

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Liturgical Statement

July 2023

To be reviewed July 2028

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Introduction

Purpose and place

Southwark Cathedral is a Christian church of the Anglican Communion and the seat of the Bishop of Southwark. The cathedral serves a diverse and vibrant diocese, covering all of London south of the River Thames and parts of Surrey. It is also the parish church of a lively and fast-changing area of south London, adjacent to London Bridge, the Shard and Borough Market.

Mission statement

Southwark Cathedral is an inclusive Christian community, growing in orthodox faith and radical love.

The marks of our community are:

- confidence in God and the Gospel
- passion for those on the edge of society
- engagement in vibrant theology and teaching
- prayerful service of our Bishop and diocese
- love for London and the world

Southwark: London's oldest crossing point

We believe there has been a church on this side since AD 606, and there may well have been a church here even earlier. Southwark Cathedral is the oldest cathedral church building in London, and one of only two surviving pre-Reformation monastic churches in the city. Southwark stands at the oldest crossing point of the tidal Thames at what was the only entrance to the City of London across the river for many centuries. It is not only a place of worship but of hospitality to every kind of person; princes and paupers, prelates and prostitutes, poets, playwrights, prisoners and patients have all found refuge here.

The church, which had originally been a priory church (and, subsequently, a parish church), became Southwark Cathedral in 1905 when the new Diocese of Southwark was founded to serve the needs of the growing population of south London. Once again, as in monastic days, it became a centre for a pattern of daily worship and, like many cathedrals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a place where the English choral music tradition flourished.

As time passed and two World Wars and the advent of secularisation took their toll, Southwark Cathedral increasingly became the focus of a pioneering theological mission aimed at a largely secular population. This "South Bank religion", as it came to be known, is the foundation of the cathedral's modern-day mission to grow in orthodox faith and radical love.

The last fifteen years have seen regeneration of this side of the river in an unparalleled way, with the construction of The Shard and the rebuilding of London Bridge and Blackfriars stations, as well as the increasing popularity of the South Bank and its many attractions, eateries and shopping opportunities. As multitudes pass by every day by road, river and rail, the cathedral remains a crossing point, offering hospitality, worship and reflection to thousands of visitors from all walks of life. The cathedral's daily services welcome congregations who reflect this all-embracing diversity — a microcosm of a comprehensive, world-class capital city. Thus the variety of past centuries is multiplied and magnified many times over in the present day.

Liturgy at the cathedral

Our liturgical mission

Southwark Cathedral is, first and foremost, a place for worship and prayer. Our rule of life is centred on a commitment to worship, study and service and, above all, to the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. The cathedral Chapter is dedicated to being an inclusive church, which means we seek to be open and welcoming to everyone in our worshipping life. The worship of Southwark Cathedral is anchored in the *Opus Dei* (the daily saying or singing of Morning and Evening Prayer) and in the daily celebration of the Eucharist. This daily round of services throughout the year is supplemented by other acts of worship, especially as part of the observance of the Christian Year, as expressions of the varied life of the diocese and in the many acts of worship requested by external organisations and groups, many of which have historic links with the cathedral.

In common with many other cathedrals, the worship at Southwark Cathedral has a distinctive style. Main cathedral services are broadly liberal catholic in tradition. They are certainly aesthetically beautiful, and mostly formal and “traditional”, but we trust also creative, human, welcoming and inclusive. Some cathedral services reflect different worshipping styles. We attempt to make participation in the liturgy as accessible as possible, both for regular worshippers and visitors, through well-produced service booklets and cards (including large-print copies), livestreamed services and occasional announcements. We also recognise that, in today’s culture, many visitors will need some induction in to the words, music and customs of Anglican liturgical practice.

