

# SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆



## The Dean's Annual Report 2022

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# The Dean's Report

by the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean

Sixty years ago, in 1962, viewers of the BBC could sit down and watch a brand new satirical show that highlighted and lampooned current events. There was plenty for them to get their teeth into, not least the Profumo affair which was gripping the nation. The show was of course *That Was The Week That Was*, 'TW3' as it became affectionately known. In fact, the show only ran for two seasons but managed to enter into public consciousness and social history. Well, as it I sit down to review the year 2021, I want to say "That was the year that was".

To be honest I am finding it hard to remember when things actually happened. What happened back in 2019 when life was normal, what happened in 2020 when we experienced the first lockdown, what then happened in 2021 when we seemed to be in and out of restrictions as the Coronavirus developed in a variety of ways and we had to respond?

So this is helping me to get a bit of a fix on the year that was. Writing the report is a task that I have done for quite a few years by coming back to my *alma mater*, the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. It gives me the opportunity to see what life is like in the college and to catch up with some of the students – Molly Budd, a former verger, is here at the moment in her final year of formation for priesthood – and to see something of the Community alongside whom the College lives. For the last two years this annual visit has not been possible. It is amazing, however, that as one enters back into places and situations it can feel that nothing has changed and that the last two years never existed, as though somehow we had slept through them, like a princess in a tower waiting to be awoken with a kiss. Except almost everything has changed, even in a place like a monastic community and even more so in a place like Southwark Cathedral, set as we are in the heart of a vibrant and ever-changing situation.

Therefore I am just going to track through the year, to remember, to celebrate and perhaps to mourn just a little, just a few.

At the Easter Vigil as the Paschal Candle is blessed the celebrant says this

Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and for ever.  
Amen.

It is a powerful statement about God's sovereignty over time, over the week that was, over the year that was, over our yesterday, our today and tomorrow. It is this truth that enables me to face the past, the present and the future with equal confidence and faith.

We therefore began January having had a rather difficult Christmas. The virus was raging all around us and although we had been able to have something of a Christmas celebration in the Cathedral with limited numbers, but with families restricted in what they could do at home, it was inevitable that we would enter into another lockdown.

This would not be the same as the first one, however. We were allowed access to the Cathedral and we had learnt that we could record and stream the liturgy and that there was a congregation out there who would join us. So as January began that was what we had to do. Each Friday the person presiding and the person preaching would come along to the Cathedral, the vergers would set up the tower space and the musicians along with the Lay Clerks would come. Mark Charlton has carried the responsibility for recording the services all the way through these past two years and when we could be back in the Cathedral to worship together, enabling the live-streaming to take place. We owe Mark a great debt of gratitude for the professionalism he has brought to the task. Mark knew nothing about any of this before the first lockdown but is a fast learner. We are grateful to Colin Head, with whom we work when we need a more complex recording or broadcast. He generously loaned us, free of charge, the first camera we had in the nave. He has kindly allowed us to use that for the last 18 months. We thank him and his company Ash Productions for this amazing gesture.

We always try to deal with expenditure as responsibly as we can. Toyin Tukasi, the Cathedral Accountant, supported by Marie Aké, and the Finance Committee under the chairmanship of Richard Cornwell, with the group of volunteer money counters, have kept a tight rein on expenditure over many years. This was necessary. When I became Dean in 2012 we were close to running out of cash. Matthew Knight, the Comptroller (of whom more will be said later in this report),

with Toyin and I, decided that we needed to have a culture of careful austerity to see us through. With the unfailing support of the Cathedral congregation and their generous giving which has persisted and even increased during the pandemic, the finances have been re-built and we are much more secure than we were a decade ago. Nevertheless, something of that careful culture has persisted, so we have only spent what we have needed to spend on the broadcasting hardware. We will now have to invest in it for the future.

The reality is that the Cathedral now has a very large online congregation. That has changed our life and will continue to do so. The Southwark 'way' of worshipping, preaching, believing, embracing is appreciated around the world and we have people from the USA, from Japan and closer to home, who are daily members of our online worshipping community. Consequently, the daily round of Morning Prayer and Night Prayer, and the Sunday Eucharist became the mainstay of many people's lives.

Particular thanks need to go to our musicians, Ian Keatley, Stephen Disley (Assistant Director of Music at the time) and Alex Knight (Organ Scholar at the time), for their willingness to broadcast. We are so well served by our Lay Clerks, the six men who sing with our choristers. The music they produced was a true offering of beauty and constantly enhanced our worship. It is only now that we are able to compensate them financially for their commitment to this task (as professionals they were all entitled to higher fees for broadcast services but they waived this right on behalf of the Cathedral) and we are delighted that we are now able to recognise this in fees as well as our praise for all that they have done.

One of the lovely features of this time for the clergy was the Sunday 'Chat to the Preacher' session that we held on Zoom following the broadcast of the Sunday Eucharist. People are very generous about our preaching and clergy are always grateful for a "nice sermon, vicar" comment at the end of a service. To be honest, however, we seldom get further than that. Therefore to have half an hour with a group of people willing to question what we said and help by taking the ideas further or by leading us on fresh paths was very exciting. It is a mark of the Cathedral congregation that there is a high level of theological and biblical literacy as well as people who are always willing to ask questions and think outside the box. We mustn't lose what we had during the lockdown – but how we do this is a question for us all.

While I am thinking about the lockdown liturgical life I want to thank my clergy colleagues and our Reader, Caroline Clifford, who have all played their part in continuing and developing what we do. Michael Rawson as Sub Dean and Canon Pastor; Leanne Roberts as Treasurer; Jay Colwill as Missioner and Wendy Robins as Chancellor are an amazing group of clergy. All are dedicated to their particular tasks, Leanne as Director of Ordinands, Jay as Missioner across the Diocese, Wendy looking after life-long learning of clergy and laity, as well as

the life of the Cathedral. Their skills are apparent to all and not least as we have reflected on the scripture reading each morning and led Night Prayer from our own homes. I don't think that the Cathedral clergy have ever been as well known as they are now. At times I have felt a little guilty as Mark and I began the pattern of daily prayers from the Deanery that my clergy colleagues then had to pick up, but they have done it with grace and enthusiasm.

We have become familiar with the sound of Jay's rabbit going mad in its cage during Night Prayer; with Wendy's cleared desk, olive wood carvings and flowers; with Leanne's apartment with tasteful decoration; with Michael's lovely statues and simple 'Scandi' taste. You have had to get used to the Deanery hall, to the crucifix given to me as a leaving gift from my curacy parish in Leeds and the constant vase of lilies. You have also had to get used to our homilies each morning and the glimpses that they afford into our back story.

The past master in this must be Canon Andrew Zihni who joined us at the end of January as our Canon Precentor. Canon Gilly Myers, the former Precentor, and the Revd Rachel Young, the Succentor, had both left the Cathedral just before the first lockdown in 2020. It was to be almost a year before we could appoint Gilly's successor and only now, as I write, that we have been able to appoint Rachel's. That meant I had to revert to looking after the liturgy as best I could – but to be honest with a rather restricted diet and very few 'special' events and services, that was not too difficult. It was clear in the autumn of 2020, however, that we needed to proceed with the appointment of a Precentor.

Andrew Zihni came to us with experience as Succentor at St George's Chapel, Windsor and latterly as Assistant DDO to Canon Leanne. In that job he had proved himself an able administrator and a discerning priest. At St George's he was a respected colleague and managed the liturgy there and the complexities of the situation with consummate professionalism and humour.

We have also learnt that Andrew is an amusing and profound preacher. We know a great deal about his school life, about his first parish in Sheffield Diocese, about his dog Bertie but also about his deep insights into faith and how we live that out to the glory of God. We have already learnt so much from him and while welcoming him once more to the community, look forward to all that is yet to come.

Andrew line manages all those involved in the liturgy: the musicians (who I have mentioned), as well as the vergers, Simon, Jamie and Rob, led by Paul. Many volunteers also fall under Andrew's care. In this he is ably assisted by Linda Ridgers-Waite who helps look after rotas. The serving team (led by Michael Lewis), the Readers and Intercessors, the Stewards (led by Odette Penwarden), all need thanking for the way they have managed to keep the liturgy moving forward in difficult times. Evelin Arweck, our Designer, working with Andrew and other members of the team, has looked after all the

printing and even the printing of the QR codes around the place. Our hope is that we can reduce the number of printed copies we produce as we all learn to read the orders of service on our devices – not to put Evelin out of a job but to help save the planet!

Andrew also works with Patricia Ellis and those who assist her with the flowers in the Cathedral and make the space even more beautiful. Andrew has developed a great relationship with the Southwark Guild of Bellringers who are led by Luke Camden. For a long time only three, then six ringers could be in the Ringing Chamber. Now they can all climb the tower and ring for us and what a joy it is to hear them calling us to prayer and worship.

Other volunteers are cared for by Canon Michael: the Day Chaplains and Welcomers who look after our visitors and the Broderers, the team of expert women (they are all women but don't need to be) who look after the fabrics and make wonderful new vestments and restore some of the more ancient ones. Mary Howell must be thanked for her leadership. It is great that they are now back at the Cathedral stitching away for us.

As part of his responsibilities Andrew has taken on the role of Chapter lead on Safeguarding. This is an enormously important task as you will all understand. The task was previously carried out by Matthew Knight in his role as Comptroller. As much of what we need to do in safeguarding terms pertains to the Song School and the liturgy, it was felt that it rightly belonged with the Precentor. Andrew is ably supported by a team of three volunteer Cathedral Safeguarding Officers: Cherry James, Helen Quintrell and Jill Tilley. Helen and Jill have both been trained to be trainers. This means that we can deliver in-house safeguarding training tailored to the particular needs of the Cathedral. Our rolling programme of safeguarding training continues.

Canon Andrew must also oversee the implementation of all that came out of the SCIE Safeguarding Audit which was completed just before the first lockdown. We have also gone through past case reviews and in this have been supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Pamela Chisholm who took over from Hugh Constant in 2021. Being a safe church is the responsibility of us all, not just those whose names I have mentioned. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to one of them or one of the clergy. As a church community that prides itself on inclusion we need to ensure the safety of each other and especially of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers – and remember that at any stage that might include you.

In all these things and more besides, Michael and Andrew are looked after administratively by Zanna Bloomfield who moved from supporting the Music Department to the Pastoral and Liturgical teams.

