

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

WINTER 2023 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



Journey together

I wish to express my gratitude to you for your contributions to the life of our Cathedral, the mother church of our Diocese with all its God-given diversity. It has been a year of change as we said goodbye to the former Dean, Andrew Nunn, and Advent Sunday we shall welcome his successor, Dr Mark Oakley. I am very grateful to Canon Michael Rawson for his care of the whole Cathedral community while Interim Dean - staff, volunteers, Friends and clergy. We have much to give thanks for and much to look forward to.

Advent is a suitable time to begin the next stage of our journey together, walking onward in faith, hope and love. The Western Christian year begins at Advent with its preparations for Christmas and the beginning of a distinctly Christmas story. As it unfolds, the Church's calendar takes us on a journey through the Christian story, rather like a pilgrimage. Your pilgrimages with the Friends - to St Albans, from Guildford, and to Chichester - continue the old and loved tradition of Southwark as a focus for pilgrims.

Every pilgrimage only makes sense when placed in the larger context of the Christian story. We make meaning

not only from the truth of the Christian story - the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of Christ - but from discovering that we are part of something larger than ourselves. The truths of the faith form our character and personality so that we can take our place with our sisters and brothers in the wider community of faith and serve God in various contexts in which we find ourselves.

I have mentioned that Southwark Cathedral is a focus for pilgrims. It has been for many years. That it can continue to be such a focus is due in considerable part to the efforts and good will of the Friends. Pilgrims need somewhere to go, somewhere to learn, a destination that has been hallowed by prayer, by footsteps, by the coming and going of the years. Your part in the life of the Cathedral is an essential contribution to maintaining a living building, and a community characterised by pilgrimage.

I hope that Christmas and the New Year will bring much joy and contentment to you and those you love. Both the Cathedral community and I will be glad of your continued companionship on the pilgrimage, as we journey together in faith, hope, and love.

+Christopher

Hello from the newish Precentor –

Canon Kathryn Fleming

Once upon a time in St Leonard's-on-Sea, there was a little girl who loved singing and cried when she realised that, unlike her friend's brother, she would not be heading for choir school. Two decades later, after three happy years singing my way round Cambridge while reading copious amounts of 17th century literature, I threw a bit of a tantrum: "Well God, if I were a MAN I'd be able to go and join the back row in a cathedral somewhere, but as it is, I guess I'll just have to find work in arts administration". And, later still, when my cohort of Gloucester curates was asked to dream aloud, my wildest dream was "to work somewhere one day where the choir was good enough to be on the BBC's radar for Choral Evensong".

From the chair

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a trustee of the Friends is making grants to the Cathedral for a variety of different projects. Each time the trustees meet they eagerly anticipate spending money! This year we've been lucky to have a good range of requests for funds so you can be confident

we are using your subscriptions and donations to ensure the Cathedral's well-being into the future.

Earlier in the year we received a request for support for the herb garden. A grant of £2,500 was made to meet the costs of long-term benefits like an interpretation panel, equipment, bird boxes and signs. This was our preference rather than plants which have a shorter life span. The Cathedral is working towards a silver eco award and our grant will support that progression.

Hopefully you were able to enjoy the next grant we made which was to commission the composition of The Southwark Service



dedicated to our retiring Dean, Andrew Nunn. The anthem had its premiere on 2 July and will also be the setting for the Installation of the new Dean on Sunday 3 December, sung by the choir of Southwark Cathedral and St John's Cambridge. A small grant of £1500 met the costs of restoration and repair of three Cathedral staves.



And finally, if you visit the Cathedral this Christmas you will be welcomed on the north side of the Cathedral by a festive lighting display funded by the Friends. Part of our role is to provide a warm welcome to those who visit the Cathedral. The depths of December can be dark, chilly and a bit gloomy and our Cathedral should be a beacon

of light and hope during this special time. We hope you will visit during Advent or attend a Christmas service and experience the encouraging welcome.

Thank you for continuing your support of the Friends as we support the Cathedral. Our role is to ensure the Cathedral is still a place for welcoming visitors a long time into the future. The trustees and I wish you a peaceful and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Friends Events

Pop up preserves stall

Sunday 10 December at 12.15

Several kind Friends have made some jam and preserves and we'll be holding a one-off pop up stall selling preserves after the 9am Eucharist and 11am Choral Eucharist on Sunday 10 December. If you've been making jam or chutneys and have a few extra jars you'd like to donate please bring them into the office before 10 December. And do come and make some purchases when the stall is running!

