



# Pepperpots

Magazine of The Friends of Southwell Cathedral – issue 54, Autumn 2021



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## From Russia with Art

Despite complications and restrictions caused by the pandemic, the Friends' exhibition of paintings by Russian artists Fedor Olevskiy and Aleksandr Kalinin (above) went ahead in the Minster's south quire aisle this June. Over £1,000 was raised for our funds and new members signed-up.

# Editor's Welcome

Charlie Leggatt



*Rereading my column from the Spring issue, it is encouraging that events I wrote about then in cautious terms did take place* – notably our Annual General Meeting and the exhibition we organised of paintings by two young Russian artists (though arranging

isolation accommodation and Covid testing for them on their arrival from St. Petersburg added to my grey hairs!). As I write, it seems, too, that our autumn reception and talk (twice postponed) on the Canadian artist, Tom Thomson, will take place in the Nave on 10th November (in the hope you receive Pepperpots before the day, and would like to come, please ring me on 07968 499550 for further details).

The Spring issue contained a loose insertion of 'Country Sayings and Folklore.' I asked if readers would let me know of further such oral history I might have overlooked, and several of you got in touch to note that the compilation was reasonably comprehensive; many thanks. Two readers, however, felt I should have included:

*Red sky at night, shepherd's delight,*

*Red sky at morning, shepherd's warning.*

This is traditional country wisdom derived from the Bible. Jesus observed that when it is evening, you say "it will be fine weather, for the sky is red." And in the morning, "it will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening." (Matthew, chapter sixteen).

I ended my Spring piece with a request for information on a 'country' prayer we use in my home church. Garry Humphreys, one of our members and a contributor of arts and music reviews to the Church Times, kindly came forward to note that:

"The prayer in your editorial is *A Suffolk Prayer for those who travel*, by Ronald Blythe. It is printed in *Favourite Prayers, chosen by people from all walks of life*, compiled by Deborah Cassidi (Continuum, 1998; ISBN 0-8264-5191-8)."

The next issue of Pepperpots will contain a full report on the Annual General Meeting but, for now, I conclude with a paragraph from my own contribution on Pepperpots.

"Three issues of Pepperpots have been produced since last we met at the 2019 AGM. Charlie Leggatt thanked members for their encouraging feedback and noted his own thanks to the private benefactor who presently subsidises the cost of each issue. Charlie observed that Pepperpots has three functions – to inform, to discuss matters of interest and to promote the work of the Friends. In this latter regard, he introduced the new membership leaflet and urged Friends to take a copy (also available online at [www.southwellminster.org/friends](http://www.southwellminster.org/friends)) and, in encouraging others to join, help expand the membership and hence the financial support we can give Southwell Minster."

# Dean's Column

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan



*'Closed for Business' is the title of Dr Harold Brooke's account of the Minster's closure the day after the grand Service of Consecration of the church as the new Cathedral to the Diocese of Southwell, on 2nd February 1884.* I read this fascinating book during

'lockdown' earlier this year and decided that thereafter I would not worry about the Chapter House Leaves project being delayed by a few months. As hard as it is to imagine, the Minster closed for four years! It is unclear whether worship continued in any form during that time, but I like to think surely it will have done, somewhere. The quire was unfinished, the heating inadequate (there are many amusing letters of complaint to the Archdeacon and the architect, Ewan Christian, about the lack of heating) and local builders, willing or able to complete the work, in short supply. Unsurprisingly, there were also prolonged squabbles about the cost and whether the "London Commissioners" would agree the escalating expenditure. No mention is made of what the clergy or lay clerks did in the interim!

Anyone managing a building project in the current climate is familiar with the impact of Covid, Brexit, the 'pingdemic' (a new word to bemuse future historians), the shortage of timber, and too few lorry drivers as adding a few extra weeks to most endeavours. We await the cantilever lift, the new furniture and the outdoor learning centre, but we were thrilled to be able to open the Chapter House for Peter Eugene Ball's 'Farewell to All That' exhibition which has delighted locals and tourists. Visitor numbers have been steady benefiting from the positive effect of 'staycation' (another new word!) and many people visiting Southwell for the first time, astonished at our 'hidden gem'.