February arrived with restrictions still in place but there was work that had to move on. One of the important tasks that initially I was involved with that



has had (and will continue to have), enormous implications for the life of our Cathedral and all cathedrals is the new Cathedrals Measure. At the beginning of the year this was moving through its various synodical and legislative stages. In February I had the new and exciting (though scary) experience of having to go before the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament. This committee is made up of members of both Houses who are members of the Church of England and who have a concern for the life of the church. As the Established Church our legislation has to pass through various stages, not just in the chamber at Church House but across the road in the Palace of Westminster. The Ecclesiastical Committee scrutinises what is coming forward seeking approval. As the Chair of the Revision Committee for the draft Measure, I had to go with some others to answer questions. What transpired was encouraging as so many members of the Committee expressed their praise and admiration for all that was happening in the cathedrals.

The Synod's life had been extended by a year because of Covid but that meant that it would cease to exist after July. So the Measure needed to clear all its stages by then. I am delighted to say that is what's happened. The consequence of that, however, was that the Chapter with the Cathedral Council would need to do a great deal of work to register with the Charity Commission. A new Constitution and Statutes would be required as well as the completion of a Due Diligence questionnaire and the preparation of revised policies on most aspects of our life.

We are very fortunate that the Cathedral Council which, under the previous Measure, shares in the Governance of the Cathedral with the Chapter and the College of Canons, is chaired by Jennie Page. Jennie was a member of the Cathedrals Working Party that looked at the issues facing cathedrals which then led to the proposals for a new Measure. To have someone on the inside with such knowledge and experience is a blessing for Southwark. Jennie, with her usual enthusiasm, wanted us to be one of the first cathedrals to adopt the Measure. This in fact proved to be the case, as it was announced that Southwark would be in the first tranche of seven cathedrals to register.

As one of the first, and as the first cathedral with a parish to go through the process, this has presented particular challenges. I will be saying more about all this later on in this report but here I want to thank the members of the Chapter elected by the congregation: our Wardens Daniel Chumbley and Linda Hutchinson, and Chapter members Amanda Adamson-Hill and Helen Quintrell. We are also grateful for the contribution made by those appointed by the Bishop: Canon Joabe Cavalcanti and Peter Haddock. On the Council the congregation is represented by Eric Collins and Maggie Still, with the other members being Sir Cyril Chantler, Richard Cornwell, Canon Kim Hitch, Canon Roxanne Eversley, Jill Sandham and staff member Michelle Ford, all of

whom bring enormous skills and insight to our lives.

I had known for a while that our Comptroller (the Cathedral Administrator) Matthew Knight was planning on taking very early retirement. When he first told me, I tried to pretend this wasn't happening but then Matthew gave me his formal resignation and I could ignore it no longer! So in March we began the process of appointing his successor. It was a big and important task and so we engaged Thewlis Graham to work with us. One of the partners in this appointments company is Sarah Thewlis who happens to be married to Canon John Thewlis, a long time member of the College of Canons but now retired and so a Canon Emeritus. Sarah knew us so well and kindly and generously gave us huge support for the task, for which I am so grateful. Sarah helped us to think about what we were needing after Matthew's 16 years in the job. The Cathedral had changed enormously over those years. Matthew joined us when the late Colin Slee was Dean, the financial crash of 2008 was approaching and we were in a difficult financial position. When Colin died suddenly Matthew supported me as Acting Dean and then fully supported me when I became Dean. I am personally in his debt for this and for the care, the assiduous attention to detail and the common sense that he brought to every task. With Toyin Tukasi we had a great Senior Management Team but what would we need in the future?

We knew that the Cathedrals Measure would become a large item on our agenda and we knew that coming out of Covid would mean re-building much of the life of the Cathedral. What resulted was an interesting group of candidates for the job. The outstanding candidate, however, was Justine Horseman Sewell. Zoom interviews were held first of all for those on the long list and then we had 'in-person' interviews for those who made it onto the shortlist. Justine impressed us with her CV, professional skills and attitude and so it was she that we appointed. Justine had done a similar role at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and latterly had worked for Durham Cathedral. She has vast experience of many kinds of companies and institutions, however, and does so from the perspective of a lawyer. One sometimes hears God referred to as 'Jehovah Jireh' which means 'the Lord provides', something that was first said of God by Abraham when he was saved from sacrificing his son Isaac by the Lord's provision of a sacrifice. In the same way the prophet Isaiah says:

'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples' (Isaiah 25.6)

I am a great believer in the providing of our God. Justine is just what we needed at this point in our life: clear, hard-working, fiercely intelligent, a nettle grasper and courageous. She has worked with Cathedral Warden Daniel Chumbley (who is also a lawyer), on all that we need to do for the Cathedral Measure. She is a Godsend.

Justine kindly said that she would join us in June to facilitate a good handover with Matthew and that is what happened.

March also saw us preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Initially we didn't know if we would be back in the Cathedral (remember, we were still streaming services at this time). In order to make Lent special we decided to read through the Rule of St Benedict at Night Prayer each day. We did this using a book of reflections on the Rule written by Richard Frost. It was just the right thing to do as we were thinking about the rules by which we live as a Cathedral community to be taken deeper into how we live as any Christian community. Richard was to join us in May for a series of further reflections on living the Rule and we are grateful to him for taking the time to be with us.

Each year we like to have a good and engaging Holy Week preacher and we managed to secure a fantastic preacher for 2021 who we hoped to hear from, given the uncertainties of life. It was Paula Gooder, Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral and well known to many in the Diocese from the teaching she has delivered over the years. Fortunately, life was returned to something more like normality in preparation for Holy Week, we were able to have in-person services and Paula was able to come to deliver her series of sermons.

She chose to give voice to women included in the Passion narratives who are, in the main, voiceless, sometimes named, sometimes without even a name. She gave us their imagined back stories and they spoke to us as she gave them voice. Her addresses have subsequently been published as a book for this Holy Week called *Women of Holy Week*. It is a lovely book and each of the stories is a wonderful way of entering into scripture and the events of Holy Week. She also helped us in what is a vital part of our own life as a community: giving voice to the voiceless and honour to those who are so often dishonoured in the church and society, not least those from minority communities, and LGBTI+ groups.

Easter ended up being a wonderful celebration and it felt as though we had begun to emerge from something of a time of Passion ourselves into the new life promised in the Resurrection.

One of the features of the life of the Cathedral has been the long service given by a number of our staff. 2021 was therefore unsettling for many of us when a number of familiar faces left. In a relatively small staff team this can be upsetting for people, whereas in larger organisations the coming and going of staff is a much more familiar experience. The departures began in April with a member of staff who had in fact not been with us for long. Emma Allen was appointed in 2019 as our first Commercial Director. Emma came to us from the Postal Museum and was tasked with developing the work of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises. That is the commercial trading side of our life and looks after the management of such things as the shop, the café, the conference rooms, special events and some aspects of visitor engagement. She came with

lots of ideas but then Covid intervened and most of our commercial activities came to a halt. Emma, however, used her skills in enabling us to re-imagine how we welcomed people into the Cathedral, the introduction of a one-way system when that was required, putting together risk assessments, etc. but it was not the job she had come to do. So it was sad but not unexpected when she told us that she had been appointed to a job with the National Museum of the Royal Navy. We thank Emma for what she brought to our life.

The Board of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises has been overseen by Barbara Lane as Chair for a number of years. Other directors are Richard Holman, the Sub Dean and myself and it was good to welcome Jessica Kingsley and Hanif Barma to the Board. They bring huge experience to our work: Jessica from the world of publishing, Hanif from management consultancy and the management of risk. As a company we are blessed with great staff.

Rose Harding has been at the Cathedral since the late 1990s and is responsible for all special events. Rose has the ability to seek out fascinating opportunities and works well with clients whether they are regular or one-off. Jon Dollin in the shop also looks after much of the visitor engagement alongside Emily Thorne (and Ruth Miller while Emily took maternity leave) and Tony Aarons and Richard Baker in the shop. He masterminds the series of book talks and cat events that take place and all those things that bring people in throughout the year, in-person or online.

One piece of work that was critical to our life during the year was the project developed alongside Lara Maiklem around mudlarking. As you probably know, the Cathedral is surrounded by pubs and restaurants and our nearest neighbour is the Mudlark Pub with its sign hanging outside showing a young waif on the foreshore. The location that we enjoy alongside the River Thames means that we are witness to much of the activity on the water and the foreshore. Much of the latter is done by groups of people searching for the treasures that are constantly being washed up. Many of those are associated with the life of the area, the Priory and the subsequent parish church: coins, pipes, pilgrim badges – they are all there with much else besides. Lara has found some amazing things and brought a display of them to the Cathedral and captured the story in her book *Mudlarking*. The associated tours of the foreshore led by Lara and Thames foreshore archaeologist Mike Webber along with book talks brought hundreds if not thousands of people into the Cathedral. We are very thankful for Lara's generosity towards us in bringing such an intriguing and worthwhile part of our history to life. There was also a way in which this all fitted into the zeitgeist – one could engage in it in the fresh air, it is about recovering what has been discarded and is all about digging into our rich history at a time when life seems very uncertain. We look forward to continuing this work with Lara.

The major loss, however, that affected us all was the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We had all watched the reports as his health deteriorated and he and Her Majesty The Queen were in our prayers. Prince Philip visited the Cathedral on many occasions, usually accompanying The Queen but sometimes on his own as when we joined with The Globe Theatre to celebrate 450 years since the birth of Shakespeare. The Duke was always fascinated by everything: by the Vergers' verges, by the headdress of a Mohegan chief, by the architecture, the glass and the people. We marked his death in the way we had prepared, as far as we could, because restrictions were still in place. Our hearts went out to Her Majesty as we watched her seated on her own in St George's Chapel Windsor during the funeral. As it says in the gospels, 'Well done good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your master.' (Matthew 25.23)

The year saw the loss of a number of good friends of the Cathedral including

Brenda Bartlett  
Brenda Beal  
Elisabeth Dunman  
Richard Hearn  
Roy Horscroft  
Mark Lane  
Joy Vinnells

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

May saw the departure of another member of the team.

Fr David Adamson-Hill had arrived with us in 2017 from Mirfield, single and with one surname. He left with a double-barrelled surname, married to a member of the Chapter, Amanda Hill, who was expecting their first baby. David had served his title in a very complicated situation – principally at St George the Martyr, Southwark as well as at St Hugh's and the Cathedral. David loved all of it and we loved having David around. He is a great priest who is now looking after the church of St George in Waddon, part of the Croydon Minster team. Amanda gave birth to a lovely baby boy, Luke, who has been along to the Cathedral for many Choral Eucharists and seems to enjoy liturgy and the choral tradition as much as his parents. David's love of good food and cooking came into its own during the pandemic as he organised the feeding programme from St George's. It was an amazing ministry that continues today. So many people have so much to thank Fr David for and we send him thanks and best wishes.

