

## From the Bishop

This year we are approaching Christmas in a way that is almost a return to normal. Although the challenges of the pandemic remain, the Cathedral has planned a full programme of services. There will be carolling and joy and, after all the preparations of Advent, the Christ-child will be born anew for us as we encounter him in the first Eucharist of Christmas. To prepare in this way is, in many ways, an act of faith. For none of us knows whether the arrangements we make will need to change, or whether what we plan will be cancelled. We are fragile parts of a fragile ecosystem—contingent—dependent on so many things. Yet each of us has the capacity for growth and for maturity, for hope and for fulfilment of hope. And so we prepare in faith for what God has in store.

There can hardly have been less propitious births than Christ's. Even his mother's journey to the place of birth was fraught. But there he lay—there he lies—the exemplar of contingency, dependent on his blessed mother for

food, on a stranger for a cot, on God for his humanity. This was the moment of which prophets sang, and for which they longed. This tiny child, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory for God's people Israel, this tiny child is God incarnate—a true sign of hope. The Christ-child is a sign of hope because in Christ God says, 'it will not always be this way'. Instead God says, 'Behold I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?' In Christ all things will conform eventually to their purpose in God because the unchanging God took our changeable humanity and moved us firmly into the stability of the Divine life by submitting himself to the changes and chances of this fleeting world: a mother for food, a stranger for a cot. This Advent and Christmas I invite you to join the Dean and Chapter on the journey to the manger—a journey of faith, a journey of hope. A journey in which we encounter the source of our fulfilment and subsequent maturity. I am grateful, as we approach the end of the year, to the Dean and Chapter, and the wider Cathedral family, for sustaining the Mother Church of our Diocese through the challenges of what has almost been two years

of Covid. Their faith and hope and resilience and professionalism have ensured that Southwark Cathedral enters 2022 in good heart and robust shape. The Friends have played their part, too, and I express my thanks to you all for holding faith with the Cathedral in prayer and generosity. May God bless you and those you love with peace and joy this Christmas and throughout the coming year. And may your encounter with the Christ-child teach us how dependent we are on each other, and lead us into growth and maturity, into hope and the fulfilment of that hope, as we learn what God has prepared for those who love him.

+Christopher

## From the Dean

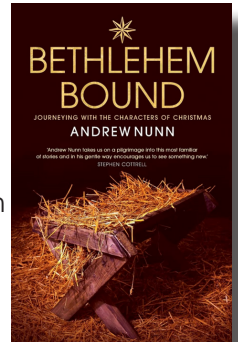
I always get terribly excited at this time of the year. Christmas is on the horizon and there is a whole list of things to be done but at the end of that long list - cards, presents, food and the rest - there is Christmas itself with all of its joys. In many ways it's a journey we make and that is behind the idea of my latest book, 'Bethlehem Bound'. There were so many people on a journey, making their way to this little town in the Judean hills. Like any set of travellers they have their own story to tell, their own reason for travelling, their own purpose in

making Bethlehem their destination, the goal of their journey.

My book is a devotional companion, a guide from 17 December - the day the church calls 'O Sapientia', to the Feast of the Epiphany and beyond. For each day there is both a reflection on the gospel read at the Eucharist that day and also an introduction to one of the many characters in the nativity story. My hope is that each reader will be drawn into the joy and the deep significance, life-changing significance, of the incarnation.

I was delighted when the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, commended the book with this comment, "Bethlehem Bound offers us an opportunity to enter into the nativity and its rich tapestry of characters in a fresh and engaging way. Andrew Nunn takes us on a pilgrimage into this most familiar of stories and in his gentle way encourages us to see something new." I hope that it helps you make a good Christmas journey to the manger.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn  
Dean



Books are available using the form at the back of this newsletter or online from the Cathedral shop:

<https://southwarkcathedralshop.org/products/bethlehem-bound-journeying-with-the-characters-of-christmas>

Friends receive a 10% discount in the shop using the voucher below

## Cathedral Shop

You can support the Cathedral by buying your cards and gifts in the Cathedral shop which is open daily 10.30am-5pm. There are also some late nights when Services and concerts are taking place. Please check the Cathedral website for more details. There is also an on-line shop so you can make your purchases from the comfort of your own home <https://southwarkcathedralshop.org/>

Friends receive a 10% discount with the attached voucher - only with in-shop purchases.