At Southwark Cathedral, we strive:

- to offer worship that is focused on God, reverent and holy
- to ensure that worship is well-prepared and carefully executed
- to provide a warm, inclusive and fulfilling welcome to worshippers and visitors, whether regular attendees or joining the congregation for the first time
- to make the building and worship accessible to all, lay and ordained
- to employ a range of Anglican liturgical resources to be found in both *The Book of Common Prayer* and *Common Worship*
- to make full and creative use of the seasons of the liturgical year
- to make full and imaginative use of the liturgical spaces in the cathedral
- to make appropriate use of processional and stational liturgy
- to draw on and celebrate the rich resources of the church’s choral tradition
- to offer excellence in music through the Southwark Cathedral Choir, the Merbecke Choir and the liturgical use of the organ
- to place the Bible and the reading of the Bible at the centre of our worship
- to aspire towards excellence in preaching
- to offer a public ministry of intercession
- to employ the gifts of the congregation in worship
- to deliver an online provision of worship through streaming to enable a wider reach of our services
- to provide orders of service that are accessible and easy to follow
- to provide worthy and expressive liturgical furnishings and vestments
- to maintain the church as a house of prayer and pilgrimage, particularly in the Quire, the Retrochoir and the Harvard Chapel
- to support external groups and organisations in hosting, devising and delivering appropriate acts of worship
- to shape and deliver worship that is pastorally appropriate and enables others to come to Christ

Worshippers

The core body of worshippers comprises the Chapter & cathedral clergy, the vergers and the choral foundation who commit to the regular rhythm of daily offices, morning, midday and evening, and to the daily Eucharists. These are joined by regular and occasional worshippers from the parish and wider area (some of whom live or work nearby, some of whom travel), Honorary Minor Canons (who officiate at the midday office and Eucharist), cathedral Day Chaplains (lay and ordained volunteers who offer a listening ear and pastoral care on a daily basis in the cathedral) and visitors from all over the world. Thousands of people also come through our doors every year for a variety of national celebrations, memorials and commemorations.

Cathedral congregations on Sundays and festival days similarly comprise regular and occasional attenders from near and far, augmented by a significant number of visitors. A distinct online community has developed through the COVID-19 pandemic from all over the world, taking part in livestreamed daily Morning Prayer and the Choral Eucharist and Compline on Sundays.

Southwark Cathedral has a daughter church; St Hugh's, Bermondsey. Whilst the St Hugh's building does not come within the scope of this statement, the congregation is occasionally mentioned when congregations join together.

The Bishop attends the daily offices on an occasional basis, and presides over diocesan services in the cathedral. There is a variety of diocesan services each year at which people from the parishes gather around the Bishop.

The College of Canons worships together twice a year.

The Mayor of Southwark, MPs and councillors attend services of civic importance, such as Remembrance Sunday and commemorations connected to the First and Second World Wars.

Royalty, the Lord Lieutenant of Great London, Cabinet Ministers and the Mayor of London attend services of national or city-wide significance. In 2022, this included Services of Thanksgiving for the life and reign of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in 2023 services to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Weddings, funerals and memorials are held for parishioners and those on the Electoral Roll. Funerals and memorials are also held for those with a significant local or national profile, or at which an especially large congregation might be expected.

A large number of schools, charities, livery companies, businesses and other organisations hold annual or anniversary services during the year; the cathedral is fully booked in December for carol services and concerts.

Although Southwark Cathedral does not have a space or chapel connected to a military regiment, we have recently renewed and continue to develop an historic connection with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in a liturgical context.

The Liturgy Department

The Cathedrals' Measure invests the Dean with the ultimate oversight of the worship of the cathedral. In practice, much of this is devolved to the Canon Precentor, who at Southwark Cathedral is aided by a Minor Canon Succentor and a Liturgical Administrator. The Liturgy Department works closely with the Music Department and vergers. It also keeps in close touch with the Honorary and Minor Canons, servers, service stewards, communion assistants, readers, intercessors, volunteer musicians, lay healing assistants and other lay liturgical administrators. Worship is reviewed regularly with departmental and interdepartmental meetings.

The Liturgy Department manages the planning and execution of all services at the cathedral. This includes service planning meetings, printed materials and other liturgical considerations. Special cathedral services (such as those listed on pages 6 & 7) are normally ordered by a set of detailed liturgical notes, which cover the roles of the clergy, lay ministers, servers, stewards, musicians and other liturgical participants. Details of liturgical arrangements are also issued for services that are hosted by the cathedral for external organisations.

The Music Department

The Music Department comprises the Cathedral Organist / Director of Music, the Sub Organist / Assistant Director of Music and the Assistant Organist / Music Administrator. The Merbecke Choir also has its own Director.

