

# FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF  
SOUTHWARK  
♦ CATHEDRAL ♦

SUMMER 2025 • [www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk)

## CEILIDH

FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY

7.00 - 10.00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6.45

Bring a picnic or order one from the  
Cathedral cafe to collect on the night.

Enjoy your supper in the churchyard.  
We'll have some tables or bring a blanket.

Pay bar from 6.45

Tickets:

<https://buytickets.at/thefriendsofsouthwarkcathedral/1648296>



Individual  
or family  
tickets  
available

# Friends Events

## **Wine tasting – Friday 6 June @ 7pm**

Do you like wine but are never really sure what you're drinking. Why not come and learn about wine in a fun and friendly way at this first Friends wine tasting. Through the Grapevine promise no pretentious 'wine speak' but lots of interesting facts about the main types of wine. You will be introduced to varieties of both white and red and will leave with a much better idea of which types of wine you love AND which to head for the next time you are buying for yourself!

A modest charcuterie and cheese are included with this tasting. However, you may wish to have a light supper beforehand.

Individual tickets available via Eventbrite but groups of 6 people can book direct with the Friends for a special discount  
([kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org))

**Tickets:** [https://Friends\\_wine\\_tasting.eventbrite.co.uk](https://Friends_wine_tasting.eventbrite.co.uk)

.....

## **Annual General meeting - Sunday 8 June @ 12.45/1.00pm**

Friends are welcome to join the Choral Eucharist at 11am and the Cathedral choir will be singing. After coffee with the congregation in the Cathedral, the meeting will take place in the library. A light lunch will be available before we begin the meeting. The meeting is free of charge but it would be helpful for catering arrangements if you could let us know if you plan to attend. Donations are invited to cover the cost of lunch.

The minutes from the AGM last year together with the agenda for our coming meeting are within this newsletter.

## **Ceilidh in the Cathedral – Friday 25 July @ 7pm**

The Friends are holding a Ceilidh in the Cathedral and we hope you will join us.

A poster for a Ceilidh event. The background is dark blue with a subtle pattern of musical notes and a treble clef. At the top, there is a string of colorful triangular bunting flags in yellow, teal, pink, and orange. The text is centered and reads: 

# CEILIDH

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY**  
**7.00 - 10.00PM**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6.45**

Bring a picnic or order one from the Cathedral cafe to collect on the night.

Enjoy your supper in the churchyard.  
We'll have some tables or bring a blanket.

**Tickets are available using Ticket Taylor:**

**<https://buytickets.at/thefriendsofsouthwarkcathedral/1648296>**

## A visit to Stowe – Monday 4 August

“At the heart of Stowe, the historic house is the perfect blend of past and present. Evolving through the centuries, it now serves as a school and welcomes visitors to discover its rich history.”

We will gather at Milton Keynes station at 10.15am and transfer to Stowe for our day to begin. If you prefer you can meet us at Stowe as parking is available but this will need to be booked in advance.

On arrival we will enjoy refreshments before a tour of the house which will include an opportunity to spend time in the visitor centre and museum. We will be provided with a picnic lunch before visiting the gardens in the afternoon.

To book tickets contact the Friends office by email or post  
([kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org))

**Tickets £27 (inclusive of entrance to the house and gardens, welcome refreshments, guided tour and lunch plus transfer to and from Milton Keynes to Stowe)**

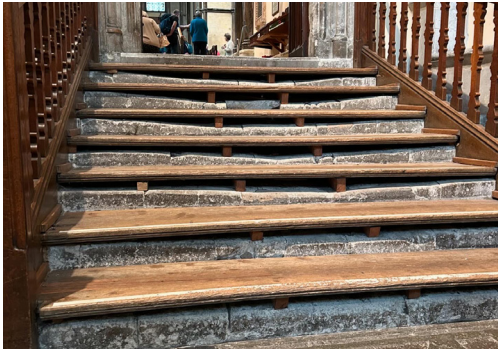
.....