**FRIENDS VOUCHER**

**10% OFF**

**in the Shop**

**until 24.12.22**

## Christmas Services and concerts at the Cathedral

Some Services and concerts require pre-booked tickets and the link has been added where appropriate.

Sunday 27 November, 6pm

### **Advent Carol Service**

Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm

### **Merbecke Choir Concert**

Pre-concert talk, 7pm

The Merbecke Choir and Belsize Baroque with soloists Cecilia Osmond, Carris Jones, Mark Dobell and Jonathan Brown are delighted to present J.S.Bach's Mass in B minor, widely regarded as one of the supreme achievements of classical music. Come and marvel at what has been described as 'the most outstanding spiritual encounter'. The pre-concert talk is given by Mark Seow.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-in-b-minor-jsbach-with-the-merbecke-choir-and-belsize-baroque-tickets-440820013527>

Friday 16 December, 7.30pm

### **Christmas Concert:**

### **A Ceremony of Carols**

Join the Boys and Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir in the candlelit

Cathedral for Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, one of the most popular choral pieces for Christmas time. This collection of 13 Christmas carols was originally composed for treble voices in three parts. This concert will feature the very popular version in four parts for SATB and harp arranged by Britten in 1943.

Tickets (£19/£15) are available  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-cathedral-choir-christmas-concert-a-ceremony-of-carols-tickets-460735902487>

### **Cathedral Carol Services**

Sunday 18 December, 6pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-cathedral-carol-service-i-tickets-460744347747>

Tuesday 20 December, 6pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-cathedral-carol-service-ii-tickets-460746564377>

Wednesday 21 December, 12.45pm  
**Cathedral Sing-in**  
Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southwark-cathedral-community-christmas-sing-in-tickets-460741930517>

Saturday 24 December,

**Crib Service 4pm**

**Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm**

Sunday 25 December

**Morning Prayer 8.30am**

**Eucharist with carols 9am**

**Choral Eucharist 11am**

## **New pilgrimage programme**

Flushed with the success of our recent pilgrimage to Canterbury we plan to continue walking together next year. First to St Albans, starting in January and later in the year from Guildford to Southwark. We will walk on the 3rd Saturday of each month and each stage will be guided by experienced group leaders and accompanied by a First Aider. Check the cathedral website or email Kate in the office for more information.

## **Friends Events**

**Advent tea 5pm and Carol Service 6pm**

Sunday 27 November  
Our traditional Advent tea together prior to the Advent Carol Service marking the beginning of this special time in the Christian calendar. Tea be served at 5pm. Freshly brewed tea served with crumpets, sandwiches, mince pies and cakes. Your seats will be reserved in the Nave for the Service.  
Tickets: £10.50 via Eventbrite <https://>

friends\_advent\_tea.eventbrite.co.uk  
 Or from the Friends office using the booking form attached. Please ensure you include a stamped addressed envelope to receive acknowledgement for any tickets booked.

### **Christmas soiree at the Deanery**

Monday 12 December, 7pm-9pm  
 Our final soiree at the Deanery with our current Dean so this is an occasion not to be missed. Join us for festive drinks and light 'eats' together with carol singing around the Deanery Christmas tree. Book to attend. Tickets: £25 via Eventbrite [https://Friends\\_Christmas\\_soiree.eventbrite.co.uk](https://Friends_Christmas_soiree.eventbrite.co.uk)

Or from the Friends office using the booking form attached. Please ensure you include a stamped addressed envelope to receive acknowledgement for any tickets booked.