Choirs

Southwark Cathedral Choir comprises two treble lines of boys and girls with six lay clerks. The cathedral does not have a choir school and so the children are drawn from schools throughout London and the surrounding areas.

The Southwark Cathedral Consort is an octet formed from the six lay clerks and two professional sopranos.

The Merbecke Choir is a voluntary choir for young people, many of whom are former cathedral choristers.

The Thursday Singers are a voluntary choir from the local community and more widely.

Other choirs from the UK and abroad regularly visit the Cathedral to provide music for worship when the other choirs are on their vacation.

Choral repertoire at the cathedral ranges from plainsong to modern works. Our main hymn book is *The New English Hymnal*, which is occasionally supplemented by *Common Praise* and other sources.

Instruments

The cathedral organ is used for the majority of services. This was built in 1897 by T. C. Lewis and was restored by Willis & Son in 1952 and Harrison & Harrison in 1991. The pipes are mainly housed in the South Quire aisle, adjacent to the South Transept (where part of the old Chapel of St Mary Magdalene was located). The console is situated between the Quire and North Quire aisle and was restored most recently by Harrison & Harrison in 2017.

The chamber organ was built by Justin Sillman and acquired in 1991. This small organ is used in the Quire and Retrochoir.

The grand piano is situated in the Nave and is made by Yamaha.

Other instruments occasionally accompany services (e.g. a trumpet at Easter, a baroque ensemble for a Bach cantata Evensong). These add a welcome variety in colour and tone to the music. When accompaniment is required in the Harvard Chapel, an electronic keyboard or small instrumental ensemble is used.

Broderers

Southwark Cathedral is blessed to have an able team of Broderers which undertakes the ongoing creation and restoration of liturgical vestments. The Broderers have links with the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers, the Worshipful Company of Broderers and the Royal School of Needlework, all of whom are generous in their contributions towards vestments. We also have a team of volunteers who are willing to undertake the mending of liturgical robes of both clergy and choir.

Florists

The Southwark Cathedral Flower Guild spectacularly adorns the cathedral throughout the year, except in Advent and Lent, when the cathedral is made bare.

Pattern of services

The weekly and monthly pattern of regular services is as follows. All services are subject to ongoing liturgical review.

Services marked with an * are livestreamed.

Sundays

8.30am	Morning Prayer* <i>Common Worship</i>
9.00am	Eucharist <i>Common Worship Order One</i>
11.00am	Choral Eucharist* <i>Common Worship Order One</i> with Holy Baptism six times a year
3.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>
6.00pm	Night Prayer* (online only) 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and 5 th Sundays of the month — or — Compline & Benediction* 4 th Sunday of the month

Weekdays

9.00am	Morning Prayer* <i>Common Worship</i>
9.30am	Eucharist (Tuesdays only) <i>Common Worship Order One</i>
12.30pm	Midday Prayer <i>Common Worship</i> with Litany of Reconciliation of the Community of the Cross of Nails (Fridays only)
12.45pm	Eucharist <i>Common Worship Order One</i>
5.30pm[†]	Choral Evensong <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> — or — Evening Prayer (said) <i>Common Worship</i> [†] (During the Summer vacation, this service starts at 4.00pm)

Saturdays and Bank Holidays

9.00am	Morning Prayer* <i>Common Worship</i>
9.30am	Eucharist <i>Common Worship Order One</i>
4.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> — or — Evening Prayer (said) <i>Common Worship</i>

The Cathedral Year

Southwark Cathedral follows the calendar of the liturgical year, which begins with Advent and finishes with the Feast of Christ the King. Below is a comprehensive list of the variety of services the cathedral offers throughout the liturgical year.

Advent

Advent Procession

Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Advent Eucharist

Numerous carol services for schools, the Mayor of London, a large number of local and national organisations

Christmas

Cathedral Nine Lessons and Carols (x 2)

Crib Service

First Eucharist of Christmas

Sunday pattern for Christmas Day (without Evensong)

Epiphany

The Feast of Epiphany

Choral Eucharist

Diocesan Guild of Servers' Festival

The Baptism of Christ

The Blessing of the River Thames follows the Choral Eucharist. The clergy and congregation of St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge come from the north side of the river to meet us halfway across London Bridge.