Many things were delayed by Covid and 2021 saw some of them finally happening, but a year later than originally planned. One of these was the Mayoral Elections in London. Sadiq Khan is the third Mayor of London with

whom we have worked. Ken Livingstone had a world view that didn't really include the cathedrals of London. This was very different to Boris Johnson who realised that we had a role to play and in fact established the Mayor's Carol Service for London at Southwark Cathedral, something which continues to this day. Sadiq Khan values all the faith communities in the city and always speaks with genuine affection about Southwark. It has been good to welcome him to the Cathedral on many occasions. So without wishing to be political, we were delighted when he was returned for a second term of office. We are sad that the decision was made to move City Hall to east London from the edge of the Cathedral parish but we have been reassured that the relationship with the GLA will not be diminished.

We also have a good working relationship with the London Borough of Southwark. Peter John, who had been Leader of the Council and a great friend of the Cathedral – in fact on our Electoral Roll and a regular visitor with his husband Symon – stood down from the post and was replaced by Councillor Kieron Williams. We welcome working with Kieron for the good of the community throughout the borough but not least in the Borough and Bankside area. We were also sorry to hear the Chief Executive, Eleanor Kelly, was also moving on. Eleanor has been an amazing friend to the Cathedral. We already had a good relationship but when the terrorist attack happened in 2017 we received ongoing and committed support from the Council. Nothing seemed too much trouble and that has continued to be the case. To the Mayor of Southwark and all its officers and councillors, not least Adele Morris, David Noakes and Victor Chamberlain (our own Ward Councillors), we offer grateful thanks.

It wasn't just streaming that we learnt to do during lockdown. Zoom became a familiar part of all our lives but it has brought with it unanticipated benefits. May saw the first of our Masvingo Group meetings held on Zoom with our friends in Zimbabwe. We would never have thought of doing this but it worked amazingly well. Now leadership of these meetings alternates between the two ends of the link. Similarly, a number of Zoom meetings have been held with our friends in Rouen and Bergen cathedrals. This kind of contact, while it doesn't replace the face-to-face visits, means that the work can go on even though we face restrictions.

The situation throughout Zimbabwe, however, has been appalling. So we are grateful to all those who give support to the link with Masvingo and all who buy the sculptures from the Cathedral shop which supports our friends in the ArtPeace project in Harare. This support makes all the difference to the lives of ordinary people.

The debates around sexuality continue in the Church of England. 'Living in Love and Faith' has been a process that has been going on for the last couple of years. Canon Wendy has been looking after this in the Diocese. To be honest,

we haven't done much about this at the Cathedral as we have discussed the issues on many occasions and not least when Wendy's predecessor, Mandy Ford (now Dean of Bristol), published the course in 2019 she led in the Cathedral a couple of years before: *God, Gender, Sex and Marriage*. However, the Companions of the Community of the Resurrection who meet at the Cathedral decided to look at LLF but from the perspective of celibacy. We asked Br Tobias SSF to reflect on this with us. Tobias, formally Rob Evans, and a member of the congregation led an amazing session. Not long after this, but not as a consequence, Matthew Hall, former Cathedral Warden, moved to join the Franciscans, first as a postulant and since then has been admitted as a novice taking the name Magnus. It is always encouraging in a community when one sees people taking vocations seriously and listening for the 'still small voice' calling them to embrace an aspect of calling, especially something so life-changing as the religious life. We need priests, we need lay leaders and we also need religious.

We didn't have a Lent Art Installation in 2021 – it would have been pointless as we were closed – so we were delighted we were able to move the installation to June when *Please Believe These Days Will Pass* by Mark Titchner was installed at the High Altar. It was a powerful statement and people came into the Cathedral to see it in all its monumental scale. This is the prayer I wrote to accompany it:

God of every passing age,  
be with us  
in what remains,  
in what endures,  
in what survives  
and strengthen those  
for whom these days  
do not seem to be passing.  
Amen.

It wasn't the only installation we welcomed to the Cathedral during the year. As summer drew to a close and our minds turned to autumn, *The Leaves of the Trees*, an installation of 5,000 sycamore leaves, cut from 1 mm mild steel and individually carved with the word 'Hope' filled the floor of the Sanctuary. It was the work of Peter Walker and its simple beauty was captivating. This was the prayer to accompany that installation:

God of hope,  
who returns fresh leaves to the branches  
whose fallen leaves turn to gold;  
as we remember those we have lost  
give us hope in those yet to come  
that our memories may be gold  
and our future fresh and hopeful.  
Amen.

Finally, in October, we welcomed *Gratitude*. Artists organised by amongst others, local celebrity Zandra Rhodes, had decorated 51 human scale figures to celebrate the work of the staff of the NHS throughout the pandemic. They stood in the churchyard, quirky and beautiful. It really was inspirational. So another prayer was called for:

God,  
with gratitude  
we thank you for those  
who have stood with us  
stood by us  
stood for us  
in our need  
in our weakness  
in our isolation  
and all who continue to stand  
for the wellbeing of others.  
Amen.

Each of these installations brought a fresh audience into the Cathedral. The sacred space brought a touch of the divine to each of them as they proclaimed 'Please believe', 'Hope' and 'Gratitude'.

As we began to move into another phase of the pandemic in which testing would become a vital tool in controlling and monitoring the levels of infection, we were approached about providing space in the Millennium Courtyard for a Randox laboratory and a DocTap testing facility. We were delighted to welcome them both. To be honest, there was very little income from booking the rooms out to our usual clients, so this provided a much-needed income stream. We finally said goodbye to DocTap in March 2022, Randox having left a few months earlier. As they say: "It's an ill wind..." or "Every cloud has a silver lining".



Cathedrals are really great places in which a variety of things can happen, they are also the perfect place for a pilgrimage. We regularly welcome people who are making a pilgrimage of some kind and in fact the Friends of the Cathedral, so ably led by Clare Johnson, with Secretary, Kate Dean, and a great group of Trustees, are undertaking a walking pilgrimage along the old pilgrim route from Southwark to Canterbury. Whilst mentioning the Friends I should record our thanks for their ongoing support of the Cathedral. It was good that we were able to hold something of an AGM for the Friends and to celebrate all that they do for us.

A new pilgrimage route was being promoted as the summer approached, however. Canon Jay Colwill, a keen cyclist, had been part of the group working with the Association of English Cathedrals on a Cathedrals Cycle Route. The idea was a simple one: cycle between all 41 cathedrals (it is hard cycling to Peel on the Isle of Man) but as Jay discovered, it is a tough call. We were delighted to be involved and to welcome the cyclists to Southwark. So if you are looking for a holiday idea in 2022 look no further!

With things beginning to relax, the clergy team agreed it would be good to go away for a 24 hour residential at our retreat house at Wychcroft. Having no distractions, we were able to concentrate on how we would begin to recover and re-start some of things that had stopped with the first lockdown. The chalice, the Peace, post-service hospitality, the collection plate, such a lot of things had stopped but how and when would we bring them back? It was a good, concentrated piece of work and we were able to bring recommendations back to Chapter. As things turned out, we were not quite as clear of the virus as we then thought and some things have still not been restored.

One thing that we did need to make a decision about, however, was the ongoing pattern of worship. When lockdown began in 2020 we moved Morning Prayer to 9.00am from the Deanery. It used to be at 8.00am followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at 8.15 am. Now, though, we have not just a daily homily but more importantly a live congregation of around 80 on Facebook and YouTube. Would we go back to the old pattern? The decision was 'no'. There was no way we would want to abandon the online community. It was therefore with a mixture of joy and regret that we recommended to Chapter that the pattern be changed – joy in that we have grown a new and large community, regret that the early Communion has gone. The Eucharist at lunchtime remains, however, which it is a joy to be more a part of and one was introduced at 9.30am each Tuesday in order that the clergy team have the opportunity to go to the Eucharist together, something we don't always get to do on a Sunday.

The summer came with a further series of departures. Bridget Abbott had worked in the Cathedral offices for 29 years. Latterly she assisted the Comptroller with administrative tasks. Bridget decided it was time go to give

more time to her husband, children and grandchildren. Bridget was the most marvellous friend to us all, had a lot of wisdom and always had an ear to the ground and so could act as an early warning system when something was going wrong – very useful. She and her family are members of the congregation at the other Southwark Cathedral, the Roman Catholic one, and whilst being born and raised and devoted to her RC roots, worked so well with we Anglicans, with priests who are women as well as with the men. *Apostolicae curae*, the title of a Papal Bull, issued in 1896 by Pope Leo XIII, declaring all Anglican ordinations to be ‘absolutely null and utterly void’ meant nothing to her, nor did attitudes to clergy marriages or LGBTI+ issues. For all that, we were all enormously grateful and encouraged. As a Friend of the Cathedral we know we will continue to enjoy Bridget’s support and friendship.

Some members leave unnoticed but ultimately missed, others warn you they are leaving. Lulu Nongauza had been a member of the congregation for a long time, a member of the team of Stewards (led by Odette Penwarden, to whom we are always indebted and not least in these difficult and demanding times). Lulu had worked as a healthcare professional through the pandemic but in the end decided to head back to her beloved South Africa and the community in Cape Town. Members of the community at the Cathedral may remember how she performed the role of visitor in the video we made for the re-opening of the Cathedral after the first lockdown, which involved a lot of laughter, or her wonderful taste in jewellery. We will miss Lulu a great deal and all those who took Covid as a time to relocate out of the area.

Two further departures straddle June and July. The Revd Lisa Bewick joined us in 2016 while she was still in training for priestly ministry. She joined us to be the new Education Officer working in the Education Centre. Lisa brought amazing skills to the task and the Trustees of the Education Centre (it is an independent charity), loved working with her. We saw lots of new innovations as Lisa brought her particular skills to the task. She was then ordained and served as a self-sustaining minister (we used to call it NSM) at St John’s Waterloo but continued her work with us and also exercised some priestly ministry in the Cathedral as opportunities presented themselves. Then Covid came and stopped all that great work. Lisa continued to support Canon Michael in our work with children and young people in the congregation, however. Lisa wanted to move from SSM to stipendiary full-time ministry and who could blame her? She was appointed associate priest at St Andrew, Hornchurch in the Diocese of Chelmsford. We wish her and her husband Scott, well.

This left us with a problem. We had a vacancy but the Trustees were not sure if and when schools would return for visits and what those visits in future would look like. I am grateful to the Trustees for the imaginative way they have engaged with this and to the Education Centre’s Circle of Support for ongoing funding. In

the end we decided to make a temporary appointment as the Learning Centre Co-ordinator. Robyn Horne was appointed to this post and worked hard to bring schools back. She also managed to arrange a formal opening of the new Learning Centre which had never happened because of Covid. In December we therefore gathered to open the Susanna Barford Room and bless the artwork produced by Alison Clark, a homage to Grinling Gibbons who worked at the time when Susanna was a child here in the parish. It is great to have that space blessed and ready to receive students.

