

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

SPRING 2026 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



What's been happening in the Friends...



We've had some great events since our last newsletter. At the beginning of Advent we had a very busy weekend which included a new event for us - wreath making. Patricia Ellis organises the flower arranging at the Cathedral and we enjoyed a fun morning as she and her colleague, Graham, guided us as we created beautiful wreaths for Christmas. The next day our busy pop-up stall was selling home-made marmalades and chutneys – there seems to be an inner Paddington Bear in many of the congregation. And finally for that weekend we served Advent tea to a group of Friends before they made their way into the Cathedral for the Advent Procession. This is one of the most beautiful Services of the year and peacefully guides us into the period of Advent.

As we approached Christmas we spent a very special evening with the Dean. In conversation with Michelle Lovric he shared his discs and other essentials, if cast away on a desert island.

After Christmas we hosted our first New Friends tour of 2026 soon followed by an illustrated lecture on 14 February. Guy Rowston presented 'The Lodger of Lant Street' after a delicious Valentine's Day brunch. At the end of February a group of Friends visited St Bartholomew the Great for a guided tour with their Head Verger, Gordon Furry. This was the first time the Friends have held an event especially for Lent and it was a great trip made particularly special as we joined the lunchtime Hospital Eucharist at St Bartholomew the Less.

Each of our events comes with a special Friendly feel and we hope you feel tempted to join some of our events taking place later in the year! We hope to see you soon.

Visit to the Museum of the Home | 27 May

Join the Friends for a special visit to the Museum of the Home in Hoxton, just north of the City of London, on Wednesday 27th May at 10.30am. After an introduction to the museum by a curator, we will divide into two small groups where a trained guide will take each group round the restored 18th-century Almshouse 14 – for an hour. You can discover what it was like to live in Hackney 200 years ago. Those not currently on the Almshouse tour may visit one of the museum's three galleries – 'Home Galleries', 'Rooms Through Time 1630-1830', or 'Rooms Through Time 1878-2049'.

At 1pm there will be a choice for your lunch venue. The Hoxton Hound directly outside the museum does good lunch options and museum staff can advise on cafés in the area; or you may like to bring your own picnic to enjoy in the Museum's 'Garden Through Time', home to one of the most magnificent wisteria in London (if wet weather, a room will be provided).

You will be free in the afternoon to explore the further two galleries and to wander through the 'Garden through Time', at its very best in May. The museum shop, selling unusual and individual items, is also not to be missed.

The museum is fully accessible apart from Almshouse 14 which retains its original structure, so sadly is not accessible to wheelchairs or some mobility aids—it features some uneven flooring and stairs between the two floors. Please let us know if this affects you, and we will consult the museum staff.

Numbers for this visit have of necessity to be restricted, so early booking is advised.

Tickets: £22

Available via Eventbrite.

