

FRIENDS NEWS



SPRING 2022 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



A GOOD FIT

From the Succentor
The Reverend Thomas Sharp TSSF SCP

Arriving in any new job is a strange experience, but arriving at a cathedral and a parish church at the same time is a double blessing. My ministry as Succentor at the cathedral, working with Canon Andrew in the Precentor's office, will be balanced by my time as minister-in-charge at St Hugh's, and I hope I can be a bridge between our two communities, which really are one community.

This time, after which (in God's grace) we have experienced the worst of the pandemic, is an opportunity to experience a renewal of life, and to take hold of fresh resolve and purpose as we seek to live faithfully and fully where we find ourselves. I hope in my work in the Precentor's office and with the congregation at St Hugh's we experience some of that renewal over the coming years. I am a Franciscan through and through, and enjoying the goodness of God and living in both joy and peace is very much a part of that spiritual inheritance. For Franciscans, solidarity in hardship, and sharing in celebration go hand in hand. Wherever our Lord leads us, we trust in His goodness and rest in His peace.

In this sense, I think that this community and I will be a good fit for each other! I have already been bowled over by the generosity of your welcome, and I look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming months.

BUSY AGAIN

From the Chair
Clare Johnson

It's good to be busy again this spring and we have lots to look forward to as Friends. A group of us have already begun our 'piecemeal pilgrimage' to Canterbury – postponed twice since 2020 and now taking place in 'legs' every third Saturday of the month. We set off from the Cathedral on January 15th, with our pilgrim blessing given by Canon Andrew Zihni, and ended the day with a last look back at London from the crest of Shooter's Hill.



In February we walked from Shooter's Hill to Erith, and in March we follow the river to Dartford. Our April walk is on Holy Saturday, April 16th, when we will be walking from Dartford to Otford. Start and end points are accessible by train so do join us if you can for an Easter outing. Walks are suitable for the family, as my 9-year-old will attest, but do get in touch with the office if you have any concerns.

You will know that Southwark Cathedral is now a member of the Community of the Cross

of Nails and on 28th May we deepen that connection with a trip to Coventry Cathedral. We'll have a tour and the opportunity to attend the Litany of Reconciliation at noon. In the afternoon we will be visiting the Peace & Reconciliation gallery at the nearby Herbert Museum to find out more about the art created for the cathedral that rose from the ashes. We hope you will be able to join us. We're planning a Friends trip to Dresden next year, world peace permitting, and this visit will lay some foundations for that journey together.

On 11th June for Open Garden Squares weekend we have a pop-up café at the Deanery. If you're able to lend a hand or offer a cake to sell we would be most grateful. Please contact the office.

Finally, we hope you will join us at our AGM and summer party on 9th July. Please put it in your diaries. I look forward to seeing you.

PROMOTING THE FRIENDS

We've been using various forms of social media to highlight people who are members of the Friends and why they joined. We know some of our Friends don't use this form of communication and may not have been able to see some of the features on members. If you would like to feature in our posts please let us know a little bit about why you decided to join the Friends and we'll share your story with our online community.

Here's a little snapshot from three of our members and we'll have more in the next newsletter. Let us have your story too!

For Gareth Eve the decision came to join when he left London to live in beautiful Kendal, Cumbria. "The Cathedral is a very welcoming and spiritual place with such a long and rich Christian history.... As a Friend of Southwark Cathedral I am able to keep in touch with the Cathedral and the Cathedral community and feel involved with the congregation although not at the Services." "you do a wonderful job in maintaining the contact and it has been a great help to me over the years".

Charles is a Londoner and worked close to the Cathedral. "I very much enjoyed walking down Borough High Street towards London Bridge and calling in at the Cathedral for some quiet prayer and reflection". He continues "We still live in London, so can support The Friends both practically and financially, but we would recommend anyone - even those for whom visiting London is not easy - to join The Friends. You will feel a sense of belonging and will have the knowledge that your contribution is greatly valued."



Sarah and Richard became aware of the Friends when their sons were Choristers. When their second son's voice changed and they were no longer 'Cathedral Choir Parents' they sought new ways of supporting the

Cathedral they had come to know and love. Joining the Friends was one opportunity. "As Christians we know 'the Church' is really 'the people'. Nevertheless we value the Cathedral building itself immensely. Those who have gone before us took such care to create this magnificent, holy place. So being part of the custodianship of the fabric is important to us. We know, too, that for the many non-Christians who visit Southwark Cathedral, the beauty and peace of the actual building is what they seek."