I have already said a number of times in this report that Matthew Knight was planning to retire from his role as Comptroller. Matthew finally left in July. We were very sorry to say goodbye to him but delighted that he and his husband Simon were able to make this decision and were looking forward to the next stage of their lives. For all that Matthew brought to the Cathedral we are most grateful. He was not just a boss and colleague but also a friend to many amongst the staff. Matthew loves theatre, opera (especially Wagner), cake, holidays (especially in Germany) and filing! His record keeping was second to none and his attention to detail exemplary. He was also good to be with. We wish him every blessing and happiness in the future.

We gave him a good farewell, a nice meal, surrounded by friends and colleagues. In this as in so many things I have to thank my PA, Marie Tims. Marie joined the Cathedral at the millennium looking after Colin Slee and then taking on me. I rely on Marie for looking after my nightmare diary, for keeping the correspondence flowing, for making lovely phone calls to people when I simply don't have time, for covering for me when I have made a mistake but above all for making me laugh. Our best time in the year is when I sign all the Christmas cards. With Magic Xmas on in the background we sing along to the Christmas number 1s and laugh our way through what could be a very tedious task. If you want to know about punctuation, grammar, Chelsea Football Club or any of the Carry On movies, ask Marie.

July also gave the opportunity to invite people back to the Deanery for hospitality. It is one of the many blessings of being Dean of Southwark that the house is somewhere to which people like to come – and we love hosting them. We were able to enjoy a couple of summer evenings simply saying thank you to the many people who had given generous support to the Cathedral. Tom Poole, the Cathedral's Fundraiser, does a tremendous job at not just raising money for various projects but also caring for our individual and corporate donors.

Tom is also playing a vital role in helping us prepare for registration with the Charity Commission. The 'Go' button was pressed in the summer and the attention of our Chief Operating Officer, Justine Horseman Sewell (no more are we using the title Comptroller); Cathedral Warden, Daniel Chumbley; Chair of the Cathedral Council, Jennie Page and Registrar and Chapter Clerk,

Jon Baldwin with Tom turned to the process of creating new Constitutions and Statutes as well as all the documentation to go with them. Don't worry: the Chapter and I were fully involved, but there is so much technical work to be done that we are grateful that Jehovah Jireh did provide.

In the midst of so much happening there were moments of sheer delight. One of these was the wedding our Pastoral Assistant (SPA), Heather Smith, to Augustus (Gus) Boothe. They had met volunteering on the Robes Project and fell in love. They were both surprised, as were we all, and then utterly delighted. The wedding was lovely and the Cathedral full of their families and friends from both the Cathedral and St Michael's Stockwell. We wish Heather and Gus every blessing and happiness and thank them for bringing joy into our lives just when we needed it. It was also lovely for the Cathedral and St Hugh's Branch of the Mothers' Union to see one of their members married! Ada Wilson-Jones does an amazing job with her team leading the branch.

Heather is the only SPA at the Cathedral. Our other SPA was Marion Marples who died suddenly in 2019. We still miss her. It was wonderful that Living Bankside, the residents' association for the Cathedral parish and beyond led by the irrepressible Amir Eden, persuaded Southwark Council to re-name a street after her and it was a privilege to share in the re-naming of Gambia Street as 'Marion's Way'. A crowd gathered, there were speeches and lots of singing, sprinkling of Holy Water and prayers and the unveiling of a sign which told people why this pilgrim and community activist was being celebrated in this way. This was the blessing I wrote for the event:

Loving God,  
whose servant Marion trod the pilgrim's path in life  
and eased the journeying of others,  
who stepped out with courage  
and illuminated the path to take,  
+ bless this path  
as 'Marion's Way'.  
May those who travel it  
do so in safety,  
those who tread here  
do so with confidence  
and all who pass this way  
know you as their companion  
on the journey that is life.  
Amen.

I have written already about plenty of departures and upheavals in this year. Another came along in August. For a variety of reasons our catering partner, Leafi, decided to leave the Cathedral. It was good working with Leafi but the pandemic had made life difficult for the entire hospitality industry. So we were approaching the end of the month and their departure with some fear – who would run the café? We were delighted, therefore, when Bread Ahead, our neighbouring bakery in the Borough Market with whom we have for many years shared in the celebration of Lammas Day at the beginning of August, said that they would like to step in and run the café for us for a six-month residency. So in September they arrived with their delicious bread, doughnuts, cinnamon buns and the rest. We are grateful to the Bread Ahead team and to all in the Borough Market for the support they give to us. The CEO of the Market, Darren Heneghan moved on and his place has been taken by an Acting CEO, Jane Swift, with whom we already have an excellent working relationship. We are grateful to Darren for all the support he gave us, particularly as we managed our way through the difficult days following the terrorist attack in 2017 which tested us, the Market and the community.

September therefore arrived with a feeling that things were getting back to normal. There were performances by Three Inch Fools and others in the churchyard and the *Gratitude* exhibition which I have already mentioned but the changes in staffing didn't stop. We have had an Organ Scholar for over 20 years. Named the 'Harry Coles Organ Scholar' the scholarship has given budding young musicians a great opportunity to work in a cathedral environment and develop their skills, in fact our Director of Music, Ian Keatley, was himself an organ scholar at Southwark. It was felt, however, that with the increase in the number of services and the responsibilities of those who lead the Music Department, a full time No. 3 organist was required. Alex Knight left at the end of August and so James Gough was appointed to this new post of Assistant Organist & Music Administrator. His responsibilities include administration and looking after the music library as well as playing which he does so wonderfully. The move of Zanna Bloomfield to support the Pastoral and Liturgical work meant that the administration would be looked after by James.

When Stephen Disley was appointed in 1997 as Assistant Organist, there was no girls' choir. Following the decision to form a choir as part of our Millennium celebrations, Stephen took on the responsibility of forming the girls' choir and developing it as its Director. I was Precentor at that time and remember the early days as the girls grew in confidence, singing *Tell Out My Soul* and *Faithful Vigil* instead of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* at Choral Evensong. The girls quickly gained in skill and confidence, however, as a result of Stephen's brilliant work. Within a few years we were in a position to go on tour and we went to Prague – I think Ian Keatley was with us – and we sang in a number of churches in the

city and surrounding area. In the last two decades the girls have continued to maintain a very high standard, singing at the Royal Festival Hall and recording CDs, and have expanded their contribution to the life of the Cathedral.

It became clear, however, that Stephen needed to move on. He had been so long at Southwark and still had a career in front of him as a great choir director and brilliant organist, in demand on the recital circuit and venues such as the Royal Albert Hall. It was hard for him and hard for us all when the decision was made. We are hugely grateful for all that he did here and when the story of music at Southwark Cathedral is finally written, the name of Stephen Disley will be writ large.

Over the past few years we have developed an excellent relationship with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. They are based at the Tower of London and are the successor of the Surrey regiments that have long been associated with the Cathedral. It was a delight to welcome them to the Cathedral in September for the laying up of two colours. This is an ancient tradition and in fact we already have colours hanging in the south transept from the Surrey regiments alongside the standards from the Royal British Legion and London Fire Brigade.

It was a lovely service and as the reception took place the vergers and Maintenance Team got on with placing the colours in the brackets that had been prepared. In 2021 we were indebted to Martin Smith and the Maintenance Team, James Calthrop, György Szabó and Norette Sakir for all they did in maintaining and cleaning the buildings.

One of the important developments over the last couple of years has been our admission to the Community of the Cross of Nails. The cross stands on the altar in the Chapel of St Francis and St Elizabeth. It is intended that the Bishop of Southwark will designate this chapel for prayer for all those who have been victims of violent crime. This commitment was made as we hosted a delayed service to mark the 20th anniversary of the murder of Damilola Taylor in Peckham, not far from the Cathedral. Mr Richard Taylor, Damilola's father, spoke powerfully in the Cathedral on this occasion about the level of youth violence, something that we need to challenge. Coupled with that we also saw violent crime against women, not least the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard, again in our diocese. The group looking after our relationship with the Community of the Cross of Nails based at Coventry Cathedral is led by Canon Jay Colwill with Andrew Viner, Chair of the Unity Group. The Litany of Reconciliation is prayed every Friday at noon in the chapel. If you are around, please join those praying it.

In 2021 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the designation of St Andrew's Chapel at the other end of the Retro Choir as our AIDS Chapel. There are only two AIDS chapels in Anglican cathedrals around the world: ours and the one in Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. It is a consistent ministry and witness of which

we should be proud. AIDS has not disappeared and in fact HIV infection levels in Southwark are some of the highest in Europe. The Eucharist each Saturday is offered with the intention of those living with HIV/AIDS. The chapel represents something of the distinctive and courageous ministry of the Cathedral which the Chapter is committed to maintaining and developing.

Part of that must be around the place of UKME/GM people in the life of the Cathedral and the church and society in general. The murder of George Floyd in 2020 and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement had served to focus our attention on the need for us to seriously address the issues. We decided to repeat what we had done in the previous year to mark Black History Month in October and to include in online Night Prayer on the Sundays in October, interviews with four members of the congregations at St Hugh's and the Cathedral. We cast the net wide, including people from a number of ethnic heritage backgrounds. The *grand dame* of the Cathedral congregation, Iris Mqotsi, shared her story of growing up under Apartheid in South Africa and reminisced about Fr Trevor Huddleston, CR who was her parish priest. Amuda Poongavanam spoke of her Indian heritage and what it was like as a woman of colour working in the City. Ife Ogunjobi spoke of being a young black musician and something of the glass ceilings that still exist. Finally, Minjie Lin spoke of her Chinese heritage and of the particular racist challenges that have come with Covid. It was a powerful witness and exercise in story telling and sharing but it also showed what amazing congregations we have and what a wealth of talent there is. Michelle Ford works as our Volunteers' Officer seeking to use the skills that God gives and we bring. We thank Michelle for her work, which is vital as we seek to re-build our volunteer teams.

The other issue that we began to engage with and which is associated with #BLM and issues of justice was to convene a Contested Heritage Group. Under the leadership of Eric Collins and Michael Prokopow, the group was made up of people from all ethnic and heritage backgrounds. Guy Rowston, our Honorary Archivist, had conducted a survey of the monuments and took us on a tour. We are not dealing with the issues that the people of Bristol have had to confront but nevertheless there are stories and artefacts that need to be addressed. This is never easy but the Chapter is committed to working through the issues, along with the Learning Centre, so that we can honour each other properly.