## Walking with Friends

This year we are walking to Winchester from Rochester. In late 2024 we completed the first 3 stages finishing in Otford back in November. In March we begun again from Otford with 2 shorter walks to get us started. For further information take a look at our pages on Eventbrite which gives details of the different stages.







## Visit to Holy Island – 30 April – 3 May 2026

You will remember we hoped to organise a Friends trip to Iona. Sadly, although the trip would have been very enjoyable it was costly and in the current financial circumstances it was agreed to consider other options. Instead we hope to make a visit to Holy Island in Spring 2026. If you would like to hear more about the trip please let me know (you can contact the office using the various options given at the end of the newsletter). I will then keep you informed as we give the plans some more shape.



---

## Dates for the diary

In our next newsletter we will include more details for these forthcoming events but do pop the dates in your diary

**Views of Southwark: an Illustrated lecture with Guy Rowston –  
Saturday 1 November**

**Advent Tea – Sunday 30 November @ 5pm**

**Quiz night – Friday 17 October**

**The Lodger of Lant Street: an illustrated lecture with Guy Rowston –  
Saturday 14 February**



## Cathedral news

In the last newsletter we enjoyed an update from the Learning Centre and Music department. In this edition the property department provides information about conservation housekeeping

Conservation Housekeeping week took place with a trained group of volunteers in January 2025. The volunteers learnt new techniques to gently dust the friable stone and monuments, using appropriate equipment for each material surface. The Retrochoir was carefully dusted and cleaned from ground level. Work continued until Easter with volunteers working largely in the Choir Aisles. The team of volunteers have worked incredibly hard during this time to carefully collect samples of crumbling stone for the archaeologist to observe and samples of paint dust for the conservators to study. The plan is for the team of Conservation Housekeepers to start at the East-end and work towards the West-end with specialist teams being engaged for works at high level and particularly fragile fabric in the Cathedral.



## Annual General Meeting information

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Southwark Cathedral will take place on Sunday 8 June in Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral. The meeting will begin at 1.00pm. A light lunch will be available in the Library from 12.45pm.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 15 June 2024
3. Consideration of the Chair's Report
4. Presentation: Friends strategy for development
5. Consideration of the Treasurer's Report
6. Grants and gifts given to the Cathedral during 2024/25
7. Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2024
8. Election of members to the Board of Trustees  
(please contact Kate if you would like to stand for election)
9. Any other business  
(Any items to be included under this item must be notified to the Secretary in writing by 5 June).

The business meeting will be followed by a talk from the Dean and an opportunity to ask questions which should be submitted, in writing, to the secretary by 5 June. This is so we can organise the questions into groups and save repeating ourselves, thereby making best use of the time we have available.

You may use email: [kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org)



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Southwark Cathedral held on Saturday 15 June 2024 in Southwark Cathedral**

**Present:** Twenty five Friends

**In attendance:** Kathryn Dean

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Vanessa and Malcolm Dixon, Sue and Philip Feaken, Carolyn Lawson, Michael Lewis and Chris Patey.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 2023**

These were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

### **3. Consideration of the Chair's Report**

2023 was, as always, a busy year for the Friends. The trustees met regularly and reviewed a number of grant applications from the Cathedral. This is a process which requires the group to review the request for funding together with the guidelines of our constitution. I am grateful to my trustee colleagues who participate in our meetings so they stay lively and relevant. They each give their time generously to the Friends and ensure we continue legally, duly considering our processes. Thank you to each of them.

Numerous grants were given: the Processional Cross was mended and the Vergers and Cathedral staves were refurbished; the new Canon Librarian's name board was carved and installed; the memorial book was brought back up to date; the Christmas lights at the Cathedral which welcomed visitors at such a busy time of the year and a new software system to more appropriately support the large volunteer force at the Cathedral. Other regular/annual grants to meet costs of flowers at Easter and Christmas as well as the Easter Egg gifts were given. Further grants were approved later in the year but these will be reflected in the following years accounts including the cleaning of the floor of Lancelot's Link. Perhaps our most long term grant was given to commission the Southwark Service by Nico Muhly dedicated to Andrew Nunn on his retirement. This beautiful piece of music has now been regularly performed by our choir and we hope will be sung elsewhere in due course.

