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SOUTHWELL CATHEDRAL CHAPTER NEWS
FROM DEAN NICOLA SULLIVAN
Edition 3, JANUARY 2021

We hope you and your families are staying well and strong. The UK is in a perilous phase of the pandemic as we see the intense pressure on the NHS and other key support services escalate and all of us will know someone who is suffering from the virus or tragically mourning the loss of a loved one. We can but continue to pray for deliverance and recovery, and to reach out to neighbours and those who are feeling alone and anxious.

The decision to close the Minster from last Saturday, 16 January, was taken by Chapter with a heavy heart. While the coronavirus infection rates remain high and before the benefits of the mass vaccination programme are effective in controlling the virus, we believe we have taken the right decision. We are keeping the situation under regular review and hope we may be able to open at least for private prayer in the second half of February. We trust the provision of online worship is spiritually nourishing you and have received many appreciative comments about the Minster's Christmas and Epiphanytide worship. We are now busily planning for the Patronal Festival next weekend and Candlemas. Do remember the online daily offices are open for anyone who would like to join. Also, progress is being made in introducing a reliable wired internet connection into the Minster, enabling us to 'live stream' soon.

Chapter's Plans for 2021

The Minster has a key role in supporting individuals and whole communities recover and mend as we emerge from the devastating impact of the pandemic. It is timely that in May, we host Peter Walker's much-acclaimed installation '*The Leaves of the Trees*', a memorial to the pandemic, made up of 5000 steel autumn leaves which will be laid out on the floor of the Quire, symbolising both loss and hope. There is a spiritual longing in many hearts, and we have much to share as a holy place of prayer, healing and peace. We long for people, especially the young who have had so much taken away from them in recent months, to come and be touched by the love and compassion of God.

Dr Michele Hampson, the new Warden of Sacrista Prebend, is working on plans to develop the ministry and reach of the House and in April we will be taking forward conversations with Andy Lester of A Rocha on our being a 'green cathedral' when he makes a return visit.

Setting the budget for 2021 has been challenging. It is impossible to anticipate which planned events, concerts and services will go ahead but Chapter is aiming for a break-even budget and will apply for the next round of the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund as well as connecting with the Kickstart scheme for young people looking for work experience. Thank you to everyone who has continued with giving generously online or through the planned giving scheme in support of the Cathedral's ongoing mission and ministry. Your support is vital and hugely appreciated.

Chapter will be holding another 'away day' (which is not 'away' but at home online!) in February and will review the governance structures in readiness

for the new Cathedrals Measure which was approved by General Synod last November.

The Chapter House Leaves Project

The work onsite resumed in early January and the exciting progress can be followed via the photos and updates on the website. There has been a short delay commencing the external Palace Gardens works, and so completion of the project is likely now to be late summer. Work on interpretation, signage, audio-visual aids and new guidebooks continues as does the activity plan, adapted to online gatherings of different groups.

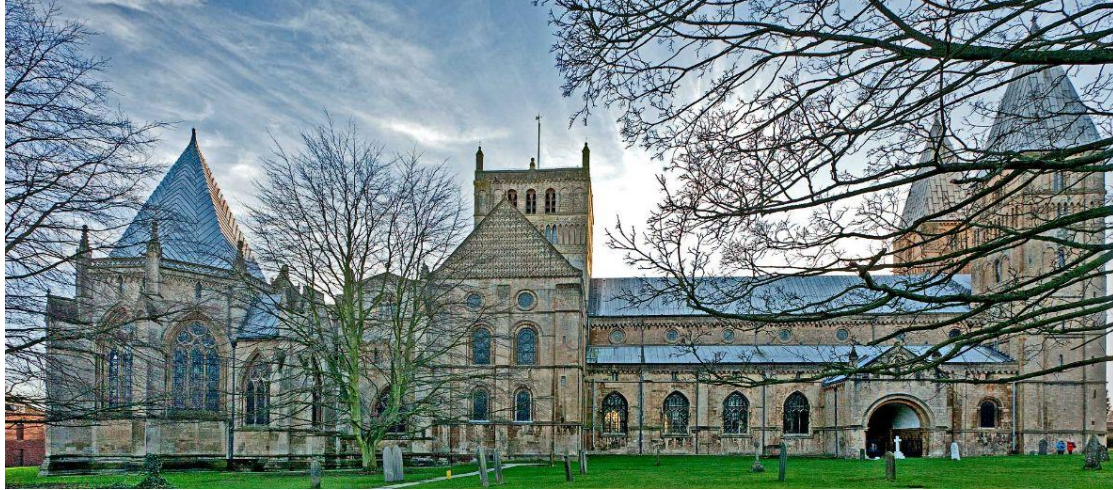
Lent, Holy Week and Easter

We are daring to hope that we will be back to worship together at some point during Lent and following the great success of outdoor special services for families at Halloween and Christmas, look out for details for this term. The clergy will build on the online Thursday evening Compline for Lent reflections and 'live' discussion groups. See the weekly Pew News for details.

I write in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and in the week when the 46th President of the USA, a Catholic, has reminded his people of St Augustine's words that "a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love", urging them to make "...a story of hope, not fear. Of unity, not division. Of light, not darkness." May the Minster be characterised by the love of God shown to us in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit as we serve our town and diocese.

[Download this week's edition of Pew News.](#)

[Download next week's Services and Music List.](#)



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