

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

SUMMER 2024 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



Loyalty to the future

Clare Johnson

In April, a small group of Friends travelled to Dresden, Germany, to continue exploring the theme of friendship and reconciliation.

Southwark Cathedral is a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails which was established after the bombings of Coventry, Dresden and other cities in WWII, and in 2022 we spent a day at Coventry Cathedral with its ruins and powerful new church. This trip was designed to 'bookend' that visit. Dresden exists for many of us in our minds in two forms: as the mythical baroque 'Florence of the Elbe'; and as its burnt-out offspring, flattened by the British and Americans at the close of WWII. Dresden today is something of a miracle. It has been rebuilt from nothing (much of what remained after the bombings was cleared by the post-war regime) in the space of 25 years or so, since reunification. The famous Frauenkirche dominates the old town, its black ruins now incorporated into its lighter resurrection, while the nearby Kreuzkirche is a starker memorial, preserving a barren, meditative interior. Outside this church is a memorial to the Jews of Dresden.

We were given a tour of the rebuilt areas of the old town (as well as the

interior of a hearty Bavarian restaurant!) by one of the architects, and we learnt about the challenges of rebuilding the city with sensitivity and hope – with 'loyalty to the future'. Dresden retains plenty of communist-era architecture which remains important to many of its residents, for example. It's almost possible, as you walk around it, to 'feel' several iterations of the city at once. Dresden is living proof of what we are capable of – the terrible, the extraordinary.

Here, we reproduce a story shared by our Dean about the poignancy of his own visit to the German city.

I was brought up by my grandparents and my grandfather had flown in the Royal Air Force in World War II and he was a bit of a hero to me, but he never spoke about his experiences, except one day mentioning 'Dresden' and weeping. I didn't understand then as a young boy, but I grew up and learned why. He has since died but two years ago I was asked to preach in the reconstructed Frauenkirche in Dresden. He was very much in my mind. On the way to the train station at the end of my visit the taxi driver asked me why I was in Dresden, and I told him I had always wanted to come. 'Why?' he asked. I took a deep breath. 'because my grandfather was a navigator of a Lancaster bomber and on 14 Feb



1945 I know he flew here as part of the bombing raid and he could never talk about it'. The man was quiet and then said 'ah, that was the night my mother was killed'. He pulled over the car and turned the engine off. He then turned round to me, put out his arm out to me and said 'and now we shake hands'. He wouldn't take my money when we got to the station, 'No', he said, 'you and I will remember this day for the rest of our lives'.

That man, like me, knew the facts. He knew the horrors of that night, he had lived his loss, learned about the thousands dead. But he knew more. He had become wise. He knew how to make a full stop into a comma, how to interrupt revenge into something more true. He taught me something that day: that we rightly ask what it might mean to be loyal to the past, but the more urgent question is how can we be loyal to the future?

• Gifts to the Cathedral

• In the first quarter of the year the Friends have made several generous grants to the Cathedral. We heard of some in our last newsletter and since then there have been further grants. • The Archaeological Chamber in Lancelot's Link is the next stage of cleaning following a grant in early 2024 to clean the stones along the floor of the Link. This work, which will cost a little over £5,000, will take place over the coming months.

• The Friends met the expense of producing the Service Sheets for the Holy Week and Easter Services this year. • Perhaps you were able to attend one of the Services this year, if so, you would have been given one of these orders of service. This is a large expense for the Cathedral, and it is fitting for the Friends to support this project (and adding a little advertisement for the Friends to

attract some new members) Each year the Friends prepare little parcels of Easter Eggs which are distributed to the choir and congregation on Easter Day. This year we prepared 250 parcels – a huge thanks to our volunteers who lovingly prepare these gifts.

And again at Easter, as well as Christmas, the Friends fund the flowers for the Cathedral. We are grateful to Patricia Ellis and her team who skilfully intertwine beautiful fresh flowers with greenery and other elements of past displays to ensure the Cathedral is working to meet the Eco Award goals.

Silver Eco Award Cathedral

We are delighted to announce that Southwark Cathedral has been awarded the A Rocha UK Silver Eco Award for our work on the environment and promoting sustainability. The Silver award is part of the Eco Church scheme created by A Rocha UK, a charity committed to mobilising Christians to care for nature.

Achieving the Silver Eco Church award is down to the excellent work we have been doing across the various areas of Cathedral life. These include reducing our energy use, improving recycling,

hosting events on the environment, encouraging small changes through our monthly Sustainable Steps feature and developing the Cathedral precinct to increase biodiversity.

Work is already underway to achieve our Gold Award

UPCOMING FRIENDS EVENTS

Walking with Friends

This year we have walked to Waltham Abbey and have just started a two month pilgrimage the Cuckmere Circuit in Sussex.

We then have two months with 'stand-alone' pilgrimage days. In September we begin our next long-distance journey – Rochester to Winchester. This year we will walk in three stages from Rochester Cathedral to Otford. Then, in March 2025, we will begin at Otford and steadily make our way to Winchester Cathedral. As usual tickets and information about each stage will be available via Eventbrite.



