

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

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From the Dean

Dear friends

I am writing to you to tell you that in July I wrote to Bishop Christopher giving him notice that I will be retiring from the office of Dean of Southwark and Rector of the Parish and Conventional District on Tuesday 4 July 2023, following the 40th anniversary of my ordination. I wanted to give him a year's notice of this in order to allow you all to begin the process of identifying and appointing my successor and for the new Cathedral Chapter to do the work it will need to do in order to be in a position to welcome a new Dean.

It has been the most enormous privilege to serve the people of God and lead the worship of Almighty God for all these years but especially from this position. In my wildest dreams I never thought I would be a Dean, but God has other plans! Thank you for all the support you have given to me over the years. The community at the Cathedral and St Hugh's is amazing and I have worked with some wonderful colleagues. Coming to the Diocese of Southwark in 1995 was life changing and working with all of you has been an immeasurable privilege.

There is a great deal I can do in a year. Be assured I won't coast towards retirement. It will be heart-breaking leaving but the time is right and I am sure you, with Bishop Christopher, will find somebody wonderful to live in that beautiful house in which Mark and I have had the joy of living and serve this amazing community.

With best wishes

Andrew Nunn
Dean

Date for your diary

Annual General Meeting with Choral Evensong

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 24 June beginning with Choral Evensong at which the Dean will be the preacher. This will be the Friends opportunity to spend time with the Dean immediately prior to his retirement and we will have a drinks party in the churchyard after our business meeting.

Gaia

The Cathedral is delighted that artist Luke Jerram's spectacular artwork Gaia will be installed at Southwark between 11 and 30 October 2022.

What is Gaia?

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions.

"I hope visitors to Gaia get to see the Earth as if from space; an incredibly beautiful and precious place. An ecosystem we urgently need to look after – our only home. Halfway through the Earth's sixth mass extinction, we urgently need to wake up, and change our behaviour. We need to quickly make the changes necessary, to prevent runaway Climate Change."

Luke Jerram, Artist

The installation aims to create a sense of the Overview Effect, which was first described by author Frank White in 1987. Common features of the experience for astronauts are a feeling of awe for the planet, a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment. The Friends of Southwark Cathedral are pleased to provide financial support for this installation which will see the launch of the Cathedral's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

"As the Cathedral steps up its ambitions to become carbon neutral, it is hoped Gaia will give people from all walks of life the opportunity to contemplate our world from a different perspective, and to renew their appreciation of our beautiful and fragile 'pendant world' as we look to move to a more sustainable way of living."

Clare Johnson,
Chair of the Friends

Gaia events

Find out about the exciting programme of Gaia events focusing on learning and the environment on the Cathedral's website (add link here). If you would prefer to have the information in printed form, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Friends office and we will send some information to you.

We're delighted to be able to offer Friends a quantity of tickets for the following events in the programme in exchange for a donation. Please email or call 020 7367 6724 before the end of September with your request (no more than two tickets per event) and we will put names in a pot and contact you by 14 October if you have been successful in the draw. Enter by the 13 October.

Thursday 20 October, 6.30pm
**City of London Sinfonia presents:
Morning, Noon and Night**

Saturday 22 October, 10am
**Adventures around a wild plant:
family event journey around the
world with Leisa Stewart-Sharpe**

Saturday 22 October, 7pm
Candlelit concert: Fantasy Soundtracks

Wednesday 26 October, 7pm
The London Sea Shanty Collective

Thursday 27 October, 7.15pm
Earth Showoff Comedy Show

Saturday 29 October, 7pm
The Sixteen: All the Ends of the World

Gaia at Night evenings
6.30pm-9pm

Tuesday 11 October

Wednesday 12 October

Tuesday 18 October

Monday 24 October

Tuesday 25 October

'To Caunterbury they wende'

It has been a delight and a privilege to accompany a group of determined Friends on this year's pilgrimage to



Canterbury, which we reached at last on Saturday 17 September. Two years in the making (we originally planned the walk for a week in May 2020) our pilgrimage took place every third Saturday of the month, beginning in January with a blessing from Canon Andrew Zihni at the Cathedral, and finishing with a pilgrims' blessing at Canterbury. Rail strikes, heat and hay fever got in the way for some of us (I have two stages to do alone if I am to be counted one of the worthy) but there were few misgivings, and the general feeling at Canterbury after our arrival was one of excitement and a thirst for further adventures. I especially enjoyed the changing seasons, getting to know my fellow pilgrims on the journey, and learning about parts of old England I am ashamed to say I knew very little



about previously.

On behalf of the Friends and our merry pilgrim band, I would like to thank again Andrew Zihni for our send off, Barbara Moss and Mike and Carolyn Lawson for the recces and leadership, the Dean, Mark Charlton and guidebook author Leigh Hatts for meeting us at Canterbury, the clergy and Friends of Canterbury Cathedral for their warm welcome, and Canon Howard Such for his enlightening talk about Canterbury Cathedral and Thomas Becket which we enjoyed with our mouths full of cake and tea. Finally, my thanks to our Director Kate Dean for all the organisation and arrangements. I fear our pilgrim staves are but resting...

Clare Johnson,
Chair

Call for Gaia volunteers!

We are looking for volunteer Event Assistants to help with Gaia between 11–30 October 2022. No previous experience is required but applicants must have:

- a passion for environmental issues
- a friendly, reliable and enthusiastic attitude
- good communication skills
- an interest in history, the arts and working with people
- a sympathy for the aims and mission of the Cathedral/Christian faith.

Training will be provided. Please tell your friends!

For more information or to request an application form and role description, please contact the volunteers officer, Michelle Ford, at michelle.ford@southwark.anglican.org

Quiz

Join us for our popular Quiz held in the Nave of the Cathedral.
Friday 4 November 6.45–9.30pm
Tickets: £15 individual, £110 for a table of up to 8 people

For tickets and further information contact the office: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org or 020

367 6724

Mudlarking: Lost and Found on the River Thames

Friends are invited to join the annual College of Canons lecture which this year is by mudlark and best-selling author Lara Maiklem.

Friday 18 November, 6.30pm–8pm
Tickets: £8 via Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/3Us6MPu>

Or contact the office –
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org

Mudlark (/ˈmʌdɪlɑːk/) noun A person who scavenges for usable debris in the mud of a river or harbour

Lara Maiklem has scoured the banks of the Thames for over fifteen years in pursuit of the objects that the river unearths, from Neolithic flints to Roman hair pins, medieval buckles to Tudor buttons, Georgian clay pipes to Victorian toys. These objects tell her about London and its lost ways of life.

Moving from the river's tidal origins in the west of the city to the point where it meets the sea in the east, her book Mudlarking is a search for urban solitude and history on the River

Thames, which Lara calls the longest archaeological site in England. As she has discovered, it is often the tiniest objects that tell the greatest stories.

This talk by Lara will be followed by an audience Q&A and copies of Lara's publications Mudlarking: Lost and Found on the River Thames and A Field Guide to Larking will be available to buy on the evening.

Future dates for your diary

Advent tea and carol service

Sunday 27 November

Christmas soiree at the Deanery

Monday 12 December

Trip to Dresden

In the autumn of next year we are planning a trip to Dresden to continue with our theme of reconciliation. The programme is currently being put together and we'll give further details in the next newsletter.



The Friends were saddened to hear of the death of Her late Majesty The Queen. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex and her family.

