

# FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF  
SOUTHWARK  
CATHEDRAL

SPRING 2024 • [www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk)



# Loose ends

From the Dean, Mark Oakley

My favourite definition of a friend is 'a person in whom all our loose ends can find a home'. I'm very aware that my closest friends in life are those who are more than aware of my loose ends, as well as my weaknesses and peculiarities, and yet stick with me! I'm sure that the Friends of a cathedral have a similar loyalty and generosity. Even when something happens or is decided that might irritate or frustrate from time to time, the Friends are those who are committed to the bigger picture, to the heritage and continuity of the building and community they love and want to see flourish for the future.

It is that loyalty and generosity that, as the new Dean, I want to thank you for from the depths of my heart. Slowly but surely, I am meeting people and learning more about the cathedral, and as I do this, I am also seeing the affection and energy given to the place by so many. The Friends are an impressive example of this, and the friendship given to our cathedral by you all is a real source of hope. Thank you. They say that the four stages of humanity are – lager, aga, Saga, and gaga. Well, our cathedral has helped thousands of people through the years travel with the comforts and joy of faith.

The cathedral, too, has its own journey through the generations, and to make that journey it needs good support and encouragement from its friends. Your role in this is as vital as ever. Thank you for being such a valued part of the cathedral's life and witness, and for your loyalty to its future.

## Friends' events

### 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. We will fly to Berlin on Thursday 18 April at the 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 with Eucharist on Sunday evening. We return on Monday 22 April leaving Berlin at 15.00. The cost is £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 beginning of March.

Contact the office  
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 020 7367 6724 07814 826 153  
 The Friends of Southwark Cathedral,  
 London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

## Thinking ahead

A huge thank you to Gill Walley for her marmalade and chutney and to everyone who came and bought some goodies from the pop-up preserves stall back in December. What a great success! We'll be holding this event again in December this year so if you are making some preserves or chutneys this year, we'd be grateful if you made a couple of extra jars for our stall.

## Dates for your diary

### Annual General Meeting and Friends summer party

Saturday 15 June 2024  
 The choir for Evensong will be from St Margaret's Church, Lee.

### Quiz Night

Friday 11 October  
 This is a great night of fun at the cathedral. Pop the date in your diary and begin to gather your team or even teams.

### 'For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals,' an illustrated talk with John Vigar

Saturday 12 October  
 This lecture follows John's popular presentation last year, 'Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches,' in which he told the story of human tragedy and frailty as depicted in our parish churches.

In 'For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals' John will show how pictures and objects in our churches introduce us to historic practices – many of which have been forgotten or superseded – surrounding the so-called 'rites of passage'.

Our first rite of passage, baptism, is discovered via holy wells, fonts with their covers, canopies and chrismatories. The second rite of passage, holy matrimony, is inextricably linked to church porches, mazes and church ales.

The final rite of passage, the funeral, is discussed through wall paintings of a sexton's implements, huts to protect eighteenth century parsons at the

graveside and depictions of the last rites. The lecture uses illustrations including carvings, wall paintings, stained glass and objects to show a thousand years of depictions of the milestones in our human journey.

## Friends' grants to the cathedral

The Trustees of the Friends have been looking at the various requests for funding from the cathedral. We have made grants for a variety of projects to help the cathedral.

### Volunteer management system

Last year over 11,000 hours of volunteer time were recorded; 57 new volunteers started in various roles, new roles were introduced, there were various volunteer trips and training sessions and the monthly e-newsletters. With the number of volunteers growing, we are so fortunate and pleased to have the Friends support to launch a brand-new volunteer management system called Assemble. This will revolutionise the way that we keep data, ensuring that everything is kept together in one, secure system. This program will also enable me to easily create and promote new roles on our website and via social media, log volunteer hours, organise rotas, process travel expenses and provide regular news items that

can be shared with all volunteers. It will provide the smooth and secure management of volunteer information and recruitment, as well as provide a platform that volunteers can use to view and update their own hours and training. We cannot wait to get it up and running. If you are also interested in getting involved with any volunteering at the cathedral, you can find a list of current opportunities and how to apply on the webpage here: [cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/support-us/volunteer/](https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/support-us/volunteer/)

Thank you for enabling us to use this efficient and sophisticated volunteer system. I look forward to sharing more news about its functionality soon.

