


Southwell Leaves

December 2018 / January 2019

£2.00



**News & Information
from Southwell Minster**

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At a Glance ...

*The full list of services is on the What's
On pages at the centre of the magazine.*

December

Sunday 2	6.30pm	The Advent Procession
Wednesday 5	7.00pm	Beaumont House 'Light up a Life' service
Friday 7	12.15pm	<i>Ceremony of Carols</i> , Britten
	7.00pm	Framework Carol Service
Saturday 8	7.30pm	Concert: Cantamus Girls' Choir
Sunday 9	5.00pm	Christingle Service
	7.30pm	Carols in the Great Hall
Thursday 13	7.00pm	BBC Radio Notts Carol Service
Saturday 15	7.30pm	Carols for Everyone
Sunday 16	5.00pm	Messy Minster Sunday worship
	6.30pm	Organ: Messiaen, <i>La Nativité</i>
Monday 17	7.00pm	Emergency Services Carol Service
Tuesday 18	7.30pm	Concert: Handel, <i>Messiah</i>
Weds 19	7.00pm	Minster School concert
Friday 21	7.30pm	Southwell Music Festival Concert
Sunday 23	7.00pm	Cathedral Carol Service I
Christmas Eve	11.00am and 2.00pm	Crib Services
Monday 24	3.30pm	Choral Evensong
	7.00pm	Cathedral Carol Service II
	11.15pm	Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Eucharist
Tuesday 25	11.15am	Festal Mattins
Sunday 30	10.30am	Family Eucharist

January

Tuesday 1	9.30am	Holy Communion
The Epiphany	10.30am	Family Eucharist
Sunday 6	3.30pm	Festal Evensong
Sunday 13	6.30pm	Epiphanytide Procession
Friday 25	5.30pm	Festal Evensong, St Paul

February

Friday 1	12.15	Lunchtime at the Cathedral
Saturday 2	4.30pm	Candlemas Eucharist and Procession
Patronal Festival	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 3	3.30pm	Festal Evensong and Procession

If you are interested in submitting an article for consideration for the next issue, please email your offering to hugh.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk by 10 November 2018. This magazine is produced and printed by Jubilate Communications CIC



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Welcome to the December/ January edition of Southwell Leaves

This winter edition takes us through Advent to Christmas and the new year; hospitality and hope are our themes, as outlined in the Dean's article. The last edition included the centenary of the 1918 Armistice, and we remembered the courage and failure of war in the 20th century, and efforts for peace in the 21st. This time we celebrate the long-term past with services and concerts re-telling the story of God's son coming as a poor child; the present in terms of our calling to give God's hospitality to those who live in poverty now; and the long-term future embodied in our Christian hope.

Several articles are about music and musicians, ready for the season when the doors are open to give hospitality to literally thousands of people who come to the Minster to be uplifted and inspired. We hear from Framework and Home-Start, two local charities for vulnerable individuals and families, which will feature at services in December.

Overseas links remain important, and we can read about Keframa School in Uganda, whose pupils are getting new classrooms partly funded by supporters in Southwell and district.

Work with children continues to do well. As in many churches, this ministry is done at times other than Sunday mornings, and the reports on Messy Minster and on programmes for school children are encouraging. You can also read about children literally encircling the Minster one sunny morning. Children's Christmas books feature in an article about the goodies available to buy in the Cathedral Shop.

There is spiritual reflection too, in an article about Oscar Romero, another about the Book of Revelation, in the summary of a sermon, and in the regular 'Pause for Thought' and 'Bible Verses' items. Two articles about the carved pews and about Peter Ball's *Pieta* give a long-lens view of the world and of the faith. Sacrista Prebend Retreat House reminds readers about the need for quiet in a fast-moving world.

The pages are full of information about services, people, plans and events, to complement the new website which is due to be launched as this edition of *Southwell Leaves* is published. We hope you enjoy it.

Vincent Ashwin

Jubilee Debt Campaign

Hundreds of local Primary students formed a human chain around Southwell Minster on Friday 28th September, the day before the 20th anniversary of the Jubilee Debt Campaign. This event marked for a new generation both the positive steps taken to write-off historic debts which cripple many poorer countries, and pressed home the need for renewed efforts to do more of the same. Breaking the chains of debt, and setting people free as Jesus sets us free, was the theme of the event which was led by Revd Peter Hibberts of the Methodist Church and Fr Matthew Askey Southwell Minster's School Chaplain. It was a joyful and moving morning with the children easily stretching around the Cathedral hand-in-hand facing outwards, following the Anglo-Saxon tradition of 'Clipping the Church', in which the community and world are prayed for by the church. The following prayer was used:

Lord, God of all life, as we remember the 20th anniversary of the Jubilee Debt campaign, we pray for justice for all in need, for a fairer sharing of wealth and resources and for the valuing of all people equally as Children of God. Lord, help us to break the chains of poverty and debt, inspire our nation to be generous as you are generous to us all, and set us free to sing your praise, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Revd Peter Hibberts commented:

'A huge thank you to everyone who played a part in the Human Chain, at Southwell Minster, on Friday - as always the best events have a cast of thousands - a real community and ecumenical event!'

There was a real buzz about the whole thing and a sense of togetherness and solidarity across our church and our schools.

It is to be hoped that this will remain in the minds of the children for at least another 20 years - that they will know the power of solidarity and the importance of freedom - creating a free and fair world.

Patrick Sills



'Communicating hospitality and hope'

After several months of detailed preparation, we are days away from launching the new website for the Minster, which is very exciting for those of us who have been planning for a long time. The previous website contained excellent material and information (including backdated editions of Southwell *Leaves*!) but was difficult to navigate and extremely time consuming for staff to upload new articles. We know that most people today look online before visiting a new place, expecting to find information that is up to date, accessible and visually attractive. The new website will engage visitors to experience the Minster as well as find out exactly what they need to know. There will be video clips, the sounds of the choir, pages featuring The Friends, SMCA, the *Leaves Project* and all Minster's groups and activities. Most important of all, there will be easy to access details about worship, faith, special services and events at a glance or 'click of a mouse'. It will even be possible to make a donation! Impressive work has been going on to widen communication and broaden our reach, using social media platforms and I'm grateful to the staff and generous volunteers who have progressed this work energetically in last six months.

The *Leaves Project* includes funding for renewing the Minster's signage and updating the guide books and interpretation boards. Meanwhile, in discussion with the Chief Steward and his team, we have made some short term, inexpensive adjustments to improve the entrance for visitors through the north door, moving the Information Desk and re-naming it the Welcome Desk, simplifying the notice boards, signage and the prominence of the donation boxes. We are working towards keeping the nave west of the font uncluttered and clear of chairs unless we are holding a large service or concert. The stewards notice how people enjoy the capaciousness of the nave when it is 'un-chaired' and although it is impractical to keep it empty all the year round, I am convinced that how we present the 'sacred space' sends an unspoken message of the generous welcome and hospitality of Christ.

A recent visitor to the *Threads through Revelation* exhibition wrote of how she had received renewed hope in God through what she had experienced. I

cannot think of a more encouraging response. Hope in God is what we are about, a hope that banishes fear and anxiety about the future. Bishop Peter Price writes of this coming season, "Christmas in an ambiguous time. It neither marks in historical time the birth of Christ, nor is it based on a 'Christian' festival that has been corrupted by time. It is rather the other way around. In the cold, northern climes, around the shortest day of the year, people celebrated the end of darkness and the beginning of light...It was on this event that emergent Christianity hung its celebration of Christ the Light. Advent challenges us, not to try to change the party that people want to have in the mid-winter, but rather re-engage ourselves with an understanding of what the birth of Christ means to us, who call ourselves the 'People of God'...in this post Christian era, the challenge that exists for us is to understand more fully how to participate in making known Jesus' work in restoring all humanity to participate in God's justice and goodness."

Everything else we do is to some extent window dressing. We anticipate 2019 to be an unsettling year for our nation, with political and economic uncertainty. May we make our prayer this Advent and Christmas to be a people transformed by our participation in God's story of hope shown and perfectly communicated in the Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Nicola Sullivan

A Shaking Reality: Daily Reflections for Advent, Peter B Price, DLT, 2018



Rhys Elias the head chorister
reflects on Advent and Christmas:

View from the Front Pew

Having been in the Minster Choir for five and a half years now and experienced many wonderful Advents singing in various Christmas services, I have come to love the lead-up to Christmas. I love the atmosphere of the Advent Procession when the whole of the Nave is lit up with people holding candles, and the sound when everyone is silent before we start singing. It's a reflective time. It's a warm feeling when we start singing and the sound travels through the church. When I look out and see the congregation it makes me feel respected because there are so many people watching us.



I enjoy the Cathedral Carol Services as they are only a few days away from Christmas and you can sense the excitement. On Christmas Eve after the carol service the Seniors go to the Saracens Head to sing a few carols in the community. This is a fun thing to be part of, because you know it's nearly Christmas Day. On Christmas Day the atmosphere in the Minster is really lively and it's when all my family are together. My favourite Christmas pieces are 'Rorate Caeli', 'The Truth From Above' and 'Once in Royal David's City'. I will miss singing the descants at Christmas because of how they are different from any other part.

Christmas is about giving, and I like singing in the choir at Christmas because I want to give back to the congregation.

News from the Deanery “in which the Minster sits”

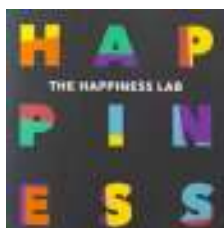
Several churches in the Deanery have been running a course called ‘The Happiness Lab’. It describes itself as “A six-week experiment that enables delegates to explore what psychologists, doctors and faith leaders say will make people happier.” It was introduced to the Deanery by Revd Louise Holliday in Balderton and has since also been successfully run in Norwell, Sutton-on-Trent and North Muskham. Louise writes of her experience with the course:

“At St Giles, Balderton, we ran the first Happiness Lab in this deanery in Chesters pub. We were encouraged by the attendance and engagement from all those present. Amongst the contributors to the course is Bishop Martin, the Bishop of Leicester, whose input was greatly appreciated by our group. Amongst the positive feedback we received were comments regarding the absence of any input from him in the last two sessions of the course: “Looking after your body and soul” and “Developing Coping Strategies.” I am very grateful to Revd Anthony Giles who approached Bishop Martin to ask for his thoughts on these sessions. As a result, Anthony and I visited Bishop Martin and recorded Anthony’s interview with him. The material from this interview is now available as a seventh session to the course, and really facilitates moving the group on to consider how faith in Christ can have such a positive impact on life.

I think the Happiness Lab is a great pre-Evangelistic tool for engaging with the community about the realities of everyday life and its pressures. It has enabled good conversation and we have followed it up with a Pilgrim Course which is also being well received.

Our benefice plans to hold our next Happiness Lab during Lent at the Willow Tree, Barnby in the Willows.”

You can find out more by going to www.theuglyducklingcompany.com or speak to Revd Louise Holliday, Revd Canon Mark Adams or Revd Georgie Hadley.



Sing merrily at Christmas

Erik Sharman spoke to Paul Provost, *Rector Chori* (Director of Music), about preparing for music for Advent and Christmas.



How do you think the term has gone so far?

Very well, thank you. Everyone seems in good heart, and we’ve made some excellent music; the St Cecilia Concert was a particular highlight.

This is your second Christmas at Southwell now; how did you find it last year?

Southwell Minster does a good Christmas, but it is exceptionally busy! We seem to pack more than many [cathedrals] into the few days before Christmas. There’s a great atmosphere around the place.

As you say, we have a very busy schedule here in December. What is your favourite moment in the run-up to Christmas?

I love the moment just before the first carol service. It’s something of a ‘point of no return’, and it’s a great feeling just to let everything run from then onwards.

Speaking of the carol services, there is a new format this year! How will it change from previous years?

