

# FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF  
SOUTHWARK  
CATHEDRAL

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



## **A message for Advent from the President of the Friends**

Advent Sunday marks the first anniversary of Mark Oakley's installation as Dean. It has been a pleasure to watch the community of faith at the Cathedral move confidently on to the next stage of its life under his priestly leadership, walking together with a sense of real thanksgiving for all that has gone before, together with hope and expectation for all that will be possible under God in the coming years. I express my gratitude to the whole Cathedral Chapter, lay and ordained, for all they have accomplished over this last year, and for ensuring the Cathedral is a Mother Church to the Diocese and a valued part of community life on Bankside.

The sudden and untimely death of Ian Keatley, Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral, was a shock to us all. Ian was a fine musician, a teacher and friend, whose contribution to our worshipping life will be remembered for many years. It was fitting to remember him with thanksgiving and affection at a very uplifting service of Evensong on St Cecilia's day. The Ian Keatley Memorial Fund has been established in his memory to nurture the next generation of young musicians, and I commend it to you.

Advent and Christmas are seasons both of the 'now' and the 'yet to come'. Each year we prepare again for Christ's birth now, even though it has of course already happened and the benefits of his birth, death, and Resurrection fill our lives now. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for the consummation of all things when Christ shall be all in all, and there will be no crying, or death, or war, or sorrow. We look forward to a time when all shall live in peace and freedom in the Kingdom of God. How we need this hope.

As we face the challenges of our world together with all people of good will, I encourage you not to let the challenges before us drive your Advent preparation, or your Christmas hope, from your heart. They depend on each other. For without the ground of a well-prepared heart now, we will not see the gentle growth of what is yet to come. We risk losing our vision, losing hope, and losing purpose.

In one sense, it is always Advent at the Cathedral. It is a place of hope and promise every day where we always prepare our hearts to receive Christ, asking him to broaden our love and strengthen our resolve to serve others. Curiously, it is always Christmas, too, because we know that Christ is born and lives in us. So in its fabric, in its prayer, and in its people the Cathedral bears witness both to the 'now' and to the 'yet to come' - it is a place of hope, making space for love with heart, mind and soul.

I wish you and those you love a very happy Christmas with peace and joy in the coming year.

Bishop Christopher



## Visit the Cathedral shop



The Cathedral shop is always full of beautiful cards and gifts but it's particularly stunning at this time of year with lots of ideas for presents.

Don't forget if you wear your Friends badge you can ask for a special Friends discount – 10% off on purchases over £10.

## Friends events for the Winter and Spring

**Saturday 1st February at 10.30am**

### **New Friends tours**

We will be holding our next New Friends tour on Saturday 1 February. All Friends are very welcome to join us but please book so we are able to cater accordingly. Meet by the Font at 10.30am and our guide, Guy Rowston, will take us on a tour of the Cathedral. Afterwards coffee and cake will be available and time for a chat to welcome new members of the Friends.

This event is free for Friends and we ask for a small donation of £5 for guests

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**Saturday 8th February at 11am**

### **Quartet: four stories from Southwark Cathedral.**

A medieval royal wedding, an 18th century whistle blower, financial games of chance and the Norwegian saviour of London.....

Guy Rowston will present this illustrated lecture in the Garry Weston Library

Coffee and cake will be available from 10.45am. (Lunch will not be served at this event)

Tickets: £6.00 (Friends)

£6.50 (Guests)

## Pilgrimage Group

*“Walking is for the body, pilgrimage for the soul”  
The British Pilgrimage Trust*

We are currently on a winter break from our pilgrimages but we begin again in March. We start where we finished, in Otford, and over the months we will walk to Winchester.

Whilst we aim to remain inclusive it is important for anyone joining the group to be a fairly experienced walker. We would suggest an ability to walk 10 miles in different weather and over varying terrain.

Tickets are available via the Friends Eventbrite pages. If you need any further information please contact the office – [kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org) Briefing notes for each walk are sent out on the Thursday evening before each walk.

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## Dates for your diary

### Stowe Gardens – Monday 7 April

A visit to the beautiful gardens in Buckinghamshire. More details in the next newsletter.

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### Trip to Iona

We mentioned organising a trip to Iona and this is still our plan. Rather than October 2025 we are planning to visit in Spring 2026. If you would like to register your interest please contact Kate in the office [kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org) This will not commit you to joining us but it will be helpful to assess interest.

## Friends Grants

The Friends have met the cost of a number of projects this year. Back in the Spring you heard about the cleaning of the floor of Lancelot's Link. Here's some news on other projects too.

In June young people from the Sunday morning JX group began to grow tomato plants in large troughs in Humphrey's yard. Cathedral staff and members of the congregation have worked hard to keep them fed and watered during the Summer months. The children have picked them and taken them home, staff have eaten them during the working day and other groups from the Cathedral community have enjoyed eating home grown tomatoes. The plants have thrived but this is a result of children and adults working together as well as a good amount of rain and sun.

Thank you to the Friends of the Cathedral for the gift of the troughs which has demonstrated that it is possible to grow food in a small space in the inner city. As always we are grateful to Mark the Cathedral gardener for his advice, practical help and do take a look at the selection of fruit trees and herbs he grows in the Churchyard.



## Cleaning the Archeology Chamber

Virtu cleared and executed a surface clean of the chamber and the wall above and re-positioned the signs in the correct places. An enormous quantity (bucket-loads!) of dust, debris and litter was removed from the chamber without removing archaeological debris – this will be addressed at the next stage. It has been transformed as a result and the archaeology appears defined and legible. The on-going maintenance of this area has been raised as an issue.



On the basis of Virtu's report and recommendations, we are drawing-up a further brief for works to ensure the archaeology is stable (there is visible slippage and friable stone powdering) and to protect the chamber from dust, litter, plants and animals. We would like this brief to combine with one from Visitor Engagement about the re-presentation of the chamber as we believe barrier, signage and lighting (possibly also sound) could allow easier and better engagement.



The Friend's contribution has been invaluable in progressing our care of this most treasured and popular part of the site – it tells so much of the Cathedral's Southwark-specific narrative on the South bank of the Thames and outside The City walls and we can confidently display this again.

It allows the Property Department to now work with the Architect and Archaeologist to develop detailed plans for the chamber's preservation. Thank you, so much appreciated.

# Booking Form

Tickets can also be booked via the Friends pages on Eventbrite

Name .....

Email address .....

Telephone Number .....

Postal address .....

..... Postcode .....

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	Amount
<b>New Friends tour</b>		
Saturday 1 February @ 10.30am	Free (Friends) .....	.....
	£5.00 (Guests) .....	.....
 <b>Quartet: four stories from Southwark Cathedral</b>		
Saturday 8 February @ 11am	£6.00 (Friends) .....	.....
	£6.50 (Guests) .....	.....
	<b>Total</b> .....	.....

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.

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