Generally we are able to approve requests but sometimes it is not so. In 2023 an early request came to meet the cost of the installation of 'The Museum of the Moon' and after careful thought the trustees felt this was not an appropriate project to fund. When making this decision we read the legacy document written by the Cathedral after the Gaia installation and felt the profit made could reasonably be expected for the Moon and consequently costs could be met from the profit. This protects our finances so we can give grants for projects which are unable to self-fund.

Another grant met the cost of a visit from Codex Conservation Ltd. Anne-Marie visited the Cathedral in the summer and added more detail to the condition catalogue of the Cathedral's collection of Lancelot Andrewes books. Again, in 2024 there was a further spend on this project when the company returned to spend 2 days hand making protective envelopes for each book and a pamphlet to stabilise the condition of the books. We will learn in the coming months if this project will move to the next stage in preparation for the 2026 anniversary of Andrewes death.

I'd like to thank Vivienne, our treasurer, who keeps a close eye on our finances and gives her time and expertise to the Friends.

2023 was the year in which the Association of the Friends of Cathedrals, Abbeys and Greater Churches met for its biennial conference. We met at Hereford Cathedral for a hugely enjoyable and beneficial conference. I attended with Kate and we listened to a range of enlightening and supportive lectures on management of finances, encouraging new members and charity legislation.

Our social programme has taken a slightly different turn over the past couple of years. With the growing programme of talks in place at the Cathedral it seemed appropriate to find other ways to bring the Friends together socially. We had a couple of illustrated talks from John Vigar and our friend Guy Rowston, together with our Quiz Night. There was no Advent Tea - instead of the Advent Procession we welcomed our new Dean at a beautiful service in the afternoon. We tried a little tea party prior to a Christmas Carol Service but this was not so successful and we will review this idea for 2024. At the AGM we enjoyed a 'Desert Island Discs'

style session in the Cathedral with Canon Wendy Roberts in the chair and Andrew Nunn as the guest. The gentlemen of the choir sang some of Andrew's favourite music and we ended the evening with a rendition of 'So long, farewell' from the Sound of Music.

Our new programme of pilgrimage walks took us from Southwark to St Albans and Guildford Cathedral back to Southwark. This group continues to walk together monthly and we are grateful to Michael and Carolyn Lawson together with Barbara Moss who have led these walks for us.

The Friends continues to be a vibrant organisation with a healthy programme of events which hopefully meet the range of interests of our membership.

We have continued to welcome new members to the Friends but sadly the current financial situation does often mean we also have resignations. Friends are often committed members of their local parish and in times when finances are tight, funds are diverted to their hard-pressed local church. However, we use social media to promote the Friends, distribute a regular newsletter and look for more ways to promote the Friends throughout the Cathedral.

So, yet another busy year for the Friends. We have been so pleased to welcome our new Dean, Mark and look forward to working with him and Michael in the coming year.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. Vivienne reported that the Friends accounts were in a healthy condition and a number of grants had been given to the Cathedral. No legacies had been received during the year but a gift in memory of Brenda Bartlett had been received and conversations were taken place as to how this money would best be used in the Cathedral.

**Valuation of funds** – Total value of funds at 31 December 2023 - £402,957

**Interest received on investments** – CBFCE & M&G: £24,558

**Legacies and donations** – there were no legacies received during the year but we did receive a gift of £5,000 in memory of Brenda Bartlett.