Eve of Candlemas

Diocesan Confirmation Service

Candlemas

Choral Eucharist

Lent

Ash Wednesday

Choral Eucharist

Significant Lenten art installation, used as appropriate in the liturgy

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Outdoor Procession and Choral Eucharist (with St Hugh's), starting in Borough Market.

Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week

Evening services (in varying patterns)

Maundy Thursday

Diocesan Chrism Eucharist (morning)

Choral Eucharist with washing of feet,

Stripping of Sanctuary, Procession and Watch (Nave and Retrochoir, evening)

Good Friday

The Three Hours (Preaching of the Passion / Liturgy of Good Friday)

Evening Prayer using the Lenten art installation, if appropriate

Easter tide

Easter Eve

Easter Vigil with Initiation and Eucharist (Bishop)

Easter Day

Full Sunday provision

Bishop's Lent Call Service

Ascension Day

Early-morning singing from the Tower

Choral Eucharist

Eve of Pentecost

Diocesan Confirmation Service

Pentecost

Full Sunday provision

Diocesan Pentecost Service

Archdeacons' Visitation Services

Summer

Friends of Southwark Cathedral Evensong

Worshipful Company of Glaziers' Evensong

Worshipful Company of Launderers' Evensong

School Leavers' services (several each year)

Thomas Cure (a significant local benefactor of the sixteenth century)

Choral Evensong and Procession to the tomb of Thomas Cure with representatives of United St Saviour's Charity

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

College of Canons' Annual Eucharist (transferred to a Friday)

Ordination of Deacons

Festival of St Mary Magdalene

Procession to Crossbones Graveyard on Redcross Way for a memorial service with local people who care for the graveyard and have concern for those who, in our own day, are marginalised or disrespected

Choir Valette Sunday

Lammas

Blessing of *Bread Ahead* (local Borough Market bakery) followed by presentation of the loaf at the lunchtime Eucharist

Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Patronal Festival (transferred to a Sunday)

Autumn

Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Eucharist at the start of the Academic Year

Admission and Rededication of the Guild of Stewards at the Choral Eucharist

Rededication of Servers at a Choral Eucharist

Evening Worship and Presentation of Bishop's Certificates

Evensong and Presentation of RSCM awards (every other year)

Admission and Licensing of Lay Ministers

Diocesan Black History Month Service

Lancelot Andrewes Festival

Choral Eucharist, Choral Evensong and Procession to his tomb

Development of an annual national pilgrimage and a music and literary festival

Harvest

Choral Eucharist

All Saints' Day

Choral Eucharist

All Souls' Day

Choral Requiem

Annual College of Canons' Evensong

Remembrance Sunday

Choral Eucharist with Act of Remembrance

Eve of Christ the King

Diocesan Confirmation Service

Christ the King

Patronal Festival

Admission to Communion at the Choral Eucharist

Throughout the year

Baptism at the Sunday Choral Eucharist (six times per year)

Weddings, funerals and memorials

Thanksgiving following Civil Partnerships and Civil Marriages

Consecrations (Southern Province)

Installations and Commissionings

One-off services of national or local importance

Diocesan Inaugurations and Farewells, usually incorporated into Choral Evensong

Services called by the Bishop on particular occasions, to gather the clergy / Diocese around him

