

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

CHORAL EUCHARIST

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025

11.00AM

SOU

THW

ARK

WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

LIVESTREAMING

Please note that this service is livestreamed. If you would prefer not to appear in the livestream, please sit in the North Transept.

COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS

During the service, a collection will be taken for the maintenance, mission and worship of the Cathedral.

Cash donations may be placed in the baskets brought around by the stewards.

If you are a UK taxpayer we would be grateful if, before the service begins, you would complete the yellow envelope provided, since this enables us to claim a further 25% from HM Revenue & Customs.

Contactless donations can be made by selecting your donation amount and tapping the terminal provided by the stewards.



Alternatively, either before or after the service, there are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

You can also support the Cathedral by buying your books from the ethical online bookseller bookshop.org and designating Southwark Cathedral shop for the 30% of purchase price donation they offer us.

CHORAL EUCHARIST

PRESIDENT

Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor



DEACON

The Rev'd Jacqueline Gray, Ordinand



SUBDEACON & PREACHER

Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer



CHOIR

The Cathedral Choir

Helen Smee, Director of Music

James Gough, Assistant Organist



SETTING

Mass for four voices

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)



MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Chorale Prelude on Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please stand as the Procession enters.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

NEH 500



Thy kingdom come on bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that kingdom's day.

But the slow watches of the night
Not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
The silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear-shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed;

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad:
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.

TUNE: IRISH

Melody found in Ashworth's
Collection of Tunes c. 1760

TEXT:

Frederick Hosmer (18440-1929)

THE GATHERING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the celebration.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The President introduces the lighting of the second candle on our Advent Crown. When the candle is lit, the following prayer is said:

ADVENT 3 ♦ JOHN THE BAPTIST

We light this candle for all God's messengers;
preparing the way for change;
signs pointing to a new age to come.

God, as we wait for your promise,

All give us light, give us hope.

Members of Junior Xpress come forward for a blessing before departing for their worship and activities.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

**All Come let us return to the Lord and say:
Lord our God
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Choir sings:

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35.1-10

Read by Deborah Stuart

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

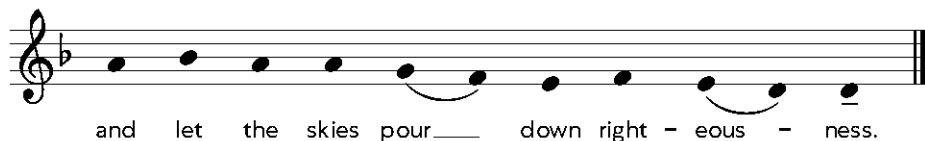
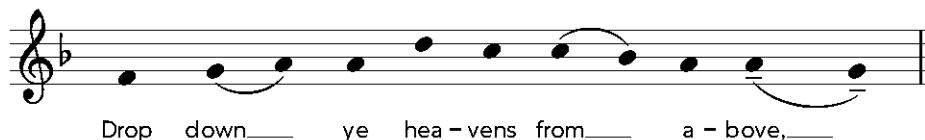
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE ADVENT PROSE

The response is:



Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee. **R**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away:
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **R**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. **R**

THE SECOND READING

James 5.7-10

Read by **Tony Kamninga**

A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel as the Procession moves into the Nave.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11.2-11

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer

THE CREED

Please stand.

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ
let us pray to the Father.

Please be seated or kneel.

The prayers are led by Sue Feakin

One of these responses may be used:

Maranatha.
All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All Let us pray to the Lord,
 Lord, have mercy.**

At the end one the following may be used:

**All Merciful Father,
 accept these prayers
 for the sake of your Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 Amen.**

**All Hasten, Lord, the day
 when people will come
 from east and west,
 from north and south,
 and sit at your table
 in your kingdom
 where we shall see
 your Son in glory.
 Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

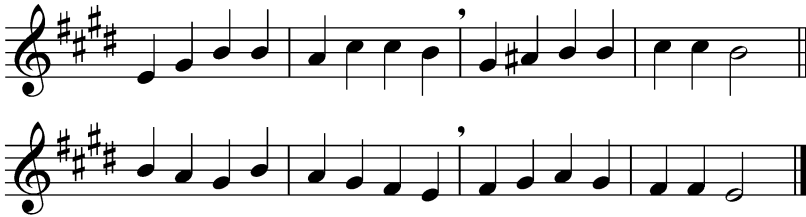
During the Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar. A collection is taken (cash or contactless as detailed on page 2). Please use this QR code or the link to donate online.