The new format is based on a fairly traditional format, that of the Nine Lessons and Carols of King’s College Cambridge fame. This successful liturgy is replicated the world over, and with good reason: it speaks the Christmas message directly through readings and music without the need for additions, beyond a time of prayer.

And there is good music to look forward to, of course?

All of it! We try to include a range in the carol services, from overtly festive to more reflective. It is also well worth coming to Evensong on Christmas Eve, where we are still in Advent mode, but turning the corner towards the light of Christmas.

For some people, the carol service might be their only experience of the Minster each year.

They get to experience the beautiful finished product, but lots of work must go into it first.

What don’t they see in the preparations?

The most obvious hidden element is our choir rehearsals, but there is much more. Securing the liturgy, choosing the right music –both being imaginative and fulfilling expectations, getting an order of service together, finding readers, organising seating: all of these things have to be done, and more. It is a blessing that we have a great team working to ensure those who come really do just see the finished product.

How do the Choristers cope with the schedule?

My experience of Choristers and Christmas is that they love it. Families might be apprehensive at first, but Cathedral commitments soon become a part of their family celebrations. They are lucky not to have to come in for Christmas afternoon here.

And finally: what is your favourite Christmas carol?

Not exactly a carol, but I think my favourite Christmas choral piece is Poulenc’s *O magnum Mysterium*. In terms of big congregational carols, it’s between the big three: O little town of Bethlehem, O come all ye faithful, and Hark! the herald-angels.

Handel's Messiah

Whenever Christmas approaches we have a tradition in our family of taking out my vinyl LP copy of Messiah, hoping that the stereo stylus is still in good repair, and wallowing in those fantastic, powerful lyrics and sounds that are at the very apex of the Christian faith.

Its premiere of course was in Dublin in 1742, and since then it has been performed by choirs across the United Kingdom since at least 1745. There is a very rich tradition of getting Messiah 'right'. Messiah 'from scratch' is a wonderful concept and enables people to sing Messiah without having the ability to read music in any kind of detail. There can surely not be any greater musical spiritual experience than singing the Hallelujah Chorus, and the sense of triumph it engenders is almost tangible.

Handel composed Messiah in 1741, but he continued to change and adapt it and finally completed a version in 1754 which we recognise today.

The recordings that I originally listened to were 'Greatest Hits' of Messiah, incorporating the impressive renditions of 'Ev'ry valley shall be exalted', 'For unto us a child is born' and 'He was despised'. Such edited highlights are a great starting point, but there is absolutely nothing quite as powerful as hearing the entire unedited version of Messiah: it has a unity and cohesive, powerful message which evolves. Messiah tells the powerful story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection and the final victory over sin and death.

During the Victorian period there was much competition between choirs to see who could create the largest Messiah choir! Mozart himself also tried to get involved and penned his own version of Messiah. However, his reworking of Messiah did not go down very well and one critic commented that Mozart's version 'resembles elegant stucco work upon an old marble temple...easily chipped off again by the weather'.

Possibly the most well-known section of Messiah is the 'Hallelujah' Chorus'. Certainly, it is generally regarded as one of the most impressive pieces of Baroque music. The tradition of standing up for the 'Hallelujah Chorus' has a long and noble history going back to King George the Second, who stood up during the chorus at its inaugural performance in London.

Perhaps the forgotten man behind Messiah is the librettist - or 'lyrics writer' in today's parlance - Charles Jennens, who used words from the King James Bible, which Handel then set to music. Jennens' selection of the key Bible passages was inspired, since it tells the poignant and essential elements of the Christian story, including the important aspects of Jesus' rejection and resurrection. Who can not listen to those powerful words: 'A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief' and not understand the

depths which Jesus went to in order for us to find redemption?

Personally, I love the chorus where it speaks of us as 'sheep'! 'All we like sheep have gone astray'. Of course, the fact that we do go astray is part of the human condition, but the music of Handel makes it all sound quite jolly! Perhaps the composer is simply having a joke at the librettist's expense!

Messiah is in my view one of the greatest pieces of Christian Choral music. The changes in mood which are so evident in the oratorio are inspired, and take us through a roller-coaster of our emotions. The oratorio communicates 'passionate rage to serene pastoral moments' (to quote one reviewer) and this is what makes it one of the most impressive choral works of all time. Certainly, I would feel depleted if I was unable to listen to Messiah during the frenetic build-up to Christmas. Messiah is an opportunity to renew our faith and be reminded of the transforming power of God in an imperfect world.

I hope you have the opportunity to listen to Messiah in the coming weeks. It is being performed at Southwell Minster on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm by our very own Minster Chorale, who will be joining forces with four world-class soloists, and some of the best orchestral musicians in the area. This is a wonderful way in which to begin the Christmas Season.

'For unto us a child is born'

Richard Doorbar

Southwell Minster Choir Association presents

MESSIAH

G.F. Handel
Tuesday 18 December 2018
Southwell Minster
7.30pm

Southwell Minster Chorale
Minster Chamber Ensemble
Simon Hogan

Soloists:
Ruth Provost (soprano)
Carrie Jones (mezzo soprano)
Mark Wilde (tenor)
Dingle Vandell (bass)

Tickets:
£18 Front Nave
£15 Mid Nave
£12 Rear Nave
£8 Side Aisle
(Unreserved, unreserved)
Under 18s FREE
(not required)

Tickets available from the Cathedral Shop:
01636 812933 www.southwellminster.org
Facebook Twitter Instagram

Southwell Minster

Meet Suzey, the Nurse on the Streets

I started at ten to four this morning on the streets of Nottingham, because today was the head-count. The Street Outreach Team goes out every morning to make sure that people are safe; lots of people are really poorly, and often they have no insight into their own mental health problems. I've seen someone with cancer, someone who's partially blind, care-leavers with really traumatic childhoods, people with serious wounds that I've needed to dress. There's a gentleman who hasn't had his mental health medication for ages. I'm always assessing people's health, with their permission.'

Suzey Joseph is a specialist nurse who has been working over four years with the Street Outreach Team in the city and county of Nottinghamshire, a project jointly organized by Framework the homelessness charity and CityCare, a social enterprise providing NHS services. She will be speaking about her work at the Carol Service arranged by Framework in the Minster on Friday 7th, at which all donations will go to fund Suzey's work.

Framework's challenge is to raise £85,000 over the Christmas period, to pay for the specialist nurse care, and to put in place a support worker to assist her. As part of this challenge there is £20,000 match funding made available for the first and last £10,000 that is donated, so every gift donated at the carol service has the chance to be doubled.

Suzey is passionate about her work, and says there are more people on the streets than for many years. 'The diversity is unbelievable,' she explains; 'you could get someone who has come from a broken home, or been abused as a child; they have suffered a lot of trauma, maybe from being in the Armed Forces; others have a learning disability and may have lived in a very supportive home with understanding siblings and parents, but the minute they grow up and become of age, difficulties can ensue.'

'Our service has to be for everyone, to be all-inclusive; creed, colour, and so on, it doesn't matter. We take care of refugees and asylum-seekers who are destitute especially if their asylum claim fails and they are awaiting appeal, and Eastern Europeans with no recourse to funds if they have been trafficked here for enforced labour. Others fall ill and keep going on the meagre pittance they've got, but if they fall ill and go to hospital, they are no longer capable of working. I'm helping a lady who had a stroke, and someone who was dying of cancer. At that point they are desperate and in need of lots of care, and the main thing is they all know they can access me.' One thing shines through Suzey: her respect for all those she helps.

One of her gifts is patience, and she explains, 'I have built up trust so that when I meet people and say, "It's Suzey the nurse. Are you all right? I've got all my kit with me," they think, "It's the nurse; it's all right." Building up that trust



takes a long time; word gets round. There was one young lady who was excluded from getting food at the drop-in centre because she smelled so badly from an infected wound that was decaying her entire leg. In the end she engaged with me, trust was built up, and I managed to heal her leg.'

Suzey's work in the Street Outreach Team represents a partnership between Framework, CityCare, which comes under the NHS's umbrella, and many others. She cites a recent example: 'There's a gentleman who is in the woods and really poorly; he has been known to NHS mental health services for a number of years and was medicated, but he's fallen off his medication - triggered by a traumatic event. So now he has fallen into unbelievable chaos, and has physically hunkered down in the woods. The police have been amazing; they could have just taken him away and arrested him, but waited for the mental health team. I assessed him and by working together we hope to find him a home with Framework.'

Her concern about homelessness began many years ago when she was a nurse on a ward at a hospital. A patient had finished a long treatment, but had nowhere to go to except the streets. 'I couldn't do that to them. I stood my ground! – and that person wasn't discharged before a lot of things were put in place to prevent their homelessness.' Suzey then spent years doing extra jobs: with the street van in Mansfield, as a police custody nurse, working for mental health services, and eventually ending up being offered her current job through Framework and City Care. Come to the Minster on Friday 7 December to celebrate this work

If you are unable to attend and would still like to support Suzey's work, please donate at www.frameworkha.org/Challenge18 or send a donation to Framework, 25 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6NX.

Vincent Ashwin



Did you know that ...

When in 1884 Southwell became the Cathedral town for the new-formed diocese and the Minster was raised to Cathedral status, the Chapter concerned itself with improvements and new furbishments, under the authority of Ewan Christian, the Church Architect. Included was the provision of 12 new stalls in the Quire presumably to replace box pews which had been there since at least 1711.

These Stalls were the work of Charles Henry Simpson who worked as a wood carver for Cornish and Gaymer for 65 yrs

Charles Simpson was born in 1856, left school at the age of 14 and was apprenticed, as a wood carver, to Cornish and Gaynor of North Walsham, Norfolk. He worked in many churches, especially in Norfolk, but also in Durham and Norwich Cathedrals as well as in Southwell Minster. He took great pride in his work and the detail of his carvings is remarkable. Although there is greater diversity in Simpson's work, he mirrored many aspects of the carvings in the Chapter House. Charles Simpson worked for Cornish and Gaymer for 65 years and died in 1936.

Enquiry reveals that this talented man undertook his first piece of work at 16 years of age and that this consisted of carving on the altar of North Walsham parish church where the predominant feature was birds among foliage. This theme was later to be extensively developed and used in Southwell and elsewhere. Here, this gifted artist drew his inspiration from the beauties of the gardens and fields surrounding the Minster, recording them in the oak wood of Sherwood. This is what makes Charles Simpson's work so remarkable; most fine carving seen in stately homes will be in

Lime wood, quite soft and easily carved. The carving, of Charles Simpson, in oak would take 5 times longer and therefore would be 5 times more expensive!



Here is a feast for the artistic eye. We see birds in flight, on the nest and swinging on twigs, while with truly amazing artistry one poor little songster is shown limp, caught in a string trap among the pea-pods. To achieve such effect of limpness of death, in wood, can be no less than the work of a genius.

We see flowers of all kinds, both of the hedgerow and garden, from the delicate lily-of-the-valley to a sunflower in which is shown a bee busily at work. The ears of corn, one of which is bent over in supporting the amazingly real nest of field mice, have to be seen to be believed.

These Simpson Stalls were repaired very recently by T J Murfin, of Ravenshead, who said that the original workmanship involved in these oak panels was the finest that she had seen and that they were underrated, given the justly famous stone leaves in the Chapter House. Fortunately, the cartoons for these choir stalls were given to the Minster Library in 1934 on condition that they were not copied, so she was able to refer to these for her restoration. TJ Murfin first carved in lime and then finally, from that preparatory work, finished the perfected piece in oak. This repair was funded by a donation from an elderly lady from Halifax in memory of her husband, supplemented by the Friends. The challenge now is to find this repair!

*James Pinder,
for the Southwell Minster Guild of Stewards.*



Pause for Thought

Since 2014, there has been a *Thought for the Week* in the Minster's Pew News, usually taken from books in Sacrista Prebend library. Here are two quotes from December 2014 and January 2015:

Gift and generosity

At Christmas we celebrate gift and generosity and open expressions of love. You don't need religion to understand that all of those things make life worth living. The Christian story suggests that gift and generosity and love are basic to what God does at Christmas, but also that religious people sometimes need to relearn this truth from others who have the Christmas spirit, even if they don't know the Christmas story.