Our excellent team of Minster staff, volunteers and the external consultancy team continue to work hard to support the success and completion of the project, not only the fabric but more importantly the engagement with all sorts of people eager to enjoy the wonder of the 'Leaves' and all they say to us about living well and in harmony with God's creation in uncertain times. History and faith help us to see the long view and teach us the virtue of patience.

Thank you, Friends, for your ongoing support and interest.





**Photos (Clockwise from top):**

**Fedor Olevskiy's delightful small painting of Southwell Minster in the red light of an autumn dawn.**

**The socially-distanced AGM, held on Saturday 12th June.**

**The new membership leaflet.**

# End of an era – Andrew Todd, Head Verger, moves on

*There was a lump in the throat of many members of the Minster family at the news that, after nearly twenty-six years in the verger team, twenty-two as Head Verger, Andrew decided it was time for new challenges and left at the end of September.*

Pepperpots profiled Andrew and his team (issue 50; Autumn 2019) so suffice to say now that his calm, ever-willing professionalism and generous spirit in the service of Southwell Minster has been very much appreciated and will be greatly missed. He and Lindy have our love and thanks for all the future holds.



Photos (Clockwise from above):

The Head Verger leads choir and clergy.

Andrew (with Paddy, a playmate for labradoodle Rupert).

Men in tights – every willing to help, a young Andrew takes part in a Minster pantomime.



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*“...his calm, ever-willing professionalism and generous spirit in the service of Southwell Minster has been very much appreciated and will be greatly missed.”*

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## Out & About

Pauline Rouse writes



***After months of isolation, cancellation and other disappointments, we have rebooked our visit to Deene Park for Wednesday 4th May 2022.***

Deene Park in Northamptonshire is a beautiful sixteenth-century house incorporating a mediaeval manor. It has belonged to the Brudenell family since 1514 and was the seat of the Earls of Cardigan, of whom the most notable was the seventh Earl who led the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in 1854.

We will have a guided tour of the house followed by lunch. The gardens will be open in the afternoon and feature an herbaceous border and a parterre designed by the late David Hicks.

This promises to be a real treat so do join us. Further details are on the enclosed insert sheet.

# Farewell to two giants of the Friends' Council

*A milestone in the annals of the Friends occurred quietly and without fuss at the AGM when, after over sixty years combined service as members of the governing Council, Roy Pearson and Malcolm Stacey decided not to seek re-election. Roy, a former Treasurer, and Malcolm, founding Editor of Pepperpots, reflect here on their time guiding our affairs.*



**Roy writes**

***It all began with a telephone call from John Marchmont, a friend from the Rotary Club.*** He had agreed to become the Secretary of The Friends of Southwell Cathedral and, as they were looking for a Treasurer, would I be interested. The short answer was “No.” I had recently retired and looked forward to those

lazy, hazy days which stretched ahead waiting to be filled with pleasurable pursuits and joyful times of doing nothing in particular. Would I, at least, speak to the Provost (as the Dean was known in those days) David Leaning. As I had made my decision there could be no harm in another telephone conversation. To this day I cannot remember saying “Yes” to his request. Suffice it to say that the Minutes of the Council meeting dated 7th June 1993 record that John and I had been co-opted to the Council as Secretary and Treasurer respectively for a period of five years. Thus began a seventeen-year journey for me as Treasurer.

I had been correctly advised that only a few meetings a year were involved and that the amounts involved were hard earned and creditable but not excessive.