Sharda Rozena  
Volunteers Officer

### New plaque

With the appointment of Canon Roxanne Eversley as Canon Librarian we needed a new plaque in the clergy stalls. This has been made by local carver Jim Patrick, paid for by the Friends.

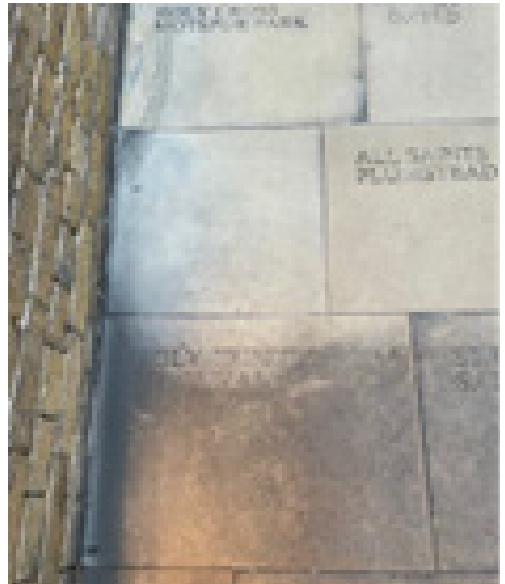
### Lancelot's Link clean

Integral to demonstrating a warm and uplifting welcome, the north entrance to the cathedral is being improved in appearance and arrangement. The thriving café and recent re-location and refurbishment of the cathedral

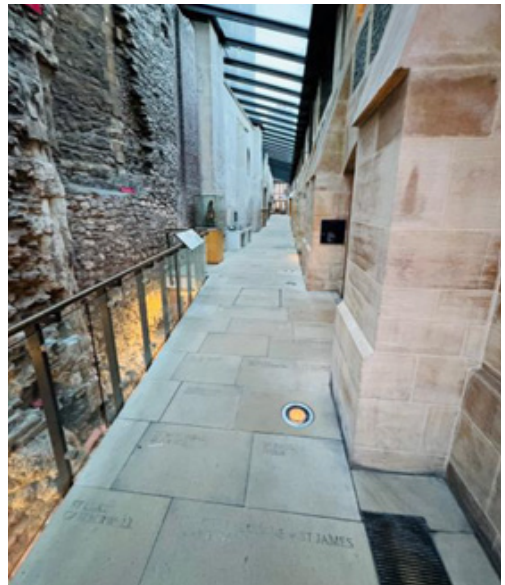
shop are a proven success. The focus now is to enhance Mandela Porch and the Link building which draw visitors into the cathedral.

In response to complaints about the Link floor and how dirty it had become, the cathedral with the generous help of the Friends has embarked on a cleaning project to improve the appearance of the existing building fabric and to expose again the qualities of the architecture.

The first stage of these works has been completed by a specialist floor cleaner. The stone had not been professionally cleaned and was showing the wear of almost 25 years of use. When this floor was laid in 1999 it wasn't sealed and this has made cleaning and upkeep difficult. In January the stone was washed and cleaned with a soft brush and the residual water removed using a dry vacuum. After a period of drying out the stone floor was sealed with a porous, vapour-permeable protective coating. A further period of two weeks is planned for conservation students to attend and complete the task including the engraving of the names of the parishes of the diocese.



*Comparison of cleaned and uncleaned areas as the work took place*



*Lancelot's Link following the first stage of the clean*

# Lent, Holy Week and Easter services at the cathedral

## Study group: Passions of the Soul

Sundays in Lent, 9.45am

This year we will be reading and exploring Rowan Williams' recent book *Passions of the Soul*. It is a short book, but it is rich with insight as to how the great classics of Eastern Christianity can help us understand and cope with the ups and downs of modern life. The former Archbishop of Canterbury shows the cost of living in a culture that has a diminished and trivialized picture of the human self. He points to how the Eastern tradition teaches ways to develop our self-knowledge and awareness, so that we can relate to the world without selfish illusions. Only then can we be ready for our eyes to be opened to God, avoiding destructive patterns of behaviour, and become alert to the kind of people we need to become. Come and join us.