Annual General Meeting –

Saturday 15 June

As usual we will begin our afternoon with Choral Evensong sung by the choir of St Margaret's Church, Lee. The Dean will be our preacher.

Following the Service we will move to the South Transept for the business meeting after which the Dean and Sub-Dean will give an update on the life of the Cathedral.

We will end our meeting in the churchyard, weather permitting, for a drink together.

Tickets: £5 for Friends and £7.50 for guests

Lancaster House

Friday 26 July, 2pm

Located close to Buckingham Palace, Lancaster House is run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This historic house offers a magnificent setting and we have been invited for a guided tour followed by an afternoon drinks reception on the terrace. "If diplomacy is theatre, then Lancaster House is an impressive stage on which to conduct it.

The building has long served as the backdrop for high-level summits, conferences and meetings attended by the leading political figures of the day.

It has witnessed key moments in international affairs from the Cold War to Brexit, and has given its name to a host of international agreements."

We will meet at 1.50pm at the gates ready for a 2pm tour. Drinks will be served at 3.30pm on the terrace if weather permits and otherwise in the state dining room.

This is a particularly special opportunity and tickets are strictly limited and only available from the Friends office. Tickets will be £25 for Friends and £30 for guests.

New Friends tour and coffee

Saturday 28 September, 10.30am

Following the success of our recent New Friends tour and coffee we will be holding our next event in September. All new Friends are invited to join us as well as any Friends who would like to join us for a Cathedral tour.

Please contact the office to book your space.

Quiz Night

Friday 11 October, 6.45pm

The Quiz Night, held in the Nave, is a great evening of light-hearted fun. Gather your friends and family together and join us!

Tickets do not include supper this year although a bar will be open. You are welcome to bring your own snacks to share on your table.

For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Saturday 12 October, 11am

This lecture follows on from John's popular talk 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 builds on this approach to 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, mazers and Church Ales.

Our 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.

Tickets: £9.50 available on Eventbrite
Coffee/tea and cake will be served at 10.50 and the talk will finish at about 12.30.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Celebration of Christmas

30 November

Advent Tea followed by the Advent Carol Service – 1 December, 5pm (TBC)

Volunteers at the Cathedral
If you would like to help with Friends events by occasionally volunteering please contact Kate. We often need help with serving refreshments for the

Confirmations and Consecrations as well as preparing the newsletter for mailing and supporting some administrative tasks. None of these are

large commitments in terms of time but they do help the work of the Friends which in turn provides valuable support to the Cathedral.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Southwark Cathedral will take place on Saturday 15 June in the South Transept at Southwark Cathedral. The meeting will begin once Choral Evensong has finished.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 24 June 2023
- 3 Consideration of the Chair's Report
- 4 Consideration of the Treasurer's Report
- 5 Grants and gifts given to the Cathedral during 2023/24
- 6 Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2023
- 7 Election of members to the Board of Trustees
(please contact Kate if you would like to stand for election)
- 8 Any other business

(Any items to be included under this item must be notified to the Secretary in writing by 11 June).

The business meeting will be followed by a Question and Answer session with the Dean. Questions should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by 11 June. This is so we can organise the questions into groups and save repeating ourselves, thereby using the most of the time we have available. You may use e-mail: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Southwark Cathedral held on Saturday 24 June 2023 in Southwark Cathedral

Present: Seventy Friends

In attendance: Kathryn Dean

1 • Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Malcolm and Vivienne Baines, Jennifer Jones, Chris Patey, Linda Smith.

2 • Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 July 2022

These were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3 • Consideration of the Chair's Report

The Friends programme for 2022 began with the long-awaited pilgrimage to Canterbury. Having been postponed twice (in May 2020 and May 2021) it was heartening to see a large group gather in the nave for the pilgrim's blessing before we set on off on the first stage of our pilgrimage to Canterbury, ably led in turns by Mike and Carolyn Lawson and Barbara Moss. Over the next nine months we walked each month (with a slight heat and train hiccup in August) and arrived in Canterbury to a warm and friendly welcome, with tea provided by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

Back at the Cathedral we enjoyed a talk early in February from our friend Guy Rowston about Hogarth's London. As always, a thoroughly enjoyable lecture. In May we began our journey to cathedrals under the theme of reconciliation with a visit to Coventry Cathedral. In April 2024 we'll follow this up with a trip to Dresden. And more events will gather around this theme over time.

In June we supported the Cathedral's participation in London Open Gardens Day, setting up a pop-up café at the Deanery. Our AGM expanded to include a summer party and we were treated to a beautiful warm summers evening in the company of Friends and Milo Harper on the harp.

Our Quiz Night was postponed in November and took place in February earlier this year.

Advent began with the popular Advent Tea prior to the candlelit service. And we ended the year with the Christmas Soiree at the Deanery, our last with Andrew as our host.

During the year, Kate has continued to keep in touch with the membership with newsletters, telephone calls and letters.

4 • Treasurer's Report

Membership remains stable at about 700 individual members, some of these are two people at the same address. We saw a further £2,000 increase in subscriptions

on the previous year as more people are joining through CAFdonate and their giving is often higher and more regular.