All that was to change the following year when the Friends received a legacy of nearly half a million pounds from the estates of Mr. and Mrs. Cope. I well remember ringing the Solicitors to confirm that they had the correct beneficiary. This transformed the Friends' financial situation and enabled our support of the Minster to be significantly increased, beginning with a gift of nearly £166,000 to complete the funding for the Quire Organ. The provision of many other items followed, amongst which I particularly remember the Nave choir stalls, the Millennium Pilgrim statue, sound system, video projection equipment and hospitality cupboards.

It has been an enjoyable experience to represent Southwell at Cathedral Friends' Conferences and a delight to take part in our outings and events. Over the years it has been a privilege to be associated with the Minster and everyone connected with it. So many interesting times and happy memories.



**Malcolm writes**

***When John Treadgold, later Dean of Chichester, was Vicar Choral at Southwell Minster he found himself editing the annual report of the Friends which he continued to do as Rector of Wollaton.***

On leaving this post in 1974 he lighted upon me as a potential successor (he had already persuaded Mary and me to edit the Wollaton churches' newspaper). On being assured that there was nothing to it (‘just a couple of meetings a year and a bit of editing’) I agreed.

At this stage I'd not really heard of the Minster Friends, nor any other similar bodies, but Fiona Allen, as Hon. Secretary, quickly brought me up to speed and together we put together the report once a year, closely following the pattern of the previous decade or more. Not very onerous – nor was my membership of the Council as there was not a lot of activity.

The pivotal point in the development of the Friends came in 1994 when, after a gap of some years, it was decided to hold a conference of Cathedral Friends from the whole of England. This took place at Winchester where Southwell was represented by the newly appointed Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, John Marchmont and Roy Pearson. They came back bubbling with ideas which in a short space of time produced a regular programme of trips and events, ‘Steeplepeople’ for schoolchildren and a call for improved communications with the membership. This exciting change of direction by chance coincided with the outstandingly generous legacy from Mr and Mrs Cope, which overnight raised the Friends' reserves at least tenfold.

Making communications more frequent resulted in a twice-yearly mailing christened Pepperpots which was designed to incorporate most features of the erstwhile annual report (annual accounts and report, Provost's observations, farewells, semi-learned articles) with more news items, more contributions from individual Friends and an overall lighter approach. It was fortuitous that this development coincided with a wider range of activity both in the Friends and in the Minster and with the explosion in economical colour photography. The monochrome of the first four issues quickly gave way to a brighter and more imaginative presentation. In 1995 almost all other bodies of cathedral Friends published annual reports of the Southwell style and it was interesting to observe the Pepperpots model's being imitated by a number of other cathedrals.

It took six years for the ground-breaking Winchester conference to spawn a successor. Since 2000 conferences have occurred every two years with one or two gaps and Southwell has been represented at all of them by a number of Council members, but always including until 2017 either Roy or myself and sometimes both of us. These gatherings have been much valued by those attending and by a wider audience for countering the previous isolation of each body of Friends. Until twenty years ago each organisation would have been both unaware and uninterested in its counterparts elsewhere.

From a personal point of view my involvement has been intensely rewarding: a much closer identification with the cathedral, its relations with the parishes and with other cathedrals, the fascination of editing Pepperpots, the participation in events and trips and the accumulation of acquaintanceships and longer-term friendships. I had the good fortune that Mary was both willing and able to join in much of this, so reducing the time I might have spent enjoying myself on my own.

