

Southwell Leaves

October/November 2019

£2.50

**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.

October

Friday 4	12.15pm	Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral
Sunday 6	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Dedication Sunda	3.30pm	Festal Evensong
	5.00pm	Messy Minster Family Service
Friday 11	12.15pm	Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral
	7.30pm	St Cecilia Concert
Saturday 12	9.45am-4.00pm	Quiet Day at Sacrista Prebend
	11.00am	Diocesan Mothers Union Eucharist
	3.00-5.00pm	'Hope for the Earth' - conservation conference at Holy Trinity Church
	5.30pm	RSCM Festival Evensong
Sunday 13	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service
Advent	6.00pm	Forever Stars bereavement service
	7.30pm	Music in the Great Hall
Friday 18	5.30pm	Festal Evensong for St Luke's Day
Saturday 19	10.00am-4.00pm	Bramley Festival
Wednesday 23	7.30pm	Concert: 'The Sixteen'
Friday 25	12.15pm	Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral

November

Friday 1	8.00am	Holy Communion
Saints Day	7.00pm-10.00pm	Winter Craft Fair
Saturday 2	10.00am-3.00pm	Winter Craft Fair
	5.30pm	All Souls Requiem Eucharist
Sunday 3	5.00pm	Messy Minster Family Service
Friday 8	12.15pm	Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral
Sunday 10	10.30am	Remembrance Service
Remembrance Day	3.30pm	Remembrance Requiem Eucharist
	7.30pm	Music in the Great Hall
Sunday 17	6.30pm	Bereavement Service
Friday 22	12.15pm	Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral
Saturday 23	7.30pm	Concert, Southwell Choral Society
Sunday 24	11.15am	Diocesan Confirmation Service
Christ the King	3.30pm	Festal Evensong
Saturday 30	9.45am-4.00pm	Quiet Day at Sacrista Prebend

December

Saturday 1	5.30pm	Festal Evensong for St Andrew
Sunday 2		Usual morning services
Advent Sunda	6.30pm	Advent Procession

*Front cover courtesy of interest
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keep up to date with news and information.

*If you are interested in submitting an article for consideration for the next issue, please email your offering to
hugh.middleton@southwell-minster.ac.uk by 1st November
this magazine is produced and printed by Southwell Communications CIC*

Welcome to the October/November edition of Southwell Leaves

Autumn ... mists and mellow fruitfulness, falling leaves, shortening days and a time to look both forwards and backwards. It is time to start saying farewell to Bob and Canon Nigel. They will be with us on a part time basis for a couple of months but formally, Nigel's ministry amongst us has ended. A great number of people have contributed their thoughts and recollections and we are grateful to them for that. There is going to be a large Nigel and Bob-shaped hole at Southwell Minster for a while. At the same time we are pleased to see Canon Richard, Emma, Stephen and Louise settling into the parson's Court and we look forward to them becoming full members of the community. We were all very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Canon John Bentham. Vincent Ashwin provides a short tribute below.

Dean Nicola makes reference to Archbishop Sentamu's recent visit and the accompanying oneLIFE mission. Michael Wilson provides further details. The passing of Sister Dorothea brings a final end to the Community of St. Laurence and Barbara. Timensor reflects upon her experiences of it. There are some words from Sacrista Prebend's volunteer gardeners who have so skilfully healed the chestnut tree-shaped hole on Westgate. We've the usual reports from the Education Department, Mothers' Union and Chapter, news of forthcoming Quiet Days, Bible exercise for reflection, Pause for Thought and a 'Parish Spotlight'. Did you know ... ' from the Guild of Stewards focuses, this time, upon the Nave.

In July Southwell Minster thoroughly enjoyed welcoming a number of refugee Syrian families who have been settled in Northamptonshire. Alongside celebrating that event we have taken the opportunity to provide some information about the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East which ministers to the people of Syria. It includes a very active retreat House in Cyprus which might well be worth looking into!

Looking forward there is news of a visit by Bishop Peter Price who encourages us to prepare for Advent, even now. There is information about this year's house group series which will be getting underway by the time this edition is printed, and we have also featured a set of articles concerning climate change and how we might respond to it, both as individuals and in our thinking and conversations. I would recommend Mike Berners-Lee's *There is No Planet B*. Karen Edginton has attempted to live plastic-free for a year and has a wealth of tips to offer, and Angela Ashwin has been researching plastic-free Christmas presents.

We've reflections on returning to Southwell for the Music Festival, encouragement to be still for a while, information about a relatively hidden corner of Minster life, the Needlework Guild and more besides. Plenty to curl up with in a comfortable place as autumnal winds begin to blow and the temperature falls.

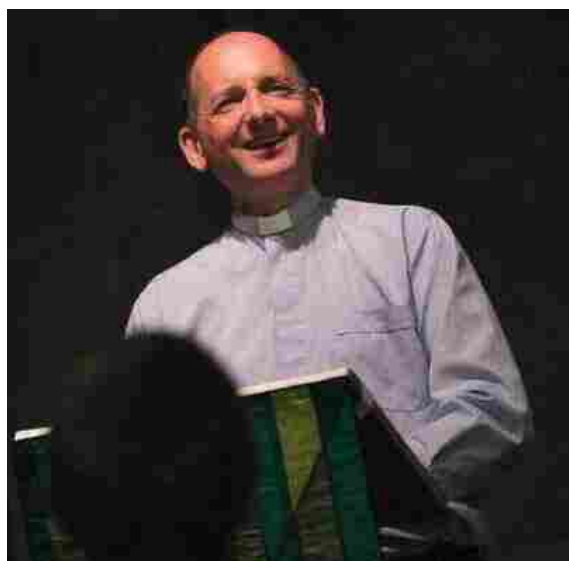
Hugh Middleton

Canon John Bentham

The Minster was very sad to hear of the death of John Bentham, a member of the Cathedral Chapter and canon of the Minster. John was chaplain at Northampton University for twenty years, but kept strong links with the parishes of the Diocese in which he had been a vicar and – since 2015 – with the Minster. He led the chaplaincy team through a time of great change and expansion at the university. He leaves a wife and four children, and we send them our best wishes.

The Minster followed the old custom of putting a stole and prayer book with a psalm on the stall in the Chapter House occupied by a canon who has died in office. John had been allocated the Oxton stall, and Psalm 91 was his chosen psalm. This begins 'Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty shall say to the Lord, My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I put my trust. We make this our prayer for John and his family.

Vincent Ashwin



A time to heal?

I am writing the day after Archbishop Sentamu's visit to the Minster. The uplifting and memorable Sung Eucharist was his last preaching engagement at the end of the four-day oneLIFE mission with Bishops from the Northern Province, who each brought teams from their own diocese. Spread across deaneries and parishes, participating in over events visits to schools, prisons, pubs, community gatherings and churches have engaged thousands of people. The Archbishop, who retires next June after fourteen years in York, has led by example in placing emphasis on the Church being 'out there' alongside people, sharing with simplicity and love the Good News of Jesus Christ. To do this is costly in time and energy, for we clergy so easily worry about running the institution, and become inward looking, obsessive and anxious while failing to connect with people's real and searching questions about the Christian faith. The Archbishop and Bishop Paul offered to pray during the Sung Eucharist with those who would like anointing with holy oil, to pray for healing, wholeness and renewal in spiritual strength. It was moving to see queues of people come forward to receive this precious ministry, given to the Church by the Holy Spirit, which so often is transformative in a person's life. We thank God for all the blessings and encouragement of yesterday.

The church calendar celebrates St Luke's day on 18th October. Luke the evangelist, usually identified with Luke the doctor mentioned in the New Testament, wrote two lengthy books – his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. As is sometimes noted, remove Luke from the canon of scripture

and Christianity would be a different religion. Christmas would have no stable, no manger, no heavenly host. The well-known parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, and many of the healing miracles

would remain unknown to us. Luke shows us time and time again the generosity of God and the healing power of Christ. In Acts the early church was accused of 'turning the world upside down' or maybe the 'right way up' in aligning it with God's justice and peace. In these tumultuous days in our nation's political life, people's search for hope, a sense of belonging and purpose is palpable. Our work together in the Minster is to be the part of the God's generous hospitality, healing and welcome, especially through prayer.

I'm grateful to the editorial team of *Southwell Leaves* who in this edition pay tribute to Canon Nigel Coates on his retirement, after his distinguished years of ministry among us. It's hard to imagine the Minster without Nigel and Linda and we will miss them dearly.

We welcomed our new Canon Precentor Dr. David Frith, together with Emma, Stephen and Louise on September and we pray they will settle quickly into happy years and fruitful ministry in Southwell.

Dean Nicola Sullivan



Tree of Life and Open Heaven

Following on from the highly acclaimed *Threads Through Revelation*, we welcome visitors back for the national launch of Jacqui Parkinson's latest exhibition as it begins its tour of UK cathedrals. *Tree of Life* consists of three stitched panels, taking the viewer on a journey from Genesis to Revelation. *Open Heaven* is a dramatic installation of heaven touching earth.

Southwell Minster, Quire Aisles
Tuesday 15 October – Sunday 1 December, 2019
7am until 7pm, everyday

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Diocese of Southwell
& Nottingham



You are invited to learn more about the state of
our planet, and how churches and individual
Christians can respond.

Hope for the Earth

with

Andy Lester, Head of Conservation,

A Rocha UK

Saturday 12th October 2019

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Westgate, Southwell, NG25 0LD

This talk with Q&A session builds on the 'Listening to the Leaves' Conference held at Southwell Minster in March 2018 and the Diocesan commitment to promote eco-church/eco-diocese.

Andy will also be preaching at The Cathedral Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 13th October at 10.30 am, to which all are welcome.

To register please contact Catherine Gundlach

e-mail: Catherine@southwellandnott.org

or Tel: 01636 817232



Notes from Chapter

Chapter met on 12th September 2019. This was the sixth meeting this year.

The Dean opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed the new Canon Dr David Frith to Chapter.

Chapter acknowledged the forthcoming retirement of Canon Nigel Coates and remembered the late Canon John Bentham following the Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Northampton.

Papers that were presented and discussed included

- A Chapter Member to be Description
- Terms of reference for the Finance and Investment Committee
- Terms of reference for the Southwell Leaves Magazine
- The Cathedral's Housing Policy
- Terms of reference for the Cathedral Shop. The Management Committee of the Shop will meet quarterly
- An expenditure authorisation Policy

The latest Management accounts were presented highlighting a projected shortfall to budget for the year. This is due to a reduction in income particularly from events and donations. It was noted that visitor numbers are down at County level tourist attractions with the exception of Southwell Park.

Canon Nigel gave an update on the Leaves Project. Scaffolding will be going up in late September.

Sadly, Canon Tony Evans has resigned as Priest in Charge and Warden of Sacrista from 30th November, and Chapter is working on a job description prior to recruitment of a successor.

The Dean set out priorities for the next six months

Managing transition with Canon Nigel's retirement and Canon David's arrival. The recruitment process for a permanent Canon will begin in October. Addressing decline in congregational numbers and working with Canon David to review worship patterns. Reviewing the role of the Cathedral Administrator and overall staffing resourcing, in order to develop and grow the operation of the Cathedral.

There is to be a recruitment drive and training for sidespeople regarding the Ministry of Welcome.

Nick Harding has been invited, on an interim arrangement, to provide one day a week to oversee links with Primary Schools and develop children and family links.

Andrew Corner

Intercessions



And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 2: 8-9**

Jesus said, I have said this to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. **John 16:33**

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

- Read the verses 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.



(Should you have any Parish Matters that you would like to bring to Chapter, please contact Jan Davidson or Andrew Corner)

The Word

This year's Minster House groups will be following the Bible Society's Wordlife series. This is in response to requests for some more emphasis on Bible study. To quote Oswald: 'Our souls will never grow in God if we read the Bible solely to get ammunition to defend ourselves or defeat others. No. We read the Bible to be fed. We read to be converted, to be strengthened, to be taught, to be rebuked, to be counselled, to be comforted.'