Friends of Southwark Cathedral Trustees
As you know the Friends is a registered charitable incorporated organisation. The Trustees of the charity meet four times a year to oversee the management of the organisation and consider grant applications made by the Cathedral, ensuring grants given meet the criteria as defined in the constitution. Our Trustees serve a term of office and it follows that after this period has passed we need to appoint new Trustees to take their place. If you would like to consider becoming a Trustee please let Kate know and she will let you have the job description and answer any questions you may like to ask.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Walks

At last we have been able to begin the pilgrimage to Canterbury nearly two years after we originally intended to undertake this pilgrimage. Setting off from Southwark Cathedral in January and (at the time of writing) we have completed stages one and two.

To send us on our way we came together in the Cathedral for a Pilgrim's Blessing in mid-January. A group of 27 walked to The Bull at Shooters Hill and arrived in good heart. In February we gathered again at The Bull and set off, in fairly grim weather, for Erith. Lots of chatting and encouragement as we walked along tackling fallen trees which had been blown over the previous day in the high winds courtesy of Storm Eunice.



The illustrated booklet giving full details for the walks was included in your newsletter last year and can be found on the Cathedral website. If you would like another hard copy please let us know. Our next walk is from Dartford to Otford on Holy Saturday (16th April). We then walk on the 3rd Saturday of each month until September when we arrive in Canterbury. Please do book your tickets either on Eventbrite or contact the office. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will join us.

Trip to Coventry

Saturday 28 May

As mentioned by our chair at the beginning of the newsletter we are taking a trip to Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 28 May. We will meet outside the main entrance of Coventry Cathedral at 10.50am so people can

take advantage of making their own travel arrangements and any discounts available to them. We have a guided tour booked at 11.00 after which we will join the Liturgy of Reconciliation at midday.

After lunch there will be an opportunity to explore Coventry and a group will take an unguided visit to the Museum to further explore the theme of reconciliation. We plan to have tea together after Evening Prayer at 4pm before we begin our journey home.

Tickets to include the guided tour of the Cathedral and tea and cake in the afternoon will be £17.50

Open Garden Squares Weekend

Saturday 11 June



Having missed a few years we are very happy to return to the Deanery on 11 June and run a pop up café for the Open Garden Squares Weekend. We will need volunteers to help serve refreshments and chat about the Friends to folk as they pass. Please let the office know if you would be able to help for a slot between 10.30 and 4pm

Annual General Meeting and Friends Summer Party

Saturday 9 July **** Change of date

The format for our AGM is new this year. We will meet for Choral Evensong sung by Coro42 at 4pm. All the details of the choir and music for the Service are below.

The business meeting will be held in the Cathedral Nave after the Service. Once we have heard from the Dean about all that is happening at the Cathedral we will move into the churchyard for a Summer Party with drinks and light goodies to eat. We do hope you will join us. Tickets for the party will be £12.50 (Friends and £14 for guests) and you can book your ticket using the booking form attached, via Eventbrite or by sending an email to the office.

Choir for Choral Evensong at the Annual General Meeting

Coro42 is a small chamber choir made up of friends from Hertford College Choir, Oxford and the conducting training charity Sing for Pleasure. The choir sings evensong regularly at Churches and Cathedrals around the South East (recently in Charterhouse Chapel, London, and Worcester College, Oxford), and aims to sing a diverse selection of music, including music by women composers at every sung service. The choir is conducted by Nick Graham, Director of Girl Choristers at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

The music for the service will be:

Responses: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Psalm: 84 Edward Bairstow

Canticles: Francis Jackson in G

Anthem: Pange lingua Katy Lavinia Cooper

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Quiz Night

4 November

BOOKINGS

You can send an email to the office to reserve tickets for our events, we will then forward you bank details to transfer payment following receipt of which an email confirmation will be sent.

Alternatively you can use the booking form in this newsletter. Send it to the office including a cheque (made payable to The Friends of Southwark Cathedral).

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.

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FRIENDS VOUCHER

10% OFF

in the Shop until 30 June 2022

BOOKING FORM

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Name

.....
Postal address

.....
Postcode

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Telephone Number

28 May

Number required

Trip to Coventry Cathedral

Ticket price £17.50

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9 July

Summer Party

Ticket Price £12.50 (Friends) £14 (Guests)

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Please include a stamped addressed envelope
for us to send tickets to you