Jane Williams, 'Approaching Christmas', p. 7.

Paraphrasing the teaching of Jesus, Francis Spufford writes:

Don't try to grip your life with tight, anxious hands. Unclench those fingers. Let it go. If someone asks for help, give them more than they've asked for. If someone hits out at you, let them. Don't retaliate. Be the place where violence ends. Because virtue isn't something built up from a thousand carefully measured acts. It comes, when it comes, from behaving, so far as you can, like God who makes and makes and loves and loves and is never the less for it.

'Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense', p. 116.



Home-Start cares for families around Newark

From time to time life can be tough for most families, and it is good to know that there is a helping hand available sometimes. For families in and around Newark (including Southwell), Home-Start Newark is there to help.

This year, the Christmas Day collections at the Minster are to go to support the work of Home-Start Newark, for which we as trustees and volunteers of the charity are very grateful indeed. The purpose of this article is to explain what Home-Start Newark can do to help, and how the collections made at the Minster will be invaluable to the work of the charity.

Home-Start is a national charity, started in Leicester just over 30 years ago by an inspirational lady who realised that a weekly visit from a friendly face can sometimes enable families to move forward in a whole variety of ways.

The Newark branch is now based in Castle House; a very small number of dedicated staff look after around 40 volunteers who visit families. We also run a playgroup which meets twice weekly for families who might find going to a main-stream play group difficult. All volunteers are trained and also have annual refresher courses. Volunteers are all parents, so they will be able to empathise with issues that parents will be facing.

The usual pattern is for volunteers to visit a family at home once a week, and to work with the family on whatever the issues are that the family is facing at the time. It may be that the family is facing loneliness and isolation for a variety of reasons. Parents might be experiencing post-natal depression or other mental health issues. Some families face a variety of health and disability issues which complicate daily life. There may be relationships within the family which could be improved, or families may experience behavioural issues with children which volunteers can help with.

Volunteers provide tailored support to the family for as long as it is needed; sometimes only a few visits are required, and sometimes visits may continue for over a year. Families are referred to Home-Start Newark in a variety of ways: by health, social or educational professionals, or families referring themselves for help. If it seems that Home-Start is not the best solution, the staff can suggest alternative sources of help to a family.

I have been a volunteer for Home-Start Newark for about five years and a trustee for three years (and I am not the only member of the Minster congregation to have worked with Home-Start Newark in a similar capacity).

In the spring there will be a preparation course for new volunteers; usually it takes one (short) day per week for

around 6 – 8 weeks. Once trained, volunteers will be matched with a family and usually visit for one half day per week. I have found it to be a very worthwhile way of spending time! To see a family gain confidence and learn to manage with greater independence and success is wonderful and extremely rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more, please look at the website (www.homestartnewark.co.uk) or call the Home-Start office in Newark on 01636 7050111.



The main costs involved in running Home-Start Newark are staff salaries and premises. One of the Nottinghamshire Home-Start schemes has had to reduce its service considerably this year due to lack of funds. As with many charities, we have faced funding cuts in recent times, but we are determined to ensure that we continue to provide support to our local families. Therefore, every penny that is donated through the Christmas Day collections at the Minster will be extremely welcome, and will enable local families to enjoy a better quality of life.

Lizzy Doorbar

Home-Start Newark volunteer and trustee

**Christmas Carol Service
in aid of Framework**

Supported by High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire Mr Nicholas Ebbs.

Raising funds to help homeless people in Nottinghamshire.

**Friday 7th December 2018,
7pm at the Southwell Minster.**

- Favourite carols to sing
- Featuring the Southwell Minster Choir
- Followed by seasonal refreshments.

Reserve your seats at www.frameworkha.org/carols
If unable to access the internet, call 01636 870 9658
Seats may be reserved until Friday 23rd November. Subject to availability
Tickets will be posted to be delivered by Monday 2nd December.

By kind permission of the Cathedral Chapter. Supported by Arian Rowan, Nicholas Ebbs, Andrew Spybey, Associates and Southwell Rotary.

Reg. Charity No. 800881 | Photography by Chris Knappes



How to read the Book of Revelation sensibly

In November many people visited "Threads Through Revelation", a series of textile panels created by Jacqui Parkinson and inspired by the Book of Revelation. A few people heard about the teaching afternoon at Holy Trinity Church here in Southwell, presented by Ian Paul from Nottingham. Scholarly, yet down-to-earth, and also heavenly. Ian's clarity was memorable.

Ian introduced us to the Book of Revelation as the story of God's dealing with his people, always reaching out to them despite their behaviour and failure of love. Then he introduced us to some difficulties with reading the Book. We are third millennium westerners and Gentiles (or most of us) whereas the early Christians were easterners and mainly Jews. We are perplexed by interpretations of the Book suggested in the course of Christian history. We are confused by what is meant by End times: 'in these last days God has spoken to us by his Son' (Hebrews 1:2). What we do know is that Christians have always turned to the Book of Revelation when their faith is challenged. And Ian added, that the Christians of Ephesus and neighbouring churches would have understood John, author of the Book, when they heard what he had written.

Next, Ian introduced the kinds of writing used by John - 'genre'. This is how writers communicate what expectations they think we should have when we read what they have written. For example, Revelation 1:1, embraces five different kinds of writing: Apocalypse (revelation); Benediction (blessing); Letter (epistle); Doxology (praising God); and Prophecy (foretelling). When we allow for changes of 'genre' (which we do unconsciously when we read more familiar parts of the Bible) we will be excited by what we read in Revelation with its highs and its lows. What, for me, was notable was to be told there are only about 400 verses in Revelation, but these include almost 700 quotations from the Old Testament or allusions to it.

Time available with Ian only allowed for a glance at the overall structure of the Book of Revelation. It begins with the revelation to John of 'someone like a son of man' whom he recognises as the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. He is overwhelmed: 'When I saw him I fell at his feet as though dead' (Revelation 1:17). He has been commissioned to an awesome ministry. What follows are messages of both encouragement and warning to the seven churches



Part of a panel from 'Threads through Revelation' by Jacqui Parkinson

representing, surely, the whole Church of God throughout all Christian history to this day. John subsequently is overcome by the open door into heaven, chapter 4, through which he sees the heavenly throne, and he hears the accompanying worshippers who represent all God's creatures, heavenly and earthly (cf. Philippians 2:10).

Then John sees the scroll sealed with seven seals, and the Lamb of God who is able to break the seals because he 'has triumphed' (Revelation 5:5). With visionary encouragement for the people of God, whatever may be happening to them in the here-and-now, chapter 12 looks like 'the central and pivotal chapter being distinctive in style and language' (Ian Paul). After the portrayal of cosmic and local conflict, and the assurance that God is sovereign, we arrive at what John sees and hears in the well-known chapter 21. To quote Ian again: 'there is no temple in the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:22), or rather, the whole city is a temple. With the incorporation of Gentile believers in the people of God, the vision for renewed worship has a new inclusivity that goes beyond the worship of the Jewish temple'.

At the end of this teaching afternoon, Ian mentioned the significance of numbers e.g. 4, 7, 12, 24. With reference to the

Hebrew numbering system he interpreted the meaning of 666, the number of the blasphemous beast ((Revelation 13:5 & 18). The Christians of Ephesus and neighbouring churches would have heard the coded language for the name of the tyrant, and persecutor of Christians, emperor Nero Caesar (AD 54 - 68).

Concluding the afternoon, Ian exhorted us to imbibe the Book of Revelation: 'Don't compromise; the only true hero to whom we pledge our loyalty (despite many contemporary substitutes from which to choose) is the Lord Jesus from whom we must never, never turn away.'

Remember our Lord's words: 'But about that day or hour no one knows . . . Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come' (Matthew 24:36 & 42).

What to read next: 'How to Read the Book of Revelation' by Ian Paul, Grove Biblical no. B28, available from Grove Books Limited, Ridley Hall Road, Cambridge CB3 9HU, Tel. 01223 464748, £3.95 post free.

Peter J. van de Kastele

Andy Corner - Our Parish Representative on Chapter

Four years ago Andy and his wife Christine began to worship at the Minster in the frame of mind that they were ready for a 'rest from the responsibilities of office in a small rural church'. They had left behind a life of active participation in their previous village parish in Warwickshire where Andy had been Church Warden for sixteen years, Christine had led children's Sunday School and organised nearly every Church function. Both were involved in the Youth Group. Very soon they were worshipping here, in Andy's words, attracted by the 'feel' of the Minster, the choice of services, which satisfied his fondness for the Liturgy, and blessed by the quality of the preaching. It wasn't long before they were drawn into the wider life of the Minster, Christine as a Steward and Guide and Andy giving Tower tours.

How did these two children of the Methodist manse turn out to be such committed Anglicans? Well, they moved around the country with Andy's business activities and at one stage they had to drive past their village Anglican church to the nearest town to find a Methodist service: which incidentally happened to be in an Anglican church. So they started attending the village church, where they were eventually confirmed into the Anglican tradition. They came to Nottinghamshire on retirement, rather than following their original plan to return to Andy's roots in Cornwall, and now live in Calverton next-door to their daughter, her family, and horses and chickens. Their grandson Lucas was baptised in the Minster three years ago at

St Luke's tide and their latest grandson Hugo, now 15 weeks old, has already made an appearance at 9:30am services.

Andy was appointed to the Cathedral Chapter as the Parish's representative, but he regards his role as being the spokesperson for all the congregations. Indeed, he sees the Parish and the Minster as one congregation having the same mission. Whenever he can, he uses the gathering for coffee between the Sunday services as a valuable opportunity to spend time amongst people, listening and getting to know their hopes and concerns. He would like to continue making the Community Forum a meaningful exchange of views, requests and feedback in both directions, and has a special concern that pastoral work at the Minster should be appreciated more widely. His lifetime of experience working in major business enterprises and consultancies has already been harnessed by the Finance Committee of Chapter, and from there he plans to keep a watching eye on financial information as it emerges. According to Andy, the skill he has to offer that has most relevance for the present day is 'engineering change', not a common characteristic of the Church of England but one we should all perhaps welcome with open arms.



Christine Kent

Cantamus at Southwell Minster

A festive start to your Christmas celebrations



Heralding Christmas

Cantamus Girls Choir, Cantamus Training Choir & Cantus Amici

Saturday 8th December 7.30pm
at Southwell Minster

Tickets £15 from The Cathedral Shop, Southwell
or from Sue 07519 326180 susietaylor13@hotmail.com

Bible Verses for Reflection

John the Evangelist reflects on the nature of Jesus, the Word of God:

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world **John 1:4-5,9**



But now thus says the LORD, ...'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.' **Isaiah 43: 1-2**

Suggestion for Reflective Reading, based on the ancient tradition of Sacred Reading ('Lectio Divina')

Read the verse slowly, perhaps more than once.

If any word or phrase strikes you in particular, stay with it, repeating it quietly to yourself.

Reflect about what God might be saying to you through this.

Move into quietness, resting in God's loving presence.

Notes from Chapter

Topics for discussion over the last few months have included a preview of the new website; update on the Leaves Project; review of recent income generating events; visitor numbers and donations; opportunity to share minutes from the Justice Group and the Sacrista Management Committee; and the issues with budget and the setting of the budget for 2019. The concerns of the wider Church are included in our agendas when appropriate, for example, the current position of the Cathedrals Working Group Report, which continues to be under discussion and review. This is just a snapshot of Chapter, with the need for constant review of our focus; with regular agenda items for Safeguarding and Parish Matters.