Services of civic importance

Festival days

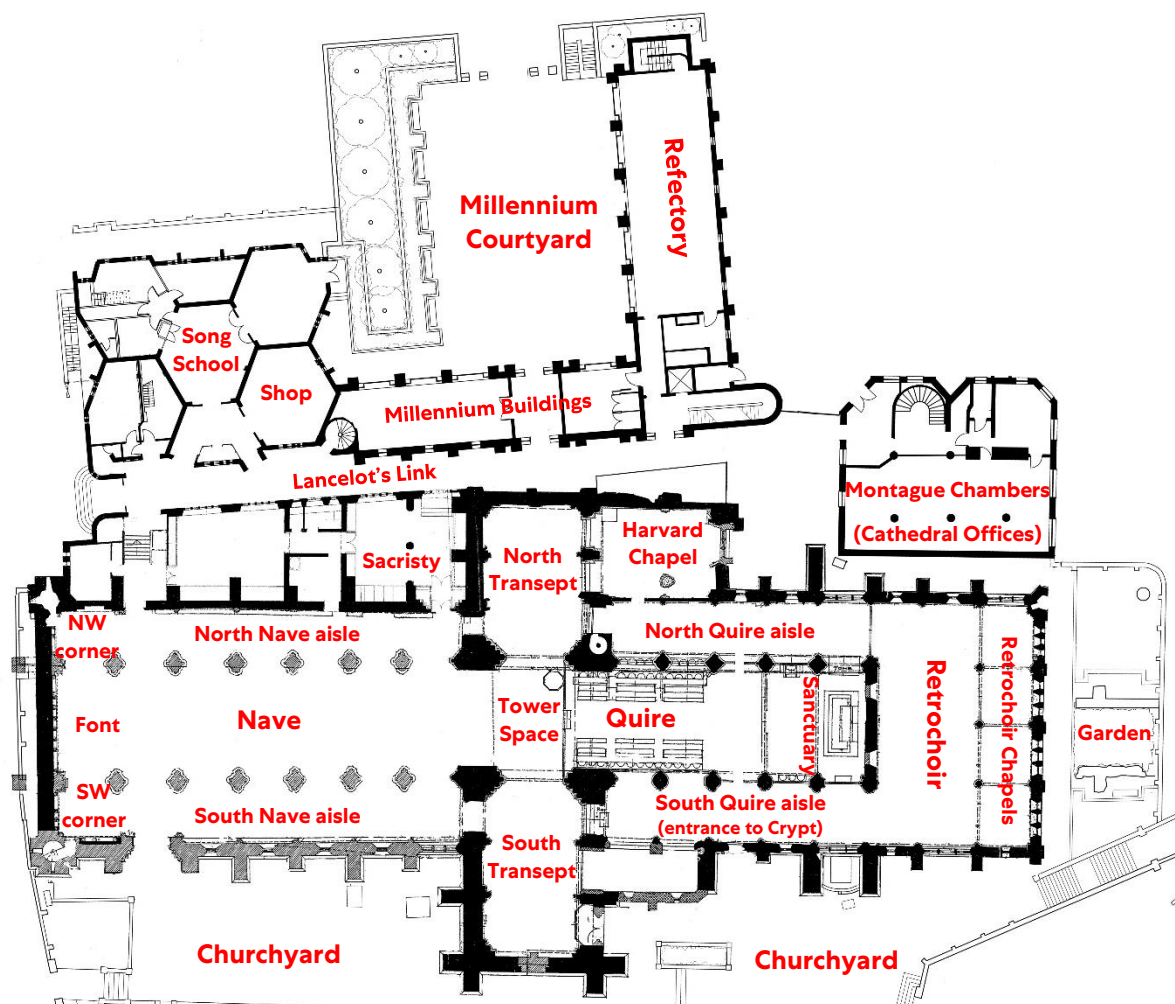
Other special services large and small

Regular Deanery Evensongs where Deaneries in the Diocese are invited to the Sunday Evensong

The cathedral space

Overview

Southwark Cathedral can be used with a fair degree of flexibility. Historically, the liturgy of the cathedral has responded creatively to alterations in the ordering of the building and to the addition of new altars and objects of devotion. In future developments of the building, present conventions concerning routes of processions and the use of particular liturgical spaces in stational liturgy will, of course, adapt and change, and new possibilities will open up.



Capacity

The largest congregational capacity when using the whole cathedral is 1,200 (this excludes 80 seats in the stalls for choir and clergy in the Quire). The capacity of each individual area is detailed below:

North Quire aisle	20	Retrochoir	200	South Quire aisle	30
Harvard Chapel	35	High Altar Sanctuary	40	South Transept	120
North Transept	110	Quire chairs	30	South Nave aisle	125
North Nave aisle	75	Central Nave	320	South-west corner	15
North-west corner	15	West end – font	100	(Marchioness Memorial)	