By the time the October/November edition of Southwell Leaves is available these groups will be underway but if you have missed the opportunity to sign up and would like to, please make contact with Hugh Middleton or Ricky Thorpe.

If you wish to explore further on your own visit <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/life/word-life-introduction>.

You will be asked to register, or login if already registered but this is without cost.

Canon Nigel Coates

If confirmation were needed of the esteem in which Canon Nigel and Rhoda are held in the Minster community it was the audible shock from the same congregation on hearing the announcement of their planned retirement one Sunday morning this summer. It was a spontaneous expression of just how much they will be missed. Those of us who are not so good at holding a tune, will be especially lost without Rhoda's tuneful singing

Here's what people have said since then 'Nigel and Rhoda together made for warm hospitality and much fun and laughter' 'they are a perfect partnership and complement each other so well' their warmth and sense of humour make one feel at ease and valued and 'they lived the Quaker maxim of seeing that of God in everyone'

Someone else wrote 'they are connected to the world as it is by their cosmopolitan family.' Indeed they are, much more so than when they first arrived from Southampton in 1965. Some of the family were reluctant to leave the city for the backwater of Southwell their youngest son Andy came to live here, though was already married and Jo and Mark still at university. Since then we have all followed with love and interest the family's journey, during which they have celebrated two weddings, welcomed six grandchildren and added two more priests to their number. Andy who married Nikki in the Minster in 1991 is now a priest at St Michael's, Wood Green, London and they have two boys Simeon and Sebastian. We will all remember their first grandchildrenuben and then Esme trodding down the aisle with Rhoda. Their mother Judith married to John who is also ordained and working in London's East End. Jo married in Oxford, where she was a student, and has two children Alex and Ella. Mark is pursuing a very successful career as an Educational Psychologist. They all now live in London, providing that cosmopolitan connection, although they have developed an affection for Southwell over the years and, in Rhoda's words, 'the grandchildren love the place' We will also remember with great affection Nigel's mother who lived with them for a time and made many friends here.

For the first years here Nigel's job title was Canon Pastor. How appropriate, as so many people have reason to be grateful for his pastoral care, at times when they needed him as just that, a Pastor, to be there when it really mattered. A great portion of this has been in sad times and therefore, by its very nature, been personal and confidential and hidden from view. His kindness and prayerfulness in being with the dying and bereaved have



Left to right standing Ruth's husband Rich with Esme and Ruben, Andy's husband holding Ella, Rhoda with Alex, Nikki, Ruth, Andy and Mark. Seated in front Rhoda and Nigel with Sim and Sebastian, Andy's children

been very special and he has given untold time and support to those in personal difficulties. Only Nigel himself and all the many, many, people he visited and counselled know just how much he did. So many people have experienced his pastoral care and the same phrases come up again and again

'When we were in trouble, he made himself available very quickly and was an excellent listener.'

'Many folk when in serious illness or family troubles were blessed by his wise and compassionate words and empathy.'

I will always remember Nigel's gentle wisdom as I struggled with a traumatic family situation. He enabled me to begin to cope and his words have always remained with me.'

'I was in despair unable to know which way to turn, conscious of not being a churchgoer or even living in the Minster parish. Nigel's friendly voice put me at my ease, he listened to my plea for help and calmly guided me along the many practical paths I needed to take. It made all the difference.'

'His knowledge of the Minster and its people and his quiet wisdom will be sorely missed.'

The joyful part of his work has been witnessed in the many Baptism and Wedding ceremonies he has led. He has probably lost count, but parents, nervous brides and anxious bridegrooms will not have forgotten his ability to put them at their ease.

'My early introduction to the Minster was a baptism taken by Nigel. He opened the service by asking the baby if she was ready and after an affirmative coo and a smile from the central participant the service began. Such a warm, natural approach was so calming for all'

A colleague comments 'His great love of literature and appetite for reading meant that lending books to him was a dangerous occupation, as they might not be seen again, but we all benefited from the way in which Nigel's sermons were filled with interesting insights drawn from his reading' His breadth of knowledge revealed in his sermons amazed and enriched all of us. The sincerity of his faith was communicated powerfully at one wedding when a previously cynical Best man was heard to say, 'If I'm like Nigel I could believe in him' and the Bride agreed 'You have to believe in God when Nigel's been talking about him'

The Head Teacher of The Minster School writes 'Nigel has been incredibly helpful and willing to support the school in its aims to

help young people not only in terms of their academic ability but also in their spiritual development. Whether this be through leading acts of worship, visiting tutor times or in his important role as a governor (twice!!) he has been unerring in his commitment and brings care, warmth, integrity and intelligence to every occasion, however challenging. I am also very grateful to him for the care and support he has shown choristers from the school who give their time and service to the cathedral'

Nigel's love and deep knowledge of nature also brought his sermons to life. A friend who shares his passion described his intimate knowledge of the New Forest - 'he knows every inch!' and commented on his remarkable eyesight, spotting deer in the far distance and seeing wintering birds on the horizon long before anyone else in the party has seen a thing. He was close to the local artist and naturalist David Measures who admired and respected Nigel's nature writing and urged him to write a book. David was happy with the layout and artwork in his own last book but thought that Nigel would have made a much, much better job of the text.

During his time Nigel did two stints as Acting Dean firstly from 2000 – 2002 before the advent of Dean John Hurrell and again for two years from 2014 – 2016 before Dean Nicola came. The then Chapter Clerk writes: 'These were turbulent times in Chapter – I remember especially the tensions with the Diocese when the Church Commissioners toyed with giving the national grant to Cathedral chapters to the Diocese to administer instead. Also, the endless meetings as the Diocese sought to bring the Cathedral staff into their new building, thus risking the Cathedral's autonomy. In all this Nigel remained patiently receptive and steadfast, listening to arguments and maintaining the gentle status quo. He generously shared his thoughts and worked

together with all his staff and Chapter to reach difficult decisions – not always what everyone wanted, but always explained. Nigel leads a truly religious life. During his times as Acting Dean all meetings began with prayer (not just when he remembered or there was time). His personal faith led the Minster and its staff towards a vision of a wider Church, underpinned with thoughtfulness, intelligence and love.' And from a Council member: 'He was a 'rock' and we were confident that the Cathedral was in safe hands'

Charlie Legga writes of the piece of work that will be Nigel's legacy to the Minster, another manifestation of his love and knowledge of the natural world: 'As you read this, scaffolding should be going up on the east end of the cathedral, heralding the start of 'The Leaves of Southwell' project - arguably the most significant programme of works since Ewan Christian's Victorian restoration. Planning the project started some four years ago, of course, and that we are now at this happy stage is due to Nigel's leadership and intellectual oversight. Following official retirement, it is typically generous of him and indeed glad that he is to remain associated with the project - notably in updating Pevsner's wartime booklet on the heritage and meaning of the Chapter House carvings. Nigel is an academic with a most human touch; it has been inspiring to work with him and wonderful to know that his wisdom is still there for the project's future benefit'

'He is a wonderful person, crinkly smile, inclusive attitude and a voice I could listen to for hours.' 'He is greatly loved and will be greatly missed.'

Christine Dent and Elizabeth Murdoch
with thanks to all the contributors.

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John SENTAMU

Freedom is Coming

Advent Calendars

Cards

Candles

Diaries

Decorations

Music

Books

Nativities

Gifts

Jewellery

Festive treats

7 Southwell Leaves October & November 2019

News and views from Sacrista Prebend

A Quiet Space in the Heart of Southwell

Summer is now moving into autumn although the seasons seem as muddled as the world of human beings at the moment. What better time is there to come to Sacrista Prebend and enjoy the peace and comfort of the House and to refocus our lives prayerfully on God.

Not everyone knows that you, or your family and friends, can stay overnight (or longer) at Sacrista Prebend, and although we do not provide breakfast, guests have the use of the kitchen and dining room. One of the rooms has (probably) the best view in Southwell, overlooking the west end of the Minster. Contact us for room rates and availability.

The Minster Holy Communion services are held at Sacrista Prebend on Mondays at 10.30 am and Wednesdays at 10.30 am, both followed by refreshments. There is Stilling Prayer on Mondays at 12.30 pm and Silence and Meditation on Thursdays at 12.30 pm. Anyone can come along. If you want to spend a day or just an hour in the House, telephone to check the House is free or pop in. You are also most welcome to have a walk around the gardens. Again, let us know you are there.

Alongside the parish and other groups who visit the house there is a programme of Quiet Days, beginning at 10.30 am and ending about 4.30 pm. A quick telephone call will book you in. The ones coming up are

Sat 12 October The Revd Dr. Jim Wellington The Jesus Prayer

For centuries the Jesus Prayer has been leading Orthodox Christians beyond the language of liturgy and the representations of iconography into the wordless, imageless stillness of the mystery of God. In more recent years it has been helping an increasing number of Western Christians to find a deeper relationship with God through the continual rhythmic repetition of a short prayer which, by general agreement, first emerged from the desert spirituality of early monasticism. On this quiet day, Jim Wellington explores what the Jesus prayer is, how we pray it and how it can assist us in our life with God.

Sat 30 November 'Heaven in ordinary' celebration for Advent with George Herbert

This traditional Quiet Day will now be led by our Canon Theologian, the Revd Professor Ian Ince, with short addresses and silence, drawing upon the poems of George Herbert, to explore the meaning of Advent.

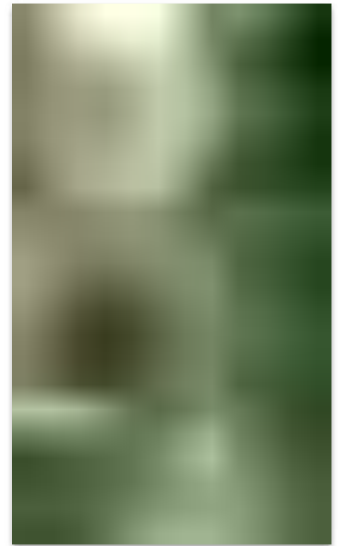
Tuesday 14 January Revd Canon Tony Evans 'Where is the summer...?'

Sacrista will be nice and warm and hot drinks readily available as we dwell on T.S. Eliot's wonderful poem 'Little Gidding' from the Four Quartets, a poem whose seeds may have been sown in Northamptonshire. Let Eliot (even if you have never read his works before) challenge our luke-warm faith, remembering, in his words, that 'prayer is more Than an order of words, the conscious occupation Of the praying mind, or the sound of the voice praying.'

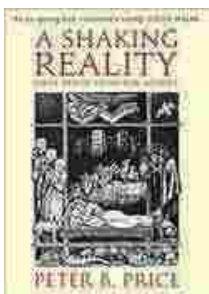
Saturday 22nd February Revd Canon Valerie Rampton God and Leisure

The Septuagint version of the Bible translates Psalm 122 as 'Have leisure and know that I am God'. But in the history of the Church leisure has frequently been frowned upon. Yet it is there in Scripture: time off work, not just to do chores and worship and pray, but time for playing, for feasts and festivals, dancing, fun and mirth, and thankful enjoyment of creation. And doing it without feeling guilty. In this day we'll have a look at what it means to be 'Homo Festivus'.

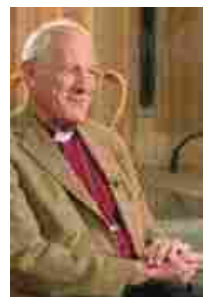
With every blessing, Tony Evans, Warden



Prepare for Advent now!



A special evening with Bishop Peter Price is taking place in Southwell Minster on **Thursday October 24th 7.30 - 8.45pm**. Come and join Bishop Peter for an evening of reflection, conversation and worship on the themes from his recent book, ***A Shaking Reality: Daily Reflections for Advent***. Bishop Peter, who as the former Bishop of Bath and Wells and General Secretary of the BCP, has wide experience of the world church and is an engaging speaker and author. He will provide us with an opportunity to consider together how we too may find courage and compassion to face the challenges of our contemporary world and understand a little better why God has sent us into this time. *A Shaking Reality*, published by Darton Longman and Todd, will be on sale from the Cathedral shop and during the evening.