The challenges of the operating budget continue to be closely scrutinized. There will have been some concerns following Dean Nicola's recent notice regarding a deficit. She was able to share with those able to attend the recent Community Forum that there have been some developments in relation to this, one being a considerable amount to be received from the Church Commissioners (£40,000) due to the Canon Precentor vacancy. We are also delighted to celebrate the great success of the Bramley Festival and the Craft Fair - two of our main fundraising opportunities, as well as being a fantastic chance to welcome so many visitors. The hard work of many helped both events to exceed expectations in increased income generation. Well done to all those involved! Also, the increased visitor numbers over the half term break and with the Threads through Revelation exhibition have increased donations. Extensive work is being done by Chapter sub-groups, looking at how we present and analyse our budget statements, key performance indicators, and ways for income generation. Together with the setting up of a Risk Assessment group, all these vital components help us to move in the right direction financially. Andy, having settled into Chapter after three meetings, has become involved in this work.

Chapter is excited to see the new website and we hope that those who were able to share a preview at the Community Forum would agree the huge improvement it will bring to an important aspect of marketing. It is informative, with wonderful visual images, and sound and video clips. Access to service lists, daily prayers, diary, things to see, and ways to be involved, as well as a facility for online purchases, are some of the things to see on the new website. This will complement the increased use of social media, TV and radio being done by our marketing team.

Updates of the Leaves Project are regularly brought to Chapter for consideration. Moving forward with the many technical aspects of the project, Canon Nigel also

shared at the Community Forum the way the project can connect us with our Christian faith, Creation and the natural world. Those working on the project continue to move towards the next key date in the process, and we will update everyone as any developments are known.



Chapter sees Pastoral Care as an important part of the work of the Minster. The clergy and a volunteer pastoral committee work together for those who need support. Communication is important to ensure that those who need support receive it, and that contact is made at the Minster Centre to initiate the appropriate support. A Pastoral Care leaflet can be found on the notice boards near the North Door.

As you can see, a great deal of work is being done to review and develop many aspects of the organisation of the Minster which will allow our mission to grow and flourish.

If you would like to raise any issues or topics for future Community Forum discussions please contact Vicky Thorpe or Andy Corner.

BEAUMOND HOUSE COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Light UP A Life

A CHRISTMAS CAROL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Carols at the Minster Southwell Minster
Wednesday 5th December
From 6.30pm

Carols at the Castle Newark Castle
Thursday 20th December
From 5.00pm

For further details, please call 01636 610556 or email fundraising@beaumonthouse.co.uk
www.beaumonthouse.co.uk

Southwell Minster
Diocese of Lincoln
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Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

A Quiet Space in the Heart of Southwell



Those of you passing by Sacrista Prebend may have noticed a few changes.

First of all the (wooden) balustrade has been replaced. The old one was rotten and so had to be replaced 'like for like', even down to the colour. Then you will know it is a year since the wonderful old horse chestnut tree had to be taken down. But have you noticed the new trees replacing it? As you walk in the smaller tree, is a flowering cherry tree *Prunus Yoshino*. The larger tree is a *Cercis Canadensis*, known as 'Forest Pansy', with its lovely heart shaped leaves. The voluntary gardeners have also taken the opportunity to reshape that part of the garden; we do thank them for this extra work and planning.

There have also been changes in how the House is run. The Chairman of the Management Committee, the Very Revd Dr John Moses is standing down after guiding the House through changes and challenges. We thank John very much. We also thank Hugh Middleton for agreeing to become the new Chairman.

We often do not notice change happening around us or within us. Few people noticed the momentous events happening in Bethlehem; and many will go through Christmas this year with little thought as to why we have Christmas and what it means to our lives today. We can even go through the whole range of nativity plays, carols and church services without really engaging with Jesus.

Which is why it is good to stop to see where we are in life and faith; to see what is rotten, what needs replacing, what it is right to move on from, what we are ready to take up. And this applies just as much to our spiritual lives. Everyone has different ways of stopping; for some that 'stop' may be no more than an intentional minute from time to time; for many that could and should be more. Some use a spiritual accompanist to help them decide. Perhaps Sacrista Prebend can be part of your stopping. Do take time to look at the new Quiet Day Programme for 2019; pick up a copy from the House or the Minster. And feel welcome to one of the Minster Eucharists held in the House every Monday (9am) followed by breakfast and Wednesday (12.15pm) followed by soup and cake. Also remember the House can be booked for a personal retreat of one or more days (we have three lovely bedrooms); we can assist in guiding you if you so wish.

Finally please remember some of the In-House Quiet Days book up very quickly. These are the first couple of days we have planned for 2019...

Sat 9th February - Revd Canon Valerie Rampton

**Loving God has four elements
'Rest, Reverence, Obedience, Delight'**

The quotation comes from John Owen, a 17th Century Puritan. I'm sure we'll have heard plenty about obedience, and perhaps a bit about reverence, but probably very little about rest and delight. In this day we'll learn a bit about John Owen, explore rest, reverence and delight as ways of loving God, and have a nod at obedience.

The Revd. Canon Valerie Rampton served for 22 years in Southwell Diocese before retirement, in inner city, suburban and rural parishes, and as Dean of Women's Ministry. An active retirement includes being a Spiritual Companion, going to concerts, travelling abroad, and walking in the countryside.

Tues 12th March - Canon Angela Ashwin
Roots and Fruits: Trust, Vulnerability and Gift in the Christian Life

Jesus often uses the imagery of plants, seeds and fruitfulness when speaking about discipleship. On this Quiet Day we will explore what it means to be 'rooted and grounded in love' (Ephesians 3), abiding in Jesus and being pruned in order to bear his fruit (John 15). Reflecting on other Biblical analogies of trees, streams and leaves for healing, parts of this day will take further some of the themes explored by the Minster congregation's 2018-19 House Groups around our medieval carved stone leaves, although you do not have to be part of the Minster congregation to attend.

Canon Angela Ashwin is a writer and speaker who lives in Southwell. Her latest book is Faith in the Fool: Risk and Delight in the Christian Adventure.

God bless; and may you have a holy and peaceful Christmas.

*Tony Evans,
Warden of Sacrista Prebend Retreat House*

Mothers' Union Southwell Minster Branch

The Mothers' Union Carol Service is on Thursday 13th December in the Chapel at Sacrista Retreat House at 2.00 pm. This annual event compiled by Jenny Derbyshire will be led by Canon Nigel Coates. The collection will be going to 'The Away From It All Holidays' providing a week's holiday by the sea, for families who would not otherwise be able enjoy this break away from home.

The collection will also be shared with the Mothers' Union Contact Centre at Retford. This is run by the members of the diocese, providing a safe place for fathers to spend time with their children, following painful family breakdown.

We look forward once again to this special Service and welcoming visitors.

Jenny Hodson



From Blackburn to Southwell via Cambridge

Anthony Gray reflects on his first three months as the Minster's Organ Scholar

Cathedral music can seem a mysterious world for those who don't experience it first-hand. It can seem both antiquated and anachronistic to those unfamiliar with its benefits, not only to the life of a Cathedral church, but to congregations and choristers too. It has, therefore, been a great experience re-entering this world since moving to Southwell in September. Coming from three years in Cambridge where collegiate life takes on a different role in musical terms, it has needed some adjustment and orientation but I have thoroughly enjoyed this challenge.

One of the most fulfilling elements of my role as Organ Scholar is seeing the progression of both the boy and girl choristers, even over such a short period of time as a half term. The junior choristers especially, who have only been experiencing the choir and the music for one half-term, are doing amazingly well to learn quickly and enjoy singing. I feel that encouraging them and teaching them to love the music they are singing is a crucial part of my role, and will hopefully set them up to be fantastic choristers in the Cathedral choirs in the years to come.

A pattern of very regular services requires a strong commitment from the young people singing in our choirs. The boy choristers especially require both strong will power and an almost tangible understanding of the responsibilities placed on their shoulders, as they sing usually five or six of the choral services in any given week. I have been hugely impressed with their resilience and determination, as well as a clear desire to perform well. Aiming to achieve the highest levels of musical understanding, appreciation and performance in people as young as seven years old, is a significant challenge to any Cathedral music department, but this has been one of the real joys of my time in Southwell thus far.

Southwell Cathedral itself has been a somewhat unique environment to enter into. The relationship between the Cathedral and both the Town and Diocese is clearly dynamic and constantly changing, and it has been excellent to witness some of the events in which the Cathedral engages with both demographics, although of course one is part of the other too. The Bramley Apple Festival for example showed to me a very clear



engagement with the life and history of Southwell. This a relationship many other Cathedrals do not have in such abundance. Having worked in both Blackburn and Bradford Cathedrals, before moving to Cambridge, I experienced the life of inner city cathedrals first-hand, where a focus on the locality can be difficult to achieve in a more metropolitan context. Southwell comes with challenges as it forges an identity that is both local and

regional, but I feel this is something the Cathedral does very well to achieve. This is a further enjoyable facet of both my role, and the role of the music and liturgy department more generally, as we seek to foster both of these very important relationship dynamics.

I am greatly enjoying my time here in Southwell and look forward to experiencing both Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter, the two most musically and liturgically engaging parts of the year.

A SOUTHWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL PROMOTION

Friday 21st December, 7.30pm
THE NAVE, SOUTHWELL MINSTER

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
in seasonal words and music

Southwell Festival Voices
Marcus Farnsworth
conductor
Clive Mantle
reader

(Hallelujah: The Voice of Hallelujah and Voices of Reverence at the 2018 Southwell Music Festival)

A popular potpourri of sacred and secular words and music for Christmas. From the mediaeval to modern; favourites to new discoveries.

Last year the Nottingham Post's William Ruff said:
"Solo and ensemble singing doesn't get any better than this. Focus was razor-sharp, dynamics were thrillingly controlled, diction was crystal-clear, beauty shining from single sustained notes as well as soaring complexity."

Tickets £25, £17.50, £12 available:

- Online at www.southwellmusicfestival.com/onlinebooking
- By post, sending a cheque payable to Southwell Music Festival to SMP, Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HD
- In person at the Cathedral Shop

Sponsored by Mr Geoffrey C. Bond OBE CBE FRCGS
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What's On at Southwell Minster

Key to abbreviations

Choirs

[BV] Boys' voices
[C] Congregational
[CC] Cathedral Choir
[GV] Girls' voices
[LC] Lay Clerks
[MC] Minster Chorale
[Mct] Minster Consort
[VC] Visiting Choir
(see music list for details)

Venues

(PC) Pilgrim's Chapel
(SP) Sacrista Prebend
(SC) State Chamber
(TH) Trebeck Hall

December

1 Saturday

Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916;
World AIDS Day

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

2 SUNDAY

The First Sunday of Advent

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [MC]
11.15am Sung Eucharist [CC]
6.30pm The Advent Procession [CC]

3 Monday

Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

4 Tuesday

John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher, c. 749;
Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little
Gidding Community, 1637

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Wives' Fellowship Service
5.30pm Evensong [BV]

5 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
4.30pm Messy Minster worship
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Beaumont House 'Light up
a Life' Service

6 Thursday

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 326

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (TH)
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

7 Friday

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397; Ember Day

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Lunchtime at the
Cathedral
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Framework Carol Service [CC]

8 Saturday

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Festal Evensong [CC]
7.30pm Concert –
Cantamus Girls' Choir

9 SUNDAY

The Second Sunday of Advent

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [GV]
11.15am Sung Eucharist [CC]
12.45pm Baptism
3.30pm Evensong [CC]
5.00pm Christingle Service
7.30pm Carols in the Great Hall (SC)

10 Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [GV]
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

11 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [BV]
7.00pm Lowe's Wong Junior
School Carol Concert I

12 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
2.00pm Lowe's Wong Junior
School Carol Concert II
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Lowe's Wong Junior
School Carol Concert III

13 Thursday

Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304;
Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
2.00pm Mothers' Union Christmas
Carol Service (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm BBC Radio Notts
Carol Service [CC]

14 Friday

John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591; Ember Day

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
11.30am Holy Matrimony
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

15 Saturday

Ember Day

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [LC]
7.30pm Carols for Everyone

