.

Friends can enjoy a 15% discount in both shops all day on Advent Sunday. On other days in the run up to Christmas you will be able to attract a 10% discount with no minimum spend. Voucher on page 4.

BREAD AHEAD BAKERY

at Southwark Cathedral Cafe

Opening Times 8.30am - 6pm daily

Treat yourself to breakfast, lunch or tea at our cafe which is run by award-winning local bakers Bread Ahead.

Serving breakfast, lunch and high tea, with a seasonal menu which highlights the very best of British produce. A selection of traditional breakfast dishes all freshly made on site which includes the Bread Ahead bacon sandwich and poached eggs and smashed avocado on freshly baked sourdough among other items.

Freshly baked patisserie, including Bread Ahead's signature doughnuts and cinnamon buns take centre stage in the late morning. Salads, soups made from locally sourced vegetables, and light sandwiches may be selected for lunch, ahead of a high tea which is served in the afternoon.

A curated list of wines and beers, as well as hot and cold drinks are on offer throughout the day.

You are able to enjoy a 10% discount in the café when producing the voucher on page 4.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Advent Tea

Sunday 28 November, 5pm

Join Friends for tea before the Advent Carol Service and we will reserve your seat for the Service.

Tickets: £9.50 - Friends £10 – Guests

To book contact Kate in the office
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org or
 telephone 020 7367 6724

Christmas Soiree at the Deanery

Monday 20 December, 7pm – 9pm

Last year our soiree was on Zoom but this Christmas we return to the Deanery for a glass of something fizzy and delicious, some light nibbles and carol singing. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Tickets: £25 – Friends £27.50 – Guests

To book contact Kate in the office
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org or
 telephone 020 7367 6724

Hogarth's London:

moral tales of immoral doings.
An illustrated lecture with Guy Rowston
Saturday 5 February, 11am

William Hogarth drew a series of moral and spiritual narratives which are clearly set in London, whether the fashionable west end, the City or the squalid east end. So immerse yourself in the salons and back streets of Georgian London and meet its colourful and venal inhabitants.

Returning to our format of joining together for coffee from 10.50am and serving a light lunch after the lecture.

Tickets: £9.50 including lunch

To book contact Kate in the office
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org or
telephone 0207 367 6724

PROGRAMME OF WALKS

Our programme of walks is progressing well and we have enjoyed some lovely days together exploring the River Thames pathway, the Kent coastline and hidden gems of the countryside. In January we begin the pilgrimage to Canterbury and we hope you will join us at some point. The illustrated

booklet giving full details for the walks was included in your last newsletter and can be found on the Cathedral website. If you would like another hard copy please let us know.

DIARY DATES 2022

Trip to Coventry Cathedral

28 May

The Friends will be taking a trip to Coventry Cathedral. We will meet at the railway station in Coventry to enable people to travel as they wish. Further details in the next newsletter

AGM and Summer Party

Saturday 18 June

The Friends Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 18 June at the Cathedral after Choral Evensong. After the business meeting there will be a party in the churchyard to celebrate the Friends

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

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

FRIENDS VOUCHER

15% OFF

in the Shop **10%** all other days
Advent Sunday until 24 December 2021

FRIENDS VOUCHER

10% OFF

in the *Bread Ahead Cafe*