Some Words about Sacrista Prebend s Garden

Sacrista Prebend opened as a retreat house around 20 years ago. It stands within secluded grounds extending to several acres. The gardens at that time were very neglected, and with the dedication of Bob Wagstaff, George Bragg, and other volunteers they were nurtured back over the years into the wonderful space they are now for people to enjoy. The garden is open daily to those who wish to come and enjoy its tranquillity.

Immediately there is a large lawned area to the west side with many different mature trees, together with a natural wooded area which is regularly used, under supervision, by local pre-school children.

Nearer the house on the west side is a more formal lawned area with borders filled with shrubs and perennials, and dominated by a magnificent huge beech tree. With benches on the lawn it's a great area for contemplation.

Most people will be familiar with the garden at the front of the house. The feature circular brick paved area in the middle of the drive has the magnificent sculpture depicting Christ's appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Until recently the front was dominated by a magnificent horse chestnut tree.

Unfortunately, the tree outgrew its space and became a danger to passing traffic and pedestrians, as well as the roots causing damage to the house drains and the perimeter wall. The tree was removed in

So, what to do with the bare space. A key requirement was that the space should be low maintenance, but of course as a attractive and welcoming as possible as it is the first focal point for visitors.

Discussions were already taking place about incorporating a new tree in memory of David Leaning, together with a smaller tree donated by one of the house volunteers. A daughter of one of the volunteer gardeners (Natalie) was undertaking a degree course in garden design, and she came up with a suggested scheme that would incorporate the trees, and reflect the existing circles of the drive and brick paving. (The original of this design sketch is available to view in the entrance to Sacrista.) So, over the past years the volunteer gardeners have planned the scheme with Sacrista management using an agreed budget and objectives.

The area was left dormant for the early part of – which was very wet – and many people may remember the sorry sight of the

area covered in cardboard weed suppressant whilst we waited for the optimal time for tree planting in October. The whole area needed to be rotovated before then, and vast quantities of old brick and rubble cleared. The tree selected for the centre of the area was a *Cercis Canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'. It develops pink flowers before the leaves in spring, and the leaves turn from

purple through orange in summer autumn. It was 12 metres tall when delivered, and caused us some anxiety in spring this year when it seemed slow to develop. However, this is its natural way, and it's now looking very healthy. We have had to give it extra wire supports this year to help it survive the strong winds. In the border around the tree we planted daffodils to last for many years to come.



The grass was also seeded in October and exceeded our expectations in its first growth. So, during Spring we have focussed most of our attention on this area. We rebuilt the retaining wall along the drive for the new border, and it was planted in spring with *Polyanthus*, wall flowers, miniature daffodils, as well as lavenders and other colourful plants. Along the wall by the pavement we have followed Natalie's planting plan for tall perennials which can be seen from both sides of the wall, including *Verbena*, *Agastache* and *Salvia*. We are also trialling a wild flower area but this will take a few years to establish. Finally, in May this year the borders were planted with herbaceous plants and bedding resulting in a riot of colour. And we've repurposed a broken terracotta water feature into a colourful planter.

We have tried to make the front look welcoming to all who come to the house for services, quiet days, and retreats – and so far, we've had really positive feedback.

But this is still the start – there is still much to be done. There are only 2 volunteer gardeners at present – Colin & Jane. David Anelli will hopefully be able to rejoin us soon. We meet every Monday morning (when we're able) to do what we can in the garden, break for proper coffee (and Jane's excellent cake) and enjoy a chat. We would love to have more volunteers to help us in the gardens to cut grass, trim shrubs, tend borders, sweep leaves and anything that people would be able to help with. If you feel you would like to help, we would love to hear from you.

Colin Boulter and Jane Insley

Syrian Families Welcomed at the Minster

On Saturday July 6 Southwell Minster was able to welcome 10 families, who all had fled their homes in Syria as a result of the war and terrible destruction there. They have recently come to the UK to seek refuge and sanctuary and are now living in the Newark, Mansfield and Hucknall areas. There are many other Syrian families in those areas, some of whom were welcomed for a similar afternoon at the Minster in .

The families, including twenty-six children, arrived by coaches or the local bus and they looked with amazement at the beauty of the Minster, but their eyes lit up when they saw all the preparations that had been made for them, both in the Minster itself and the grounds.

Through interpreters, they were welcomed by Dean Nicola in the State Chamber and told a little about the history of the Minster and the plans for the afternoon. During the Dean's welcome, a dear little girl in her best party dress and silver shoes, clomped across the State Chamber to the amusement of all. This fun incident set the scene for a day full of laughter and joy.

The visitors then had opportunity to explore the activities. There was a bit of confusion in translation between the explanation of a 'Tour' and going up the 'Tower' but most of the men took advantage of the opportunity to climb the staircases into the ringing chamber and above, wave from the triforium on the way, and be amazed by the magnificent view when they reached the top! It was wonderful to see the mums and children enjoying all the activities which had been laid out in the Crossing – face painting, crafts of various kinds including the opportunity to make badges, friendship bracelets and glass window decorations, Lego® and other activities for very young children as well.

After our good time inside the rain eased and we all had the opportunity to go into the garden, where the older boys were playing serious football and the younger ones played Jenga and



other games, and everyone enjoyed being in an open green space.

We finished the day with a magnificent tea, served in the State Chamber, which was appreciated by everyone and disappeared very rapidly

It was a huge privilege to welcome these mainly Muslim families and offer them an opportunity to explore the beauty of the Minster – a place of Christian worship where they felt welcomed and enabled to enjoy so many things. Huge thanks are due to Diana for all the work that she and colleagues put into the activities that made the day enjoyable for people of all ages and both genders; to Rachel who did so much work in the background to enable things to go smoothly on the day; to Kevin for providing the opportunity to explore the tower; to Margaret who provided a wonderful tea and to all the many volunteers who helped to make the visit such a special occasion. As one visitor said to me as they left 'this was the best day ever'

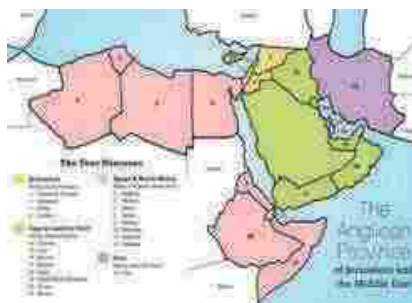
As helpers we all felt very privileged to be able to welcome these families. Most will have seen and experienced more trauma than we can ever imagine. Most desperately miss their homes and communities and would love to return if only they had a home to go to. Instead they are obliged to build their lives anew in a foreign land, amongst us in Nottinghamshire. We know that they will encounter hostility and further trauma as they try to settle and establish new lives and ways of living, but we trust that their encounter with their Christian brothers and sisters on a day at the Minster will help them to have felt welcomed and accepted in a way that we would ask for if we were in their position.

As one of the planning group said afterwards 'I can't thank everyone enough for the very relaxed, fun-filled and what felt like Spirit-led afternoon with the Syrian guests - the atmosphere was brilliant and it felt like an entirely appropriate and mission-fulfilling thing for a cathedral such as Southwell Minster to be doing'

Jane Henson

The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East ministers to one of the most troubled parts of the world. It currently comprises four dioceses; Jerusalem, where Southwell Minster has links to St. George's Cathedral, Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, Cyprus and the Gulf, and Iran. These arrangements are under review but whatever the outcome it is an Anglican presence in the face of war and strife, sectarian divisions, and ministry to what is invariably a small minority. Its courage and tenacity have to be applauded. Here are some snippets from the summer edition of *Bible Lands*, published twice a year by the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association.



The **Diocese of Jerusalem** is currently led by Bishop Suheil Dawani, also Archbishop of the Province. It extends over five countries Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. There are parishes and the Diocese supports institutions hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programmes and support for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly. St. George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem provides hospitality to numerous visitors and pilgrims, houses a college and serves as a focal point for the whole Province.

David Cameron's description of Gaza as 'The biggest prison on earth' has not lost its relevance. Some two million people occupy about 360 square miles, and of these a small but significant number are Arab Christians Anglicans, Baptists, Orthodox and Roman Catholics. The Gaza YMCA is a uniting centre and the Anglican diocese supports the al-Ahli Arab hospital which Southwell Minster also contributes to. The hospital has recently suffered a major structural collapse for which funds are desperately needed (<http://www.abmission.org/pages/donate-online-to-al-ahli-arab-hospital-gaza.html>).

The Awareness Foundation is an ecumenical educational charity that fosters community harmony. It was founded in 2003 by the Revd Nadim Nassar, and in the Middle East it enables 'Little Heroes' and 'Ambassadors for Peace' Today's Syrian youngsters have known nothing but war and Little Heroes is a series of annual 3-day events with that very much in mind. It has three aims; enabling children to come to terms with what they have witnessed, helping them to look to the future with hope and faith, and to encourage them to make friends with those who are different. Ambassadors for Peace is an ecumenical educational programme for young Middle Eastern men and women that helps them build bridges of mutual respect and understanding in their diverse communities. Since more than 100 young people of every denomination have participated, acquiring skills in leadership, handling conflict, advocacy, transforming and empowering communities and dialoguing with other faiths to promote peace and understanding.

The **Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa** is led by Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis and the diocesan seat is All Saints' Cathedral, Cairo. It claims to be the most diverse Anglican diocese in the world, and that is possibly justified, extending as it does across most of North Africa and as far south

as the border with Kenya. Although numerically small, the diocese supports over 30 hospitals, clinics, nurseries, schools, a theological seminary, micro-enterprise ventures, vocational training programs, and institutions for the deaf and the disabled. Recent news includes the appointment of a new bishop and a new archdeacon for the Horn of Africa, respectively The Rt Revd Kuan Kim Seng, formerly Bishop of Singapore, and the

Revd Canon Jacob, currently Priest in Charge of Christ the King Church, Tripoli, and the opening of a new nursing school building at Harpur Memorial Hospital.

The **Diocese of Iran** is led by Revd Albert Walters, Vicar-General. Although he writes hopefully, and about the ancient festival of Nowruz 'new day' which symbolises rebirth, regeneration and the possibility of new beginnings, it is clear that he witnesses a place that is suffering. He writes 'These are difficult and demanding times. There is lingering uncertainty about the future and that members of the Church are in need of much prayer for strength to witness to their faith. Strict restrictions on church attendance continue and there is close monitoring of worshippers.'

The **Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf** is led by Bishop Michael Lewis. It includes the territories of Oman, the Yemen, the seven United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and the whole of Cyprus. In the Gulf States many of the congregation are itinerant workers Christians from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and the African continent. As a result, in some places liturgy can be in Arabic, Syriac-Aramaic, Tamil or Urdu.

The diocesan cathedral is St Paul's Cathedral in Nicosia. Although this is also a widely diverse diocese, it bridges worlds, from war-torn Iraq to our more homely Europe. In contrast to the trouble and strife of much of this region *Bible Lands* also features Katafiyio Great House near Nicosia. (<http://cypgulf.org/retreats>). See the picture ... Sacrista Prebend in the sun, perhaps?

Hugh Middleton



Katafiyio Great House

A Festival Return to Southwell

It may be nearly a third of a century since, after our last Sunday morning service, our family walked for the final time up the sloping path from the west front of the Minster, but the sense that day of loss, even bereavement, is still vivid. Life since then has been rewarding and fulfilling, and there are treasured memories of other places but Southwell was, and remains, special.

The Minster had been a key part of all our lives for eight happy years, a focus for a sizeable cohort of young adults with small children, working in the flourishing Sunday School, through choral singing, and even occasional forays on the organ (if things were stretched), but now we were off to the south and London.

There are longer, taller, grander and more exuberant cathedrals than Southwell, but to me none which wraps its way round you with quite such a warm embrace. Others may inspire awe at the visible engineering courage that made them possible, amazement at expanses of stunning medieval glass, or reflection on their place in history but for Southwell it is possible to feel love.