16 SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Advent

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [BV]
11.15am Sung Eucharist [CC]
3.30pm Evensong [CC]
5.00pm Messy Minster worship
6.30pm Messiaen *La Nativité*

17 Monday

O Sapientia; *Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children', 1928*

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Joint Emergency Services Carol Service
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

18 Tuesday

O Adonai

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Concert –
Handel *Messiah*

19 Wednesday

O Radix Jesse

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Minster School Concert

20 Thursday

O Clavis David

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
all day Minster School services
9.45am Holy Communion (SP)
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

21 Friday

O Oriens

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Staff Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Concert –
Southwell Music Festival

22 Saturday

O Rex gentium

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [LC]

23 SUNDAY**The Fourth Sunday of Advent;**

O Emmanuel

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [C]
11.15am Sung Eucharist [MC]
12.45pm Baptism
3.30pm Evensong [MC]
7.00pm Cathedral Carol Service I

24 Monday**Christmas Eve**

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
11.00am Crib Service I
2.00pm Crib Service II
3.30pm Evensong [CC]
7.00pm Cathedral Carol Service II
11.15pm Midnight Eucharist [MC]

25 Tuesday**CHRISTMAS DAY**

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [GV]
11.15am Festal Mattins [CC]
12.30pm Holy Communion
3.30pm Evening Prayer with Carols

26 Wednesday

Stephen, Deacon, first Martyr; *Harold Derby, second Bishop of Sherwood, 1993*

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
4.00pm Evening Prayer

27 Thursday**John, Apostle and Evangelist**

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Evening Prayer

28 Friday**The Holy Innocents**

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Evening Prayer

29 Saturday

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Evening Prayer

30 SUNDAY**The First Sunday of Christmas**

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Eucharist [C]
3.30pm Evening Prayer

31 Monday

John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion (SP)
4.00pm Evening Prayer

January

1 Tuesday**The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion (SP)
4.00pm Evening Prayer

2 Wednesday

Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 & 389

Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833; Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop of South India, Evangelist, 1945

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

3 Thursday

John Beecher, founder of The Workhouse in Southwell, 1848

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer

4 Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer

5 Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evening Prayer

6 SUNDAY**THE EPIPHANY**

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist [MC]
3.30pm Festal Evensong [MC]
4.45pm Westgate Faith and Light
Epiphany Service

7 Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

8 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [BV]

9 Wednesday

*Kenneth George Thompson, first Bishop of
Sherwood, 1975*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

10 Thursday

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

11 Friday

Mary Slessor, Missionary of West Africa, 1915

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

12 Saturday

*Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167; Benedict
Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689*

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm First Evensong of the
Baptism of Christ [CC]

13 SUNDAY**The Baptism of Christ (The Second
Sunday of Epiphany)**

7.30am The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [MC]
11.15am Mattins [CC]
6.30pm The Epiphanytide
Procession [CC]

14 Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evensong [GV]
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

15 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [BV]

16 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

17 Thursday

*Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356; Charles Gore,
Bishop, Founder of the Community of the
Resurrection, 1932*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

18 Friday

*Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur
Fellowship, Spiritual Writer, 1951; Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity begins*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

19 Saturday

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [LC]

20 SUNDAY**The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

7.30am Morning Prayer and
The Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist [BV]
11.15am Sung Eucharist [CC]
3.30pm Evensong with Diocesan
Mothers' Union
Commissioning [CC]
5.30pm Taizé Service

21 Monday

Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evensong [GV]
7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

22 Tuesday

*Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain,
304*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [BV]

23 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

24 Thursday

Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher, 1622

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
5.30pm First Evensong of the
Conversion of Paul [CC]

25 Friday**The Conversion of Paul**

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Festal Evensong [CC]

26 Saturday

*Timothy and Titus, Companions of St Paul, 1st
Century*

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

27 SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

- 7.30am Morning Prayer and The Litany
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Eucharist [GV]
- 11.15am Sung Eucharist [CC]
- 3.30pm Evensong [CC]

28 Monday

Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
- 5.30pm Evensong [GV]
- 7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

29 Tuesday

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 5.30pm Evensong [BV]

30 Wednesday

Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

31 Thursday

John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.45am Holy Communion
- 12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
- 5.30pm Evensong [CC]

February

1 Friday

Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 12.15pm Lunchtime at the Cathedral
- 5.30pm First Evensong of Candlemas [CC]

2 Saturday

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 9.00am Holy Communion
- 4.30pm Candlemas Eucharist and Procession [CC]

3 SUNDAY

PATRONAL FESTIVAL;

The Fifth Sunday before Lent

- 7.30am Morning Prayer and The Litany
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist [CC]
- 3.30pm Festal Evensong and Procession [CC]

4 Monday

Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

5 Tuesday

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 5.30pm Evensong [BV]

6 Wednesday

The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II; The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

7 Thursday

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.45am Holy Communion
- 12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
- 5.30pm Evensong [CC]

8 Friday

- 7.30am Morning Prayer
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Time Travelling Commissioning Service
- 5.30pm Evensong [CC]

9 Saturday

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 9.00am Holy Communion
- 3.30pm SMCA Come and Sing Informal Performance
- 5.30pm Evensong [MC]

10 SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday before Lent

- 7.30am The Litany
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Eucharist [GV]
- 11.15am Mattins [CC]
- 3.30pm Evensong [CC]

From our Registers

Baptisms

- 5 August Isabella Hannah Purcell
- 19 August Joseph Charles Botton
Beau Charmaine Botton
Brogan Botton
- 26 August Edward Christopher Provost
- 2 Sept Amelie Summer Morris
- 9 Sept Oscar Felix Hogg
- 30 Sept Theodore Robert James Johnston
- 28 Oct William Jacob Newsum-Smith

Weddings

- 3 August Joseph Coleman & Vesalina Dzharova
- 4 August Simon Hogan & Hilary Punnett
- 17 Aug Christopher Wakefield & Amy Firth
- 1 Sept Philip Brasier & Nina Morrison
- 15 Sept Alexander Mackay & Anna Nesbitt
- 20 Sept Damon Harrington & Jemma Humphrey
- 28 Sept Samuel Bowers & Kirsty Rogers
- 26 Oct Stephen Skill & Geraldine Thomson

Prophet of a Future not our own

Bishop Stephen Oliver writes about a 'Bishop for the Poor' whom the Pope declared a saint earlier this year.

On the façade above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey are ten remarkable sculptures of twentieth century Christian martyrs. Between the figures of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King stands that of Archbishop Oscar Romero murdered in 1980 as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

By all accounts Oscar Romero was no radical revolutionary, but rather conservative in temperament. His appointment in 1977 as Archbishop of San Salvador was not popular with local priests but to the surprise of many he quickly emerged as a consistent critic of those who abused their power in government, and he became the voice of protest in a country where protest was viewed as treason.

It seems that in his maturing mind the indiscriminate execution of innocent peasant farmers by the National Guard in 1975 led to a decisive climax with the murder of his friend, a Jesuit priest, just a few weeks after he became Archbishop. The murder was never investigated. In a three-year period over fifty priests were attacked and six murdered. Nuns were persecuted and people simply disappeared. Every week on the church radio station Oscar Romero read out the names of those murdered by the military and tortured by local troops.

He pleaded with the Pope not to support a government which spread lies, dealt in deceit and legitimized torture. On one occasion, as he returned from a trip abroad and passed through the airport, an official was heard to say loudly, 'There goes the truth'.

He wrote an open letter to the President of the United States begging him to stop sending arms to the regime. The letter was ignored. He called on soldiers to obey a higher law and stop the violation of the people. The following day gunmen entered the doorway of his chapel and opened fire. Last month Pope Francis declared Oscar Romero to be a saint.

To be a martyr was originally understood to be a witness, and it is as a witness in both his life and his death that Oscar Romero has been declared a saint.

A true martyr-saint is not just a simple hero of right or left,



and does not belong to any faction, church or party. In his developing mind and spirit Oscar Romero never aligned himself with any popular liberation movement, and yet in his deep Christian faith he lived and died for the liberation that can only come when suffering and injustice are named for what they are. Only when truth about human pain is given voice can there be any hope of healing in the church or in the world. Liberation is both for those oppressed by power and for those addicted to the instruments of deceit and violence, trapped in their own inhumanity. Oscar Romero's life is a lesson in what it is to reverence truth and confront deceit. It is a lesson not

to be lost at a time when 'truth' is hotly contested on all sides. In the task of discerning and speaking truth "all of you", he said, "will have to be a messenger, a prophet".

The task is far from easy or comfortable. When Oscar Romero, in his last sermon, urged government troops to lay down their weapons rather than obey unjust orders, and went on to urge those in power to stop the repression and murder of the people, he knew such 'truth' was provocative. In his case it proved to be lethal.

It is significant that the sculpture of Oscar Romero standing over the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey is the only figure holding a child. The liberation for which he lived and died was not just for the people of his day but more essentially for the generations to come. Yet in that work he was nothing if not a realist. A meditation quoted on the anniversary of his death captures something of his spirit.

"It helps now and then to step back and take the long view....

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise....

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along the way.....

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the workers.

We are workers not master builders, ministers not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own."

Children's Christmas Books and other Delights

I recently visited the Cathedral Shop and was hugely impressed with the range and quality of the products on sale. There is no better place to go if you are doing your Christmas Shopping, and the cost of items on sale is suited to all budgets. The main purpose of this article is to focus on several books that are available. However, before I review the Christmas books I thought it worth highlighting just a few things which caught my eye.

There are some fantastic Nativity sets at a range of prices. The carved wood set is at the top of the range, but there are several delightful Nativity sets that remind us of the central message and story of Christmas. A nativity set is indispensable for all ages, but especially helpful if you have children in the family. It is so easy for children to think of Christmas being linked with elves and fairies, or even the Muppets when they watch such films as Muppet Family Christmas. Now I am not disparaging the enjoyment that can be gleaned from the Muppets, but one senses that the true Christian message gets lost in the hysteria! A Nativity set, therefore, is a simple but effective way for all to reflect on the true message of Christmas, and to recall the true message so beautifully encapsulated in the final verse of the poem on Christmas by John Betjeman:

'No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.'

The range of Christmas Cards available is wonderful, with many of the cards communicating the real Christmas message. The Christmas tree decorations for sale are of really high quality. Something that caught my eye were cups made from bamboo; these reusable cups say it all: that we should take care of the earth and act as true stewards of God's creation. A recyclable cup is a small, very cost effective but powerful way of recycling. Seek out the recyclable cups – I am sure they will sell quickly and they can be an excellent gift that can keep being used.

Linked with the environment theme are beautiful cards showing a range of God's creatures; they are produced by the BBC Wildlife Unit and are of a very high quality. A set of these could make a lovely gift for those who love animals, possibly accompanied by a Planet Earth DVD.

Now to the Book Reviews. The focus of my reviews is on Christmas books for children, and a terrific range is available. 'The Story of the Nativity' is beautifully illustrated by Sophie Windam and tells the Christmas story with intelligence and sensitivity. It is described as a 'book to treasure and return to year after year'. At £5.99, it is very reasonably priced.

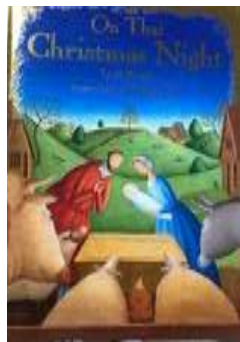


Another beautiful book for young children is 'The First Christmas'. Again, the book is beautifully illustrated and provides an opportunity for children to hear the Christmas story in an engaging, fun manner. The key players in the Christmas story are portrayed in a very accessible way. The book aims to 'rediscover the wonder of Christmas night' and I think it really achieves this aim. It only costs £1.00 and could be a stocking filler.



Another original book is called 'I love Christmas' by Geoff Holder. It is packed full of facts about Christmas. Here are a few of the fascinating facts it provides:

What do you get the King who has everything? A marmoset. That's what Henry VIII received for Christmas in 1539.