A tour of the cathedral space

The Nave

The seating in the Nave consists mainly of Howe chairs and a stone bench on each aisle wall, north and south, running along the length of the Nave. This space, therefore, is exceedingly flexible in its use, which can encompass a gloriously spacious “empty” Nave, the maximum amount of seating (including the central Nave, Nave aisles and areas to the north and south of the font) and anything in between. Chairs are usually placed in rows facing eastwards for maximum capacity and view of the Tower Space, from where most services are led, but the possibilities are infinite. Now and again, the chairs are arranged in concentric circles in the very centre of the Nave around a central focal point for a special service, or all facing the central Nave aisle, as they were for the rededication of the newly-restored and recast bells in 2017, when the bells were lined up from east to west down the centre of the Nave. Sight-lines from the centre of the Nave are generally good, apart from the inter-pillar seats (seating at the outer end of a row that extends behind a pillar). Sight-lines from the Nave aisles and from the outer north and south sides of the font, however, are poor or non-existent due to the size and number of the pillars. The cathedral's grand piano lives in the Nave. When not in use, it rests in the north-west corner. It is on wheels, and is usually moved to the front of the Nave, on the north side, to be played in a service.

When there are baptisms (usually incorporated into the Sunday Choral Eucharist) all in the Nave turn to face the font which is located at the west end of the Nave. This gothic Victorian font was moved to its present position from the south-west corner of the cathedral, where the Marchioness Memorial is now situated, in 1984. The more observant visitor will spot that the shape of the Marchioness Memorial matches the exact footprint of the font. It was moved to this central position in response to the liturgical reforms of the *Alternative Service Book 1980*, when baptisms began to be held regularly during the main Sunday services.

The Tower Space

The crossing under the Tower is commonly called the “Tower Space” and is the footprint that lies immediately underneath the Tower; it is the crossing point between the Nave and Quire, and the North and South Transepts. Whilst the true floor level is lower than the Quire, the entire footprint is raised up to the height of the Quire by a temporary wooden platform (which is painted to look like stone) and approached by steps on the west (from the Nave) and the south and north (from the Transepts).

Whilst no service takes place entirely within this space, it is a crucial area for much of our liturgy as action here can be seen from the whole central Nave, both Transepts and the Quire. As there are no permanent fixtures in the Tower Space, other than the pulpit (which is in the north-east corner), the area is a sizeable and flexible space. The Nave Altar is placed centrally for Nave Eucharists, and when it is not in use it may be moved to one side or into a Quire Aisle, although it is usually moved only when the space is otherwise required. The Sims chairs, introduced in 1976, are used for seating for bishops and clergy in this area. When not required, the chairs are placed in the Quire and Sanctuary, where they are also used.

This large space is also often used for non-Eucharistic liturgical action (e.g. singing, dancing, drama or large screen or visual aids). Very occasionally, the area is entirely used for temporary congregational seating for services that are taking place in the Quire (e.g. the College of Canons' Evensong). Way above the Tower Crossing, on the roof of Southwark Cathedral Tower, there has traditionally been an act of worship with singing early on the morning of Ascension Day.

Services held in the Tower Space can have a three-sided congregation in Nave and Transepts, plus a choir or further congregation in the Quire. All four sides of the Tower Space are used for the Sunday Choral Eucharist, thus creating a fully “gathered” effect around the holy table for the Eucharistic feast with all seating (except in the Quire) facing inwards. The position of the pulpit means that most people can see the preacher. Lecterns are positioned on the north and on the south of the Tower Space, on the steps to the west side. It is advantageous to move the lecterns right onto the top, so that those in the Transepts can see them. This requires the microphone lead to be taped down to avoid a trip hazard. When there is not a choir, or when the seating in the Nave and Transepts is sufficient, a variation of this arrangement is to surround the action on the Tower Space on only three sides.

The Transepts

The Transepts are located at the crossing of the cathedral to the north and south. The Transepts contain several memorials and are usually used for seating in larger services, though they may be cleared. It is rare for the Transepts to be used separately for worship.

The Harvard Chapel

The Harvard Chapel is the only fully-enclosed chapel within the cathedral and it thus provides a relatively sound-proof and distinct liturgical space which is ideal for smaller services. It is located to the north of the North Quire aisle, abutting the North Transept. The Chapel is named for John Harvard, founder of Harvard University, who was also the warden of St Saviour's Church.