<https://bit.ly/3T6o2tL>



THE OFFERTORY HYMN

NEH 5



Hark! A herald voice is calling;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.

TUNE: MERTON

W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

TEXT:

From the Latin
tr. E. Caswall (1814-1878)

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

The Choir sings:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Sabaoth.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessèd is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues:

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life.

All

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we look for the coming of the kingdom, so we pray.

Please pray in whichever language you feel most comfortable.

All	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.	Baba wa... Notre Père... 天におられる私たちの父よ... Nna anyị... Fader vår... Pai nosso... हे हमारे स्वर्गबासी पिता... Padre nuestro... 我們在天上的父... Отец наш... 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지... Πάτερ ἡμῶν... اے ہمارے باپ
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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessèd are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Please be seated. If you wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice, please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Receiving Communion in one kind is still receiving Communion in full. Please do not dip the host into the chalice.

If you would like to receive a blessing, please bow your head.

Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive Communion. Whatever your faith tradition or background, you are most welcome to come forward for a blessing.

During the distribution of Communion, the Choir sings:

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the
sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the
sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the
sin of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Followed by:

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come • Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All Amen.

All Generous God

**You have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
That when Christ comes again
We may shine like lights before his face,
Who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen.**

THE NOTICES

Please be seated.

THE BLESSING

Please stand.

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
All **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ
help you to bear the fruits of holiness.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

THE FINAL HYMN

NEH 415 (tune H&P 120ii)



O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus—the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim
And spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of thy name.

TUNE: LYNTHAM

T. Jarman (1782-1862)

TEXT:

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

THE DISMISSAL

Our Lord says, "I am coming soon".

All Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

All Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude & Fugue in F minor, BWV 534 • J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

◆ NOTICES ◆

WORSHIP

Services marked with an * are livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/@southwarkcathedral2224/streams>

Services marked with a † are only available online.

Preachers are indicated in italics.

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER • THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am	Morning Prayer*
9.00am	Eucharist <i>Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer</i>
9.30am	Eucharist at St Hugh's <i>The Rev'd Delorine Green</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>Canon Jeremy Clark-King, Treasurer</i>
3.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian</i>
6.00pm	Compline†

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
9.30am	Eucharist
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
5.30pm	Choral Evensong
7.00pm	A Quiet Christmas

A quiet service for those who find it hard to celebrate at Christmas. Dealing with the loss of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of job or the arrival of an illness – such life events can make it hard to find season cheer. This service aims to offer some sacred space for those living through a darker time, with a reminder that “The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has never put it out”.

With music from The Merbecke Choir.

All are welcome. No tickets required.

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
5.30pm	Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
12.45pm	Christmas Community Carols

O Come All Ye Faithful and join us for this lunchtime carol service. Led by the Cathedral clergy and quite possibly Hodge the cat, we invite all to join us to sing carols and traditional Christmas music and celebrate the Christmas season with us.

Free tickets are available from [Eventbrite](#).

5.30pm	Evening Prayer
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FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer <i>with The Litany of Reconciliation</i>
12.45pm	Eucharist
5.30pm	Evening Prayer
7.00pm	Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert

Join us for an evening of festive music performed by the Southwark Cathedral Choir. Expect a selection of popular carols, sacred choral works and seasonal classics. The Choir will be directed by Helen Smee, alongside Cathedral Organists Simon Hogan and James Gough, instrumentalists and soloists.

Tickets available on [Eventbrite](#).

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
9.30am	Eucharist
4.00pm	Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER • THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30am	Morning Prayer*
9.00am	Eucharist <i>Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor</i>
9.30am	Eucharist at St Hugh's <i>The Rev'd Delorine Green</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>Canon Michael Rawson, Sub Dean & Pastor</i>
4.00pm	Evening Prayer
6.00pm	Cathedral Carol Service I* <i>The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark</i>

More tickets for this service will be released on Monday 15 December at 12 noon. Tickets will be available on [Eventbrite](#).

MONDAY 22 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
4.00pm	Evening Prayer
6.00pm	Cathedral Carol Service II <i>The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark</i>

More tickets for this service will be released on Monday 15 December at 12 noon. Tickets will be available on [Eventbrite](#).

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
9.30am	Eucharist
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
5.30pm	Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

9.00am	Morning Prayer*
12.30pm	Midday Prayer
12.45pm	Eucharist
4.00pm	Crib Service

Help us to begin Christmas at a short, family-friendly service, with music led by the Cathedral's Junior Choristers. Come dressed in character to help to tell the story, or come just as you are. You'll be so very welcome!