Christmas Carol Service with Friends Christmas

Tuesday 19 December

One of the Cathedral Christmas Carol Services will be held on Tuesday 19 December. Friends are welcome to

attend either (the first being on Sunday 17 December). However, on Tuesday we plan to have a Friends Christmas party at 4.30pm and seats will be reserved for the Friends at the Service. You will also be able to attract a discount in the shop on that day if you show your Friends badge in the shop. Join us for some festive drinks and snacks from 4.30pm
 Tickets: £10 (Friends) and £11 (Guests)

Britain's only Pope -

an illustrated talk with Adrian Waddington
 Saturday 20 January at 11am

Overlooked for centuries, Nicholas Breakspear's achievements outshone those of his contemporary, the martyr Thomas Becket. Born in poverty and probably illegitimate (born at about the time that Southwark Cathedral was founded by the Augustinians), Breakspear rose to become the only Englishman to ascend the throne of Saint Peter, ruling over the papal states as Adrian IV. He had become an Augustinian monk in Avignon. His life is not a tale of liturgy or sermons, and there are more cannons than canons, as Breakspear faced fighting in Scandinavia and the Second Crusade in Spain. He was immediately thrust into conflicts upon his election as pope in 1154.

Adrian Waddingham CBE retired in 2018 after a 47-year career as a

consulting actuary. In retirement Adrian has turned to history, studying at Birkbeck in 2018/2019. His first book 'Breakspear: the English Pope' was published by The History Press in August 2022. Adrian's main home is in Vauxhall. He also has a home in his native north Lancashire.

This first event of 2024 will begin with our usual format: coffee will be available from 10.45 and our talk will begin at 11am. A light lunch will be available after the talk. Tickets are £9.50 and can be booked using the booking form in this newsletter or via Eventbrite https://Friends_talk_Britains_only_Pope.eventbrite.co.uk

New Friends event -

Saturday 3 February 2024, 10.30am

In the past, as a welcome to new members of the Friends, there has been a special tour of the Cathedral. Over the past few years this has fallen by the wayside a little but now we would like to reintroduce this event and if you are a new Friend (or a Friend who hasn't attended this event before) we hope you might join us on Saturday 3 February for our New Friends tour. (This is a reschedule of our original date of 30 September which had to be cancelled due to rail strikes)

We will meet by the Font at the rear of the Cathedral at 10.30am. Guides will be available to take you on a tour of the Cathedral after which coffee and cake will be served with an opportunity to meet together with some of the Cathedral clergy.

We hope you will be able to join us. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can make sure we have enough guides (and cake!) available.
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org

Pilgrimages

A new programme of pilgrimage begins in February. First we will walk from the Cathedral to Waltham Abbey which will take three months. In May we will begin our second pilgrimage of the year walking a circular walk in Sussex.

To find out more contact the Friends office, check the Friends pages on the Cathedral website or follow our page on Eventbrite

Friends trip to Dresden

in April 2024

The Friends trip to Dresden will take place in April next year. We will fly to Berlin on Thursday 18 April at a very sociable time of 11am, from Berlin we will take the train to Dresden. Our hotel will be centrally located and on arrival we will settle in and have supper

together. Over the next few days our programme will include a guided tour of the Frauenkirche and Eucharist on Sunday evening. We return on Monday 22 April leaving Berlin at 15.00. The cost will be £825 with a £50 additional cost for a single room. This will include return flights (with British Airways from Heathrow) and train tickets, bed and breakfast accommodation with ensuite facilities, supper on the first evening and guided tours.

If you would like to join us we would require a £250 non-refundable deposit and full payment by the end of January.

Contact the office

kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org
 020 7367 6724 07814 826153

The Friends of Southwark Cathedral,
 London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

Date for your diary

Annual General Meeting and Friends
 summer party – Saturday 15 June 2024

Christmas at the Cathedral

Choir concert

Friday 15 December, 7.30
 Movements from Handel's Messiah
 (with orchestra) in the first half. We

have four discounted tickets available for Friends, please contact the Friends office and they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are available on Eventbrite

Cathedral Carol Services

Sunday 17 and

Tuesday 19 December, 6pm

Tickets available from Eventbrite

Community Carols

(previously called the Sing-In)

Wednesday 20 December, 12.45pm

Tickets available from Eventbrite

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service

8.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas
(Midnight)

Christmas Day

8.30am Morning Prayer

9am Eucharist with Carols

11am Choral Eucharist

For full advent and Christmas programme is online here: Christmas:
Southwark Cathedral (anglican.org)

News from the Cathedral

Becoming an Eco Church

Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK equipping churches to c

are for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement and individual lifestyles. By completing an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. The Cathedral currently has a Bronze Award within this scheme and is working towards the Silver Award. In the New Year we will have more news. There are five areas that a church or cathedral must demonstrate environmental engagement with to receive an award:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Keeping in touch

Please let us know if you are happy to receive notifications from us by email. With increasing costs it's really helpful if we can reduce the number of letters and newsletters by mail and instead use email. In turn this will ensure we have more funds available to help with Cathedral projects.

You can contact the Friends by email:
kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org or
by phone 020 7367 6724

Our address is

The Friends of Southwark Cathedral,
London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