The Chapel is furnished with the Lady Clarke table, which stands on the raised area at the east end (away from the wall so the Eucharistic president may face west towards the congregation), a lectern on the north side and an officiant's chair with a prie-dieu to the south (for non-Eucharistic services). The tabernacle on the north wall of the chapel houses the reserved sacrament. It is a significant Pugin piece and has been in the Harvard Chapel since 1974, though consideration has been given to whether it might be moved to a more suitable location. The Harvard Chapel is set aside for prayer and meditation except when services are taking place.

There is no permanent musical instrument in the Chapel, and an electronic keyboard is generally used if accompaniment is required.

The Quire

The Quire can seat around 80 people in the stalls and provides a relatively compact space in collegiate seating for more intimate services. The Chapter and archdeacons' stalls are at the west end of the Quire. The choir stalls, which have oil candles and spotlights, are adjacent to these to the east (although choirs often spill over further to the east into the remaining stalls). The remaining stalls are named after holy men and women of local significance. Although seats were assigned to specific canons in years past, there are now more canons than stalls.

In front of the stalls on both sides is a combination of benches and chairs. All this furniture, though heavy, is portable, and these are the chairs that are used for seating in the Tower Space when required. This seating is used mostly either when the Great Choir (girls, boys and lay clerks) is singing or when the College of Canons gathers for worship.

To the east of the fixed stalls are approximately fifty wooden chairs (the old Gordon Russell chairs that were replaced by the Howe chairs) to which several others can be added when needed. These are usually arranged in collegiate style, and can be rearranged to suit particular liturgical needs.

The eagle lectern is usually positioned towards the east end of the Quire, facing westwards. It can be moved into alternative positions, or out of the Quire altogether.

Thresholds into the Quire include the wide opening into the Tower Space and doors through parclose screens at the east end to the north and south.

The High Altar Sanctuary

The High Altar Sanctuary is located to the east of the Quire. There are rails extending from the north and south sides with a gap in between to permit access via a single step up from the Quire. A brass rail may be added to link the rails together. Access is also obtained via doors on the east wall of the Sanctuary, north and south, which lead to and from the Retrochoir.

The cathedra is situated on the north side of the Sanctuary and is flanked by two sedilia. Opposite are three distinctive, free-standing chairs for the Area Bishops (these, though heavy, are moved into the Tower Space for Nave services when required; the Bishop of Southwark has a matching chair for the Tower Space).

The High Altar stands against the east Sanctuary wall. It is approached by two steps and has four riddell posts with Comper hangings. Behind the altar lies the Great Screen, replete with statues of holy men and women in the niches and the Comper gilding in the lower half.

The Retrochoir

The Retrochoir is situated at the east end of the cathedral behind the High Altar Sanctuary and is accessed via the North and South Quire aisles. Within the Retrochoir are four small chapels which, from left to right, are dedicated to St Andrew (for those affected by HIV and AIDS), St Christopher, St Mary (The Lady Chapel) and Ss Francis of Assisi and Elizabeth of Hungary. These chapels are used regularly in the weekly provision of services. Seating in the form of chairs for each service is placed to the west of the chapel, facing the altar, as required. Each chapel contains an eastward-facing altar, credence table and president's chair. A portable ambo is used for the Gathering and the Liturgy of the Word.

A Consistory Court is located on the south wall of the Retrochoir. This becomes a backdrop when chairs in the main section of the Retrochoir are laid out in rows, facing south. The position of the windows and artefacts on the north wall do not lend the space to being northward-facing, as it was when the Retrochoir was used as the parish church before the Comper reordering.

Musical accompaniment may be provided by the chamber organ which can be moved from the Quire.

There is an aspiration to move the tomb of Lancelot Andrewes from the South Quire aisle to the Retrochoir in order to provide a shrine for pilgrimage and devotion.

The Retrochoir provides a large space for robing for Installations, Ordinations, Consecrations and other large services. Each of the four chapels provides space for the diocesan bishops, and there is room for belongings and chairs as well as for lining up. The space is, however, unsecured, and is therefore vulnerable. People using the space have been warned not to leave valuable belongings unattended. There is a large chest on the west wall of the Retrochoir in which banners, poles and out-of-season liturgical vestments are kept.