Increasingly people opt to join via CAFdonate although we do have a postcard with a QR code as promotion around the Cathedral and links on the website to join direct through the office. We were disappointed not to have more people joining the Friends following our support of the Gaia installation. We are in discussions with the Cathedral's marketing team to open further openings to promote the Friends around the Cathedral and thereby increase opportunities for visitors to opt to provide ongoing support in this way.

The Friends are in a strong position financially and although there is a decrease in investments value this is not of concern. All it means is the value of our investments has gone down in the market but as we're not going to sell them, there's nothing to worry about.

Income from events is down a little on the previous year as the quiz was held in the following new year rather than the autumn as is usual. But this will balance over the coming year. The regular walks provide a gentle regular income to compliment the larger events.

Valuation of funds – Total value of funds at 31 December 2022, £375,933.

Interest received on investments – CBFCE & M&G, £15,351.

Legacies and donations – In the current year we received a further payment of £4,000 from the estate of Nancy Dance and a legacy of £10,000 from Mavis Fabling's estate.

Donations – Total last year, £6,688 largely from one Friend who gives a generous annual gift linked to the years of his marriage.

5 • Gifts and Grants given to the Cathedral in 2022

Regular gifts	
Christmas trees	250
Easter Eggs for congregation	235
Hospitality: consecration	430
Flowers (Christmas and Easter)	500
Dataware support for database	990
Sub-total	2,405

Special grants	
Musicians for Easter Services	800
Gaia installation	10,200
	Sub-total 11,000
	Total 13,405

6 • Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2022

Nigel Skayman recommended the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Gay Walker. This was unanimously agreed.

7 • Election of members of the Board of Trustees

There were no nominations for Trustees. Following the retirement of Andrew Nunn as Dean of Southwark, Michael Rawson would become Acting Dean. This would create a vacancy as Sub-Dean which would be filled by Jay Colville who would be Acting Sub-Dean. Jay would therefore become an ex-officio member of the Friends Board of Trustees.

8 • Any other business

There was no other business.

9 • Date of the next Annual General Meeting – 15 June 2024

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.15 and progressed to the Questions and Answers session with the Dean and Sub-Dean

Bringing the Friends up to date – The Dean and Sub-Dean

The Dean began by reflecting on his time at Southwark and thanking a variety of people involved with the Friends during his years in office.

The Cathedral had now become a registered charity in line with the requirements of the Cathedrals Measure. Financial reporting had become a little more difficult and staff were currently working through the new format.

The Dean thanked the Friends for their support of Gaia which had been an enormously popular installation welcoming 57,000 visitors during the three weeks. It had been sad to say goodbye to Andrew Zihni as Precentor after a short time in office, but he had moved on to Gloucester to become Dean.

There had been several new appointments on the Cathedral staff team in the past year. Charlotte Campbell had been appointed as Communications and Marketing Manager. Alfie Roche was the new Retail Manager. Sharda Rozena

had taken on the role of Volunteers Officer. David Edgar had been appointed to the new role of Chief Financial Officer. The new Precentor was Kathryn Fleming who had been Canon for Worship and Community at Coventry Cathedral. Kathryn would be installed in early September.

The Sub-Dean explained the process for the appointment of a new Dean. Advertising and short listing had taken place, and the interviews would be held in the week beginning 3 July. It was hoped to have a new Dean in place during Advent.

In the meantime, Michael Rawson would be Acting Dean and Jay Colville Acting Sub-Dean.

The Chair thanked both the Dean and Sub-Dean for joining the meeting and thanked the Dean for his support and care over this last 25 years. The meeting then closed at 5.45 and progressed to the drinks reception in the churchyard.

Form of Nomination to the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Southwark Cathedral
I hereby propose the person named below for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Southwark Cathedral

Name of nominee in block capitals

Signature of nominee

Name of proposer in block capitals

Signature of proposer

Name of seconder in block capitals

Signature of seconder

Please return this form by 11 June to:

Mrs Kathryn Dean
Friends of Southwark Cathedral
London Bridge
London SE1 9DA

Booking Form

Name

Email address

Postal address

..... Postcode

Telephone Number

Please send this completed form to the office together with a stamped self-addressed envelope or email address so we can send you confirmation of your reservation. We do not issue tickets for events and where possible we will send an email rather than a letter.

NUMBER REQUIRED

Annual General Meeting • Saturday 15 June

£5 (Friends)

£7.50 (Guests)

Lancaster House • Friday 26 July

£25 (Friends)

£30 (Guests)

New Friends tour and coffee • Saturday 28 September

FOC (Friends)

£5 (Guests)

Quiz Night • Friday 11 October

Team of 8: £110.00

Individual tickets: £15

For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals • Saturday 12 October

£9.50

Total

Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of Southwark Cathedral or you can make a transfer to the Friends bank account: The Friends of Southwark Cathedral 51 50 03 18927661 Please email the office with details of the transfer you have made and the reference given on the transaction. Without this information we will assume your payment is a donation to general funds.

Office address: The Friends of Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London, SE1 9DA

Email address: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org