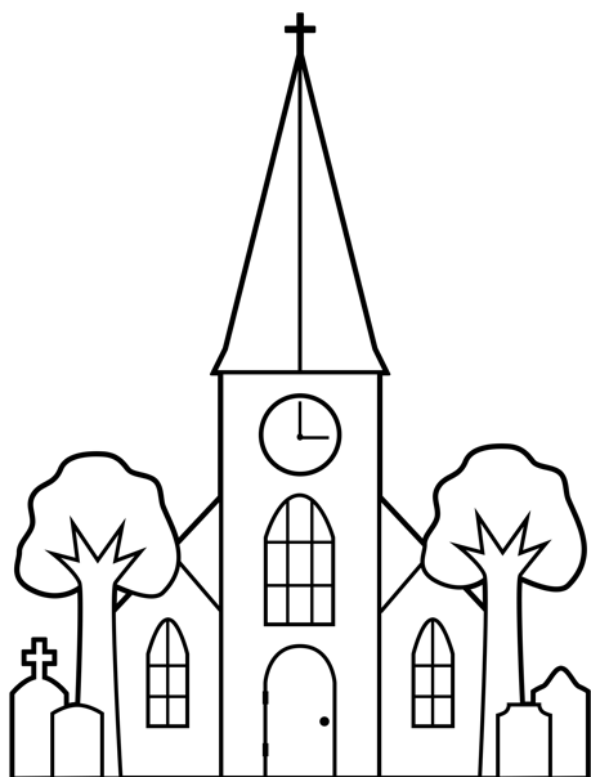
**The present Editor of Pepperpots writes**

Members will be delighted (and much reassured) to know that Roy and Malcolm remain Friends of Southwell Cathedral.



# You, too, can fundraise for your parish church!

Charlie Leggatt writes



*Thanks to Richard Lloyd, a former joint head-chorister at the Minster, for St. Fred's logo.*

**Knowing I raised money for churches before my retirement, people ask me sometimes how it is done.** The answer is that it is not as simple as was once the case! This isn't just on account of there being less money available but, increasingly, running grant-making trusts is moving out of the hands of informed volunteers and into the hands of distant professional managers (banks, solicitors etc.) with less of an understanding of the cause for which money is being sought. As a result (regrettably, in my view) grant application forms are becoming top-heavy with requests for box-ticking statistics, rather than concentrating upon the merits of the case being presented. For example, you may be asked to complete an online field with the number of visitors your church gets, but are unable to contextualise why this number is low (and how a grant would help remedy the situation).

The good news, however, is that there are grant-making trusts with criteria specific to the county in which you live. These tend to be run still by people with an on-the-ground understanding of the nuances and validity of an application request from a church only a few miles from where they themselves live. Your diocesan office will have details of such trusts.

So, if not as universally important as was once the case, the application email/letter remains a critical tool. In which regard, can I introduce you to the Church of St. Fred and invite you to test your own fundraising abilities? This application letter (on behalf of a made-up church, of course!) is a much over-egged, over-wordy and unpolished template *only* in which I have tried to include as many 'pegs' as possible with which to catch a fund-giver's attention. I wonder if you can tell why a particular point is made? On page 7 you will find some answers.

## **The Church of St. Fred, Fredthorpe, Nottinghamshire**

I am emailing in hope of The Bloggins Trust's support for the campaign our community has launched to restore its extraordinary Grade One listed building. St. Fred's stands out amongst churches in this area on account of its Pugin pavement – a fine, and surprisingly intact, example of his early work and a draw to a cross-range of visitors. Many multi-faith tourists come to admire St. Fred's for the pavement (and more) and are a boon to the local economy.

"St. Fred's has superb sixteenth-century stained glass, well worth a detour to admire" wrote Nikolaus Pevsner. Once conserved, postcards will be made of the windows to increase the church's self-generated income. We are passionate to share the importance of the church's built heritage and, amongst other initiatives, hope to organise stained glass history and craft workshops for children. Equally, with the lovely acoustic in St. Fred's, we look forward – when the organ is restored – to hosting community singing events for both children and adults, with the enthusiastic support of our church organist and a local music teacher.

Fredthorpe has no village hall and the church already hosts a range of secular activities including a crèche, a Thursday lunch club for older people and a weekend youth group. There is adequate access to the building for those with special mobility or sight needs, but we are anxious to update these and to engage a specialist access consultant to audit the building and our activities.

