

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
♦ CATHEDRAL ♦

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Peace Doves by Peter Walker Sculptor, photographed by Will Bacon Photography

From the Chair

It is deeply gratifying to support an organisation where we can see our work making a tangible difference, and where our charitable activities align so clearly with the Cathedral's mission. Our trustees' strategy day on 8th March demonstrated this alignment.

The session was designed to map how the Friends support the Cathedral's renewed vision, launched in 2024, which calls for "Making space for love with heart, mind, and soul". The day focused on ensuring our charitable work continues to have impact across the Cathedral's strategic foundations and objectives. Tessa Bartley presented compelling analysis showing how our funding over recent years has directly supported the Cathedral's four foundational pillars: committed resources and valued people; maintaining the building and estate; communications and IT; and financial sustainability. Her presentation revealed that 57.4% of our grants since 2019 have supported building maintenance and improvements, with the remainder split between supporting people and communications – a distribution that reflects both urgent practical needs and our commitment to the Cathedral's holistic mission. If you'd like a copy of the report please contact the office.

The Annual General Meeting on 8th June allowed us to celebrate another successful year of working with the Cathedral. During 2024, the Friends awarded £28,270 in grants, supporting everything from Easter and Christmas flowers to major conservation projects including the specialist cleaning of Lancelot's Link and stabilising the Cathedral's antiquarian collection of Lancelot Andrewes' books. Beyond our financial contributions, we continued to offer a rich programme of events – from illustrated talks and our popular quiz night to trips abroad including our moving visit to Dresden and its Frauenkirche, inspired by the Cathedral's commitment to reconciliation. Our new Cathedral tours, combining guided visits with coffee and cake, proved particularly popular in welcoming new Friends into our community.


This year we've experimented with new events including a wine tasting, a ceilidh, and a trip to Stowe House and Gardens – do let Kate Dean know how you are enjoying the programme. I look forward to taking part in events as a member following the end of my tenure as Chair, as announced at the AGM. Thank you to all Friends for support you give to the Cathedral, and the difference you make. I have very much enjoyed meeting so many of you during my time as Chair.

Clare Johnson



Would you like to become more involved with the Friends' work?

As we move forward, the trustees have established three focus groups - **Strategy and Marketing, Operations and Membership, and Compliance and Finance** – each aligned with the Cathedral's strategic priorities. These groups are entrusted with advancing their respective objectives at an operational level, while the trustees retain overall decision-making authority and accountability. If you'd like to join one of these focus groups or explore becoming a trustee, please contact the office for more information.



CEILIDH IN SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER
7.00 - 10.00PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6.45

**Dancing to live music
from The Ceilidh Tree**

Bring supper or order from the
Cathedral cafe to collect on the night.
We'll have some tables for you to eat at.

Pay bar from 6.45



Tickets:

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

Individual
or family
tickets
available

**Southwark Views – an illustrated talk with Guy Rowston |
Saturday 1 November @ 11.00am**

From medieval illumination to French Impressionists, artists have depicted the Thames around the area of London Bridge and the Pool of London for six centuries. Some strove for accuracy (and sometimes failed) others for artistic achievement. An hour's artistic feast with our friend, Guy Rowston.

Coffee and tea will be available from 10.45am.

Tickets: £7.50 available via Eventbrite or from the Friends office

eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-views-tickets-1735705394559

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Stationers Hall | Monday 3 November @ 11.45

The Stationers' Company originated in 1403 when the Mayor of the City of London approved the formation of a stationers' guild, whose members were text writers and illuminators of manuscript books, booksellers, bookbinders and suppliers of parchment, pens and paper. A stationer was one who traded from a 'stationery' stall around St Paul's Cathedral.

The ambition of all Livery companies was to own a hall and the Stationers were no exception. In 1606, the Stationers purchased Abergavenny House on the site of the present Hall. During the early days of September 1666 the Great Fire destroyed a major part of the City of London and Abergavenny House was burned to the ground.

Work on the present Hall began in 1670 and by 1673 it was ready for use. Additions took place at the end of the 18th century, including the magnificent stained glass windows in the Livery Hall.

Our tour will last approximately 75 minutes. During this visit to the unique and historic Hall we'll learn more about the work of this ancient City of London Livery Company and its pivotal role in the history of the book trade over the past six centuries.

Tickets £25 per person, includes tea and coffee at the end of the tour.

Book via Eventbrite or contact the Friends office

eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-visit-to-stationers-hall-tickets-1735776166239

Walking with Friends | Pilgrimage to Winchester

Our pilgrimage has been a little delayed due to the warmer weather we have experienced this summer. Our remaining walks for this year are both in October (weather permitting). We will take a little break over the winter and take up our walking poles again in March to complete the pilgrimage, hopefully arriving in Winchester in April.

Our 2026 programme is in the planning stage but our commitment is to walk on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite and we provide the final information for each stage on the Thursday beforehand via email only.



Advent tea | Sunday 30 November @ 4.45pm

Join us for an Advent Tea in the library before settling into your reserved seats at the Advent Carol Service. The Service is candlelit and marks the beginning of the season of Advent.