10.00pm	The First Eucharist of Christmas* <i>The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun</i>
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As we move towards Christmas Day, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Christ in a service including beautiful music from the Cathedral choir, and familiar carols for all.

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

8.30am	Morning Prayer
9.00am	Eucharist with Carols <i>The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark</i>
1.00pm	Cathedral closes

GIVING TO THE CATHEDRAL

We are encouraging everyone to join the Parish Giving Scheme. If you need any help signing up online or if you would prefer to have a paper copy of the application form please speak with our wardens, Linda and Kristin or contact Canon Michael Rawson.

The Cathedral is keen to change to a more ethical and environmentally friendly bank and the move from many standing orders to one monthly transfer from the Parish Giving Scheme makes this aspiration achievable.

You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzdpuhp>. You will need your personal bank account details; the name of our parish: **Southwark Cathedral**; the PGS code for our parish: **370637001**; and whether you are eligible for Gift Aid.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE CATHEDRAL?

We would love to get to know you, so please complete a Newcomer form, available from the stewards or contact the Sub Dean michael.rawson@southwark.anglican.org

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people are an important part of our Cathedral family and play a vital role in our life together. We would love to encourage your children to join one of our Sunday groups for young people.

CRÈCHE

During the 11.00am Sunday Eucharist, crèche facilities are available in the Chapter Room for accompanied children under 4.

JUNIOR XPRESS

Junior Xpress is for children in Reception to Year 5, gathering each week in term time in the Cathedral and after a prayer and blessing will go for worship and activities before rejoining the rest of the congregation for the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion. Children are warmly invited to join Junior Xpress, especially if this is their first time. More details can be obtained from the Sub Dean:

michael.rawson@southwark.anglican.org

YOUTH XPRESS

Young people in Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are invited to join Youth Xpress for discussion and debate around Christian themes. Breakfast is provided. We meet one Sunday every month at 10.45am in the Cathedral Library. The next Youth Xpress is on 14 December.

JUNIOR & YOUTH XPRESS CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER, AFTER THE 11.00AM CHORAL EUCHARIST

Children and parents of Junior and Youth Xpress are warmly invited to our Christmas party, upstairs in the Library, after the 11.00am service on Sunday 14 December. It's a great way to celebrate the forthcoming festive season and meet other families. If you are new to either, please join us too, as the event will be hosted by our volunteers and you can learn more about the sessions which take place every Sunday during term time for Junior Xpress and monthly for Youth Xpress.

CATHEDRAL LISTENING TEAM

Would you like to talk to someone confidentially? Is something/one on your heart? The Cathedral Listening team are volunteers, who sit in the Retrochoir behind the High Altar after the Choral Eucharist on a Sunday, ready to listen to anyone who would like to talk in confidence. They are available from after the service until 1.00pm. If you would like to talk to a Cathedral Listener, please approach them directly or sit nearby if they are already occupied.

ROBES SLEEP OUT

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ROBES AND ALL THOSE WHO WERE SLEEPING OUT ON 21 NOVEMBER!

The SleepOut might have happened, but **you can still make a massive impact on Robes Project** by sponsoring our Dean, Sub Dean, Junior & Youth Xpress and the Lay Clerks:



[The Very Rev'd Dr
Mark Oakley,
Dean of Southwark](#)



[Canon Michael
Rawson,
Sub Dean & Pastor](#)



[Junior / Youth
Xpress](#)



[The Lay Clerks](#)

ROBES SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Our Robes team will be hosting 20 guests one night a week from Friday 23 January providing food, welcome, laundry and hospitality for 12 weeks.

If you would like to join the team either on Friday evening, Friday night or Saturday morning please contact Neil Tryner, nptryner@gmail.com one of the team leaders who can explain what is involved.

A SAFE CHURCH

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor, is Chapter Lead for Safeguarding. Any issues relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults should be directed to the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer (CSO) or Representatives (CSRs) in the first instance:

CSO **Neil Morter** neil.morter@southwark.anglican.org

CSRs **Cherry James** cherry.james@southwark.anglican.org

Jill Tilley jill.tilley@southwark.anglican.org

Russell Silverwood russell.silverwood@southwark.anglican.org

Concerns can be brought to any member of the clergy.

