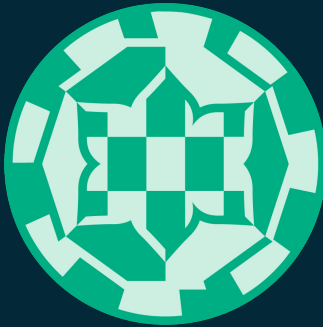


SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

OUR VISION

*Making space for love
with
heart, mind, and soul.*



Renewing Our Vision

*Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all **your heart**, and with all **your soul**, and with all **your mind**.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Matthew 22.36-40

Southwark Cathedral’s original foundation was a Priory with a community that lived by the rule of St Augustine, written around 400 AD. Augustine begins his rule with the words, ‘Before all else, love God and then your neighbour, because these are the chief commandments given to us’. Our renewed vision finds its inspiration in our spiritual heritage.

The word ‘love’ is used in many superficial and saccharine flavoured ways today. This might mean we are reluctant to use it, in case we look like we are buying into these. Instead, we want to reclaim the word and show how it is central to our Christian belief and practice. What Christ meant by ‘love’ is so urgently needed in our society. Love is not an intellectual theory. It is an embodied way of living. To focus on love, when the Church is too often known for division and disagreement, and discrimination, is a positive articulation of what we believe about God, the life of faith, and the dignity of all.



Our Values and Foundations

Integrity
Kindness

Justice
Courage

Our four foundations are:



Committed, resourced and valued people.



A Cathedral building, precinct and estate which is fit for purpose and well maintained.



Good IT and engaging communications.



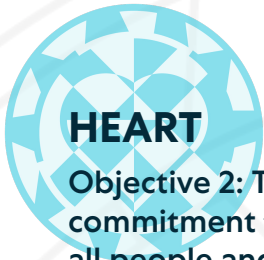
A sustainable, developing financial base.

Where are we going? | Our mission and objectives

Our mission and objectives combine in what we are calling the pathways for realising our vision. The pathways through which we will make space for love of God and neighbour are:

OVERALL

Objective 1: Rooted in Christian faith, to be a place of hospitality, exploration, imagination, and kindness. We will be a Cathedral that rejoices in making space for all people to flourish and grow in heart, mind, and soul.



HEART

Objective 2: To keep the heart healthy in London by a commitment to social justice, upholding the human dignity of all people and of every age.

What Do We Mean By “Heart”?

As a community we will seek to embody our values.

- ◇ We will prioritise where possible, support, partner with, and encourage, charitable bodies and projects that keep the vulnerable, overlooked and disadvantaged, at the heart of our locality and society.
- ◇ All our communications, internal and external, our meetings, our individual and collective behaviour, will be done with sensitivity and in the spirit of our Bishop’s request that we ‘speak well of each other’.
- ◇ We will re-commit energy to our partnership with Robes.
- ◇ We will explore new partnerships to broaden awareness and help meet the needs of contemporary London.
- ◇ We will scrutinise, and develop wherever needed, our inclusivity as a worshipping and working community. To begin with, we will focus especially on racial diversity, disability, and young adults.
- ◇ We will have an annual focus on a particular area of social justice which, whilst not dominating, will be discernible in our events programme, victim support, exhibitions, occasional liturgies, and various meetings, throughout that year.
- ◇ Educational training on the theme will be offered to staff, volunteers and congregation.
- ◇ As part of our annual programming, we will ensure to make space in our Cathedral, and in our Millennium building, to further social justice work and local partnerships.
- ◇ We will be a beacon of hope, known for helping to keep the heart healthy in London, by looking out of ourselves and staying centred in our faith that upholds human dignity, celebrates diversity, and preserves the integrity of creation.



Objective 3: To help people both live faithfully and think critically, being a place of learning and discovery.

What Do We Mean By “Mind”?

We will focus on the learning ministry of the Cathedral, both for adults and children.

- ◇ We will plan an annual programme for Christian formation, resourcing the congregation, diocese, and enquirers, with talks, groups, study days and retreats.
- ◇ We will ensure that accessible educational materials on Christian faith are accessible in our shop and in the Cathedral.
- ◇ We will continue to offer events that help relate Christian faith to contemporary life and society.
- ◇ We will review our ministry amongst children and young people, allowing honesty, growth and questioning, in their discipleship.
- ◇ We will work with the diocese to offer study days, day retreats and seminars for clergy.
- ◇ We will explore ways with the diocese to help the formation of diocesan ordinands.
- ◇ We will be known as a Cathedral that encourages people of all ages to live faithfully and think critically.



Objective 4: To be a school for the soul, a place for enrichment of the inner life through prayer, our Cathedral building, the arts, and community.

What Do We Mean By “Soul”?

We will continue to offer a reflective, resonant, and reverential liturgy to the glory of God.

- ◇ We will review how accessible our liturgies are to the visitor.
- ◇ We will take seriously, and seek to nurture, the spiritual needs of our congregations, in person and online, and those who come to us from the locality and beyond.
- ◇ We will explore with them ways to pray, a rule of life, and other spiritual disciplines, such as book groups, Lent and Advent groups, bible studies, pilgrimage and retreats.
- ◇ We will work to develop and deepen our ecumenical partnerships.
- ◇ We will endeavour to further our partnerships with those of other faiths, seeking to do together whatever we can in order to foster good relations and mutual learning.
- ◇ We will continue to celebrate our musical tradition and engage with art, poetry, and other creative arts which feed and challenge the soul.
- ◇ We will explore further ways to partner and pray with the people of St Hugh's.
- ◇ We will explore the 'health and wholeness' needs of local workers to see how we might help them in their stressful and long-hour working day.
- ◇ We will be known as a Cathedral that is a school for the soul.

*'We come to God by love and not by
navigation'*
St Augustine