Neither is great size always an advantage, as musicians in our most cavernous cathedrals know well. At Southwell the Nave and Quire offer fine acoustics for contrasting styles of performance, and the Festival programme proves this each year. The fact that so many keep returning to play and sing speaks volumes.

A crucial element is that the festival is all so rooted in the community, which provides musicians with homes, smiling support staff in all venues, and watchful eyes to ensure all is ready and runs smoothly. There is a proud if understated sense of local ownership,

not forgetting the directing and defining vision from one (and sadly this is not always the case) who has not forgotten the soil that nurtured him.

I am sure that this atmosphere penetrates those who come to perform in the Festival. Their obvious sense of enjoyment and regard for each other must surely affect their music. So, the combination of a welcoming atmosphere, their abundant talent and youthful energy, means that those of us who come to open ourselves to their achievements are rarely if ever disappointed. This is not to say that performers of riper years have less to offer. For sure the highs and hammerings of daily life lead to insights, interpretations and expressions that perhaps can only come with the years. One thinks of those evenings elsewhere where elderly hands have seemingly opened up a new dimension.

But what is life for, if not to secure a future for the things that inspire us, help sustain us, and give perspective to the transient world around. For those of us sporting the hair colour most common in the audiences, the assurance that these things are in such capable, but above all young hands, is a source not merely of pleasure and joy, but most importantly of hope.

Arnold Miller (Norwich)



Contented Old Duty Musicians

Southwell Minster Choir presents

ST CECILIA CONCERT

Friday 11 October 2019
Southwell Minster
7.30pm

Tippett Five Negro Spirituals
Hogan Three Spirituals
Plus music by Byrd and Tallis

Southwell Minster Choir
Paul Provest - Conductor, Jonathan Allsopp - Organ and Piano

Tickets: £12 Full Price, £10 Mid Price, £10 Reduced Price
All tickets include a complimentary glass of wine. Under 10s FREE (seats requested)

Proceeds from this concert support the work of IMCCT

Tickets available from the Cathedral Office
01636 812833 | www.southwellminster.org
Facebook: @SouthwellMinster Twitter: @SouthwMinster Instagram: @southwellminster

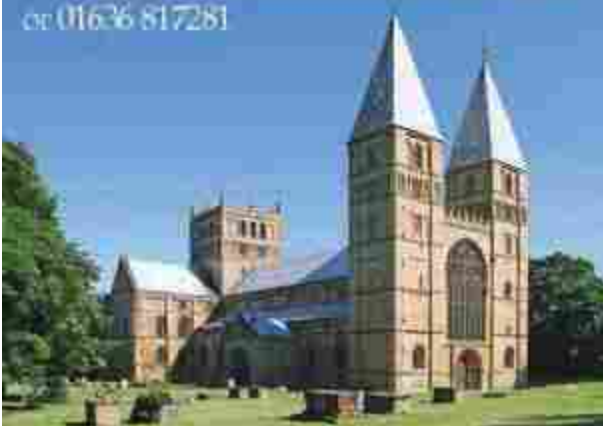
 Southwell Minster



The Chorister Experience


Southwell Minster
Saturday 9 November 2019 | 2pm onwards

A free afternoon of singing and other fun activities designed for boys and girls aged 6-8, with lots for parents to do as well!

For more information contact Paul Provest on rectorchorist@southwellminster.org.uk or 01636 817281



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 Southwell Minster

Summer Highlights at the Potwell Dyke Grasslands

Most of our readers are probably familiar with the superb floral displays during spring and summer at the Potwell Dyke Grasslands. This year was no exception, especially with increasing numbers of orchids.

However, you may not be aware of the regular butterfly counts and moth trapping that we carry out during the summer months.

Butterflies are best counted on warm, calm days, so we have to keep an eye on the weather. This has been a good year for butterflies with some daily counts of nearly 100. Some species are difficult to identify without photographic evidence, and a single Essex Skipper was confirmed in this way.

Moths are mainly identified using a light trap left on all night. Therefore, a dry night is essential. Even then the weather can catch us out, as happened in July.

As we opened the trap and discovered a huge catch, the heavens opened, and we had hurriedly to carry the trap to a greenhouse in a nearby garden belonging to two of our volunteers. This caused much hilarity because several of our team are well over six feet tall, and we had great difficulty in containing the moths which by this time were overheated and very active.

Despite these problems we identified 12 species including our first Oak Eggar (making a grand total of 12 species since we began trapping a few years ago).



Poplar Hawk Moth

The most popular moth is the enormous Poplar Hawk Moth which allows gentle handling and will stay still for several minutes while being viewed.

Our grass has grown very long this year due to the mild, moist conditions and as I write (Sept) has not been cut. This means we will not harvest good quality hay and may be left with a lot of raking to do. However, the good ground cover has encouraged reynolds Partridge and Pheasant broods to visit us.

Robin Old



Oak Eggar Moth

Southwell Minster Mothers' Union held a very successful Afternoon Tea in August in aid of the Mothers' Summer of Hope appeal. We were delighted that many people came from other branches to join us for tea, cake and chat, and that a total of £200 was raised. This year the Summer of Hope was focused on resourcing work bringing hope and peace across the world through projects such as Educating Mums in Burundi, Bonding Families in Northern Ireland, and Supporting Communities in South Sudan. Thank you to everyone who came.

Our Autumn programme begins a week later than usual, on Thursday 14th September, with our opening service. After that we revert to our usual pattern of meetings on the third Thursday of each month. On October 12th John Meredith will be talking about Features of the Minster, but please note that this meeting will take place in the Atrium in Minster Chambers, not Sacrista Prebend as usual.

I am sorry that I will miss that meeting, but also very excited, because I will be visiting our Mother's Union Diocese of Sebei in Uganda. I have been involved with various school and college projects in Uganda since staying there for two years as a volunteer from Southwell. I have never visited Sebei before, but have been in contact with the Bishop and Mother's Union Leader there and have an invitation to spend some time with them, exploring their local projects and developing a more personal relationship between our two communities. A report will follow.

As always, visitors and new members are very welcome to join us at Sacrista Prebend at 7.30 pm. We finish between 8.30 and 9.00 pm so children can be collected from school.

Please contact Shelagh Baird-Smith on 01509 261111 or shelaghbairdsmith@gmail.com if you would like to know more.

Mothers Union
Southwell Minster Branch



Did you know

That the term 'Nave' derives from the Latin 'navis' meaning a ship from its appearance ours does look rather like an upturned ship. Its use was for the people, whereas the Quire was for the clergy.

Building started in 1128 and took 50 to 70 years to complete, although there is no evidence for the date of completion owing to earlier records being destroyed in the Civil War in the mid 17th century. Building always started from the east end, work progressing anticlockwise, therefore the crossing arches are the oldest stones. Permian sandstone from Mansfield is the stone.

Churches nearly always face east. Maybe this is so that the congregation then face the rising sun, a symbol of the resurrection and the Light of God together with the altar.

Southwell Minster actually has an orientation of 10 degrees South of East to 10 degrees North of West. Would this be by accident? Masons of the 12th Century did not appear to have a compass among their principal tools, namely dividers, sets square and plumb-line. The Minster was started on or around March the 8th when sunrise is a few degrees south of east. So, is it most likely that on that first morning the Master Mason arose and marked out ground to face the rising sun ... We just don't know.

On entry by the North Door, the Nave might well give you the impression that it is big enough to take your breath away, but small enough to be intimate.

The Nave is entirely in the Norman Romanesque style. Typical of this style are wide drum columns and semi-circular arches. There are practically no foundations, the structure relying therefore on its weight for stability. It is remarkable for its solidarity, for the size of its broad second storey, or triforium, and its third storey, the clerestory above, with circular windows, more visible from outside, ensuring sufficient light. Simplicity is the keynote of this style so that we find rope or 'cable' moulding carving round the arches, but little more.

At ground floor level there are semi-circular windows in the Norman style along the west end of both aisles only the North-western-most one is original, however, as the others were returned to their earlier style by Ewan Christian in the late 19th century those in the central and eastern part of the Nave are 15th century in the Perpendicular in style. All the mediaeval glass was lost, but there is some fine Victorian glass by both Charles Kemp and the O'Connors in these windows. The great West Window replaced the original window(s) in the first half of the 19th century to give more light to enable people to read, as literacy was quite high by then the present glass, however, was designed by Martin Standcliffe and painted by Patrick Reynolds in York, inspired by 'a great gathering of angels' and installed as recently as 1995.

The pulpit, featuring The Blessed Virgin Mary and figures from our 10th century Saxon history, was designed by F Bodley, the architect of Clumber church, in 1865.

A figure of the reigning Christ welcoming you into his church, by Peter Ball, is high towards the Crossing. It is made of elm and oak, overlaid with burnished copper and gold leaf.

The Font, replaced soon after the restoration of the Monarchy in 1547 is by William Balme, and cost 5 guineas, including one shilling for beer.

Why was the Nave so uncluttered? Maybe it was related to the



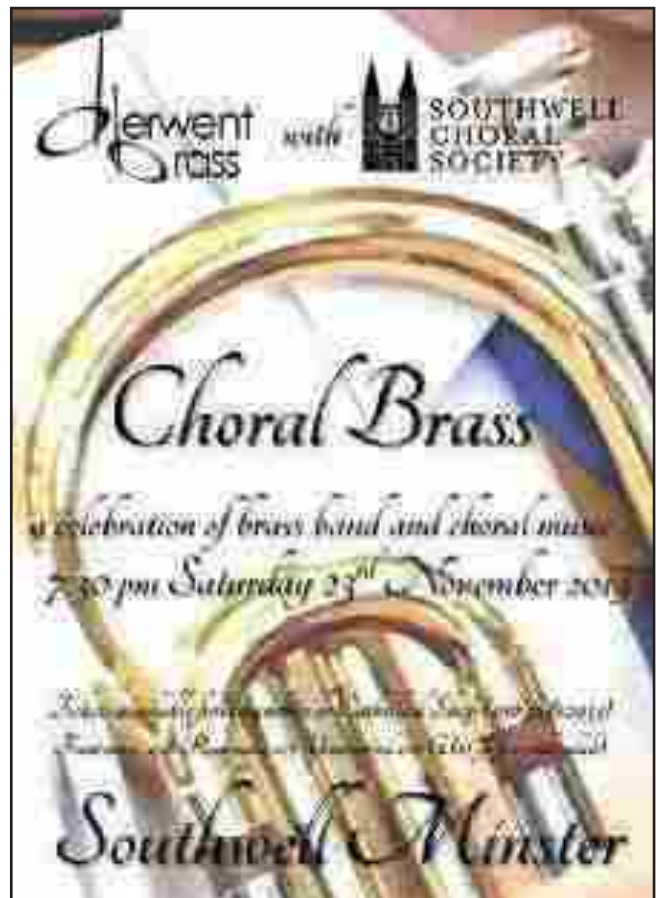
The Nave

fact that the Minster was a collegiate church not a prestigious building, no one individual bent on self-advertisement and possibly difficult to gain agreement on anything.

The ship hull-like ceiling was installed in the 19th century by Ewan Christian to replace a flat ceiling put in after the 18th century fire. Its semi-circular form does mimic the form of the Norman arches and may have been similar to the original.

The Nave has never had fixed pews. The congregation knelt or stood throughout services those less able sat on the ledge around the perimeter, hence the saying 'the weaker go to the wall'. The present floor was laid down in the 19th century and included using tombstones from the churchyard.