THE FRIENDS OF SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

PILGRIMAGE TO WINCHESTER

We are now on a winter break from the monthly pilgrimage. We'll be starting again in March from Four Marks on the last few stages of our pilgrimage to Winchester.

POP UP PRESERVES STALL

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER, 9.30AM-12.45PM

The pop-up stall selling various flavours of marmalade and jam was more popular than ever this year. We will be open again on 14 December to sell the last few jars of marmalade and apple chutney but we'll also have some extra goodies for sale. A great opportunity to stock your cupboards for the festive season.

AN EVENING WITH THE DEAN: DISCS FOR A DESERT ISLAND

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER, 6.15PM

The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley will be in conversation with Michelle Lovric as he explores his essential music choices and other essential items when swept away to a desert island. Festive drinks will be served on arrival. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

BECOME A FRIEND

Still thinking of joining us? We'd love to welcome you. The Friends play a vital part in contributing to the future of the Cathedral and its missions. Membership costs from £25 a year. [Join the Friends today!](#)

CONTACT FRIENDS' OFFICE

You can email the Friends: kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org, call 020 7367 3724 or post to:

The Friends of Southwark Cathedral
Southwark Cathedral
London Bridge
London, SE1 9DA

SILENT GROUP

The Silent Prayer Group meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We gather from 9.45am and the silent prayer session is from 10.00-10.30am. We always have some spare seats for latecomers. If you would like more information, please contact Linda Ridgers-Waite or Lizzie James. The group next meets in January.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL PODCAST

Hosted by members of the Southwark Cathedral team, each episode delves into an area of our mission and opens up a side of our work beyond the pulpit.

Listen to our latest episode here: <https://southwarkcathedralpodcast.podbean.com/>

A RETREAT ON THE ISLE OF IONA

7-12 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Dean will be leading a retreat on Iona next September entitled: '**Astonished by Love: with poetry as our guide**'. The retreat is shaped by four human themes - love of creation, love of justice, love of God, and love of love. We will encounter classic poets such as Hafiz, John Donne, George Herbert, WH Auden, Emily Dickinson, RS Thomas, and Seamus Heaney, and be introduced to more contemporary ones such as Raymond Antrobus, Jen Hadfield, Kei Miller, Zaffar Kunial, and Carol Ann Duffy. No prior knowledge of poems or poets is required.

For more information:

<https://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/groups-retreats/mark-oakley>

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT ST HUGH'S

THURSDAYS, 7.30PM

The Thursday Bible Study at St Hugh's, Bermondsey SE1 3PT is inclusive, friendly and perfect for beginners or growing your confidence. Contact Bukky Omisakim for more information: <https://sthughsbermondsey.org.uk/bible-study/>

ADVENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: O ANTIPHONS

SUNDAYS 14 & 21 DECEMBER, 9.45AM GARRY WESTON LIBRARY

Please join us in the Library for one or both of these Advent sessions on the O Antiphons. The O Antiphons accompany the Magnificat during the last days of Advent. Come along for a session on the "traditional Os" on the 14th and/or a more contemporary interpretation on the 21st.

DOGS AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

In early 2026 we will be welcoming well-behaved dogs and owners to the Cathedral following a policy being developed and approved by Chapter. We will review this in six months' time and Canon Michael Rawson will be pleased to hear any feedback during this time as well as requests for a copy of the policy. Owners are asked to respect the Cathedral as a place of worship and also as Hodge's home. Do please contact Michael if you have any questions.

◆ PRAYER LIST ◆

THE SICK

Christopher KD, Dee Dee HS, Tom, Errol H, Sr Sue CSF, Ida D, Caroline C, Jeremy B, Sam J, Hugo S, Marcia W, Julie R, Phyllida P, Santou BC, Catherine S, Justine M, Leo T, Pauline S, Francis, Larisa O, Maia, John L, George M, Vicky H, Jeremy J, Henrietta E, Glenn M, Helen S, Dinah K, Pam M, Jean P, Sally P, Sarah R, John G, Roxanne W, Elizabeth H, Shireen

THE DEPARTED

Herewood Davies, Debra, John Barron, Colin Andrews, Terry, Don Grozier, Paul Bashford, Phui Ying Tan, Cyril Furst, James Gerrard, Elisha Joel, Julia Tum

YEAR'S MIND

Miranda Woodrow, Brian Kendall, John Elliot Southgate, Phyllis Still, Mario Di Vito, Ronnie Bowlby

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SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

making space for love
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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