

FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF
SOUTHWARK
♦ CATHEDRAL ♦

SUMMER 2026 • www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk



What's been happening in the Friends

Since the last newsletter our Pilgrims completed their journey from Rochester to Winchester. The final stage from New Aylesford into Winchester took us along the Pilgrims Way passing the watercress beds and beautiful meadows. We were greeted by the Dean of Winchester for our Pilgrim's Blessing before attending Choral Evensong. Such a delightful end to a pilgrimage which started back in September 2024.



A group of Friends enjoyed a special trip to Holy Island where we were treated to sunny, warm weather. Most walked bare-foot onto the island early on Friday morning before the tides came in. Anne Rickwood was one of our group and she has written about our weekend away:

Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Earlier this month I joined a group of Friends of Southwark Cathedral, gently guided by the Sub-Dean, Rev'd Canon Michael Rawson, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. ('Farne', also in 'Farne Islands' where Cuthbert died, has a meaning of 'retreat'.)

Sadly I opted to join two others to drive across the causeway, but the other 14 Friends walked the three miles across the uncovering sand, mostly barefoot though some in boots. They began with the prayer:

God of the rising sun, you who called Aidan, Cuthbert and the saints of Lindisfarne, guide our feet as we journey towards Holy Island.

Let the rhythm of the tides teach us trust.

Let the winds across the sands carry our prayers.

Let the cry of the seabirds remind us of your freedom.

*As the causeway appears and disappears,
show us the paths you reveal in your time.*

May we walk gently, receive gratefully and return changed.



The minibus group reached the end of the causeway in time to pick up the rest of the party once they had dried their feet.

Holy Island is totally controlled by the tides, and most of the people who work in the castle, shops and cafés travel from the mainland, so everything closes at a different time each day and the island becomes, for about six hours, a haven of peace. Our trip had been planned so that the tides allowed us to stay all day and have our evening meal before returning when the causeway re-opened.



On the next day we spent two hours in a boat viewing at very close quarters the wonderful wildlife on the Farne Islands:

Atlantic grey seals with pups, eider ducks, guillemots, shags... and hundreds of puffins swimming. Although I had visited puffin areas frequently in the past I had never seen one – they really are tiny, although they always look huge in pictures.

Each evening our minibus, parked outside our hotel in Berwick, became the chapel for compline: on Friday for Boisil, prior of Melrose Abbey and teacher of Cuthbert (d.661) and on Saturday for Patrick (389-461).

On Sunday we returned to Holy Island, all together in the minibus this time, for Eucharist in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. As the congregation included people from many far-flung places, the celebrant began by inviting us all to introduce ourselves to the people next to us.

The church has a Fishermen's Chapel, modern stained-glass windows depicting Aidan and Cuthbert and a sculpture in elm showing six monks taking Cuthbert's body on a long journey to protect it from the Viking raids.



Friends events into the Autumn

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



Fishmongers' Hall | Tuesday 15 September @ 10.00am

Fishmongers' Hall, the home of The Fishmongers' Company, stands beside London Bridge on the banks of the River Thames. The present Hall, opened in 1834, is the fourth Hall occupied by the Company and is renowned for its beautiful architecture, rich history and magnificent collection of art. As one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London, The Fishmongers' Company has played an important role in the life of the City for over 750 years and today continues its charitable work supporting fisheries, marine conservation, education, and the welfare of those connected with the fishing industry.

We will congregate at 10am ready to go into the Hall together for coffee at 10:15am before the tour begins. We will finish at 12.00.

Tickets: £19

It is essential that you book in advance for this trip and tickets are only available via the Friends office – kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org





CEILIDH IN SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER
7.00 - 10.00PM

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

Bring a picnic or order in advance
to collect on the night

Pay bar from 6.45pm



Tickets:

<https://buytickets.at/thefriendsofsouthwarkcathedral/2286144>

Individual
or family
tickets
available

Annual General Meeting | Sunday 18 October

The Annual General meeting will take place on Sunday 18 October. The meeting will begin at 1.30 and tea and cake will be served before Choral Evensong at 4.00pm

This is a free event but please register your attendance for catering arrangements.

Wreath Making workshop | Saturday 5 December

Last year we ran our first wreath making workshop which was great fun. This year Patrica Ellis is ready to help you create something beautiful for your home again. For more information contact the office.

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Volunteers

As well as special opportunities to visit unique places and meet together for talks and workshops the Friends is keen to provide 'Friendly' help to the Cathedral. To do this we need volunteers. Sometimes this involves making and serving refreshments to visiting choirs and special services/ events. Coming up over the Summer and into the Autumn the Friends will be supporting the Cathedral at some bigger events like The Big Knit and the Heritage Craft Day. As a new venture we would like to set up a Friends Desk in the Cathedral during particularly busy times where we could encourage people to join us.



If you feel you have some time to volunteer with us please contact the office for an informal chat. You won't need to give time as a regular commitment and we will fit in with your own busy schedule.

Grants given to the Cathedral by the Friends

In part the Friends exists to financially support the Cathedral. Your subscriptions and generous donations enable the Friends trustees to give grants to the Cathedral and meet the cost of projects which might otherwise be beyond the purse-strings of the Chapter.

At each quarterly trustees meeting applications are received from the Dean and Chapter. The trustees discuss which projects the Friends can support, meeting the criteria of the constitution, and generally applications are agreed without delay. As you know, over the past couple of years the Friends has paid for the cleaning of the floor of Lancelot's Link as well as the archeology chamber. The signage around the Cathedral was also a large grant (£48,000) given in 2025. This year a grant of £50,000 has been agreed to replace a broken boiler in the Cathedral - something we will all appreciate if we visit for a Service over the winter months! These are all important projects to support as they enhance the building as well as the experience of visitors to our beautiful building.

The trustees also like to provide funding which supports fresh ideas: money which gets a new project off the ground. So earlier this year a smaller grant was given to meet the cost of a Southwark Cathedral pilgrim's badge. Many pilgrims start their journey with a Pilgrim's Blessing at the Cathedral before setting off to Canterbury in the footsteps of Thomas Beckett. You may have seen a pilgrim's badge in a Cathedral shop at St Albans, Canterbury, Winchester or Durham.

We have just taken delivery of the first badges and these will be available soon in our Cathedral shop. For centuries pilgrims have worn a religious badge as a visible sign of their pilgrimage. This badge has been created by Colin at Lionheart Replicas and is inspired by a fragment of a 15th century medieval badge. Lara Maiklem, Mudlark in Residence at Southwark Cathedral, made her discovery along the foreshore of the River Thames close to the Cathedral. The metal badge shows Mary holding Jesus with a lily and a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The latin inscription Ave Maria means Hail Mary.



Dates for the diary

- 15 August | First stage of new Pilgrimage
- 12 September | Between the Covers (Chapter II)
- 15 September | Visit to Fishmongers Hall
- 19 September | Monthly Pilgrimage
- 3 October | Monthly Pilgrimage
- 9 October | Ceilidh
- 17 October | Monthly Pilgrimage
- 18 October | Annual General Meeting
- 29 November | Advent tea before Advent Carol Service
- 5 December | Wreath Making workshop

Become a Friend

Scan the code to find out more

or visit

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



Contact the Friends

Kate Dean

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Call 020 7367 6724

Or Email Kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org

There isn't a staffed office at the Cathedral on particular days as we are flexible with hours to respond to the needs of the Cathedral and Friends membership programme. If you'd like to see someone in person please contact us and we can arrange a time.

Follow us on