I haven't yet mentioned Hodge, which is amazing considering that he features so highly in our life. October saw the first anniversary of his arrival at the Cathedral. You may remember that our first Cathedral cat, Doorkins, died in 2020 and we finally made the decision to have another cat. We were not sure how this would go. Doorkins looked after herself apart from when she needed food and water and a litter tray. Hodge is very different. Doorkins wouldn't leave the Cathedral building; Hodge inhabits the whole place but







basically sees the Vestry as his base because he knows that that is where the Dreamies are kept. He has proved to be a lovely cat, with a huge appetite. We all keep trying to get him onto a diet and encourage a bit more running around but then he starts appealing with big eyes, a paw out and little meows which melt even the hardest heart.

The blockage of the Suez Canal by the container ship *Ever Given* had delayed the arrival of a shipment of cuddly Hodge toys (a disaster not picked up by the national media) but when they did finally arrive, they flew off the shelves. Many were shipped out to the USA along with the Hodge calendar and Rosie Brooks's lovely Christmas cards featuring the cat (thanks Rosie). So not only is Hodge a cuddly cat he is also very marketable, for which we are grateful, as are his 11.7 k Twitter followers.

The process of thinking about the new Constitution and Statutes inevitably involves us asking ourselves what a cathedral is actually for. Ask a cathedral musician and they will tell you that it is to keep the rain off the organ; ask an historian and they will see it as a repository of history. The *Cathedrals Measure 2020* begins with a very clear and important statement that the Dean and Chapter must give due regard to

- (a) the fact that the cathedral is the seat of the bishop and a centre of worship and mission, and
- (b) the importance of each cathedral's role in providing a focus for the life and work of the Church of England in the diocese.

In October we were finally able to gather the Bishop's senior staff at the Deanery to celebrate the fact that in 2021 we marked the tenth anniversary of the enthronement of Bishop Christopher Chessun as the tenth Bishop of Southwark. The enthronement took place in the Cathedral on 6 March 2011, a moment of sheer delight for us. Bishop Christopher had previously been the Bishop of Woolwich so we all knew that we were getting a bishop who would support the clergy, love the people and minister the sacraments with real dignity.

The relationship between a bishop and their dean is an interesting one, one only has to read the Barchester novels or watch *All Gas and Gaiters* to understand some of the complexities. My predecessor famously had a screen saver on his computer (remember when we had those?) which read: 'This may be God's house but it is my Cathedral'. Colin meant it slightly tongue-in-cheek, but not wholly.

The Elizabethan Settlement which created a disbursement of power and influence between the bishops and the deans created the space in which prophetic things could take place, in which cathedrals could spread their wings

without fear of their bishop and in which bishops did not have to be concerned about the day to day running of their cathedral until things went disastrously wrong – they are always and will always remain the Visitor.

In the Diocese of Southwark there is a wonderful relationship between the Bishop and the Cathedral. We get our name ‘cathedral’ from the bishop’s chair of teaching, their *cathedra* which is located there. It is therefore essential that we live up to the demands that the new Measure makes on us.

This has to be about much more than holding special services for the Diocese. The fact that three of the residentiary canons have full-time ministries focused in the Diocese should mean that the Diocesan priorities are always before us. The fact that the Dean is a member of the Bishop’s Senior Staff team and sits on the Staff Meeting and Diocesan Synod by virtue of their office should mean that the Cathedral and Diocese are aligned.

We can always do better and it is significant that in our Masterplan the Chapter is very clear that one of our priorities is supporting the bishop in their ministry. That should never hamper the Cathedral doing the right thing in terms of our own ministry and mission but it should always mean that the needs of the Diocese must be taken into account.

I want to thank Bishop Christopher for all the support he has given to the Cathedral over these ten, now eleven, years. His presence is always a joy, his prayers sustain us, his challenges make us often re-think and re-shape what we are doing, his love encourages us. We pledge ourselves anew at this new stage of our life to that ministry which is at the heart of who we are.

November arrived with all its moments of remembrance. We were able to gather once more at the war memorial in Borough High Street and welcome the GLA to the Cathedral for their first Remembrance Service outside City Hall. The High Sheriff of Greater London, Lynn Cooper, brought the Southwark Legal Service back to the Cathedral with all the robes, the colour and splendour. The College of Canons was able to meet for its annual Choral Evensong and Lecture, this year delivered by the Cathedral Archaeologist, Jackie Hall, who works with our Cathedral Architect, Kelley Christ. Jackie spoke about some of the work that we had been able to do during the last year.

Two major pieces of work were done, both of which excited the archaeologists. The first was the removal of the step from the nave into the south transept and the building of a ramp. This was the first stage in increasing accessibility in the building. Removing the step revealed something of the mediaeval foundations and a layer of ‘dark earth’ which it seems excites archaeologists like nothing else. It also revealed new information about the topography of the land on which the priory was built.

The second piece of work was about the priory itself. The remains of the prior’s door are hidden behind the heavy oak doors that lead from the Sacristy

into the nave. The remains were cleaned, restored and conserved and we can now see the amazing carvings, the holy water stoup and the marks left by the fire that destroyed the rest of the priory in 1212. It is incredible. The next stage is to remove the doors so that visitors can see it fully.

Thanks to Jackie and to Kelley for all their work and to Canon Charles Pickstone who chairs the Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) and all its members for their advice and support, especially as we continue to address accessibility issues in the Cathedral. Thanks also to Tom Poole whom I have already mentioned who in his role as Fundraiser makes sure we have the funds to undertake these projects. Tom works alongside the Southwark Cathedral Development Trust in ensuring that our fundraising priorities are clear. The trustees of that fund included Jane Steen, the former Archdeacon of Southwark, who is now Bishop of Lynn. Bishop Jane was an enormous support and always had wise words to add to the conversation.

As part of the restoration of something like normality, the Robes SleepOut returned. Maggie Still and her committee are to be congratulated in organising a great event in the face of so many challenges. The number of participants was down and the amount we raised was much less than in previous years. What was most important, however, was that we got underway again and once more raised the profile of Robes and its vital work amongst street-homeless in the area.

I mentioned those who have died during the year. In many ways it is wrong to single anyone out for special mention so I hope you forgive me if I just mention Mark Lane whose funeral took place in November. Mark and Barbara Lane, with their children Daniel and Rachel, have been part of the Southwark community for years. In fact Mark's parents John and Stella were stalwarts of the place. Mark was one of the first directors of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises, now chaired by Barbara. He was the ultimate great survivor. He had been so close to death on many occasions but was determined to live, and live he did. Mark was someone who would ask the hardest questions and give unflinching loyalty. He was great fun to be with and a joy to know. We will miss him enormously and give thanks to God that he was part of our community.

All of a sudden it was Advent and we were getting ready for the Advent Procession. The diary was full of carol services and concerts. It was going to be good. The 1st of December arrived and I was back at Albin's, the famous funeral directors located in Rotherhithe who hold an incredible service of remembrance at their base at the beginning of the month to which hundreds of people come. It was great to be involved again. Then I was back in the Borough Market at the demonstration kitchen, this time with Angela Clutton, talking about Christmas, getting over-excited in a Santa hat. Advent was going well and as planned. We were moving towards O Sapientia, 17 December, the day on which we begin singing the great O Antiphons in the final lead-up to

Christmas. On the eve of that day, 16 December, however, there was one of the Downing Street press conferences. The Prime Minister had a hard message to deliver about Omicron and the 'tidal wave' of infection that we were facing. His message was made even harder by Professor (now Sir) Chris Whitty, who told us to cease with our social contacts. All of a sudden everything was being cancelled or scaled back and the Christmas we had been hoping and planning for seemed to be under threat.

In fact the Sing-In took place with a good congregation and, of course, Christmas was as lovely as ever with great carol services delivered by our wonderful boy and girl choristers with the Lay Clerks and with incredible celebrations for Christmas itself but we ended the year once again fearful of what the new year would bring.

So that was the year that was, a year of highs and lows, a year of exits and entrances, a year of tears and laughter, a year of hopes, of high expectations and bitter disappointments. It was a year when we had glimpses of normality and a year when we thought we were on a merry-go-round that would never stop. It was a year when we remembered that 'these days will pass', when we saw the scattered leaves of hope, when we expressed gratitude. It was a year of faithful and committed witness, in-person and online, a year when we realised once again the amazing love that God has for each one of us.

What this review of the past year reminds me of is our sheer resilience, our sheer determination, as a community, as a Diocese, as a staff team, to face the challenges and to continue to the very best of our ability, by the grace and in the love of God. Where we go next ... God knows – and it is that that gives me confidence and courage. There is a great deal for us to do – projects around accessibility, violent crime, contested heritage; there are things we have to re-build: our volunteer base, our congregation, our commercial activities; there are things we have to restore – our liturgy, our social life, our relationships. We do it all, however, from a strong base as this inclusive, faithful, radical community that is Southwark Cathedral. That was the year that was, but it was God's year, in God's time.

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8.38–39)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Nunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Nunn  
Dean

# Summary of Annual Accounts 2021

by Justine Horseman Sewell, COO

**2021 was a challenging year which saw the Coronavirus pandemic continue to impact our life at the Cathedral. The early months of the year were again spent in lockdown, with a profound effect on the worshipping life of the Cathedral community and on every aspect of our business life and our ability to welcome visitors. Many of the Cathedral's administrative staff were encouraged to work remotely where possible and all volunteers were stood down from their usual duties and asked not to come to the Cathedral unless strictly necessary.**

It was, however, also a year in which we began to recover and re-build after the extraordinary events of the previous 18 months. When my predecessor Matthew Knight left at the end of June and I arrived in the new Chief Operating Officer role at the beginning of July, most of the Cathedral staff had returned to work, the Cathedral had re-opened for worship and people were beginning to return for events in the nave. Some schools returned to learning activities at the Cathedral and our shop and café began to trade again, albeit with a significant drop in footfall.