Tickets: available via Eventbrite or from the office. £10.00 – Friends, £11.50 – Guests

eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-tea-tickets-1735824781649?aff=oddttdtcreator

An evening with the Dean | Tuesday 16 December @ 6.15pm Discs for a Dean's desert island

The Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley will be in conversation with Michelle Lovric exploring essential music choices and other necessary luxuries when swept away to a desert island.

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley is Dean of Southwark. Formerly Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, and Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, he is an author of several books on poetry and theology. He was awarded the international Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing for his book "The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry", and the Lanfranc Award by the Archbishop of Canterbury for education and scholarship. He has worked at the Actors' Church in Covent Garden as Rector and has a strong interest in theatre. He is also Patron Tell Mama, monitoring Islamophobic hate crime, and Ambassador for Stop Hate UK. In 2025 he was appointed Whitelands Professorial Fellow in Christian Theology and Contemporary Issues by Roehampton University.

Michelle Lovric is a novelist and poet whose work explores Venice, art, faith and the history of medicine. Her novels include *The Book of Human Skin* (a TV Book Club pick) and *The Remedy* (longlisted for the Women's Prize). For children, she has published six novels set in Venice and Southwark. She co-authored the bestselling memoir *My Sister Milly* about Milly Dowler. She wrote a play about the 2017 terror attack on London Bridge. This was



performed in the Cathedral on the first anniversary. Her new adult novel, *The Puffin*, will be published in 2026. She is currently writing a children's book set in Southwark Cathedral in 1905. A Royal Literary Fund Fellow, Michelle has lived for the last 25 years between Clink Street on Bankside and Cannaregio in Venice. She is active in community and environmental causes in both places and is vice chair of the River Residents Group.

**Our evening will begin after Choral Evensong with some festive drinks.
Tickets are available via Eventbrite or direct from the office £10.00 Friends.
£12.50 Guests**

eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-the-dean-discs-for-my-desert-island-tickets-1735842053309?aff=oddtatcreator

THE LODGER OF LANT STREET – Charles Dickens' Southwark an illustrated talk with Guy Rowston | Saturday 14 February

Despite early traumatic childhood days spent in Southwark, Charles Dickens went there frequently in later life. His novels show that he knew the area as well as any cabbie. We hear of Shakespeare performed on horseback, the Gordon riots, Bedlam, a notable hanging, Astley's amphitheatre, the South London novel Little Dorrit and a perilous ascent of the Cathedral tower.

Coffee and tea will be served from 10.45

Tickets: £7.50 via Eventbrite and the Friends office

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Weekend visit to Lindisfarne and the Farne Islands | 30 April to 3 May

In the spring next year we hope to take a trip to Northumberland. We will gather at Berwick-upon-Tweed station on Thursday afternoon. From there we will travel together to our overnight accommodation. During Friday and Saturday our plans include a day on Holy Island, a trip to Bamburgh Castle and a boat trip to see the Farne Islands.



Sunday will be our return day after attending a morning service.

The cost will include all travel during the trip but we ask you to make your own arrangements to travel to and from Berwick upon Tweed. 3 nights accommodation with breakfast, supper together on our first evening and entry fees to each of the places we will visit. Lunch and additional suppers are not included in the cost.

For further information and costs please contact the office.

Sunday 30 November | Marmalade and chutney stall

This year our stall selling various marmalades, jams, chutneys and other goodies will be open on Sunday 30 November. Everything is home made and delicious so perhaps you could stock your cupboards and buy some jars for Christmas presents.

We'll be at the back of the nave after the 9.00am Service until about 1.00pm.



The Angels are Coming! Experience Christmas like never before

This November, step into a world of wonder as the Cathedral is transformed by The Angels are Coming! – an awe-inspiring light and sound spectacular by the award-winning artistic collaboration, Luxmuralis.

As Advent approaches, immerse yourself in a magical, modern celebration of Christmas. Stunning light displays, mesmerising projections, and beautiful music fill every corner of the space – guiding you through a powerful journey that ends with the story of the very first Christmas unfolding before your eyes.

Visit duration | Approx 45-60 minutes.

Entry timeslots are available every 15 minutes from 4.30 – 8.15pm.

Tickets from £12.50 (£2.50 for children aged 6-15) available from the Cathedral's Eventbrite page.

The proceeds from The Angels are Coming! at Southwark Cathedral will go towards supporting the cathedral's mission and ministry, safeguarding its heritage and to developing its outreach and education offerings.



© Christmas Lightshow at Liverpool Cathedral, created by Luxmuralis.

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.

Advent Tea | 30 November

New Friends tour | 10 January

Talk with Guy | 14 February

Tuesday 24 February | Visit to St Bartholomew the Great for a guided tour followed by Holy Eucharist at St Bartholomew the Less

Weekend trip to Lindisfarne and surrounding area | 30 April – 3 May

Wine tasting – English sparkling wines | 5 June

Contact the office for tickets and information about events

Kate Dean

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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

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