**Donations** – Total received in 2023 £8,730

5. Gifts and Grants given to the Cathedral in 2023

Regular gifts

Christmas trees  
Easter Eggs for congregation  
Flowers (Christmas and Easter)  
Dataware support for database

Sub-total 26,156

Special grants

Composition – Southwark Service 7,524  
Memorial Book 350  
Christmas decoration 10,464  
Farewell gifts 2,226  
Grant for the herb garden 2,895  
Volunteer management system 2,697

Sub-total 26,156

Total 28,741

6. Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2023

Vivienne Baines proposed and Tessa Bartley seconded the adoption of the accounts. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting

7. Election of members of the Board of Trustees

There were no nominations for trustees. The chair encouraged Friends to consider joining the trustees and playing a vital part in the management of the organisation.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting –

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



## **Bringing the Friends up to date with Cathedral life – The Dean and Sub-Dean**

The Sub-Dean started the update with reviewing the staff goodbyes over the past year. In June the Cathedral had said farewell to Andrew Nunn as Dean and Mark Charlton. At the Diocesan Farewell Service the choir performed the Southwark Service which had been commissioned by the Friends and composed by Nico Muhly to mark Andrew's retirement. The Sub-Dean expressed his thanks to the Friends for this gift.

Andrew and Mark are enjoying retirement in Yorkshire and are busy as predicted.

Marie Tims retired with Andrew. She had been the Dean's PA for 22 years.

Toyin Tuskai had moved on from her role as the Cathedral Accountant in February 2023.

Jay Colville had been the Canon Missioner for 5 years and interim Sub-Dean. He moved in October 2023 to St Michael's Church, Paris

The Chief Operating Officer and Chief Finance Officer both left the Cathedral in April. The COO had moved the Cathedral into the new registration with the Charity Commission and the CFO had streamlined the financial system. Whilst the recruitment process took place both posts had interim personnel. New appointments were underway and announcements would be made in due course.

There had also been a number of 'hellos' over the past year. Kathryn Fleming was installed as Precentor in September 2023. Kathryn had come to Southwark from Coventry and would care for the liturgical life of the Cathedral.

There had been a long consultation process for the new Dean and on Advent Sunday Mark Oakley was installed as Dean of Southwark. The Senior Leadership Team were enjoying his laughter and jokes.

Roxanne Eversley was appointed as Canon Librarian with responsibility for cultural diversity throughout the Diocese.

The round of daily worship continued to lie at the heart of all that happens at the Cathedral. There would be a service to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Windrush. The Robes sleepout would also continue to take place. In October 2023 40,000 visitors came to the Cathedral to see the Moon. The overseas links with Zimbabwe, Rouen and Bergen continued successfully. There was a local focus on ecumenical links and the Dean of St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral had become an Ecumenical Canon. Work continues to make the Cathedral sustainable and recently they had received the Silver Eco Award with a hope to move towards the Gold Award.

The Sub-Dean talked about the importance of friends in all our lives and the encouragement and support they provide. The financial support the Friends give to the Cathedral, and their presence and prayers, are gratefully received. The Sub-Dean extended thanks to Clare in her role as chair of the Friends and the direction she provides.

The pilgrimage programme being run by the Friends has extended into a wider community. The trip to Dresden had been very enjoyable despite some travel challenges.

The Dean then introduced the Chapter's hopes for the future. Together the Chapter had been thinking about priorities for the next 5-10 years using the assistance of an external facilitator whilst at the Foundation of St Katherine in Limehouse. There would be a determination to make space for love under three headings of heart, mind and soul. There would be a renewed vision in spiritual heritage and to reclaim the word love in the way Jesus had intended.

The Dean felt this love was urgently needed by society. He wanted to keep the human heart healthy by being aware, sensitive and encouraging talking to each other with an energy towards social justice. For the mind he wanted to explore how we can live and strengthen the Cathedral as a teaching seat for Diocesan clergy, ordinands and children as well as the congregation. He wanted to make the soul equally reflective mirroring the spiritual seasons of the year with these three pathways to embody "you do not come to God by navigation but by love".

The Dean ended by saying he wanted to ensure a smooth path of transition over the coming year.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.

# Become a Friend

Scan the code to find out more

**or visit**

[cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/  
support-us/the-friends-of-southwark-cathedral](https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/support-us/the-friends-of-southwark-cathedral)



## Contact the Friends

Kate Dean  
Friends of Southwark Cathedral  
London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

**Tel:** 020 7367 6724

**Email:** [Kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:Kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org)

Follow us on