## Mothering Sunday • 10 March

Join us as we mark the Fourth Sunday of Lent which is variously called 'refreshment', 'laetare', or 'Mothering' Sunday. It is a day away from the fasting and abstinence of Lent before Passiontide and Holy Week take us with Jesus to Jerusalem and to Calvary's cross.

On Mothering Sunday we follow our regular pattern of services and will be distributing beautiful posies at our 9am and 11am eucharists.

## Lamento • Merbecke Choir Lent concert

Saturday 23 March, 7.30pm

A selection of beautiful and heart-wrenching music including works by Gombert, Byrd, Whitacre and Pärt. Tickets from £12 (under 18s go free), available from the cathedral website and Eventbrite.

## Holy Week

Holy Week address and compline  
Seeing in the Dark: Poetry and Holy Week

The Dean of Southwark, Mark Oakley, will take us through the days of Holy Week with the work of poets of different generations and cultures. He will explore the ambiguities, resonances, and provocations, of poems that seek to deepen the mystery of God rather than resolve it.

## Palm Sunday • 24 March

On Palm Sunday we recall Jesus' journey into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowd waved palm leaves and covered his path with them. We remember this with crosses made from palm leaves. Today also marks the beginning of Holy Week.  
8.30am – Morning prayer

9am – Eucharist with the Preaching of the Passion

11am – Choral eucharist with Procession from Borough Market\*

3pm – Evensong with the first Holy Week address

6pm – Compline with the first Holy Week address\* The Way of the Cross Music and readings for Holy Week, with the Merbecke choir and Address by the Dean

### **Holy Week organ meditation**

Monday 25 March, 1.20pm

Join us for a free Holy Week organ recital given by our sub-organist Simon Hogan.

### **Monday 25 - Wednesday 27 March**

Our journey through Holy Week continues through our daily services and the Dean's Holy Week addresses.

9am – Morning prayer\*

12.30pm – Midday prayer

12.45pm – Eucharist with hymns

5.30pm – Evening Prayer

6pm – Holy Week address (the Dean) and Compline\*

### **Maundy Thursday • 28 March**

On Maundy Thursday we recall the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest and trial, and his commandment to them to love one another.

9am – Morning prayer

11am – Chrism eucharist

Clergy and lay ministers from across the Diocese of Southwark gather for an act of commitment to ministry and the blessing of the holy oils for use throughout the year.

5.30pm – Evening prayer

6.30pm – Celebration of the Lord's Supper with Washing of Feet\* (followed by the Watch of the Passion until 10pm) This service includes the washing of the feet of some of the congregation, recalling Jesus' actions prior to the Last Supper. Following the service there is a watch until 10pm reminiscent of Jesus' long agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### **Good Friday • 29 March**

Good Friday is the day when we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. It is a sombre day where we meet, pray and reflect on the sacrifice Jesus willingly paid for all our sins.

9am – Morning prayer with litany

12pm – Preaching of the Passion with the Very Reverend Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark\*

1.30pm – Liturgy of the day\*

4pm – Evening prayer

Durufié Requiem and Poulenc Motets, Southwark Cathedral Choir Good Friday concert

6.30pm

Following the liturgy of Good Friday the Southwark Cathedral Choir performs Durufié's Requiem and Poulenc's

Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence.

Tickets available from the cathedral website and Eventbrite soon.

**Holy Saturday • 30 March**

Holy Saturday is a day of preparation ahead of the joyful celebrations of Easter.

9am – Morning prayer with litany

4pm – Evening prayer

8pm – Easter Vigil with confirmations

This first service of Easter begins in darkness and marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday and leads into the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Also at this service we celebrate the confirmation of candidates from across the diocese.

**Easter Sunday •31 March**

On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

8.30am – Morning prayer

9am – Eucharist

11am – Choral eucharist

3pm – Evening prayer

6pm – Compline\*

# Keeping in touch

Please let us know if you are happy to receive notifications from us by email.

With increasing costs it's 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](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org) or by phone 020 7367 6724

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