Maintenance of St. Fred's is now beyond the resources of our community. Housekeeping repairs, though up-to-date, are being overwhelmed by demands for major capital expenditure – notably efficient drainage, re-wiring, a loop hearing system, new heating, complete masonry works to the tower and much more beside. The community fully accepts the role we have to play in the fund-seeking. In this regard, a local doctor and her farmer husband are organizing a horse show to benefit the appeal. The new tiles for the spire will be available for adoption at £30 each while a compilation of local recipes will be put on the Internet for downloading in exchange for a donation. The vicar and churchwardens are being sponsored in the London Marathon and, we believe uniquely, over ninety-percent of the working population of the village/area has agreed to donate one full day's wages to St. Fred's appeal. An Auction of Promises includes many original ideas – including the commitment to donate one, different, small chocolate cake per month for a year. Gift Aid enhancement will, naturally, be used wherever possible.

We benefit from a considerable array of local talent. The volunteer appeal committee includes a Carpenter, a Stonemason, an Accountant, a Quantity Surveyor and a Decorator – all of whom input professional guidance (or their talents in kind, as appropriate).

A recent survey concludes that some £xxx,000 is needed now and I hope The Bloggins Trust may feel assistance is possible toward one or more of the many areas within the overall project. A budgeted analysis of the component parts is attached and I would be delighted to provide such further information as you may require. My work, home and mobile numbers are listed below along with a link to our website which was designed by students at a local school. This was uploaded free-of-charge by a parent who owns a computer business and, during the holidays, she will put us on relevant social media platforms too.

Finally, I can confirm that the costs of St. Fred's appeal are zero, with all administrative outgoings being met personally by the appeal committee.



## Dissecting the St. Fred's letter

Charlie Leggatt writes

***If, having read the appeal letter for 'St. Fred's' (fictitious, of course, like the Pevsner quote!) on page 6 you are feeling nervous – don't worry!***

As I noted in my preamble, the letter is but a template into which I have tried to cram as many 'pegs' as I can with which to grab the attention of a grant-making body. Much will be neither possible nor relevant to your own needs. Indeed, were you to use everything that is in the template, you'd run the risk of being thought of as fraudulent!

Before looking in more detail at the letter, it is worth noting that grant-making bodies often have priorities. At the moment, two key issues are 'accessibility for all' and 'community engagement.' As these priorities change with time – and are not common to all – it is vital that the first thing you do is read, online, the up-to-date criteria of the fund-giver you plan to approach, and dovetail your application accordingly.

### **Let us look now in more detail at the letter:**

The first, upbeat paragraph reads that "St. Fred's stands out amongst churches in this area." Fund-seeking is competitive and grant-making bodies always have more requests for funding than they can service. It is therefore made clear immediately that St. Fred's is extra-special – and you will need to think about what you can say to draw attention to your own church (I have never found this a difficult task, you just need to be creative!). The 'buzz' word of community has been immediately posited.

In paragraph two St. Fred's congregation is shown to be dynamic and forward-thinking. This is built upon in paragraph three, which shows what the church undertakes presently for the parish beyond the congregation – "the church already hosts a range of secular activities."

Having set the scene, the start of paragraph four moves into why the church is seeking funding, "maintenance of St. Fred's is now beyond the resources of our community." The second half of this paragraph, and following, makes clear that the people of St. Fred's believe in self-help and are not just sitting back doing nothing themselves toward achieving the funding required. The remainder of the letter is about the 'nuts and bolts,' though St. Fred's prudently weaves in that it is working with a local school for its website and social media. The concluding paragraph states that "the costs of St. Fred's appeal are zero," giving a final underscoring to the commitment of St. Fred's volunteers. The subliminal message here, of course, is that every penny donated goes toward the works to the church and not into a bottomless administrative pot.

I end hoping that St. Fred's appeal shows fundraising to be an invigorating, often exciting, challenge. It is not a cynical discipline, but does require you to make the absolute best of what you have to offer (and, often, that is more than you might immediately realise).