*James Pinder, on behalf of Southwell Minster Guild of Stewards,
with acknowledgement to George Andison.*



What's on at Southwell Minster

Key to Abbreviations

Hours

[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

5 Monday

Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642

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

6 Tuesday

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

7 Wednesday

Jason Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
6.30pm Outdoor Theatre –
Much Ado About Nothing

12 Monday

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

13 Tuesday

Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher, 1667; Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910; Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912

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

14 Wednesday

Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941

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

15 Thursday

The Blessed Virgin Mary

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Simply Silence (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

16 Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
2.00pm Holy Matrimony
5.30pm Evening Prayer

17 Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Open Day begins
5.30pm Evensong [VC]

18 SUNDAY

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist [VC]
3.30pm Evensong [VC]

19 Monday

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

August

1 Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Simply Silence (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

2 Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Friday Lunchtime
at the Cathedral
5.30pm Evening Prayer

3 Saturday

Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1893

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
1.30pm Holy Matrimony
5.30pm Evensong [VC]

4 SUNDAY

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist [VC]
12.45pm Holy Baptism
3.30pm Evensong [VC]

8 Thursday

Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Simply Silence (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

9 Friday

Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

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

10 Saturday

Lawrence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion
2.00pm Holy Matrimony
5.30pm Evensong [VC]

11 SUNDAY

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist [VC]
12.45pm Holy Baptism
3.30pm Evensong [VC]

20 Tuesday

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher, 1153;
*William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the
Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890*

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

21 Wednesday

*The Southwell Music Festival begins
today for details of all events, see
southwellmusicfestival.com*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
4.00pm Organ Recital –
Simon Hogan
5.30pm Evening Prayer

22 Thursday

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

23 Friday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Friday Lunchtime
at the Cathedral
5.30pm Evening Prayer

24 Saturday

Bartholomew the Apostle

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

25 SUNDAY

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Festival Sung
Eucharist [VC]
3.30pm Festival Evensong [VC]
10.00pm Compline [LC]

26 Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
3.30pm Organ Recital –
Paul Provost
5.30pm Evensong [CC]

27 Tuesday

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

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

28 Wednesday

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430

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

29 Thursday

The Beheading of John the Baptist

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
1.00pm Holy Matrimony
5.30pm Evening Prayer

30 Friday

John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688;
George Ridding, first Bishop of Southwell, 1904

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

31 Saturday

Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

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

September

1 SUNDAY

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist [VC]
12.45pm Holy Baptism
3.30pm Evensong [VC]

2 Monday

*The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901
and 1942*

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

3 Tuesday

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604

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

4 Wednesday

*Æthelstan, Bishop of Exeter (Oxon), Apostle of
Wessex, 600*

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

5 Thursday

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion
12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer

6 Friday

*Allen Gardiner, Founder of the South American
Mission Society, 1811*

7.30am Morning Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Friday Lunchtime
at the Cathedral
5.30pm Evening Prayer

7 Saturday

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

8 SUNDAY

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

7.30am Morning Prayer
and the Litany
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Brickminster
Family Eucharist
11.15am Sung Eucharist [LC]
3.30pm Festival Evensong with the
Installation of the Canon
Precentor [CC+MC]

9 Monday

Charles Fuge O'Leary, Priest, 1880

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

10 Tuesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am iscovery ay begins
 5.30pm Evensong [BV]

11 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
 8.00am Holy Communion
 12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
 12.15pm Short Service of Prayer –
 Warmsworth M
 5.30pm Evening Prayer

12 Thursday

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

13 Friday

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople,
 Teacher, 407

7.30am Morning Prayer
 8.00am Holy Communion
 5.30pm First Evensong of
 Holy Cross ay [CC]

14 Saturday

Day of Ross Day; Murray Irvine, fourth Provost
 of Southwell, 200

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

15 SUNDAY**The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

7.30am Morning Prayer
 and the Litany
 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Sung Eucharist with the
 Archbishop of York [CC]
 3.30pm Evensong [CC]
 7.30pm Music in the Great Hall

16 Monday

inian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the
 Picts, c. 432; *Martha Pusey, Priest,*
Tractarian, 1882

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

17 Tuesday

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179

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

18 Wednesday

7.30am Morning Prayer
 8.00am Holy Communion
 12.15pm Holy Communion (SP)
 5.30pm Evening Prayer
 7.30pm Organ Recital –
 Simon Hogan

19 Thursday

Theo æ of Tarsus, Archbishop of
 Canterbury, 690

7.30am Morning Prayer
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.45am Holy Communion
 10.00am Heritage Open ay begins
 12.30pm Silence & Meditation (SP)
 5.30pm Evensong *attended by the*
College of Canons [CC]

20 Friday

John Coleridge Patterson, first Bishop of
 Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871

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

21 Saturday**Matthew Apostle and Evangelist**

8.30am Morning Prayer
 9.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Heritage Open ay begins
 5.30pm Festal Evensong [CC]

22 SUNDAY**The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

7.30am Morning Prayer
 and the Litany
 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Sung Eucharist with a
 Farewell to the Canon
 Chancellor [CC]
 3.30pm Evensong [CC]
 4.45pm Westgate Faith
 and Light Service

23 Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer
 9.00am Holy Communion (SP)
 9.30am T Brackenhurst
 Matriculation
 5.30pm Evensong [GV]
 7.30pm Contemplative Prayer (SP)

24 Tuesday

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

25 Wednesday

Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester,
 Prebendary of Southwell, Spiritual Writer, 1626;
Sergei of Radnezh, Russian Monastic Reformer,
Teacher, 1392; Ember ay

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

26 Thursday

Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942

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

27 Friday

Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of
 the Mission Lazarists, 1660; Ember ay

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

28 Saturday

Ember ay

8.30am Morning Prayer
 9.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Open ay begins
 5.30pm First Evensong of Michael
 and All Angels [CC]

29 SUNDAY**Michael and All Angels;****The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

7.30am Morning Prayer
 and the Litany
 8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am Family Eucharist [MC]
 11.15am Mattins [CC]
 3.30pm Festal Evensong [CC]

Letters to the Editor



30 Monday

Jerome, *Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420*

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

tober

1 Tuesday

Remigius, *shop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 33; Anthony Askley Cooper, arl of Shaftesbury Social Reformer, 188*

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

2 Wednesday

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

3 Thursday

George B, *shop of Chichester, cumenist, Peacemaker, 19 8*

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

4 Friday

Francis of Assisi, *Founder of the Friar Minor, 1226*

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

5 Saturday

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 9.00am Holy Communion
- 5.30pm First Evensong of Education Festival [CC]

6 SUNDAY

Dedication Festival;
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the article in the August/ September edition of *Southwell Leaves* on St Paulinus and the Tale of the Sparrow. St Paulinus, whose feast day is October 10th as the article states, was instrumental in the baptism of King Edwin, who died in the Battle of Hatfield. This is now thought by some to have been in Cuckney, a few miles south of Worksop. Much work is being done on the sites by *Mercian Archaeology*, who have a very interesting web site. It is said that Edwin was buried in Sherwood Forest seven miles to the east (before his head was taken to York and his body to Whitby) in what is now the village of Edwinstowe, which means

Tony Evans (former vicar of Edwinstowe)

From the Registers

WEDDINGS

17 July	David Soar & Carri Ann Matheson
20 July	Andrew Williams & Rose Littlewood
3 Aug	Mirco Altenbach & Sarah Stevenson
10 Aug	Richard Campbell & Molly Connors
16 Aug	Steven Shaw & Wendy Shore James
29 Aug	Marriott & Emma Pyrah Michael
	Burnside & Leticia Webster

BAPTISMS

4 Aug	Megan Young
11 Aug	Buddy Beevers
1 Sep	Albert Rose-Farnsworth
8 Sep	Luca, Theo & Emilia Dyson

FUNERALS

9 July	Susan Slocombe
31 July	Hugh Fry
13 Aug	Sr Dorethea Way
16 Aug	Betty Miller
2 Sept	Roger Dobson
18 Sept	Derek Harrison

Thoughts on the Community of St Laurence

Sister Dorothea was the last member of the Community, and the beautiful room in the Minster felt like a room for her and the community. Having been a sister myself for forty three years, and a visitor to the Convent in Belper, I began to relive those years; for as I read in a book 'You can take a girl out of a convent but you can't take a convent out of a girl!'

It was all my vicar's fault. He produced a play at the local youth club, where we girls had to dress up as nuns. In later life he told me that it was probably he who sowed the seed for my vocation. It was another priest, Edward Augustus Hilliard of St Laurence's church in Norwich, who sowed the seed for a young widow Ellen Lee, who wanted to give her life to God. He prayed for a group of women to work in his parish with the poor and needy in the spirit of St Laurence, a Deacon at the church in Rome in the third century. Bishop Sixtus had been put to death, and had left Laurence with the responsibility for the Church's treasure. One source says that Laurence hid the valuable books of the Church and sold the silver and gold, giving the money to the poor.

When Laurence was captured, and was asked to bring the treasures of the Church, he begged for three days to sort things out. He was allowed, and gathered the people he had been helping and declared to his captors 'This is the true treasure of the Church, not the silver and gold that you desire!' As a reward Laurence was roasted on a gridiron, and the story says that he quipped as he died 'Turn me over, I'm done on this side.' A sense of humour is a great asset to any person wishing to be of service to Christ.

Father Hilliard and the small group of ladies who formed the nucleus of the Community of St Laurence moved to Belper in the 18th C. In an early house the sisters had a school for children, and it was delightful to meet an elderly gentleman who had attended the school with his sister. Sisters worked in the parish as nurses, midwives, in school, teaching people to read and write. In 1883 the Convent was built and housed ladies who needed a home and care; these ladies were called 'the Treasures' There were two wards – St Mary's and St Laurence's. The Sisters worked where they were sent, and a Novice was sent to do any kind of job in the house which could be changed at any time.



the building that housed the Community of St Laurence in Belper

The primary work was Worship, with Divine Hours spaced out from early morning, to last thing at night. As we find in Psalm 119.v 164 'Seven times a day will I praise you.' The Hours were Matins, Prime, Terce, Sext, Nones, Vespers and Compline, until a revision around 1960 when it became five services. Also included was a Communion service, and Meditation each day.

Any girl wishing to test her vocation would at first be called an Aspirant for about a week, from then to a Postulant for six months leading on to becoming a Novice and wearing the habit of a Sister. This was a time of

learning and decision-making, both by the Novice and by the Community. The girl could leave at any time or be asked to leave. It was a great day some three years later if you were elected for Profession. Family and friends could be invited to the celebration where you would make three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. It was a hard life but not without lighter moments to enjoy.

Sister Margareta had been a Parish Worker before arriving at the Convent and her talents were soon in great demand to work on Parish Missions, preaching and more parish work. She was also Sacristan for many years, looking after the chapel and its treasures. Sister Dorothea worked very hard in the kitchen for many years, she ran a Julian Group, enjoyed walking, which she did until her final days in Southwell.

Sister Brenda was famous for the ginger biscuits that she made, as well as enjoying her tea which most people found difficult. Mother Jean served us well, and as she became less mobile loved to read, and do jigsaw puzzles.



Sister Dorothea opening birthday presents on her birthday, in church

As times changed, and rules in the world changed, so it affected the life of the Community. Wards were not allowed and Treasures were not replaced. The building was used for conferences, reader training, and retreat work. It was soon time to move from a large house, to somewhere more manageable; which is why in September 2001 the Sisters made their new home in Southwell. So, I give thanks for my years in the Community and all that it meant to so many people.

Barbara Pittensor

2018 - A Year with Less Plastic

In our series of articles on the future of planet Earth and living sustainably, Karen Edginton writes of the challenge she gave herself to cut out the use of plastic. She shares her thoughts on stepping lightly on a journey to living differently. On a planet that is struggling with so many environmental issues, we hardly know where to start.

Can we change things? Do we want to?

Reasons not to change anything:

Change is difficult threatening time-consuming, at first a pain.

I don't care I don't want to I can't be bothered I don't know where to start

Reasons to change something anything everything

God created this amazing universe so it seems ungracious to allow it to be harmed.

Dr. Richard Doerflinger, the Environmental Theologian at the Diocesan Conference, was very convincing. I've seen all that plastic on TV's 'Blue Planet'

'They, whoever they are, should do something about it – it's a disgrace'

'Ahem'

'Yes indeed, I get the picture. Sorry, I should do something about it.'

And so, at the beginning of 2018, I was born anew as I attempted to drastically reduce single use plastic in our household.

Over the year, we gradually introduced the ideas below and what seemed a real challenge at the beginning of 2018 is now a way of life.