We, of course, associate presents with Christmas day but up until the 1860s most people exchanged gifts on New Year's Day.

'On That Christmas Night' by Lois Rock is also a beautifully illustrated book about the nativity with awe-inspiring illustrations, which could be used with very young children by using just the pictures to create an understanding of the birth of Jesus.



Some young children really delight in colouring activities, and 'Victorian Christmas Colouring Book' provides countless opportunities. In a world dominated by computer games and hi-tech entertainment, this traditional colouring book offers an opportunity for focus and concentration mingled with a degree of creativity. This could be a life-saver if you are busy cooking Christmas Dinner, and need your child to entertain themselves for a period of time whilst you produce the perfect Christmas meal! Alternatively, you could join in the colouring with your child or grandchild!



The Cathedral Shop is well worth a visit and offers an Aladdin's cave of Christmas delights. You have to be very strong-willed to go into the shop without purchasing something; you will find lots of ideas and gifts, including some wonderful books for children.

Richard Doorbar

James Pacey now a Vicar

Former Minster verger, the Revd James Pacey, was recently instituted by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham as vicar of St John's, Carrington, on the Mansfield Road in Nottingham. He said, 'The service was a wonderful and very moving occasion. It was a joy to welcome so many friends – old and new – as we begin a new season of ministry. I feel immensely blessed to be serving as vicar at Carrington and am hugely excited to see where God will lead us in the next chapter of St. John's story. James is married to Rachael, who runs *Talent First Nottingham*.



James was born and bred in Nottinghamshire and served his curacy in Hucknall Team Ministry. Prior to ordination, James worked as a theatre director and practitioner and is particularly interested in the parallels between liturgy, theatre and worship. He has a passion for story and loves hearing peoples' own narrative and seeing the connections in their story and the amazing, true, story of the Gospel. He is embarking upon a Masters in

Liturgy and has recently been appointed County Chaplain to the Order of St. John.

Anthony Gray joined the Music Foundation this term as *Organ Scholar* following his spell as *Organ Scholar* at Robinson College, Cambridge.

James Beddoe, former chorister, is studying at the Guildhall School of Music after a year as a lay clerk, and then a further year as Project Manager at St. John's College, Cambridge, which included marketing their CDs, the latest of which is called 'Advent Live'

Tom Rayner, former chorister, is in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Alex Turner, former chorister, is a lay clerk in the choir of New College, Oxford.

Richard Nicholson, former chorister is now Head of King's High School, Warwick.

News from the Song Room

George Parris, former chorister, is studying music at Manchester University.

Emma Brooks, former chorister, is studying at York University.

Peter Holder, former organ scholar at the Minster, played for the national service on Remembrance Day at Westminster Abbey, where he is sub-organist.

David Edmondson-Jones, former head chorister, is studying music at Caius College, Cambridge.

Kate Hodgkinson, former chorister is studying at Royal Holloway, London.

Andrew McIntosh, former chorister, is now Auxiliary Tenor & has one of his sons in the choir.

Nick Turner, former chorister, now retired, is an assistant verger at Southwell.

A new CD of the Choirs of Southwell Minster conducted by Paul Provost, Rector Chori, entitled Hush, Little Child, will be available in time for Christmas @ £10 each. The CD is on the Heritage label and features carols by Anthony Baldwin and Simon Mold.

		CATHEDRAL SHOP Open 7 days a week! Mon- Sat 9.30am-4.30pm Sun 12.30pm-4.30pm	
Advent Calendars Cards Candles Diaries Christmas Decorations Music Books Nativities Angels Gifts Jewellery Festive treats			
		20% OFF Children's Christmas books	

Education Department

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of four schools' days which focus on the centenary of the 1918 Armistice. We were joined by Footprints Theatre and the choral outreach team as we explored personal stories of servicemen on both sides, and the interpretation of remembrance through music in 'The Armed Man', and through art in the war memorials of the Cathedral. During a reflective time Children were asked to remember and learn from the past and to work for peace in the future. Readers may have seen our interactive 'Peace Pledge' doves which were on display in the Minster. Here is what one teacher said:

'The welcome and enthusiasm from all the Minster Education staff who we worked with was absolutely fantastic. The children were treated as mature learners and given freedom to work as they chose.they were made to feel valued...It was a terrific day – many thanks to all who made it so.'

Back in September, the annual Discovery Day was attended by 100 enthusiastic adult learners who enjoyed a variety of tours, talks and workshops (as well as an astonishing amount of cake),

including making prayer beads, a talk by master wood-carver Mike Painter, and a focus on some of our treasured paintings and silverware, while Paul Provost spoke about the traditions of cathedral liturgy and music. Huge thanks are due to all who led our workshops and made the day such a success.

October saw another 'Romans in Southwell' day with Sutton Bonington Primary School. This has been developed in partnership with Southwell Community Archaeology Group (SCAG), to meet the requirements of the Key Stage 2 curriculum. Children washed and identified some genuine 'finds', learned about the Villa and its daily life, and took away a clay model. A great day for children and volunteers which we hope will become a regular education offer.



Colouring peace doves at Remembrance-tide

We enjoyed the launch of a brand new children's book 'The Mice in the Minster' by Susan Allen, who joined us from America to read her story to school children from Lowe's Wong and Holy Trinity Infants' Schools. Along with her previous book, 'Mary-Anne and the Apple', it is available to buy in the Cathedral shop.



For visits to Southwell Minster and Archbishop's Palace for schools and other groups.

Visit the Education pages of our website for details.

For Time Travelling educational pilgrimage days visit <http://www.timetravelling.co.uk>

Advent is just around the corner, and we have 200 Key Stage 1 children booked to join us for our annual activity days, exploring what Christmas means for Christians and how we celebrate. With stories and crafts, costumes, gifts and tinsel we explore the connection between our modern Christmas traditions and the story of Jesus' birth. These days are always a highlight for the team!

Meanwhile, we have also been busy with family learners. Stewards will tell you that over weekends and school holidays, many children visit on an informal basis with their

parents/ grandparents/ carers. Over the last couple of years, I have been working with stewards to ensure varied provision at the information desk for these visitors. There will always be a trail available for families – the 'default' trail is the children's Explorer Guide, but seasonally this is replaced with an alternative. For example, in the summer we had 'Brickminster', currently for November there is 'Fabulous Beasts' (to coincide with the new JK Rowling film), and for

Advent and Christmas there will be 'God's Special Gift', themed to the

Christmas story. Each of these

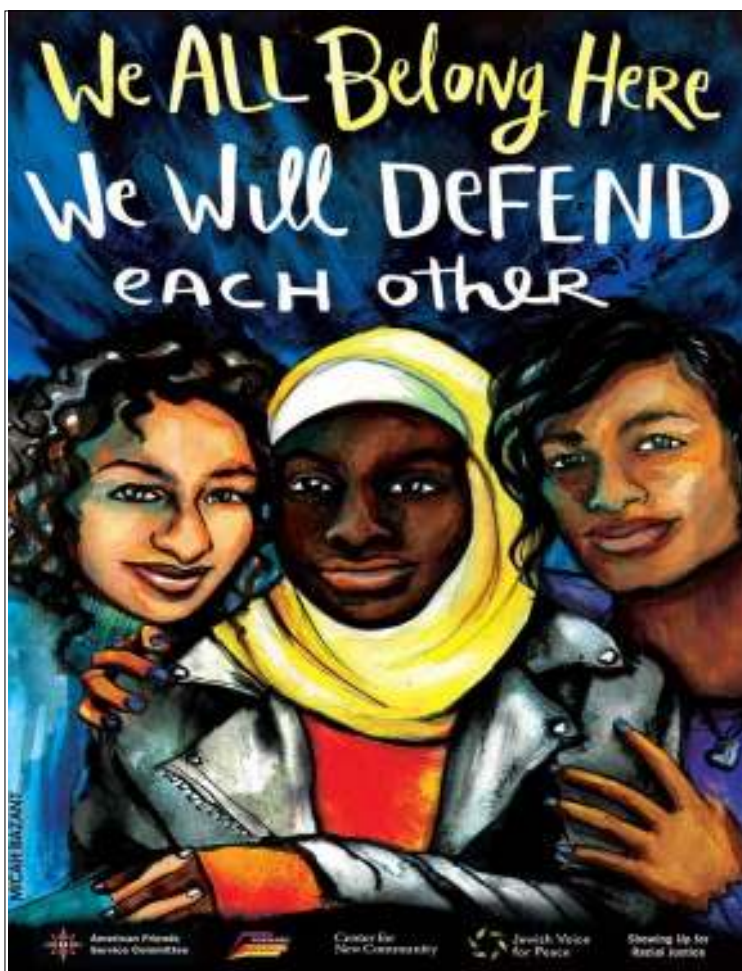
offers a guided walk around the Minster with a (free) booklet, which has small amounts of information, things to spot and questions to answer on the way around. Binoculars and torches can be borrowed from the information desk. On completion, children pop to the Cathedral shop to collect a sticker as a reward for completing the trail.

Looking forward, we are taking bookings for our annual Time Travelling pilgrimage days for schools – a week in March for Key Stage 2 and a week in June for Key Stage 1. Anyone interested in bringing a school group or helping as a volunteer would be welcome to contact the Education Department (details below). We welcome up to 350 children per day for each week, and need many tasks to be undertaken, so there is a way for everyone to become involved, with or without previous experience of working with children.

Wishing all readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year period.

Diana Ives (Education Officer)

education@southwellminster.org.uk / 01636 817993



"After the shooting in Pittsburgh on 27 October.
A poster circulating in the US,
and promulgated by Jewish Voices for Peace."

Southwell Minster

'God's Special Gift'

A trail for families & children for Advent and Christmas

1st Dec 2018-
7th Jan 2019

All welcome, no
booking needed;
pick up a free trail
booklet in the
Minster.
Donations welcome

More information from the Education Office:
01636 817993 / education@southwellminster.org.uk

Messy Minster doing well

Messy Minster is thriving with around 45 people meeting monthly for activities, worship and a meal together. Children and adults enjoy together a range of activities to explore the theme of the month, with cake decorating, lego, painting, bead crafts, origami and balloon modelling proving popular this term! This is followed by informal worship for all ages in the Minster. The session finishes with a hot meal together in Trebeck Hall, a great opportunity for both children and adults to get to know each other.

We are part of an international Messy Church movement which aims to inspire a fun form of church for both children and adults through creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Messy Minster has been so popular that we have recently introduced Messy Minster Family Services in the Nave at teatime on selected Sundays. The first of our new Messy Minster Family Services, the recent Messy Baptism, had 73 attendees. This was the baptism of a whole family, five people, from grandma to small children. It took place at the Nave font and included craft-making (decorating candles with wax designs, and a Water of Life bookmark) and a bring-and-share picnic afterwards. The next family service takes place on 16 December at 5.00pm.

Messy Minster meets at Trebeck Hall, normally on the first Wednesday of the month 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. New volunteers are always welcome to help with activities and catering – please contact Father Matthew if you are interested in helping out chaplain@southwellminster.org.uk 01636 817298

The next Messy Minster is Wednesday, 5 December – why not come along and join in the fun?



Messy Minster Making Music

RE for Key Stages 1 and 2 at Southwell Minster

Time Travelling 2019 School Pilgrimage Days

I would encourage any school to attend this excellent event. Time travelling was well organised, thought provoking and enjoyed by all children. (KS2 teacher 2018)



Perfect experience, they came back buzzing. (KS1 Teacher 2018)

Make a modern-day pilgrimage with your class to the 900 year old Cathedral of Southwell and Nottingham. Investigate a living place of worship, explore architecture, artefacts, symbols, beliefs and practices; hear Bible stories and how faith is expressed today. Learning outcomes are from the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and linked to 'Understanding Christianity' concepts.