**Fundraising for Southwell Minster:** The Editor in full flow in the Chapter House during fundraising for the recent Leaves of Southwell project. The Friends was the largest donor to the partnership funding pot that the Minster had to raise in order to trigger substantial grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



# New Faces at the Minster:

## A warm welcome from the Friends to (in their own words)



### Alastair Clarke

Alastair started work as the new Liturgy and Music Administrator at Southwell Minster at the beginning of May. Prior to working at the Minster, he had been the Taught Courses Administrator in the School of Mathematics at Cardiff University for almost twenty-four years, and had also been a member of Llandaff

Cathedral Choir for over twenty-seven years. Alastair grew up in Wilmslow, Cheshire, singing in the choir of his local parish church. He then studied for a music degree at Birmingham University before moving to Cardiff to undertake a PhD in a music-related computing project. "Having taken voluntary severance from my role at Cardiff

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***"...I was drawn to apply for the position at Southwell in order to combine my previous administrative experience with my knowledge and love of cathedral church music, and my Christian faith."***

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University, I was drawn to apply for the position at Southwell in order to combine my previous administrative experience with my knowledge and love of cathedral church music, and my Christian faith. I have very much enjoyed my first few months of working for the Minister, despite all the challenges of coming out of lockdown restrictions, working for part of the time from my home in Cardiff, and until very recently only being able to meet some of my new colleagues through online video meetings. I plan to move to Southwell sometime in the coming months, once I have sold my house in Cardiff – but in the meantime am likely to be travelling between Cardiff and Southwell most weeks. I am looking forward to being able to move properly to Southwell at some point soon, and to get to know more of the Minster congregation and community." Alastair's primary role is to provide administrative support to the Canon Precentor and the Rector Chori in relation to the music and services at the Minster, with the particular responsibility of producing Orders of Service and other service booklets, the weekly service and music lists, collating Pew News and co-ordinating some rotas relating to the services.



### Matthew Farrell

I moved to Southwell in April to take over the role of Alto Lay Clerk from Erik Sharman. Ed Joyner, my colleague, was brilliant at advertising the job online, and we spoke about it on Facebook a fair bit before I applied.

I was a 'Supernumerary Lay Clerk' at Hereford at the time, although I'd been on furlough since January, and I was really beginning to miss singing weekly services. The job was the perfect opportunity to move out of my parents' house, after moving back in because of the first lockdown, and find my feet with a job I love at the core of it.

Coming from Leicester (where I was a chorister), I had been to Southwell a few times for the Midlands Four Choirs Festival. My Mum keeps reminding me that I used to say that the State Chamber was like being in Harry Potter! I was a chorister at Leicester from 2004 until my voice broke in 2010, when I moved onto the back row as a 'young songman.' I sang tenor for a few years, and was never very good at it, so I tried singing alto, loved it and that's why I sing how I sing today.

I studied Double Bass and Viola da Gamba at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which is where my other musical passions lie. I love playing and singing all kinds of music, but I seem to have found myself specialising in music from the Baroque period and earlier. This being said, I absolutely love playing romantic symphonies, jazz and musical theatre on the double bass. I have always thought of myself as a singer first of all, with the double bass following closely behind. Whilst I was at college, this completely changed, with the addition of the viol, and the studying of the bass to such a high level! I now

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***"I absolutely love playing romantic symphonies, jazz and musical theatre on the double bass. I have always thought of myself as a singer first of all, with the double bass following closely behind."***

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consider all three of these musical stems to be equally important in my life, and I hope I can manage to keep pursuing all of them into the future. To keep my singing up whilst living in Wales, I was a member of the Llandaff Cathedral Choir, as well as deputising for many other church choirs in the area like the Cardiff Oratory. I also sang with numerous chamber choirs such as the Caritas Consort and Cantores Amicitiae, with whom I went on tour to Bulgaria and Sweden.

Aside from music, I enjoy gardening, walking and typography/calligraphy. Having done an A-level in graphic design, I spent most of that time writing in scripts and creating new fonts to encapsulate different moods for my pieces of art. Whilst calligraphy takes a back seat nowadays, I still have all of my pens and ink, and regularly write letters to my friends and family, incorporating an element of calligraphy in each one.