Things we now try to do

Have milk delivered in glass bottles from local milkman, W Coleman and Son.

Buy loose tea instead of teabags containing plastic.

Buy sauces and lemon juice in glass containers.

Use reusable coffee filters rather than coffee filters.

Instead of clingfilm, put a plate over food.

Use beeswax wraps for cheeses etc. Waitrose

Put a tea towel over cooked meat instead of foil.

Freeze bread in canvas bags.

Keep mushrooms in canvas bags in the fridge.

Wash, spin and store salad in a tea towel in the bottom of the fridge.

Take plastic containers shopping when buying meat and fish.

Make cotton bags from the edge of old sheets for buying loose fruit and vegetables.

Use reusable bags when shopping. Cathedral Shop, Southwell

Use small rags instead of kitchen towel.

Use handkerchiefs instead of tissues.

Take wet towels in tiny plastic pots instead of wet wipes for cleaning grandchildren.

Buy Bamboo Loo rolls that are not wrapped in plastic kuwhogivesacrap.org. Some of their profits go to building toilets for people who need them.

Use unwrapped soap instead of liquid handwash. *Earth in Nature* unwrapped soaps are sold at Holland and Barre

Use *If You Care* compostable, unbleached, chlorine-free baking sheets and sandwich bags. They also make recycled aluminium foil. The Hen House, and Home Bake, Southwell

Make our own cookies, oatcakes and crackers to avoid palm oil and plastic packaging.

Toiletries

Use aluminium crystal deodorant, which is free of packaging and beautiful. naturalspasupplies.co.uk

Use shampoo bar or shampoo cubes The Hen House, Southwell

Use organic toothpastes and silk floss in glass containers and wooden toothbrushes organics.com and the Hen House, Southwell

Cleaning

Use eco washing powder because it comes in a cardboard box.

Use loose dishwasher powder and dishwasher salt in cardboard boxes. Waitrose

Use wooden dish brushes with replaceable heads. The Hen House, Southwell

Use *Sa Scrub pads* made from coconut fibre, which seem frail after first use, but last for ages. The Hen House, Southwell

Instead of plastic bin bags, use newspaper to line rubbish bins and wrap rubbish.

Will try cotton Euro Scrubbies instead of cloths, which contain plastic microfibres, naturalspasupplies.co.uk

Clean most things using dri-pak citric acid, sodium bicarbonate and borax substitute in cardboard boxes. Made locally in Ilkeston. Information on how to use them is available from www.dri-pak.co.uk. The Indicentre, Southwell

Christmas

Buy wooden toys and games The Wooden Toy Shop, Chain Ln, Newark

Wrap gifts in recycled brown paper, tie with ribbons, coloured raffia or string without plastic sellotape.

Wrap gifts in recycled heads at charity shops

Buy or make Christmas cards without any metallic printing or glitter as these are plastic-based and not compostable.



Karen Edginton

Editorial Disclaimer

This article 2018 – A Year with Less Plastic and the one that follows A Creative Christmas Challenge – No Plastic Gifts make certain product recommendations and identify certain providers. Southwell Leaves wishes to make it clear that these recommendations are entirely the result of the authors' local research and experience. They are not recommendations by or on behalf of Southwell Leaves or Southwell Minster and other parties might find equally suitable alternative products or suppliers should they choose to search for themselves.

A Creative Christmas Challenge - No Plastic Gifts

Inspired by Karen Edginton's splendid article (in this issue) about avoiding unnecessary plastic through the year, I'm starting on an adventure of my own to see if I can manage to make every Christmas present I give this year, plastic-free. This is not to urge anyone for using plastic round the house - our own home is still full of plastic, and I am certainly not suggesting that we should all abandon our spectacles, false teeth, hearing aids and other essentials. All I am seeking is small and creative ways of avoiding plastic when I buy gifts this year, and this has already led to some lovely outcomes.

A good place to start is our own Cathedral Shop, where I've bought their beautiful, patterned Jute bags for all the kids (young and old) in our family. Other excellent possibilities here include books, scarves, chocolate, gift items in china, glass, metal and wood, candles, attractive garden tins, bird-boxes and much more.

In our everyday shopping one drawback is that eco-friendly household items tend to be more expensive, but they make ideal presents, and we can have fun creating unusual gift-packs of kitchen, bathroom and other household items. The Hen House in Southwell (also mentioned by Karen) makes a conscious effort to be sustainable and plastic-free whenever possible, and has lots of interesting ideas, ranging from shampoo and conditioner bars and cubes to 100% Organic tooth-care products, and from natural deodorant that really works (the coconut scourers which are so much better for the environment than the normal white ones which take generations to decompose). The Hen House also stocks local pottery and ceramics, attractive carved wooden items like door-wedges, honey dippers and salad servers, and beautiful throws made from recycled wool. The manager, Kelly, and I agreed that none of us can be purist or totally plastic-free, but if everyone makes small steps in the right direction the impact can be great.

Simpleynatural in Newark (Paxtons Court, near Morrisons) also offers a splendid range of hand-made, eco-friendly bathroom and

cosmetic goods in recyclable or recycled packaging (do look at their website). They have sea salts with lovely combinations of fragrances, also bath bombs, massage oils and perfumes, and they are happy to make up a box or basket of selected items into an attractive pack. And since they began putting products such as hand and body lotion into glass or metal containers without plastic pumps, this has turned out to be a plus, since more lotion can be filled in, and it's easier to get out.

I am also looking out for clothes as gifts, especially for grandchildren, and I'm trying to avoid garments where the price-tag is attached by those thin bits of plastic which can damage marine creatures. I've found three shops which now use ribbons and safety pins for price-labels: The White Stuff, Fat Face and Monsoon (and there must be others). The first two stock children's clothes in their Nottingham branches and Monsoon also have them in Newark. And, of course, we can always bake and make gifts ourselves.

In my search for plastic-free Christmas gifts I have been struck by how often a shop assistant's face will light up, and say something like, 'Oh, it's so important.' A friend in business tells me that the more the general public keep asking questions about plastic, the more those at the top will listen. In the end I have enjoyed the challenge of exploring new possibilities for the sake of our planet and future generations.

Post Script. I've also heard about the website [Living Without Plastic](http://LivingWithoutPlastic.co.uk), [WasteNoPlastic](http://WasteNoPlastic.co.uk), a plastics challenge organised by the University of Nottingham, and [renewable Emporium](http://renewableemporium.co.uk) on Haydon Road. Any more Green Tips that can be shared

Angela Ashwin



the hen house | 5 King St | Southwell | NG25 0EH
01636 812855 | www.henhouseinteriors.co.uk

There is No Planet B

It is beyond imagination until you actually get up and see it and experience it and feel it. Only in space is to see the reality of Earth, alone. The experience changed my life and my attitude toward life itself. I am one of the lucky ones.

Many who have travelled in space returned profoundly moved after seeing our planet, in the round and so small in cosmic terms. This quote is from Dr. Roberta Bondar, a Canadian neurologist who travelled aboard the space shuttle Discovery in early 1992.



In less than a century humankind has changed from a dominant but still earthbound member of the myriad lifeforms that inhabit the Earth, into one with the ability to escape its gravity and experience it against a far larger canvas. We now have the ability to turn it into an irradiated and lifeless desert, and unwittingly we are now damaging its fragile atmosphere and polluting its surface on a scale that threatens many species and our own stability. Increasingly the chorus is that the way we live now, the habits, conventions and practices of several centuries' exploiting the natural world for mankind's own narrow purposes threaten its and our own wellbeing. They are redundant and have to be reconsidered.

Mike Berners-Lee's *How is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) is a readable look at the need to change how we think. There is a wealth of striking facts. A square meter of land could grow wheat for human consumption or willow grass for biofuel, or house solar panelling. That biofuel would power a small conventional car for five miles, the wheat would provide a pedal cyclist with enough energy to cover 10 miles. Electricity from the solar panels over a year (admittedly in California) would power a small electric car for 100 miles and an electric bicycle for 1,000 miles. Moving freight is intriguing: if they are part of a large cargo, some twenty oranges or bananas can be brought from warmer climes for about the same energy cost as driving a conventional car for a mile. Cruise ships are another matter, where the carbon cost rises to the equivalent of flying

Many of them are well rehearsed facts and statistics. Repeating them is not Berners-Lee's main purpose. He is more interested in

the need for a change in our conceptual framework, and introduced me to the Jevons Paradox. In Jevons observed that despite it being a more efficient machine than its predecessor (Newcomen's), Watt's steam engine ushered in a rush of coal consumption. It became cheaper and easier to use. More contemporary economists have considered this effect in relation to environmental concerns, and along with them Berners-Lee concludes that market forces alone cannot contain energy consumption, until or unless reserves dry up. We cannot wait until that happens.

Individualism, as people, organisations or states, has to be tempered by a new sense of collective responsibility. He writes 'The brain skills that we have developed over the millennia as we expanded on a big, robust world are not the same as the ones that will let us do well on the small delicate spaceship where we now find ourselves' (page 100).

He advocates:

Acknowledge that we are materially interconnected and unless we tune into *all* the consequences of our actions small scale changes will be undone elsewhere.

Empathise. We are not just related to our own group, tribe or nation, but part of a wider, sharing, overarching biosphere.

Future thinking; our actions will have consequences beyond our own lifetimes.

Appreciation of the simple, small and local live lightly, consume less and better appreciate what we have.

Self-reflection; humility and a readiness to acknowledge our own faults and prejudices.

Critical thinking discern fact from fiction in an increasingly complex media and political sea of claim and counter claim.

Complex thinking; the issues are interwoven and interdependent, and simple answers are likely to be misleading.

Religion gets fairly short shrift. It is frustrating for a scientist to be told that since the world is less than 6,000 years old, anthropogenic climate change can't be real (page 100), and there is reference to the twisting of religions to neoliberal, individualistic and even terrorist ends. Nevertheless, there is also acknowledgement that some of the very best thought and action on climate change is coming from a range of faith and spirituality-based communities. Maybe that is no surprise. On the whole faith communities are comfortable with senses of complexity, community and transcendence. Much of what Berners-Lee advocates in terms of new ways of thinking can, perhaps, be subsumed under 'You should have no other gods' and 'Love your neighbour as you would yourself'. Possibly his new ways of thinking aren't that new after all, but they do deserve attention.

Hugh Middleton



“The Altar” – a poem for all Christians

George Herbert a clergyman and metaphysical poet (1593 - 1633) was educated at Cambridge before being ordained as a priest in 1629 and spending the last four years of his life as a country parson at Bemerton in Wiltshire. He is recognised alongside John Donne, as one of the greatest devotional poets.

His poem ‘The Altar’ can be found in a collection published as ‘The Temple.’ It is the opening poem of larger group within the anthology entitled ‘The Church.’ Appropriately, the altar is the first port of call – the holiest place where Jesus offers his own body to the faithful in the Eucharist. As a protestant George Herbert did not believe in transubstantiation in a physical sense, and so his symbolic interpretation allowed him to use the tool as an extended metaphor in the poem in order to enhance his argument.

It’s a complex poem, in which he discusses his own and man’s imperfection in terms of his relationship with and devotion to God (he refers to his own heart as ‘hard’). Nowadays we are familiar with the expression ‘heart of stone’, but in Herbert’s time, the allusion to stone would have been even more powerful. The poem is in many ways personal, but in the opening line the word ‘servant’ refers not only to himself, but also to the reader.