https://Friends_museum_of_the_home.eventbrite.co.uk



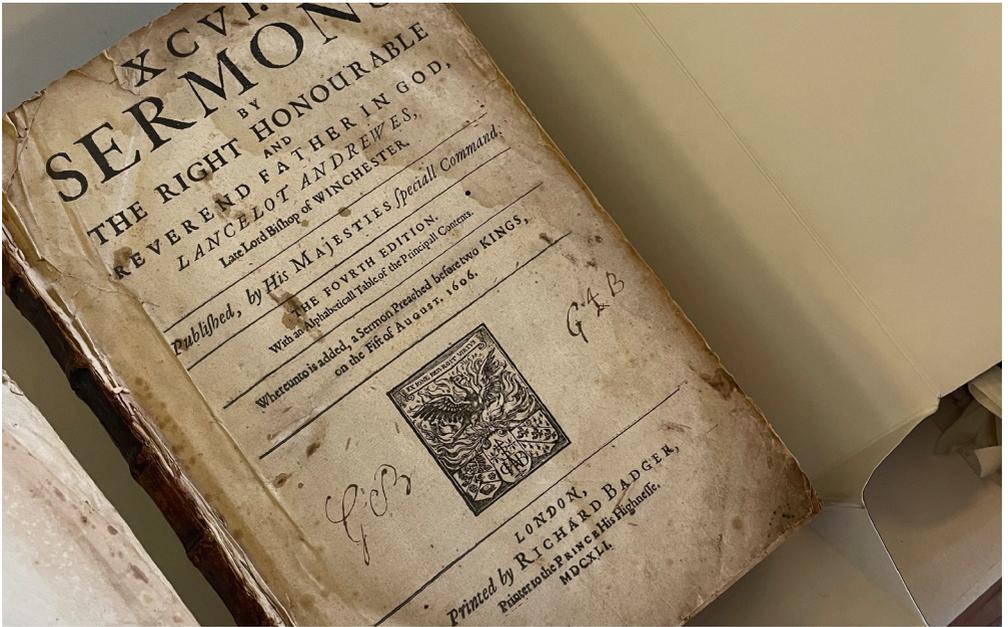
Wine tasting | 5 June

Do you know your prosecco from your cava? And what on earth should you be looking for when buying a bottle of Champagne? Why not come and find out the answer to these, and all your fizz-related questions at this fun, informal wine tasting event? Sample at least 6 wines, all with a bit of sparkle and learn some interesting facts on the way, which will leave you more confident to talk about that most special of wines - sparkling!

After the highly popular wine tasting last year, we are pleased to welcome back Erica from Taste of the Vine to guide our evening

Tickets £29.50 each or a table of 6 £165

Tickets available via Ticket Tailor. <https://buytickets.at/thefriendsofsouthwarkcathedral/2094415>



Between the Covers (Chapter II): An Illustrated lecture with Guy Rowston

Saturday 12 September @ 10.45

Eight years ago the Friends heard a talk 'Between the Covers' on the cathedral's antique books. Included was our collection of the works of Lancelot Andrewes. The poor condition of some of them inspired the Friends to fund their restoration in time for the 400th anniversary of Andrewes's death which we celebrate at the end of September 2026. In the 'Chapter II' talk we look at the restoration and also details of the remaining medieval books of St Mary Overie's Priory now spread across various libraries in England and France.

Coffee and pastries will be available from 10.30 with the lecture beginning at 10.45.

Tickets via Eventbrite £9.50.

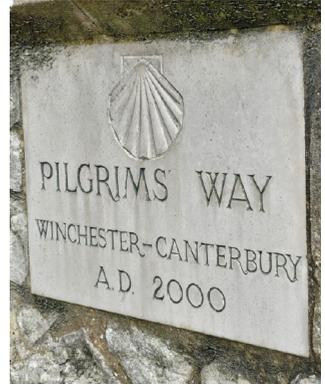
https://Friends_Between_the_covers_ChapterII.eventbrite.co.uk

Walking with Friends | Pilgrimage to Winchester

Our pilgrimage has been a little delayed due to the warmer weather we experienced last summer. Our remaining walks for this pilgrimage will take place on 21 March and the 18 April.

Our next adventures are still 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.



Keep the date

Ceilidh in the Cathedral | Friday 9 October

After the success of last year we will be holding our Ceilidh again this year. Tickets will go on sale in the summer but please keep the date and share with your friends.



Threads and Petals: An Exhibition of Liturgical Textiles and Floral Art in the Spirit of Worship and Craft at Southwark Cathedral

To coincide with London Craft Week 11-18 May, Southwark Cathedral will be hosting an exhibition of flowers and vestments in the Retrochoir and Sanctuary. The Jubilee copes, Comper vestments and Talbot cope will be some of the highlights.

The exhibition will celebrate and showcase the artistry, heritage and craftsmanship embodied in Southwark Cathedral's vestments and floral designs. It will highlight the skill, creativity and dedication of the Cathedral's volunteer broderers and flower arrangers and engage visitors with the living traditions of ecclesiastical craft and design, demonstrating how faith and creativity intertwine in the life of the Cathedral.

Members of the Friends and congregation are invited to sponsor a floral arrangement, perhaps in memory of a loved one.

Please contact the Friends office for more information.

Dates for the Diary

- **Weekend trip to Lindisfarne and surrounding area | 30 April – 3 May**
- **Wine tasting | 5 June**
- **New Friends tour | 11 July**
- **Talk with Guy | 12 September**
- **Ceilidh | 9 October**

Contact the office for tickets and information about events

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