- Downloadable teacher resources
- Friendly guides and leaders, exciting workshops
- Collective worship with 350 children in the Nave
- Promotes SMSC education and British Values

The saddest part was leaving - it was the best trip ever.
(Oficer, Year 5 2018)

Key Stage 1:
£3 per child
10-14 June 2019

Key Stage 2:
£4 per child
11-15 March 2019

Information and booking form on our website www.time Travelling.co.uk
Send completed form to: Time Travelling, Jubilee House,
8 Westgate, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0JH
education@southwellminster.org.uk 01636 817993

www.southwellminster.org

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@minster_ed
southwellminster



A Local Initiative in Northern Uganda

The 2017 August/September edition of *Southwell Leaves* carried a short piece about a locally based fundraising initiative that is supporting the construction of a secondary school in Northern Uganda. Over the past year much has happened.

Since 2011 students at Keframa High School have survived in rudimentary buildings (4 classrooms plus boys' and girls' dormitories). Classrooms are without windows or doors to shield students from wind and rain. Floors are either dusty or wet due to inadequate roofing. The buildings open onto a public road with no fencing. Food is prepared in the open, over a wood fire. Sanitation is basic and until recently students had to hike for an hour each day to collect water.

What these determined young people have achieved in these poor conditions is remarkable but in recent weeks work has now begun on phase one of constructing new school buildings just next to the existing ones.

Keframa School Build is led by members of Holy Trinity Church, Southwell, who have been supporting this and other educational initiatives in Northern Uganda for some years. There are strong links with the Kezzy family who have established and now maintain the school, some ten miles east of Lira. Many of the students are orphaned or from otherwise disadvantaged circumstances in the surrounding rural area. "Payment" to the school, which has to cover boarding as well as educational costs, is commonly in the form of a sack of beans or maize, and even this does not always arrive as it should. School staff include members of the Kezzy family, and they aren't able to rely upon the commitment as a reliable source of income. They often have to go without themselves, and student sponsorship is an important source of reliable funding. 30 students are supported by generous donors mostly local to Southwell.



A classroom at Keframa

Southwell & District Lions Club

Invite you to come along and sing with us

CAROLS FOR EVERYONE



SOUTHWELL MINSTER

Saturday 15th December 2018 - 7.30pm

Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Tickets from The Cathedral Shop, Church Street, Southw

Net proceeds to Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People



Work is under way... digging for the latrines

Recent developments have been the establishment of an independent charity to provide for this work, and the beginning of the building project. *Keframa School Build (KSB)* is now a formalised charity (registration number: 1178686) and the arrangements necessary to transfer money to Uganda and to capture Gift Aid are in place. At the time of writing trustees were in Lira reviewing progress on the ground, and liaising with school staff and with contractors. Some of the images that have come back communicate students' excitement at seeing long-awaited improvements actually beginning to happen.

Classrooms are being built which will each provide space for 60 pupils, and there is to be an assembly room large enough for over 300 adults or 120 at examination desks. This will double as a place to eat when it is too hot or raining, and as a place of worship. It will also split into four classrooms for additional space.

Uganda now requires fully equipped science and information technology laboratories in their secondary schools. *KSB* intends to provide these, but the school does not have science equipment or any computers.... yet! There will be offices for the head, bursar and director of studies. At present they share an 'office' 4x 8 feet... but not at the same time!! There will be a staff room rather than chairs under a tree. The new site now has a borehole with a solar powered pump and tanks for water storage. This ends the hour-long trip to fill a water container from a hand pump. The new campus will have latrines which will provide for privacy and washing.

A 21st century wood fired oven will provide a 200% improvement in wood burning

efficiency. Chimneys and draft control will ensure the staff do not live in constant wood smoke. The 5-acre site is now fenced and secure with gates manned 24 hours per day, and students can now move freely within this environment.

With the school moving to its new premises in February 2019 the students will walk from the old buildings, which are to be altered to serve as improved dormitories. New dormitories can only be constructed within the 5-acre site when more funds are raised.

Sponsorship is a particularly helpful way to contribute. It is one thing to build a school, but altogether another to ensure it is used to the full. Keframa High School never has been for the children of those who can easily afford secondary education, and sponsorship is a way of enabling those who cannot. The school's directors are committed to producing 'change-agents' through education. Quite uniquely in Uganda, they seek to provide a holistic approach to school life, and work with community leaders to offer sponsorship to students that show real potential and aptitude. Sponsorship from abroad strengthens their ability to do this. Supporting one student costs £20/month (£240/year). Seasonally, there will be Keframa Christmas cards. There are to be other fundraising initiatives, and *KSB* hope that others of our local community will take the opportunity to visit and see for themselves. I can provide further information and contact, and there is a website, a Facebook page, a Twitter feed and a TotalGiving account, all accessible by searching Keframa School Build. Please give this locally based and locally run project some thought.

Hugh Middleton



Ian Baird-Smith of Holy Trinity Southwell considers power for the bore-hole pump

'NO JAM-JARRING!'

Sermon preached by Angela Ashwin on 30 September 2018

'Whoever is not against us is for us.' Mark 9:40

There is an incident in today's Gospel that can feel depressing, because nothing much seems to change, but also encouraging, because we can learn a lot from it. It's when John says to Jesus: 'We saw someone casting out demons in your name, so we tried to stop him, because he's not in our group!' And Jesus says, 'No! Don't stop him; anyone who performs an act of healing in my name is incapable, in the same breath, of speaking evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.' In other words, 'Don't write him off!'

It is sad that, both in the church and more widely, we can still so easily dismiss people who are different from us or threaten our sense of security. You can almost hear the disciples' anxiety: 'He's claiming to serve you, Jesus, but he's not one of us! We're the ones you gave authority to, to go out and preach and heal! And how do we know he believes the right things about you anyway?' I suspect Jesus is saying to them, as he says to us, 'Don't be afraid to widen your horizons. See the good in others, and don't narrow down my work solely to what you are familiar with.' It is liberating to realise that neither the first disciples nor we have a monopoly on Jesus' work in the world. In other words, God is bigger than the Church – thank goodness.



To be fair, I'm sure the disciples had the best of intentions, wanting to protect Jesus' message so that his name would not be misused through power seeking or greed – as we know did happen sometimes in the Early Church. All the same, the disciples, like us, needed to recognise the dangers of being too quick to condemn those with different view-points or ways of doing things.

Many years ago, when I had just arrived at university to study Theology (which I had chosen because I wanted to understand my Christian faith more deeply) I was invited to tea by my college Bible Study group. Sadly, the folks at this tea-party said that the Theology Department was undermining the Gospel, tearing the Bible apart and, according to one person, was 'Anti-Christ'. I still find this kind of attitude heart-breaking; if only they knew how my faith was enriched by studying how the Bible came to be written. But the trouble is, I was then tempted to do exactly the same thing, falling into the trap of writing *them* off, without trying to understand properly where they

were coming from. I call it 'jam-jarring': labelling somebody and putting the lid on, as if we know all there is to know about their inner life, hearts, and minds.

This is not to say that we should just paper over cracks. Of course we should stand up against injustice, abuse or distortion. That's why, in Matthew 12:30 Jesus appears to say the exact opposite of what he is saying today: 'Whoever is not with me is against me'. As always, context is everything. Here the Pharisees have just accused Jesus of casting out demons by Satan 'the Prince of Demons', thus condemning as evil what is totally good. So of course Jesus says, 'Beware'. But today's incident is quite different, and reflects many of Jesus' core teachings: Judge not! Be generous! Why look for the speck in your neighbour's eye when you have a great log in your own?

In the end we are challenged to slow down and pause before we condemn others, and also to become more aware of those negative thought patterns which can so easily lead us to write people off. Are we allowing prejudice or fear to distort the way we look at people whose politics, sexuality or faith-tradition are different from our own? The good news is that as soon as we acknowledge our failings, they can become growth points, so that

we end up, hopefully, wiser than before, and not so liable to judge by appearances or assume we are the only ones with something to give.

I finish with a true story from around 1990, when things were still extremely tense in Northern Ireland. A Catholic lady, in hospital in Belfast, was in great emotional distress, but there was no RC priest around. There was, however, a Protestant minister, who said to a nurse, 'Do ask that lady if she would like me to pray with her.' The woman agreed, he prayed with her, and she was grateful and felt much calmer. After he had left the nurse said, 'You know who that was, don't you?' The woman nodded in amazement. It was Ian Paisley. This is the man who, only a year before, had denounced Roman Catholicism in lurid terms, although we know that his views did mellow subsequently. It is as if the grace of God is constantly one step ahead of us, working in ways we would never imagine, giving us glimpses of our God-given potential and calling us into Christ's work of reconciliation and healing of our fragmented world.

The Pietà in Christian Art

Peter Eugene Ball's 'Christus Rex' dominates the nave from its lofty position and is often the first feature that many visitors remark on, not realising how contemporary the carving is. However, tucked away in the South Transept there is a much smaller carving that people are often moved by. This of course is Peter's *Pietà*, a beautiful wood and copper carving installed in 1993 depicting The Virgin Mary cradling the dead Jesus. It transmits love and sorrow in equal measure and the accompanying red candle flame reinforces the deep passion of a mother's grief. As a work of art, it has a powerful effect on all who gaze on it. In recent years Peter has created several *pietàs* which are now installed in places such as Winchester Cathedral. However, the artistic concept and image of *pietà* originated over seven hundred years ago.

The Pietà in History

The term *pietà* finds its roots in the Italian word for "pity" and the Latin word for "piety." In Christian art the theme of the *pietà*, "depicts a moment immediately after the crucifixion, similar to The Lamentation or The Deposition, with the Virgin Mary supporting the body of the dead Christ. Some representations of the *Pietà* include John the Apostle, Mary Magdalene, and sometimes other figures on either side of the Virgin, but the great majority show only Mary and her Son. The *pietà* was widely represented in painting, wood carving and sculpture, (most often in marble). The form had no literary source, but grew out of the theme of the lamentation over Christ's body. The image first appeared in the early 14th century in Germany. It soon spread to France during the Middle Ages, a time when devotion to the Madonna was particularly intense. It remained important in Christian devotion until the 17th Century



Pietà by Peter Ball

Michelangelo's Pietà

Perhaps the most renowned of all the *pietàs* is the one created by Michelangelo in 1498. It is housed in St Peter's Basilica. Michelangelo was only 24 when the French Cardinal Jean de Bilheres commissioned this statue as his funeral monument. At the time the *pietà* was essentially a Gothic form, and very few works existed in Italy. Michelangelo carved it from a single slab of Carrara marble, a white and blue stone named from the Italian region where it was mined. It was unveiled in St. Peter's Basilica for the Jubilee of 1500. In less than two

years Michelangelo carved one of the most magnificent sculptures ever created. His interpretation of the *pietà* was far different than ones previously created by other artists.

Michelangelo returned to another,

older type of *pietà* ...

of the lone Virgin, who, like a seated Madonna, holds her son on her lap. The sorrowful tone of the *pietà* evokes pity in the viewer. Michelangelo believed that chaste women did not age and, in his *pietà*, Mary is seen as a youthful figure cradling her adult son. When asked why he had sculpted the face of Mary as a young girl Michelangelo replied that Mary had not aged because she was free from desire.

Although Michelangelo's *pietà* was originally intended for Cardinal Jean de Bilheres' tomb, it was eventually moved to its current resting place in St Peter's Basilica, where it remains as one of Michelangelo's most famous works of art. The religious theme of his *pietà* is very much in keeping with the rest of his work. He produced others, but this is the most renowned.

Unfortunately in 1972 on Pentecost Sunday, Laszlo Toth, an unemployed geologist from Hungary, gained infamy by leaping over the railings at St. Peter's Basilica to attack the *Pietà* with a hammer. With 12 blows, Laszlo Toth managed to knock off Mary's left arm, snap off the tip of her nose, and damage her cheek and left eye.