Other spaces

The Sacristy

The Sacristy is located between the North Nave aisle and Lancelot's Link. It is here that most of the robing and preparations for services takes place. The room is lined with cupboards, safes and wardrobes, and there is a large, three-sided chest of drawers for vestments and other liturgical requisites. The cathedral "treasures" are housed here. A large table also provides room for meetings, liturgical preparation and refreshments.

Lancelot's Link

Lancelot's Link runs between the north side of the cathedral and the Millennium Buildings and is a very useful space for lining up and dismissing processions. It is a long, covered pavement with a slight slope. There is no room for storage in the corridor but there is a storeroom adjacent to the Bookshop where staging for special services and concerts is kept. These are transported to the main cathedral via the lift.

The Millennium Buildings

Large services often require overflow space and the Millennium Buildings provide additional room and easy access to Lancelot's Link for processions.

The Song School

In 2018 the Education Centre at the cathedral was repurposed to provide space for the Cathedral Choir to rehearse. The Song School contains a Steinway grand piano and is also regularly used by visiting choirs.

The Quire Aisles

The North Quire aisle contains the Nonsuch Chest, which was made by German immigrants in Southwark and presented to the cathedral by Alderman Hugh Offley in 1588. In this are stored Lenten array, funeral pall, Christmas / Epiphany crib hangings for the font and some old Comper material.

The South Quire aisle is frequently used for the storage of ladders, chairs and other high-level-reaching equipment. This area probably has the most cluttered appearance of the storage areas. The Frontal Chest, which contains altar frontals and hangings, is located here.

The Crypt

The Crypt beneath the Quire is a useful space for storage. Access is from the South Quire aisle via a steep slope.

The Tower & The Bells

The Tower of the Priory Church of St Mary, Overie was completed in the fourteenth century and, in due course, bells were hung. The ring of 12 was consolidated in 1734 / 1735, at which time an oak bell frame was constructed.

In 2016 / 2017, work was undertaken on the bells and frame, and all the bells were brought down from the Tower for this. The Tenor and seventh bells were recast and all the others were restored. The bell frame was also strengthened and tightened. The bells were rededicated in January 2017 before being returned to the Tower. The bell frame is now in need of replacement.

The bells ring out across the River Thames and south London twice on Sundays and at festivals, weddings, funerals, memorials and other special services.

A single static bell is chimed before the weekday services and is operated electronically by a verger.

War Memorials

There is a First World War Memorial on the west wall of the Retrochoir, and a No. 37 (London) Fire Force Second World War Memorial (a forerunner of the London Fire Brigade) on the south wall of the South Transept.

Worship outside the cathedral

The cathedral considers it an important mission opportunity to take our worship beyond the walls of the cathedral as appropriately and often as we can. With this in mind, we often work with external organisations and churches to provide worship elsewhere. Whilst out and about, we aim to be visible, and we have several banners that are useful for this purpose. The cathedral possesses a pair of processional candlesticks with flame guards so that the candles are not blown out by the breeze. Outdoor processions are led by a crucifier with large processional cross. We also have a small, portable PA system with a single microphone.

Frequent outdoor services include:

- The Blessing of the River Thames
- Palm Sunday procession
- Good Friday Procession of Witness
- Feast of St Mary Magdalene (22 July) to Crossbones Graveyard on Redcross Way
- Lammas
- Remembrance Sunday at the Parish War Memorial

Liturgical priorities

The cathedral as a whole

- a new IT and sound system package fit for purpose, including both live and livestreamed services

The Tower Space

- replacement of the 2008 wooden platform with a permanent fixture which suits the liturgical needs of the cathedral
- improved accessibility to facilitate the liturgical participation of all
- provision of more practical furniture (the Sims altar and chairs being exceedingly heavy)

The Harvard Chapel

- reordering of the Chapel to improve accessibility and function
- possible relocation of the Pugin tabernacle

The Retrochoir

- relocation of the tomb of Lancelot Andrewes from the South Quire aisle to the Retrochoir to provide a shrine for pilgrimage and devotion