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Southwell Minster

SOUTHWELL CATHEDRAL NEWS **Edition 6, October/November 2021**

It has been wonderful to see many of you over recent weeks in person, returning to worship, volunteering, and resuming activities in the Minster. Over the summer and early autumn, we have enjoyed once again congregational singing, increased the seating capacity, celebrated postponed weddings, welcomed back the Southwell Music Festival, outdoor theatre and concerts including FLAC, and much more. We have now completed the interior phase of the *Leaves* project and hosted two happy evenings to thank donors, supporters, and the project team for sterling effort even in the inevitable pandemic related delays. The Palace Garden planting, interpretation trails and new Learning Centre will develop over the winter months and be ready by May 2022, we trust, in time for another party!

Visitor numbers over the past weeks have been steady, nearly back to the 2019 level. We have benefitted from 'staycation' with many people visiting Southwell for the first time. The new guidebooks and refreshed interpretation material, including a 4-minute silent video 'Daily Life and Worship' near the Welcome desk, enhances the visitor experience, and communicates that at the heart of the Minster is a living, outward looking, active community of faith and prayer. The reopened Chapter House is looking splendid, with the underfloor heating making it a comfortable space to linger a while. We are grateful to the Guild of Stewards and team of honorary chaplains who are ensuring a warm welcome to all.

If you have been in the Minster recently you will have seen that we have moved the vestry for clergy and servers to the Pilgrims' Chapel, thus revealing once again the beautiful chapel in the northeast corner where the reserved sacrament is now kept, and private prayer is encouraged. The Pilgrims' Chapel allows more space for preparing and robing and for the time being we see it as the best location for the vestry.

Worship and the Minster community

Livestreaming of Sunday services is now a familiar part of the Minster's life and soon we will have cameras in the Quire so will return Sunday Evensong to where it best belongs. We do not have the capacity to livestream mid-week services at present, so we are keeping the focus on Sunday, aware that for many coming back to church in person is not a preferred option until the rates of the virus's transmission reduce further. Going forward we see livestreaming as here to stay and are thankful for the encouraging feedback many have given, appreciating how it has been a lifeline in lockdown or when circumstances make attendance impossible. Sacrista Prebend is offering a new series of online retreats as well as reopening for quiet days, the weekly Contemplative Prayer group and access to the spirituality library.

Regular worshippers will recall that we agreed a one-year trial of a new Sunday worship pattern, originally planned to begin in May 2020. Of course, it could not be implemented fully last year due to Lockdown. As choirs, including the Minster Chorale, did not return into a full schedule until September we would like to run through to July 2022. Canon Richard and I are open to your comments as we keep everything under regular review and are willing to make tweaks as we learn during the year. At the next Community Forum (11 November 6.30pm, in the nave) there will be an opportunity to hear your impressions and reflections but please talk to us or email if you have views you would like us to hear now. We are listening!

The safety of everyone

We remain cautious and hold the comfort and safety of worshippers, staff, volunteers, and visitors at the core of decision making. We encourage face covering when moving around the Minster and leave the doors open for ventilation. It may be that stricter regulations will return over the coming weeks, and we will follow both government and Church of England guidance.

We are aware that some regular worshippers have not yet been able to return to church for understandable reasons. Canon Richard and the Revd Erika are working with the Pastoral network to ensure that no one feels forgotten. The recent distribution of harvest plants for those housebound and recently bereaved was a welcome gesture of loving support until times ease.

New members of Staff and Chapter

Following the departure of Mrs Adele Poulson, Canon Nigel Spraggins joined the staff as Chief Officer in June to support the Chapter's work over the next 12 months. Staff have returned to working from the Minster Centre, and soon the Cathedral office will reopen its doors, at least during weekday mornings. We have been awarded a grant from the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund which we will apply to appoint a much-needed full-time Fundraiser. We are also recruiting a full-time gardener and further secretarial/admin support in the office and will also be seeking a Head Verger following Andrew Todd's departure last month.

We were delighted to announce at last an appointment of a residentiary canon. Canon Paul Rattigan will move in the early new year to complete the full-time clergy team, after a two-year vacancy. We cannot wait! Do read about him on the website [here](#).

We are grateful to Tim Richmond, Shaun Boney and Richard Vigar, who have all completed their term of service, for their generous contribution to the Cathedral's governance. We welcome Sarah Benedek, Nick Alexander, Arwel Griffith and the Revd Canon Steve Silvester as new members. The Chapter had a full and productive 'away day' earlier this month focussing on the strategic priorities as the Cathedral emerges from the pandemic. We will soon be ready to share our thinking more widely.

Looking ahead, the Chapter will need to apply itself to the new Cathedrals Measure and participate in nationally led training next May before reworking the Constitution and Statutes – no minor task! One small but important change is that the Minster is no longer titled a 'parish church cathedral' but simply a 'cathedral', therefore making no distinction among England's 42 Anglican Cathedrals. You will notice this small change as we begin to use a slightly

different logo. It is vital to explain, this does **not** mean we do not have the parish – we do and will relate to it and serve the 5,500 people who live within it exactly as before.

The Chapter will meet again in November and agree a budget for 2022 which in these financially uncertain times is challenging. We continue to believe that increasing activity and outward engagement is vital to be effective in our mission and vocation as a Cathedral.

The last weeks have also marked the Minster signing up as a ‘Partner in Action’ with **A Rocha UK** – the first Cathedral to do so. This will help turn words into real actions over the issue which is highlighted as the world prepares for COP26 in a few days’ time. May we dream and pray for clarity and cooperation.

As if we have not been busy enough, we had the SCIE Safeguarding audit in September which was constructive and helpful. The Report and the Chapter’s Action Plan will be published in November.

Well, done if you have reached the end of this long read! Pew News is circulated every Friday for general news, up and coming dates and activities. We are realigning communication (digital and printed) and aim for a monthly Chapter digital newsletter which gives a little more detail, and both are distributed to everyone on the mailing list.

As we enter November, season of remembrance leading into the short, dark winter days, be assured of our daily prayers for all who are connected to the life of Southwell Minster, whether you live nearby or connect with us from further way. Your interest, support and prayers have help sustain the Minster’s life and mission through challenging times, and we are profoundly thankful

Nicola Sullivan
Dean of Southwell



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