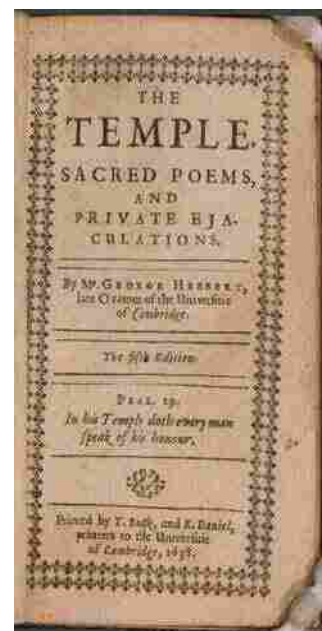
The poem is a pattern or concrete, the form of which adopts the shape of a traditional stone altar. However, the altar he writes about is a metaphor through which he compares his own and man’s heart to a traditional stone altar. It is ‘broken’ – a reference to man’s frailty and inadequacy. In some ways the poem itself can be regarded as a new creation with the words replacing the stone and the rhyme taking the place of the mortar. At the end of the poem he offers himself as a sacrifice to God in his desire to make amends for his failings. Even though it is hard work, he is reassuring God that he will create a new altar out of his own heart. Notice the symmetry in the positioning of the words ALTA, HEARTSACRIFICE, and the repetition of ALTA in the last line, which appear to physically symbolise his newly found

commitment as well as giving a unity and sense of hope with his message to God.

As with other devotional poets such as John Donne, poems of spiritual conflicts, anguish and self-doubt occur time and again. In expressing their very personal lessons and issues with God and their faith, they help us to explore and reconcile our own inner conflicts, providing reassurance and hope.

You will come to your own conclusions about The Altar - there is much to interpret in such a short poem. At university I was lucky enough, very briefly, to study some of George Herbert’s work. The poems are not easy to read and fully grasp but, in terms of spirituality, they do reflect our inner workings from time to time.

Tom Hislop



The title page of the 5th edition of George Herbert's 'The Temple'

The Altar

A broken ALTAR, Lord, thy servant rears,
Made of a heart, and cemented with tears:
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame;
No workmans tool hath touch'd the same.

A HEART alone
Is such a stone,
As nothing but
Thy pow'r doth cut.
Wherefore each part
Of my hard heart
Meets in this frame,
To praise thy Name;

That, if I chance to hold my peace,
These stones to praise thee may not cease.
O let thy blessed SACRIFICE be mine,
And sanctifie this ALTAR to be thine

Southwell Minster Choral Association presents

MESSIAH

G.E. Handel
Thursday 12 December 2019
Southwell Minster
7.30pm

Lincoln Cathedral Consort
Southwell Minster Choral
Minster Chamber Ensemble
Jonathan Allsopp, conductor

Soloists:
Harriet Astbury, soprano
Alex Turner, alto
Mark Wilde, tenor
Dingle Yandell, bass

Tickets:
£8 Front Nave
£15 Mid Nave
£12 Rear Nave
£8 Side Aisle (Admission restricted)
Under the Pile (Ticket required)

Soloists: (Images of the soloists)

Tickets available from the Cathedral Shop
01636 812913 www.southwellminster.org
Facebook Twitter YouTube Instagram

Southwell Minster

Meet the Needlework Guild

On a dazzling sunny morning in May, I popped into Trebeck Hall to find the ladies of the Needlework Guild busy on their various tasks. It was interesting to discover the wide variety of work they undertake.

The Guild originated in 1965 with an initial project to replace eighty Quire kneelers, which, after seventy years of use were in a state of disrepair. At the time, this was too big a task for the then Assistant Organist Mrs June Meredith, who had hitherto managed the linen and vestments on her own, and so she was assisted by a group of willing but inexperienced volunteers. Soon regular monthly meetings were arranged to meet all the sewing needs of the Minster. Monthly meetings were initially held at the home of Miss Hazel Ball. However, it soon became apparent that a larger space was required. Consequently, when the Minster refectory vacated its old premises and re-opened on Church Street, the Guild moved to the Edward Hoskyns' room. However, in 1978, because this space was then required for the storage of choristers' attire, the Guild moved to Trebeck Hall.

Ecclesiastical work is a very specialised branch of sewing and embroidery and demands considerable skill and so it was decided to appoint Hilary Tinley as a tutor, a role which she is still enjoying today. It goes without saying that her guidance and expertise are greatly valued.

When I met the ladies Christine Homer was making a cover for a television set Ann van de Kastele was sewing identification labels into vestments for the Dean and others Carol Moore was finishing off a beautiful altar double-sided frontal for the chapel in the Minster School. The winning design was created by a student from the Minster School for a competition devised by Father Askey, who, coincidentally, came in to check on its progress. The image on the frontal is a statement on climate change and God's promise, incorporating the rainbow Covenant, God's promise never again to destroy all life on Earth by flood. The rainbow is the symbol of this everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.



The ladies busy at work



The altar frontal



Father Askey checks on progress



The design features the flames of the Holy Spirit, the hands of God and, of course, the dove from the story of Noah. The reverse side of the frontal will feature a cross, surrounded by radiating light, and the words 'Let Your Light Shine.' It will be used for Penitential seasons such as Advent and Lent, whereas the rainbow side will be used for celebratory seasons such as Christmas and Easter.

The work these dedicated ladies do is wide-ranging and includes the refurbishment of Quire kneelers, which involves cleaning, remounting the kneeler on calico and replacing the cushion pads. This work can take up to eight or nine hours for each kneeler. Other tasks include general plain sewing on such items as purificators, as well as making tippets (shoulder capes) for choristers and cushions for clergy in the Quire. In recent years the ladies also made those beautiful and very distinctive cushions in the State Chamber, as well as creating period costumes for the Education Department. I saw one picture of a schoolboy dressed up in authentic Cardinal Wolsey garb. Other crucial tasks involve making and maintaining vestments for the clergy as well as altar cloths both for the Minster, and Sacrista Prebend. I was shown a photograph of a stunning altar cloth which featured a supernova image made by the Guild especially for Pentecost. Also, interestingly, a few years ago, when the Hoskyns' hood was stolen, the Guild created a replacement based on a design from an original photograph.

The Guild meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 10 am to 12 pm. Three members have had to drop out recently and new members are needed. If you have the skills to help with this important work, don't hesitate to get in touch with Elizabeth Turner (contact information is on page 24). I would like to thank Hilary Tinley, Carol Moore, Kay Old, Sylvia Willows, Christine Homer and Ann van de Kastele for their hospitality.

My special thanks to Elizabeth Turner for accepting my offer to write this article and for her invaluable help.

Tom Hislop

Education News

The new academic year started with a wonderful visit to the Civil War Museum where Ma and I were proud to receive a Sandford Award for Informal Learning (SAIL). We have been involved with the Sandford Cascade project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for about three years and worked with them in their mission to educate and empower heritage sites in the East Midlands to improve and expand their heritage learning provision. This latest award recognises our informal learning programme – what we do for families and visitors, including the trails and family fun days we offer during weekends and school holidays. The cascade project has now ended, but the lasting results for us are our two awards, which we are proud to hold on behalf of the Minster, and the opportunities for professional development provided by the project which we were lucky enough to participate in.

Looking back to July, the last event of the academic year was the annual summer fun day. Robin Hood and Maid Marian put in an appearance, and there were heritage crafts and traditional archery, a science show and musical accompaniment provided by the City of Lincoln Waites. Around 1000 visitors came, and I'm grateful to our very enthusiastic volunteer team for their tireless efforts over a very long day.

In early September, the Discovery Day saw 15 adults joining us for workshops, tours and talks, which they were able to choose from a selection of thirteen on offer. As the Leaves Project gets under way, there was the option of a 'felted' creative workshop inspired by the gardens. It was wonderful that so many staff and volunteers gave their time so freely – many appreciated the chance to be 'at home with the Dean' for informal conversation, and as ever the opportunity to explore areas not open to the public proved difficult to resist, and a visit to the organ loft was full for all three sessions.



The Bramley Apple Festival of Food & Drink
Saturday 19 October, 10am – 4pm
Southwell Minster

- 30+ stall holders offering a variety of food and drink
- FREE samples • LIVE cookery demonstrations
- WIN kitchen appliances
- Bramley apples grown in Southwell for sale
- Entry £3 suggested donation

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It is the time of year when much of the planning happens for the forthcoming year – and we always hope to welcome new members to the education team in order to ensure that we can keep going with our usual events. If you would like to find out more and meet some existing members, please do come along to Jubilee House on 10th October at 10.30am, when we are having our termly meet up and coffee, or feel free to contact us for more information. Experience in learning or with children is not a requirement, there are all kinds of roles on the team!

I look forward to another happy and successful year for the Education Department, and if you'd like to find out more about what we get up to our new yellow Education Booklet is now available from the Welcome Desk in the Minster, or visit the learning pages of the Minster website www.southwellminster.org.



*An aspiring Robin Hood.
Courtesy of Newark Advertiser*



*Matt and Diana receiving the
Sandford Award for Informal Learning*



Discovery Day

Diana Ives, Education Officer

education@southwellminster.org.uk

Playing Hand Bells

Have you ever thought of playing handbells?

I have been a member of the Oxtou Handbell ring for about 10 years and find it very enjoyable.



We visit Care Homes and play at Fetes etc. If you know a bit about reading music it helps but it's not too important (you can learn on the job).

We meet at Oxtou church on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. If you want more information give me a ring (01509 261111) or phone the leader, Bridget, on 01509 261111.

Gwen Bragg

When Archbishop Sentamu called the bishops of the Northern Province to Lindisfarne a few years ago, I doubt that even he could have guessed what a difference his challenge of mission would be making for Christians in the north. I suspect he prayed for what has happened in the now eight dioceses which have been visited; I for one am grateful for his vision.

Nearly a year ago, the oneLIFE mission was launched at the Diocesan Conference when we were all given a rosary by the Archbishop; he also warned us to be ready. So, we did become ready, with each deanery appointing a catalyst to encourage parishes to organise invitational events to bring people to faith. There was an executive group chaired by Bishop Tony to make sure all was in place for the Archbishop and his team, and to organise where the other twelve visiting bishops were to be allocated. Mostly, the planning went well, but when dealing with so many visitors, changes in circumstances meant a few last-minute alterations had to be made.

Our Deanery of Newark & Southwell welcomed Bishop James from Carlisle with a team of three (a fourth was taken ill during the week of the mission) being joined by the Revd Adam Atkinson from the Bishop of London's office, and evangelist Paul Myers from St Michael le Belfry in York. After the Archbishop's commissioning service held at Mansfield Town Football Club (at which the C.E.O. gave a wonderful testimony) the team, their

Archbishop's charge. Thereafter the team spread to cover a variety of events organised around the Deanery. These included school visits to Tuxford and Dukeries Academies, Kneesall, Lowes Wong Junior, Mount Primary and Holy Trinity Infant, storytelling events by the River

Trent at Farndon and in St Mary Magdalene church, a barn dance, a breakfast with a Bishop, pet services, walkabouts and a Time Travelling day in Balderton. Sunday worship was an opportunity for guest preachers in a number of churches whilst of course the Archbishop made his second visit of the weekend to the Deanery when he preached at the Minster (his first was to the Magnus C of E Academy in Newark on the Friday).

oneLIFE was a very busy weekend in our Deanery, and in the other eight. I believe we responded to the

Archbishop's challenge well. I look forward to hearing and sharing stories of what happened and then what is happening over the coming weeks.

I finish this article with a personal story involving Bishop James Newcombe. It turned out that he had worked at the children's home in Collingham before he went to university and that we both knew Bernard Joy, who had been a teacher at the home. Now I never understood how the bishops from the north were allocated to the deaneries but perhaps in this case +Tony's hand had some guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Michael Wilson

Lay Chair Newark & Southwell Deanery and Chair of the Diocesan House of Laity.



Dukeries Academy Sixth Formers and staff with Bishop James Newcombe

hosts and a number of clergy of parishes where events were to be held gathered for a BBQ. This event really created a good team spirit involving all who were present and I think it eased the weekend's plans being fulfilled.

Each morning the team plus that day's drivers and others gathered at the Potting Shed Church for worship, lead by the Revd Alison Jones. This gave an opportunity for getting the mind ready for mission and recommitting to carry out the



he o ngShed - Venue for Prayer Time each morning and a Barn Dance.



Songs of praise at Ley elds am, Ompton

Parish Spotlight: Revd Elizabeth (Liz) Murray

YoungLIFE, OneLIFE and CountryLIFE: from ex-mining to rural ministry

It is harvest: what no coal on the altar?