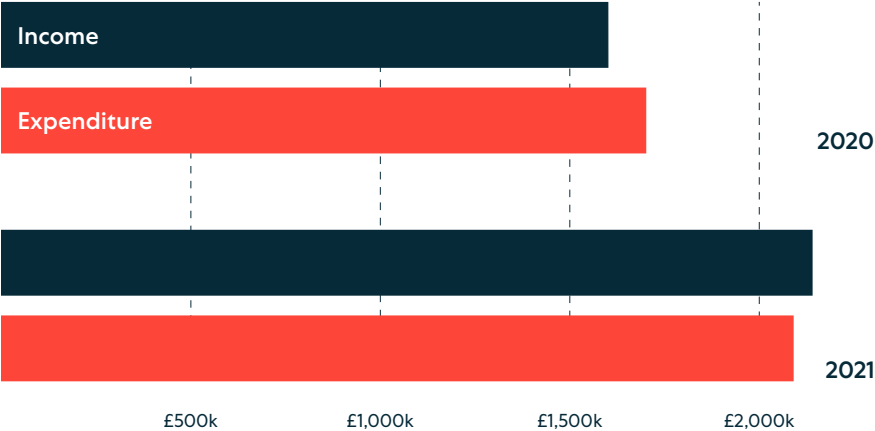
Following the dire projections for Cathedral finances in the 2020 reports to the APCM and subsequent stabilisation that year, I am pleased to report that we began to build again in 2021 and ended the year in a much better position than we had anticipated when budgets were set with a significant operating deficit – in fact we closed the year with an operating surplus.

What follows is a summary of the Annual Accounts to 31 December 2021. The full Annual Report is available on the Cathedral website together with this short summary.

I am delighted that our recent audit was extremely positive, and I want to thank Toyin Tukasi for all her work on this, the quality and accuracy of her financial management at the Cathedral and for providing me with such great friendship and support in my first year at the Cathedral as we look to continue, together, to re-build after the pandemic. I would also like to thank Marie Aké in the finance office for helping produce the figures and the volunteer team

of money counters who have continued to count cash for the Cathedral for those periods when we have been able to receive it.

Summary of the year overall



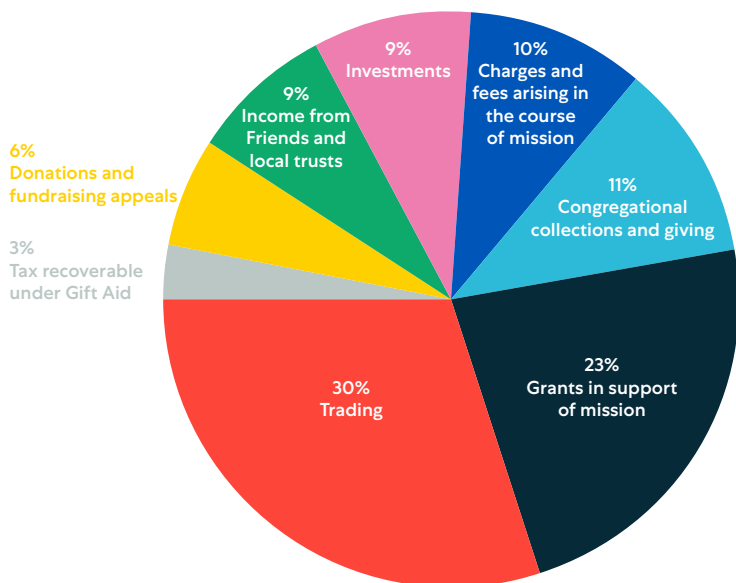
2020 vs 2021 comparison of income and expenditure

In 2021, because of the anticipated ongoing effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, an operating deficit of £135,065 was budgeted. In the event, due to the strong performance of Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Limited (SCEL), the year ended with a significant operating surplus of £149,115 (including the gain on our investments). Although the shop and café were closed for much of the year, the presence on site of a Covid-19 testing site delivered a significant commercial fee, and we saw the return of special events when permitted by the relaxing of restrictions and lockdown periods.

We were also fortunate that many income streams, other than through SCEL, were largely unaffected by the downturn in business because of the pandemic. This included support received from the Church Commissioners, income from property rentals and many of the grants we habitually receive from local trusts. Our return on our managed investments also held steadier than we had feared.

We have been struck again this year by the continued strong commitment on the part of the congregation to supporting the Cathedral through planned giving, even when we were unable to offer public worship. We are extremely grateful for the commitment shown by so many of our existing donors as well as the new congregational members who joined us for the first time via online worship.

## Income: Where does the money come from?



2021 analysis of the sources of the Cathedral's income

We have taken advantage of Government support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme that allowed us to continue to hold many staff on furlough leave while the Cathedral was closed and allowed a flexible part-time return to work during the uncertain periods in between. For staff on furlough, we received grants totalling £67,693 to cover 80% of the salary costs for both Cathedral and SCEL's staff across the year. We also received £17,286 from the local authority in the form of grants for small retail and hospitality businesses forced to close due to the lockdown restrictions. Some savings against anticipated spending were also made on our usual office costs and our utilities when the Cathedral was closed.

The Church Commissioners have also been a source of huge support throughout this period. Payment of their annual grant to cover some lay salaries was made upfront in April, rather than in monthly instalments, which helped our cashflow in the early part of the year. Increased support through the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund towards the salary costs of our Commercial Director, Emma Allen, also helped compensate for the lower-than-expected commercial income. Emma left her role in April last year during lockdown and I am currently working with the SCEL Board and staff to develop new areas of trading and to

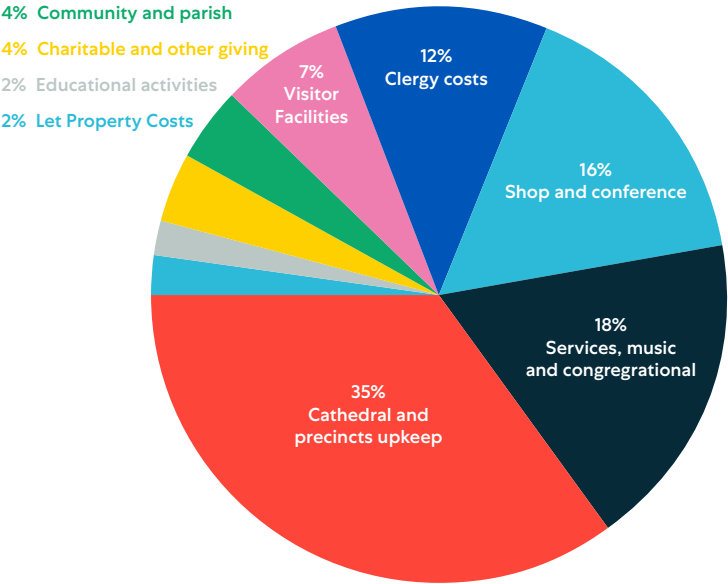


re-build our current business. SCEL was able to make a charitable donation to the Cathedral from its profits in 2021 of £265,261 whereas in 2020 no donation was possible.

The Church Commissioners also provided valuable support in the form of a grant of £5,525 for the cost of the Lay Clerks with whom we were able to continue to provide music throughout the year at our online worship and, when we were able to re-open, at our Sunday services. This provided a welcome enhancement to our worship through this difficult period, for which we are very grateful.

The effect of all this financial support has enhanced our earned income so that we were able to achieve a surplus for the year of £149,115 (including the gain on investments) whereas earlier predictions in 2021 pointed to a much worse scenario.

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



2020 analysis of the Cathedral's expenditure

The Cathedral's single largest area of expenditure is on staff costs and more details can be found in the 'Our People' section of our Annual Report. In October 2021, an increase of 1.84% was announced in the London Living Wage rate that

we apply as the minimum for our paid staff. Since September 2015 we have ensured that all paid staff receive at least the London Living Wage (currently £11.05 per hour). The Chapter introduced this in response to a request from the congregation and is working towards a position where all Cathedral suppliers pay the London Living Wage as well. We try to benchmark our salaries against those in other cathedrals and charitable organisations, recognising that we are unable to compete with the salaries offered by larger organisations or the commercial sector. We are in a difficult position being in central London where rates of pay are the highest in the country but remain fortunate that we attract several staff in key positions for whom remuneration is not the only reward and who wish to devote their time to supporting the ministry of the Cathedral.

Going forward and as we emerge from the pandemic, the Board of SCEL and the Finance Committee are discussing ways in which we can look to invest in the Cathedral's streams of earned income so that these can grow and develop organically whilst remaining within the Chapter and Board of SCEL's appetite for risk and prudent management of Cathedral funds. The reserves built up in previous years under Matthew and Toyin's stewardship have ensured that we remain financially viable even during these unprecedented times. Not only has this allowed us to weather recent storms but it enables us to bring some more creative and entrepreneurial thinking to areas of our earned income, both to invest in and grow our commercial activities and to enhance our visitor welcome and attraction with new ideas so that we can return to the work of fulfilling our Masterplan.

# Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd

by Justine Horseman Sewell, Director,  
Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Limited;  
COO, Southwark Cathedral

**Southwark Cathedral Enterprises Ltd is wholly owned by the Chapter, and manages the non-primary-purpose commercial trading activities of the Cathedral, including events and concerts using the Cathedral's premises, conferences, the catering contract, the Cathedral shop, and visitor-related income. Profits are Gift-Aided to the Cathedral.**

In 2021, SCEL delivered an extremely strong performance after the extraordinary events in 2020 which saw nearly all its trading income fall away in the pandemic. In 2021 its gross income was £631,187, which represented a significant positive uplift on the performance anticipated in the 2021 Budget. The Company was therefore very pleased to have recovered from its previous year's loss and to make a profit of £289,358 enabling a Gift-Aided donation to the Cathedral in 2021 of £265,261.

The performance of SCEL was achieved largely by the events team, led by the Head of Events, Rose Harding, and was due to the return of special events to the Cathedral in a very positive way, which we had been unable to predict in 2020 during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Other income was generated from filming in the Cathedral during a period of unusual quietness: we were fortunate to secure filming for an Apple TV series and, through the BBC, a factual piece celebrating the passing of the Disability Discrimination Act, a project which both supported our trading income and our mission to reflect diversity and inclusion in our work. In total, events generated an impressive £357,970.

Income generation was also chiefly due to the presence – from April 2021 – of the Radox and, subsequently, DocTap Covid-19 testing centres in the Millennium Courtyard. DocTap also rented one of the Cathedral's small meeting rooms as a storeroom for its equipment. The testing centre provided our business with a monthly income of over £14,000, for which we were very grateful, and it also enabled us to play our part in the response to the pandemic.

Conference business was particularly badly hit in 2021 with almost no bookings after mid-March but the arrival of Şahika Karagöz as our Marketing and Events Executive in September has meant that both established and new clients are being proactively encouraged to book, and business is looking brighter.

Although the principal role of the Cathedral Church is to be a place of Christian worship, we continue to be a popular London venue for performing

arts, and in 2021 we continued to welcome regular and new clients. We hope to continue to build on these relationships to bring in valuable income and also to offer a welcome to many people who might not otherwise visit the Cathedral. We were therefore pleased to be able, gradually, to return in 2021 to hosting concerts by amateur music groups, informal recitals by visiting choirs and professional productions by choirs, theatre companies and orchestras, although ticket sales for all our events in the nave have remained restricted due to Covid precautions. Clients such as City of London Sinfonia and Fever Up continued to perform here outside of lockdown periods, working to restricted capacities. We thank all our clients for their loyal and amenable approach to working with the Cathedral.