During its careful restoration, workers discovered a secret signature on the piece! Hidden in the folds of Mary's left hand was a subtle "M" believed to stand for Michelangelo. Sadly, but understandably, today the *pietà* is protected by a wall of bulletproof glass.

Peter Eugene Ball's creation has that timeless quality and is in keeping with an age-old tradition in Christian art. Long may it continue to engage and move generations of visitors to come!

Other famous Pietàs

There are numerous other examples of *pietàs* in painting and sculpture, particularly in the works of Renaissance artists such as Titian, Bellini, El Greco, Roger van der Weyden, Bronzino and Donatello to name but a few. Do have a look – you won't be disappointed!



Michaelangelo's Pietà

Tom Hislop

PORTRAITS.WEDDINGS.SPECIAL OCCASIONS

LOVE

A photograph of two young girls walking away from the camera on a dirt path in a wooded area. They are holding hands and each holding a pink balloon. The path is lined with trees and greenery, and the scene is bathed in soft, warm light. A large, semi-transparent 'LOVE' text is overlaid in the center of the image.

AMYEPHOTO@GMAIL.COM

07813752727

GINGERNUT
PHOTOGRAPHY

Contact Information

The Cathedral and Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Southwell

www.southwellminster.org

Dean The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan

The Residence, 1 Vicars' Court, Southwell, NG25 0HP
Tel: 01636 812593 Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk
(day off Friday)

Dean's PA, Minster Diary Secretary & Cathedral IT Co-

Ordinator Mrs Rachel Doe Tel: 01636 817282

Email: deansPA@southwellminster.org.uk

Canon Chancellor The Revd Canon Nigel Coates

4 Vicars' Court, Southwell, NG25 0HP

Tel: 01636 817296 Email: nigelcoates@southwellminster.org.uk
(day off Friday)

The Precentor This post is currently vacant

Canon Theologian The Revd Professor Alison Milbank

Tel: 01636 819224 Email: milbankalison@gmail.com

Priest Vicar The Revd Canon Tony Evans

Priest Vicar The Revd Erika Kirk

Cathedral Chapter

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan (The Dean)

Tel: 01636 817282 Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

The Revd Canon Nigel Coates (Canon Chancellor)

Tel: 01636 817296 Email: nigelcoates@southwellminster.org.uk

Vacant (The Precentor)

The Revd Canon John Bentham

Tel: 0115 846 1054 Email: john.bentham@nottingham.ac.uk

Canon Phil Blinston

Tel: 01636 817305 Email: philblinston@sky.com

Mr Shaun Boney

Tel: 01636 830178 Email: shaun.boney@gmail.com

Mr Andy Corner (Parish Representative)

Tel: 07710869968 Email: andrew_corner@hotmail.com

Col Tim Richmond DL OBE

Email: tsrichmond@btinternet.com

Mrs Vicky Thorpe (Parish Representative)

Tel: 01636 813222

Email: safeguarding@southwellminster.org.uk

Readers

Canon Angela Ashwin Tel: 01636 813975

Email: angela.ashwin@gmail.com

Music Foundation

Mr Paul Provost (Rector Chori & Organist)

Tel: 01636 817281 Email: rectorchori@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Simon Hogan (Assistant Director of Music)

Tel: 01636 814155 Email: adom@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Erik Sharman (Liturgy & Music Administrator) Tel: 01636 817280

Email: litmus@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Anthony Gray (Organ Scholar)

Tel: 01636 814155

Email: organscholar@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Will Farr – Chorister Supervisor

Mrs Julie Wright – Chorister Supervisor

The Minster Centre

Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD

Mrs Adele Poulson (Cathedral Administrator)

Tel: 01636 817285 Email: administrator@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Glenn Formoy (Head of Marketing and Events)

Tel: 01636 817284 Email: marketing@southwellminster.org.uk

Mrs Andrea Pritchard (Finance Officer, including Gift Aid)

Tel: 01636 819027 Email: financeofficer@southwellminster.org.uk

Mrs Angela Walters (Accounts Officer)

Tel: 01636 819027 Email: angela@southwellminster.org.uk

The Minster Office

Mrs Nikki Smith (Minster Office Assistant / Canon Chancellor's PA) Tel: 01636 812649 Email: nikki@southwellminster.org.uk

Cathedral Education Department

The Revd Matthew Askey (Southwell Minster School Chaplain)

5 Vicars' Court, Southwell, NG25 0HP Tel: 01636 817298

Email: chaplain@southwellminster.org.uk

The Revd Professor Alison Milbank (Canon Theologian)

Email: milbankalison@gmail.com

Mrs Diana Ives (Education Officer)

Tel: 01636 817993 Email: diana@southwellminster.org.uk

education@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Matt Hustwayte (Education Assistant)

Tel: 01636 817993 matt@southwellminster.org.uk

Minster Libraries

Mrs Marion Oswald (Librarian)

Mr John Sheppard and Ms Victoria Arthurson (Assistant Librarians)

Tel: 01636 817291 (answerphone)

Email: library@southwellminster.org.uk

Vergers

Mr Andrew Todd (Head Verger)

Tel: 01636 817290 Email: headverger@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Michael Tawn (Deputy Head Verger)

**Mr Kenny Nairn, Mr Nick Turner, Mr Andy Gill,
and Mr Andy McIntosh**

Archbishop's Palace

Mr Charles Leggatt (Hon. Curator, Palace & Education Garden)

Tel: 01636 817283 Email: charles@southwellminster.org.uk

Welcome Desk

Tel: 01636 812649

Cathedral Shop

Miss Amy Rodgers (Manager)

Mrs Nicola Rush (Assistant Manager)

Tel: 01636 812933 Email: cathedralshop@hotmail.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Vicky Thorpe

Tel: 01636 813222 Email:

vicky@safeguarding@southwellminster.org.uk

Churchwardens and Deputies

Mr Andrew Bates

Tel: 01636 812059 Email: andrewandjackybates@gmail.com

Mr Graeme Hocking

Tel: 01636 812903 Email: graeme.hocking@btinternet.com

Mrs Lindy Todd

Email: lindyodd2015@gmail.com

Mrs Kathy Hocking (Deputy)

Tel: 01636 812903 Email: kathy.hocking1@btinternet.com

Mrs Jean Jackson

Tel: 01636 813623

Mr Peter Gibbins (Deputy)

Tel: 01636 555578

Grounds

Ms Amanda Rushen (Gardener)

Email: gardener@southwellminster.org.uk

Mr Miles Prothero (Ground Maintenance)

Minster Refectory

Mrs Katie Griffin (Manager)

Tel: 01636 815691 Email: therefectorysouthwell@outlook.com

Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

The Revd Canon Tony Evans (House Warden)

Mr Andrew Gregory (House Bursar)

Tel: 01636 816833; Mob: 07794 154816

Email: sacrista_prebend@btinternet.com

Website - www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

Minster Help Line (Pastoral Committee)

Call 01636 812649

Website

Mrs Rachel Doe

Tel: 01636 817282

Email: deansPA@southwellminster.org.uk

Southwell Leaves

Dr Hugh Middleton (Editorial Group Convenor)

Email: Hugh.Middleton@nottingham.ac.uk

Southwell Events

Mrs Honor Dunkley (Southwell Events Co-Coordinator)

Tel: 01636 819038 Email: info@southwellevents.com

Website: www.southwellevents.com

Minster Organisations and Groups

Bell Captain/Bell Ringers

Mr Trevor Bryan

Email: trev.bryan@gmail.com

Children's Church

Father Matthew Askey

Tel: 01636 817298

Christian Aid

Mrs Helen Sills

Tel: 01636 815173

Faith and Light

Mr Tony Dykes

Tel: 01636 918291

Mrs Lee Harbour

Tel: 01636 813805

Flower Guild

Mrs Barbara Green

Tel: 01636 812709 Email: barbaraafgreen@dsl.pipex.com

Friends of Southwell Cathedral

Mrs Alison Salter (Secretary)

Tel: 01636 830373 Email: ajsalterbleasby@btinternet.com

Guild of Minster Servers

Mrs Jill Arrowsmith

Tel: 01636 812908

Guild of Minster Stewards

Mr Shaun Boney

Tel: 01636 830178 Email: shaun2boney@aol.com

Healing Group, Churches Together in Southwell

Mrs Bobby Craik

Tel: 01636 812649

House Groups

Dr Hugh Middleton and Mrs Vicky Thorpe

Tel: 01636 813222 Email: hugh.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk

Justice Action Group

Mr Patrick Sills

Tel: 01636 815173 Email: patricksills18@gmail.com

Minster Social Committee

Mr Andy Arrowsmith

Tel: 01636 812908 Email: amarrowsmith@btinternet.com

Minster Tours

Mrs Christine Bowering

Tel: 01636 816995 Email: Christine.bowering3@gmail.com

Mission Partnership Group

Revd Canon Vincent Ashwin

Tel: 01636 813975 Email: vincentashwin@tiscali.co.uk

Mothers Union **Mrs Jenny Hodson**

Tel: 0115 920 0443

Needlework Guild

Mrs Liz Turner

Tel: 01636 812250 Email: turnerelizabeth345@gmail.com

Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group

Mr Malcolm Rose

Tel: 01636 813074 Email: mal@clara.net

Sacrista Prebend Book Group

Mrs Olga Hudson

Tel: 01636 814434 Email: olgaandrobin@googlemail.com

Silence & Meditation Group

Mrs Elizabeth Yule

Tel: 01636 815311

Southwell Churches Together Ladies Choir

Mrs Gwen Bragg

Tel: 01636 812527 Email: g.bragg@virgin.net

Southwell Churches Together

Dr Frank McKenzie (Chairman)

Email: fjmcknz@gmail.com

Website: www.southwellchurchestogether.org.uk

Southwell Minster Choir Association (SMCA)

Mr Michael Davidson

Tel 01636 813840 Email: m.d46@btinternet.com

Southwell/Jerusalem Link Group

Dr Hugh Middleton

Email: Hugh.Middleton@nottingham.ac.uk

Stewardship Officer and Electoral Roll Officer

Mr Peter Gibbins

Tel: 01636 555578

Sunday Morning Coffee

Mrs Jill Arrowsmith Tel: 01636 812908

Email: amarrowsmith@btinternet.com

Southwell Minster Christmas 2018

Sunday 2 December Advent Sunday

EUCCHARIST

9.30AM AND 11.15AM

Sunday 2 December Advent Procession

6.30PM, NAVE

Friday 7 December Framework Carol Service

7PM, NAVE

Friday 7 December Carols in The Great Hall*

12.15PM, QUIRE

Sunday 9 December Carols in The Great Hall*

7.30PM, STATE CHAMBER

Sunday 9 December Christingle

5PM, NAVE

The 50th anniversary Christingle service

Sunday 16 December

Messiaen: *La Nativité* Organ Meditations

6.30PM, QUIRE

Experience the beauty and timelessness of Olivier Messiaen's *Nine Meditations on the Birth of Christ*.

Tuesday 18 December Handel's *Messiah**

7.30PM, NAVE

Sunday 23 & Monday 24 December

The Cathedral Carol Services

7PM, NAVE

Christmas Eve

Crib Services

11AM & 2PM, NAVE

Evensong

3.30PM, QUIRE

Midnight Eucharist

11.15PM, NAVE

PREACHER: THE BISHOP OF
SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM

Christmas Day

Holy Communion

8.00AM, QUIRE

Family Eucharist

9.30AM, NAVE

Festal Mattins

11.15AM, QUIRE

PREACHER: THE DEAN OF
SOUTHWELL

Holy Communion

12.30PM, QUIRE

Evening Prayer with Carols

3.30PM, QUIRE

Sunday 13 January 2019

Epiphanytide Procession

6.30PM, NAVE

This service explores the Coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the Miracle at the Wedding in Cana.

Saturday 2 February 2019 Candlemas

CANDLEMAS EUCCHARIST AND
PROCESSION,

4.30PM, QUIRE AND NAVE

*Tickets available from The Cathedral Shop or 01636 812933

11 £2.00