I have lived in Nottinghamshire all my life, with further education in Nottingham and Derby, thus travelling from home. As a young girl I lived in Selston on the Nottinghamshire Derbyshire border (fondly known as the 'wild west area' of the Diocese), I can still remember a time of mining, very foggy mornings, and disappearing with friends to play all day in the woods, returning home at teatime.



In my teens, in order to gain my Campanology Guild Badge, I joined the bell ringers of Selston Church, and thus began my journey in the Church of England. After marrying Robert, we both began to serve in the church as youth leaders (CYFA), churchwardens, lay readers and eventually proceeded to ordination. Selston St Helens at that time was a resourcing church, growing disciples younger, wider and deeper, and encouraging leadership. Four people from the congregation at this time were eventually called to ordination, and others to be lay leaders.

For my family Robert and I had two children, Rebecca and William. Robert was ordained in 1980 and we remained in the ex-mining communities serving God. I was in my second year as an Ordinand when Robert was diagnosed with bowel cancer and sadly, he died a year later. The Diocese was very supportive and understanding and I was encouraged to stay in the vicarage and serve my Curacy locally. Rebecca, William and I received wonderful love and pastoral care from family, friends, the Parish and the Diocese – this was indeed faith acted out through love.

In 1990, I moved from the ex-mining communities to be Priest-in-Charge of a benefice of rural parishes (communities) known as the Octave group. These parishes are south of Newark and stretch from the A1 to the A63. They are East Stoke, Elston, Kilvington, Shelton, Sibthorpe, Staunton and Syerston. This was the first time in my life I had ever lived alone, and this could have been an ordeal but actually I was not alone. I had new relationships to build, new challenges ahead and new churches to serve, with God paving the way before me.

Eighteen months ago, I had the United Benefice of Farnon with Thorpe, and Hawton with Cotham, 'bolted on' and now have communities and buildings. Fortunately, now I have a wonderful team of readers and a retired colleague working in the parishes. As with any ministry, rural ministry brings its own challenges. I find this exciting and challenging, as we have engaged in the YoungLIFE mission, had stories by the riverbank for the OneLIFE mission, and in our CountryLIFE mission have started our harvest celebrations. We are also exploring the concepts of RiverLIFE mission in our parishes, or perhaps to stretch the length of the River Trent. Figuratively, although we may get stuck in the reeds and weeds whilst we fervently pray through this and prepare the ground, weeds die down in winter and may pave the way for NewLIFE in spring.

As I journey from church to church or over the next few weeks, and harvest supper to harvest supper (seven in total), the churches will meet and greet over 100 people from the

communities emphasising how generous God is to us and how we must share this with others. Only a few of the people we meet worship regularly with us or even profess a faith, yet God sends them to us and gives us opportunity to speak of Jesus and of faith. Therefore, I pray that God will guide us in our life in the rural communities and enable us to speak of love and faith, thus enabling people to experience God, wider, younger and deeper.

I do need to find pieces of coal to put into the rural churches at harvest time, to remind me of how God provides through his creation and his generosity, and to ground me in my roots.

Liz Murray, The Rectory, Elston

Would you like to join a NURTURE GROUP?

Find out all about the four amazing days of oneLIFE here www.southwell.anglican.org/four-amazing-days-of-the-onelife-mission

The mission however is not over – more than 100 nurture courses have been planned across the Diocese to support people who expressed an interest in faith during the mission.

If you'd like to find out more about what's on in Newark Southwell Deanery please contact the Deanery Office at nsdeaneryoffice@gmail.com

The Octave Group with The United Benefice of Farnon with Thorpe, Hawton & Cotham are pleased to invite you to a

GAME OF CONVERSATION

YoungLIFE
GROWING DISCIPLES

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Discussing hot topics in All Saints' Church, Elston

For 11-14 year olds

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- 1st November 2019
- 6th December 2019
- 3rd January 2020
- 7th February 2020
- 6th March 2020

For more information speak with Revd Liz Murray
01636 525417 www.elstmurray2020@gmail.com

Gateway to stilling

'All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.'

A well-known and provocative thought of Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), the French philosopher-mathematician, takes us close to the heart and habit of Christian silent prayer. We may be tempted to think that silence or stilling yourself is for contemplative types, whereas I am called to be active. That misses the point. The practice of silent prayer, from the earliest days of Christian faith, was understood not as withdrawal from life for its own sake, but to help us live more authentically and fully in the midst of life.

When someone gets what it's about, it can be life-transforming. Helena and I had shared with a group about developing a habit of stilling ourselves. We gave them a brief exercise to go off on their own to use all their senses and become aware of their environment, conscious of the moment and of God in it. Time was short – fifteen minutes at most. On their return we asked how they found it. A young mother shared movingly with amazement. She had suddenly realised something about the way she had lived her life up to this point. Something had caught her attention within a minute of going outside. It was a very ordinary, everyday sight. But because she looked with her eyes opened, she had been captured by the beauty of the moment. 'I realize I am always either looking anxiously back at what's happened or forward at what might happen. I'm never in the moment. *Never!* And when I looked up and saw the beauty, I was in the moment for the first time in my life.' Two years later we met her again this August. She said: 'That moment changed my life.' She shared how it had been the start of a journey; regularly being more conscious in the moment, more aware of God in her daily life.

A regular practice of stilling ourselves, of coming to silence, bringing the kaleidoscope of our consciousness before God, the One 'in whom we live and move and have our being' may be less dramatic than this light-bulb moment for this young woman. But the regular practice of stilling prayer, of silence and contemplation, will form our lives for health and well-being, leading, we pray, to well-doing. Blaise Pascal was surely on to something profound in his provocative image

There is a Minster group meeting regularly that seeks to help us grow in this prayer habit. It's for anyone and everyone. One of the leaders shares a thought to give focus to our prayer time. It might be a reading from the Bible or a Christian thinker. It might be their own experience or thinking. Then we come into stillness for half-an-hour, after which the person leading draws the time and theme together with a simple prayer. Then folk are free to go or stay for a short while to chat over a cuppa. We laugh, share ideas or thoughts, news or opinions. Come along and try 'the Pascal challenge'



Stilling Prayer (previously Contemplative Prayer) meets Mondays during school term times at Sacrista Prebend at 7.30pm. There will be occasional 'Gateway to Stilling Prayer' evenings, with more teaching about silent-contemplative prayer. Look out for notices in Pew News. The similar *Silence Meditation* prayer group also meets in Sacrista Prebend on Thursdays at 12.30pm.

And Sinclair – our young mother of three youngsters – took them on a woodland walk this August. They were moaning about having to walk. She told them to look around them, be quiet and still, take in their surroundings – 'Just be.' So, they walked, sat from time to time and came to stillness. And starting with the youngest who was four, then the middle one, without prompting, they shared in their own way a sense of

God they had met. And finally, after having got back, the eldest also felt a sense of God. All this, so natural, unforced – they had all been led into it from a moment of a mother being still, coming to a consciousness of God in the beauty of ordinary life.

Stephen Ibbotson

Pause for Thought

For the last few years there has been a *haght for the week* in the Minster's Pew News, usually taken from books in Sacrista Prebend library. Here are two quotes from 2015

What is intercession?

Interceding is not reminding God of his duties, it is taking a step towards the heart of the world, ...giving ourselves unconditionally to God as instruments to be used as he wills, making a space in which the divine love can surround the people for whom we pray.

Mother Mary Clare, *Prayer, Encountering the Depths* DL, p. 1.

God will not abandon us

To know the reality of our brokenness and our separation from God, in our gut and not just in our heads, is a harrowing experience. We enter into this experience only when we know, in the same deep-felt way, God's unconditional love for us, which holds our brokenness in gently sheltering hands, like a wounded bird.

Margaret Silf, *Latmarks* D, p. 1.

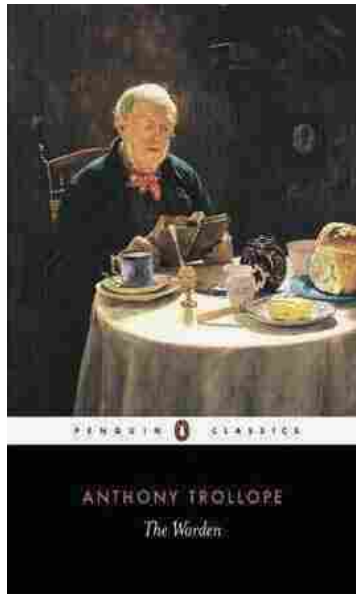


Two Ecclesiastical Novels

Anthony Trollope's, 'The Warden' and William Golding's, 'The Spire' are two terrific novels from the great canon of English Literature. Over a century apart, both make fascinating reading, especially if you enjoy the setting of cathedrals and those who work in and around them. Incidentally, Trollope was the second cousin of Edward Trollope who was instrumental in funding Southwell Minster's Archbishop's Palace and State Chamber.

The Warden

Published in 1855, Trollope's work is the first in the famous series of five Barchester novels of which Barchester Towers is the most well-known. The story concerns Septimus Harding, Cathedral Precentor and Warden of a charity almshouse, which was bequeathed to the diocese.



The plot centres on Harding's battles with his conscience in the attempt to clear his name and restore his reputation after a young surgeon and social reformer, the appropriately named John Bold, takes on the task of exposing the discrepancy between

Harding's stipend, as opposed to the piety received by the twelve beadsmen who live in the hospital.

Bold, helped by negative reporting in a national newspaper and a barrister, Abraham Haphazard, is forced to fight what they regard as a gross injustice and the matter becomes a national

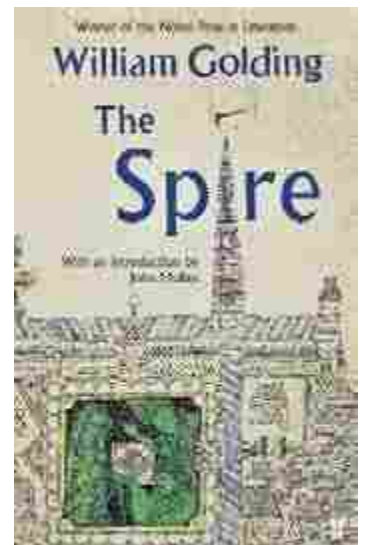
scandal. The plot is further complicated by Bold's romantic attachment to Eleanor Harding, the Warden's younger daughter, which creates conflict for him amidst his public-spirited crusade against her father. The novel contains a small group of characters, including Archdeacon Crawley, who happens to be Harding's son in law...

This novel is very much about Harding's conscience as well as the opposing forces of reform and tradition. It is an entertaining and absorbing read and some of the issues still have a contemporary resonance. It may be a cliché but I literally couldn't put it down and polished it off in four days.

The Spire

William Golding, of course is more famous for his dark vision of a post-war world in 'Lord of the Flies,' and many of you will have either read or studied this book at school.

Golding was a teacher at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury. In the 1950's he watched the reconstruction of the spire at Salisbury Cathedral. Golding never identified the Cathedral in the novel as Salisbury but there are clear parallels and echoes.



However, 'The Spire,' published in 1947, ten years after 'Lord of the Flies,' is an equally dynamic novel. It is not a light bedtime read and is certainly a more challenging read than Trollope's novel. The main thrust of the book is the obsessive determination of the main character, Jocelin, the Dean of a Cathedral to build a spire onto the existing structure, thus going against the advice of the master builder, unsurprisingly called Germer Mason, who also is a key protagonist in the story. Jocelin's battle to achieve his ambition is intense, dark and in places disturbing. The novel is set in the 14th Century and the reader gains interesting insights in the construction techniques of the time as well as the day to day life of the Cathedral. However, it is multi-layered and covers topics such as faith, obsession, madness, desire and there are even some pagan elements. Again, there is a small cast of characters which adds to the intense and, at times, claustrophobic atmosphere. The writing is powerful and full of symbolism and striking imagery which kept me transfixed. So, does the spire get built? Read it and find out. It is a truly unique and fascinating novel.



Tom Hislop

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