Our visitor numbers were badly hit by further lockdowns as a result of the pandemic, and at the close of 2021 numbers were still only around 20% of levels seen in 2019. The almost total absence of foreign tourists also had a big impact on our footfall in the shop but we responded by continuing to build an online retail offer and by launching a Christmas Shop in the Queen Elizabeth Room. We felt that the Christmas Shop was a great success, but it was extremely disappointing that custom fell away sharply prior to Christmas as many Christmas services and concerts were cancelled due to the Government's Plan B protocols and rising infection rates. Shop turnover, however, encouragingly rose to £108,119 this year, double that of 2020, but it has still not recovered to 2019 figures. Overall, retail made a loss of £13,492, balanced out by grants of £17,286 received from local government funding to support the retail sector forced to close due to the lockdown. We have new plans to develop the shop this year and are working on ideas in the Queen Elizabeth Room again for the summer season.

SCE also continues to explore the possibility of producing Cathedral-based publications, progressing proposals for a first publication later in the year, although Covid has slowed this process. By producing our own publications, SCE can boost the respected Southwark Cathedral brand and build income through our own retail outlets and wholesale. We have also recently extended our offer to include online book-buying platforms. The shop continues to support works authored by the Dean of Southwark and other clergy and members of the Cathedral community.

Despite a fall in visitor numbers, Jon Dollin and his team have provided a busy and always creative programme of heritage, learning and visitor events including the popular Shakespeare events 'Bard in the Yard', which returned in the summer. Our special connection to the River Thames continued to be celebrated with Mudlarking talks and walks, and a changing exhibition of mudlark finds in the Link, thanks to Lara Maiklem's support. The Mudlarking day in October, with a sea shanty choir and themed baked goods in the café attracted hundreds of visitors. We hosted a number of lectures and book

signings and author talks – with question and answer sessions, looking at both theology and social history. Art installations included the powerful and poignant *Please Believe These Days Will Pass* by Mark Titchner, *The Leaves of the Trees* by Peter Walker and the *Gratitude* sculpture exhibition in celebration of the NHS. Much of our visitor-related activity is to support our mission and extend a welcome to visitors, so we were pleased that, though impacted by lockdowns, income did improve on the previous year and a small profit was achieved. Jon continues to build relationships with authors, artists and historians and we are hoping to build these events back as visitors return to the Cathedral in the coming year. We are particularly looking forward to the *Gaia* installation in October (by the artist Luke Jerram), details of which will follow in the summer.

In August we brought to an end our catering concession relationship with Leafi. We agreed a six-month residency with Borough Market bakery Bread Ahead, and they were able to drop into the café space and open with only a week's closure for deep cleaning. Their offer of cakes, speciality doughnuts and sandwiches, baked only a few yards away in the market, have proved very popular and income has remained steady, although footfall fell away in the second half of December with the Government's Plan B announcement. The Bread Ahead residency came to an end recently and we are working hard with a catering manager at present to open the café again very shortly. Ideas that we are exploring include a return of community art in the café space and using the café to host music and poetry evenings and special events in the evenings.

Our Commercial Director, Emma Allen, left us in April 2021 for a new role in Portsmouth – we would like to thank her for the vital experience and fresh ideas she brought to the Company at such a challenging time. I have been appointed as a member of the SCEL Board and am supporting the Enterprises team as we re-build and plan for the future in support of the Cathedral – we are looking forward to welcoming back visitors, performers and artists and commercial event and conference clients this year and to continue to offer a warm welcome and rich visitor experience to all those who visit us.

# Fundraising

by Tom Poole, Fundraiser

## **In 2021, Southwark Cathedral's fundraising efforts again focused mainly on the financial challenges posed by Covid-19, including successful applications to support the costs of the Cathedral through funding schemes set up by the Government and the Church Commissioners.**

As a result of the pandemic, we continued to adapt the Cathedral's fundraising and promote alternative ways of giving via QR codes, livestreaming and social media. Text donations and contactless giving provided additional ways to support the Cathedral (£22,090 donated via onsite contactless donations in 2021). We recognised the importance of remaining engaged with donors and speaking openly about our need for financial support.

We submitted an application to the Culture Recovery Fund Second Round (via the National Lottery Heritage Fund) and received £75,600 for 1 April to 30 June 2021 running costs. An application to the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to fund urgent up-grades to the Cathedral's building services (including electrics, lighting and heating) was successful, and the Cathedral received a grant of £59,263.20 (subsequently increased to £66,673) toward the works. Successful applications were submitted to the Cathedral Sustainability Fund for support toward staff employment costs totalling £196,088 including funding for the COO (for the period 2021–2024) and funding for a Property and Site Manager post.

Funding totalling £25,000 was received from Benefact Trust (known previously as Allchurches Trust). This annual grant support provides very important funding for the daily mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Grant and donation funding was received for the Cathedral Choir, and the Cathedral's two art installations in 2021 were funded by grants and donations. In addition, a new High Mass Set was funded by individual donors.

Southwark Cathedral Development Trust continued to support the Cathedral's fundraising and awarded grants to the Cathedral.

The Friends of Southwark Cathedral is also a much-valued source of support, and awarded grants to the Cathedral, including towards radio microphones and data cables, livestreaming, and vergers' cassocks. The Dean of Southwark's Fund also awarded grants to Southwark Cathedral, including £10,000 towards the cost of refurbishing staff accommodation.



We thank the following trusts and organisations for their support in 2021:

- Benefact Trust (previously known as Allchurches Trust)
- Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund
- Cathedral Sustainability Fund
- Culture Recovery Fund
- The Dean of Southwark's Fund
- Frazer Trust
- The Friends of Southwark Cathedral
- Morden College
- Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- Rose Theatre Trust
- The Sanderson Foundation
- The Spencer Wills Trust
- St Olave's Foundation Fund
- Tideway
- Traditional Cathedral Choir Association
- Westhill Endowment
- The Whitsters Club
- The Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks
- The Worshipful Company of Saddlers

We also thank everyone who supported the Cathedral in 2021, including donors who generously supported the following projects:

- Access Improvements
- Art Installations (*Please Believe These Days Will Pass*, and *The Leaves of the Trees*)
- Cathedral Choir
- Harvard Chapel
- High Mass Set
- Lancelot Andrewes Books
- Lighting Improvements
- Sheet Music
- 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 Southwark Cathedral; we would be delighted to hear from you and to tell you about our current and forthcoming projects.



PLEASE  
BELIEVE  
THESE  
DAYS  
WILL  
PASS

# Learning Centre

by Emily Dawson, Education Officer

## Most Popular Trails: Exploring Christian Symbols, Pilgrimage

## Most Popular Workshops: Clay Tile Making, Candle Making

### Visitor numbers 2021

Primary	237
Secondary	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>

### The Work of the Learning Centre

Following on from the challenges of 2020, 2021 the Learning Centre continued to be closed to school visits at the start of the year. Even when pupils were in school, uncertainty and the need to 'catch up' meant that we received no bookings. 2021 ended on a positive note, however, with the autumn term seeing a significant increase in visits again.

The Learning Centre's Education Officer, Lisa Bewick, left Southwark Cathedral in October 2021 and a new Learning Centre Coordinator, Robyn Horne, joined the team in the same month. Robyn was able to lead on school visits and the general running of the Learning Centre. School visits began to pick up again at this time and there was also a visit from secondary school heads in November, which the Sub Dean hosted. December saw the opening of the Susanna Barford Room, the Learning Centre's new home. The launch was attended by supporters of the Learning Centre and was a great opportunity to re-energise after a very challenging few years. A new interactive whiteboard was also generously donated and will be installed soon.

## Volunteers

Our volunteers have continued to be supportive of the Learning Centre throughout 2021 and since in-person visits have resumed, the volunteers have been invaluable in providing their time and experience to creating engaging visits. Now that schools are coming to the Cathedral again, it will be necessary to recruit more volunteers, particularly when we are running at full capacity.

## Circle of Support

We are grateful to the group of individual funders who support our work each year financially. We would not be able to continue to support the Cathedral's mission and outreach without them; in the last few years, 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 on [edcentre@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:edcentre@southwark.anglican.org) for more details.

## Funding

The generation of funds to run the Learning Centre is facilitated by the Education Officer and Hon. Treasurer. In the year 2021, we received support from Southwark Cathedral and our Circle of Support.





# Unity Group

by Andrew Viner, Chair

*'If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.'*  
(Dr Martin Luther King)

**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 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**

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 were very saddened by the death during the year of Canon Richard Hearn, the Dean of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Southwark. Richard had been a strong supporter of the Unity Forum and a great friend in Christ. His permanent replacement was not appointed during 2021 but we look forward to working with him and with Dag Magnus Hopstock Havgar in Rotherhithe.

In late 2020 we were informed of the death of Derek Partridge, a member of the congregation at St George's Cathedral who had regularly attended the Unity Forum for many years. Derek was a good friend to many of us at Southwark Cathedral and was a strong supporter of and contributor to, the Unity Forum. Derek's 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 Cathedral SleepOut for Robes in 2021 was able to go ahead as planned and was successful in raising funds for the Project.

## The Community of the Cross of Nails

In January 2020, 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. 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 12 noon, and while restrictions prevented, this has been included in the service of daily Evening Prayer at 8.00pm which was been streamed from the Deanery or from the homes of other members of the clergy at Southwark.

Our link Cathedral in Bergen joined the CCN at the same time as the Cathedral.

As part of our membership of the CCN, the Cathedral set up the CCN Working Group to take forward the initiative for reconciliation in relation to youth crime and knife violence in south London. The CCN Working Group has met four times over the past year. In our sessions (sometimes joined by Bishop Christopher), we have reflected upon what God might be calling Southwark Cathedral to do regarding peace and reconciliation. To enable this, we have had professional input from those who can speak to the risks of serious youth violence, refugees and asylum seekers. We have considered the positive responses that can be made to mitigate serious youth violence as well as the support that can be given to those moving to the UK through resettlement programmes. Although we are not fixed upon our views, we are currently exploring Cathedral partnerships with Southwark Council Multi-Agency Forums regarding the resettlement of refugees, and those seeking asylum. We are also participating in Synergy – an ecumenical response to the issues of serious youth violence.