### **A talk with John Vigar**

Saturday 4 February 2023, 2.30pm  
 Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches

Like most people John enjoys the peace and serenity offered by our parish churches, but having visited and recorded over 12,000 of them he has found they also contain countless images of Murder, Sex and Mayhem. Medieval murals and stained glass depict the martyrdom of saints from home and abroad, and the grisliest of dooms. At a lower level may be found

misericords showing whippings, wife beatings and brawls.

Finally there are many monuments and memorials that show scenes of murder and mayhem in goodly measure including stagecoach crashes, bridge collapses, falling trees, falling bridges, falling chimneys, shootings, stabbings, mine collapses, shipwrecks and explosions. This illustrated lecture will show a selection of images of murder and mayhem from across the country and explain both the stories behind them and their relevance to particular periods of history.

John Vigar has been described as "one of the most popular commentators on English history"

John lectured for the University of Kent from 1992 to 2010, teaching a variety of architectural and social history studies, and has worked on a sessional basis for many other academic institutions. In addition to his contracted lectures John is a popular speaker at meetings of many different groups including The Arts Society ( NADFAS), the National Trust, and historical societies country-wide. Tickets: £10.00 via Eventbrite [https://friends\\_talk\\_with\\_john\\_vigar.eventbrite.co.uk](https://friends_talk_with_john_vigar.eventbrite.co.uk)

Or contact the Friends office (please remember to include a

stamped addressed envelope for acknowledgement of your booking)

### Quiz Night

Friday 10 February 2023

As you may know we had to postpone the Quiz Night scheduled for 4 November due to the planned rail strikes. Our new date is 10 February. Over the next few months when you're seeing your family and friends why not organise a table to meet up in the new year and have a fun evening together at the Cathedral. Tickets include a light sandwich supper and some fabulous company in an utterly unique setting. There will be a cash bar open to serve alcoholic and soft drinks.

Tickets: £15 each or £110 for a table of 8 book via Eventbrite for a team or using the booking form enclosed. <https://Friends-quiz-night.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Future important date for your diary

Annual General Meeting with Choral Evensong and farewell to the Dean – 24 June

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 24 June beginning with Choral Evensong at which the Dean will be the preacher. This will be the Friends opportunity to spend time with the Dean immediately prior

to his retirement and we will have a drinks party in the churchyard after our business meeting.

## Trip to Dresden

In the autumn of next year we are planning a trip to Dresden to continue with our theme of reconciliation. If you would like to express an interest in joining this weekend away please contact Kate in the office [kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org) and she will let you have further details

## Let's be Friends but not just for Christmas

The Friends provide financial support to the Cathedral to enhance and beautify the building, music and liturgy. Give the gift of Friendship to someone this Christmas.

Join and become part of a worldwide network of people who have Southwark Cathedral in their hearts. Scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/4esnx6r2](http://tinyurl.com/4esnx6r2)



We look forward to welcoming new Friends at Christmas and in the New Year,

## Lapel pins

Especially for members of the Friends we have a new lapel pin. Enclosed with this newsletter or contact Kate in the office. We can pop them in the post or arrange for you to collect from the office or the pigeonholes at the back of the Cathedral on Sundays.



## Contact the Friends office

Kate Dean

Friends of Southwark Cathedral,  
London Bridge, London SE1 9DA  
020 7367 6724/07814 826153

[Kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:Kate.dean@southwark.anglican.org)

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facebook, twitter, LinkedIn

FRIENDS OF  
SOUTHWARK  
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆



Let's be  
**Friends**  
but not just for Christmas

# Booking Form

.....  
Name

.....  
Postal address

.....  
Postcode

.....  
Telephone Number

.....  
Number required

**Bethlehem Bound:**

**Journeying with the characters of Christmas**

by Andrew Nunn

£12.99

Postage £2.50

**Advent Tea with Carol Service**

Sunday 27 November

£10.50

**Christmas Soiree at the Deanery**

Monday 12 December

£25

**Murder, Sex and Mayhem**

Saturday 4 February

£10 (Friends)

£11 (Guests)

**Quiz Night**

Friday 10 February

£15 Individual ticket

£110 Team ticket for up to 8 people

Please include a stamped addressed envelope  
for us to send tickets to you