## Michael D'Avanzo

It is a wonderful opportunity for me to be the new Organ Scholar at Southwell Minster. I'm nineteen years old and started my musical career as a chorister at Hereford Cathedral in 2009, under the direction of Geraint Bowen, singing for services almost every day as well as on international tours and as part of the Three

Choirs Festival. I was always fascinated by the organ as an instrument and so, when I left the choir at the age of thirteen, I began having organ lessons. Whilst at school, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to accompany and conduct a number of choirs, including that of a local parish church where I was organ scholar for two years. I passed my ARCO diploma in 2019 and have since given recitals in Hereford and St Davids Cathedrals as well as performing in churches across Herefordshire. In 2020, I took up the organ scholarship at St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire where, as well as playing for services, I was delighted

to have the opportunity to sing with the choir for three BBC radio broadcasts and even for H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

I am very much looking forward to what lies ahead this year at Southwell Minster, getting to know the two wonderful instruments the building has to offer as well as the choristers and gentlemen of the choir. Following this year, I plan to read music at university and hope to combine this with an organ scholarship.

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*“[I] started my musical career as a chorister at Hereford Cathedral in 2009, under the direction of Geraint Bowen, singing for services almost every day as well as on international tours...”*

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Photo: The screen organ, by Richard Jarvis.



# Michael Davidson



*Long-standing Friends will know we have a colleague charity in support of Southwell Minster. Southwell Minster Choir Association (SMCA) focuses exclusively on the Music Foundation and, like the Friends, is an independent organisation run by volunteers. Michael Davidson writes here on the professional path that led him to his present role as Hon. Secretary of SMCA.*

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*“Born in Newcastle and brought up as a proud Geordie, I well recall particular early experiences of ‘choirs and places where they sing.’”*

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Born in Newcastle and brought up as a proud Geordie, I well recall particular early experiences of ‘choirs and places where they sing.’ From the age of seven I was singing in the Choir of St. Columba’s, Gateshead (now demolished) where my half-brother was the organist and choirmaster. The choir, affiliated to the Royal School of Church

Music, took part in the Diocesan Choirs Festival in Durham Cathedral. That was such an awe-inspiring occasion – the sheer size of the building, the space, the Norman architecture, the acoustics, the sounds of the organ! But what moved me most was during choral evensong; the moment the cathedral choir, alone, sang the verse at the end of the Magnificat of *Walmisley’s* popular setting in D minor – trained, polished voices, well-tuned with lovely tone, and balanced singing, that which we associate with the cathedral tradition, enhancing the worship experience.

Then, when I was nine, one murky November afternoon my mother took me to Newcastle Cathedral where we sat in the gloom of the rear nave and listened to the distant choir and organ at evensong. I was there for a voice trial, successfully auditioned by Master of the Choristers, Colin Ross, and so became a chorister for three years, remaining at the Cathedral School (now closed) until aged sixteen developing my knowledge of cathedrals and their musical heritage with the help of the enthusiastic Assistant Organist, Graeme East. When my adult voice settled, I re-joined the cathedral choir as a Lay Clerk. These early experiences informed my subsequent career.

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*“Southwell beckoned!”*

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Photo: The Cathedral Choir, by Chris Knapton.



However, living in Newcastle, it is almost impossible to escape the influence of football! As a keen, competent sports all-rounder at school, I was invited for trials with Newcastle United F.C. and spent six months twice a week honing fitness, skills and tactics!

After a spell as a civil servant, I combined my interests – sport, religion, music – and opted for a career in teaching, studying divinity (as it was known then), and physical education, while continuing my singing lessons as a Lay Clerk – muscular Christianity! Dissertations were on The Role of the Twentieth-Century Cathedral, and Choir Schools. My first appointment was at my old school, in charge of R.E. & P.E. Meanwhile, on completion of her nursing training at the General Hospital, Jen and I married at the cathedral in 1968.