Within the Cathedral, we have collaborated with Evelin Arweck to create some information posters about our membership of the CCN. This is also noted on all our Orders of Worship. We are discussing how we might pray the litany of reconciliation in diverse ways (it is said in the side chapel of the Cathedral every Friday at 12 noon, simultaneously with other member cathedrals and groups of the CCN). Further to this, we intend to look at inviting other members

of the congregation who might like to join our group discussions or to find out more about the work of the CCN. Later this year, in partnership with The Clewer Initiative, we are planning an event on the subject of Modern Day Slavery. Further information about this and other CCN developments can be found on the [Cathedral website](#) or by contacting [Canon Jay Colwill](#).

Members of the CCN Working Group are: Jay Colwill (Chair), Andrew Viner, Bishop Christopher, Jessica Kingsley, Frances Goodchild, Alison Tyler, Linda Ridgers-Waite, Lotwina Faradoye, Helen Shipley, Paul Timms, Elizabeth James, Keji Dixon and Carla Stevens.

### 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 2021 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 virtual meetings with our friends in Rouen, one of which was attended by the Dean and the Canon Missioner, as well as by the Sub-Dean, and most of our on-line meetings have also been attended by Fr Alexandre, the Priest in Charge at Rouen. We have shared devotions together and these and our discussions have proved to be very powerful. We have also had similar meetings with our friends in Bergen and we look forward having further meetings in this way with both congregations during 2022. It is also hoped that we will be able to meet at least one of these congregations face-to-face during the coming year.

In 2021 the Unity Group comprised: Canon Michael Rawson, Sub-Dean; Andrew Viner, Chair; the Revd Frances Hiller; Lizzie James; Guy Rowston; George Martin; Frances Goodchild; Helen Shipley; John Beynon and Odette Penwarden.

# The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie

by Filiz Scott, Headteacher

**As usual it has been a very busy and enjoyable year here at Cathedral Primary School. Staff have worked hard to maintain high standards of achievement and behaviour.**

Throughout this year, the school has been taking part in a nationwide assessment project focused on children's writing. The project, named 'Sharing Standards', is a new, innovative collaboration which uses comparative judgement, where judges compare two responses and decide which is better. Following repeated comparisons, the resulting data is statistically modelled and responses placed on a scale of relative quality. We are very pleased that all our classes taking part (Year 1 to Year 6) were comfortably in the 10% of cohorts in the country. In the most recent task, Year 6 were in the country's top three cohorts.

A Senior Advisor from Southwark local authority visits regularly to support and challenge. After his October visit he had this to say,

"Pupil attitudes, work ethos and behaviour is of an exceptional standard. Children are self-motivated and positive in their behaviour – always keen to do their very best. Classroom atmospheres are calm, relationships are good and pupils take great pride in their work."

Here are some of the successes of the school since the last report:

### **Poetry Day**

Last summer, poet Neal Zetter spent the day at Cathedral School to help celebrate Poetry Week. He had such a successful visit and had this to say:

"After visiting 100s of schools over the last 27 years and working many times in all 33 London boroughs and beyond. I had one of my best school visits in Cathedral School with enthusiastic children and staff – who clearly had a thirst for poetry and, particularly, performing it.

I was especially impressed by the children's focus/engagement (from nursery up!), intelligent questions and behaviour. Best of all though was the confidence they showed when whole classes learnt and performed different poems of mine to me – super stuff!"

As ever we were so proud of the learning and behaviour of the pupils. They produced some fantastic poems as a result of Neal Zetter's inspiration.

## Spanish Day

Children from Year 3–6 are taught Spanish weekly by a member of staff who speaks fluent Spanish. Often, the whole lesson is taught completely in Spanish and many children say it is their favourite subject. In order to help pupils increase their understanding of Spanish culture, the MLF (Modern Foreign Languages) leader organised a Spanish Day in November. Children took part in Spanish activities in class, enjoyed a Spanish lunch and every class took part in a Flamenco workshop. The Flamenco teacher had this to say:

“I have been teaching Flamenco in schools for 25 years and my day at the Cathedral School has been one of the most enjoyable of my career. The staff were supportive of me and all the pupils, and the children were exceptionally focussed and willing to go outside their comfort zone, being taught IN SPANISH how to dance Flamenco. I was able to teach in 30 minutes what would take me an hour to teach in other schools. Bravo and Ole!”

## Christmas

Christmas in a primary school is always a very bright and cheerful time of year and Christmas 2021 was no different. Year 5 performed a Nativity at Southwark Cathedral in front of their parents, while Classes 2, 3, 4 and 6 sang a beautiful accompaniment. The younger children performed their Nativity at school in front of very proud parents. Each class worked hard to produce a stunning display for the school hall, based on the carols that were sung at the Cathedral Service and the school organised two film nights for pupils, who were treated to a screening of a Christmas film in the school hall with popcorn and a drink. The film nights were very successful; the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and some stated it was the highlight of their year in the end of year questionnaire, while much-needed funds were raised for humanities resources. We were also very grateful to the Friends of Cathedral School who organised a Frost Fair for each class. The children were given the opportunity to decorate biscuits and decorations and play Christmas games, in addition every child received a gift to take home. A voluntary donation was requested as the aim of the event was to make sure all children could take part – thank you to The Friends of Cathedral School for arranging such a magical event.

## World Book Day

Here at Cathedral School we value reading and work hard to ensure all children can read to a high standard in order to access all areas of the curriculum. We also strive to foster a love of reading. With this in mind, the library was recently refurbished in order to provide a calm and stimulating place to choose and read books. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the school community who have donated pre-loved books and bought new ones through an Amazon gift list set up by the Literacy Leader.

Book Week 2022 centered around the discovery of only the fourth dragon egg found in the last hundred years in the playground! The staff and children had lots of fun with this theme over the week. As well as this marvellous find, authors Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler visited the school. They are a writing partnership with over 200 books to their name. They've written about 'gargoylz', dinosaurs, ghosts, football, ghosts playing football, Tudor spies, time-travelling pirates and pets from space! They were hugely complimentary about the school and the excellent engagement of all our children:

"Thank you to everyone for making us feel so welcome yesterday and for making our workshops so enjoyable. The standard of work was incredible. What an amazing school!"

Book Day itself was a hugely fun day, with older classes hearing younger classes read, mystery teacher readers and, of course, costumes. It was very lovely to see many dragons in amongst the usual favourites! If you would like to see some photos of Book Day, please go to our school website and visit the Class Blogs. If you are interested in finding out what happened when the dragon egg hatched, there is a video that charts the events!

## Collective Worship

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. Worship is led by children, and staff and clergy from the Cathedral who have recently been sharing their stories of hope from the Bible. As well as leading worship, clergy members also contribute to the school as governors; we have recently welcomed Canon Andrew Zihni to the governing body and have been very fortunate in having Canon Michael Rawson as our Vice-Chair of Governors for some years now. We have been pleased to welcome parents into school to be part of class-led worship. Every term classes from

Reception to Year 6 lead worship for the whole school and their parents based on their recent learning. These are always very joyful occasions full of song, art and celebration. Every child participates, which builds confidence and pupil speaking skills. Staff lead collective worship based around the school motto 'life in all its fullness' (John 10. 10) and the school values or Fruits of Friendship with God and how we can try and embody them.

## School Trips

All classes have taken part on educational visits to enrich their learning in school. Children usually go on one trip per half term based on their learning. Notable trips include Reception's London trip which supported their learning about transport. The children travelled across London to Greenwich Park, using four different methods of transport. The children and staff slept very well that night!

Year 6 went to Shropshire recently and enjoyed an exciting week full of activities, fun and sunshine. The instructors said our school was the best she had ever taken in seven years of working in the industry. The class tried everything (including abseiling, climbing, kayaking, rafting, zip wire, survival skills, fencing, archery tag, buggy-building and much more!) and each and every one of them had a very successful and memorable week.

The school has also made great use of the wonderful new Learning Centre at the Cathedral, one class had a tour of the Cathedral including the chance to try on vestments. Another class has had a memorable visit, making candles to link with their topic of light. We are fortunate to have such strong links to the Cathedral and Learning Centre.

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 fantastic and we also very much value to the support of the Southwark Cathedral community this year.

I will leave you with an Easter prayer written by a Year 4 pupil for our recent Easter Service. The Year 4s were fantastic and we were all very proud of their performance of the Easter Story.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you that we attend such an amazing school that sets us upon the right path for life. Thank you that we celebrate Easter as a time of new life and new hope in the world. Thank you that our Father let Christ be resurrected and that he rose from the dead. Sorry for our sins and please let them be washed away and for our body to be cleansed and healed.

Amen



# Southwark & Newington Lancelot Andrewes Deanery Synod

Amanda Adamson-Hill, Deanery Synod Member

**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 Sedgewick of St George the Martyr, Southwark.

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. 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

Along with many other groups The Mothers' Union has had to adapt to our new life in prayer and meeting during 2021. Diocesan decisions meant Midday Prayers were mainly online but thankfully we were able to observe in person the Annual Wave of Prayer in September and the Festival Service in October. Members attended Zoom meetings on various topics and Heather attended the annual retreat at Wychcroft. At the Diocesan Spirituality Day in October, we were on hand to supply refreshments to attendees.

In June we were invited to a goodbye drinks party at Eric Collins' flat to wish farewell to Lulu Nongauza as she returned to South Africa. In September we were at the Cathedral to greet pilgrim Rita Pengelly, as she walked from Margate to Mary Sumner House raising funds for AFIA and those in need in the Canterbury Diocese. We hope to extend our connections with Canterbury Cathedral Mothers' Union at some point in the future. Also in September, the Gambia Street Garden area was dedicated to our sadly deceased member Marion Marples and some of us attended the opening event. A plaque was unveiled to recognise her contributions to the local community. We sadly report the passing of indoor member Elisabeth Dunman in January. Her ashes were buried in the Cathedral churchyard in November. In December the group had a Christmas get-together meal in the Cathedral Café, an event we hope will be repeated in future years.

Fundraising events have not taken place in the last two years.

We cannot let this year pass without mentioning the event of the year which took place in July when Heather and Gus celebrated their marriage. MU members were pleased to attend and help with refreshments at the Cathedral.

May God bless you all as you read this and please see any of our members if you are interested in joining our branch. See our theme for the next year on the following page.

## Mothers' Union Theme for 2022: Transformation Now

Now is the time to:

- Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith.
- Transform the churches and communities we work with and of which we are a part, to reflect Christ's kingdom.
- Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1.37)

## Images

*Hodge*, p. 24, Bridget Davey

*Please believe these days will pass*, p. 42, Ben Stevens for The Sunday Times

*Learning Centre school visit*, p. 46, Aidan Cusack for Southwark Cathedral

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