Southwell beckoned! I listened to, and often recorded BBC 3 *Choral Evensong* so was well aware of its set up, and a fellow Newcastle Lay Clerk and college friend who hailed from Southwell mentioned a vacancy there. Kenneth Beard, Rector Chori, appointed me from September 1970 as Alto Cantoris. Jen nursed, worked in a playgroup, then for many years was a practice nurse in Southwell, while I taught initially R.E. and P.E., and later concentrated on classroom-based exam work.

In 1970 the boy choristers attended the Minster Grammar School, and boarded at Sacrista Prebend run by Steve and Margaret Pulford. This long-standing living tradition of choristers dates back to perhaps the earliest record of a Southwell chorister, Miles Hogesone in 1469.

Paul Hale succeeded Kenneth as Rector Chori in 1989 and, soon after, Southwell Minster Choir Association was founded at his instigation to support the life and work of the Minster Choir, especially the choristers. The annual St. Cecilia concert series was inaugurated (in its early years followed by a delicious meal prepared by parents and committee members). The biennial programme of choir tours abroad began with a tour to twin town Sées in Normandy. Then there was Alan Thorpe's Sunday evening series of Music in the Great Hall recitals to promote young local musicians. I was the Lay Clerk's representative on the committee – my contribution was to referee Sunday evening five-a-side football (and a few eight-a-side outdoor games!).

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***“I was the Lay Clerk’s representative on the committee – my contribution was to referee Sunday evening five-a-side football (and a few eight-a-side outdoor games!).”***

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***“All members value and are committed in their support of the cathedral music tradition at Southwell Minster...”***

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The Music Foundation has expanded since. An annual organ scholarship was introduced. The formation of the voluntary auditioned adult chamber choir, the Minster Chorale, was set up in 1994 by Paul and Philip Rushforth (initially to sing services when the Minster Choir was on holiday). A Girls' Choir was established by Paul and Simon Bell in 2005. SMCA now supports the maintenance, development and promotion of the Music Foundation, particularly the choristers – boys and girls – who now have parity. So, over the last thirty-two years a sophisticated, varied programme of support has developed.

I was a Lay Clerk for twenty-six years, retiring from singing in 1996 (seven of those during Paul Hale's reign – and most of those as senior Lay Clerk). On retirement from singing, Dean David Leaning invited me to be a server and chalice bearer. Having combined the singing with teaching, I continued teaching religious studies as Head of Humanities (Citizenship, and Worship) at Magnus School, Newark until 2005, and then for a further three years part-time. I joined the board of Reach Learning Disability as a trustee and I have been involved with the Southwell Music Festival from the beginning.

In 2011 I became honorary secretary of SMCA and we now have around one hundred and twenty members. Most are local and include chorister parents, parents of former choristers, some former choristers and members of the congregation. Several members are from other parts of Nottinghamshire with a few from further afield. All members value and are committed in their support of the cathedral music tradition at Southwell Minster, which is quite unique in that the Minster School is a Church of England Academy with a comprehensive intake and a Junior School set up for the cathedral choristers and musically talented under elevens – making such a marvellous education open to ALL.

Anyone is of course most welcome to join SMCA and help preserve and develop the tradition for the future; please do email me for further information on [m.d46@btinternet.com](mailto:m.d46@btinternet.com).

## Keeping in touch – your email address

Pepperpots appears twice a year, but news from Southwell Minster keeps coming. If you'd like us to keep in touch more regularly with you, please send your email address to: [editor.pepperpots@icloud.com](mailto:editor.pepperpots@icloud.com). Your data is kept in accordance with our GDPR policy (available on request) and you can of course unsubscribe at any time.



## Pepperpots is the magazine of The Friends of Southwell Cathedral

*The Friends of Southwell Cathedral exist to bind together all who love the Cathedral Church and who desire to help in preserving for posterity the fabric of this building; in maintaining daily worship therein; and in enhancing its adornment.*

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