

Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A report on the life and work
of the Minster Community from
the Cathedral Chapter
for the year ending
31 DECEMBER 2021

VISITOR

The Right Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

HIGH STEWARD

Sir John Peace, H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire

THE CHAPTER

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell (Chair)

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

Mrs Vicky Thorpe (Co-opted as Safeguarding Coordinator)

Elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Southwell Minster

Mr Andrew Corner

Mrs Jan Richardson MBE

Appointed by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

Canon Philip Blinston

Mr Shaun Boney (ended July)

Mr Arwel Griffiths (from September)

Col. Tim Richmond OBE TD DL (ended May)

The Revd Canon Steve Silvester (from September)

Mr Richard Vigar (ended July)

Appointed by Bishop's Council

Mr Nick Alexander (from July)

Mrs Sarah Benedek (from May)

THE COLLEGE OF CANONS

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell (Chair)

The Right Revd Dr Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Milbank,

Canon Theologian

The Ven. Victoria Ramsey, Archdeacon of Newark
(from June)

The Ven. Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham

THE HONORARY CLERICAL CANONS

The Revd Canon Kate Bottley (from May)

The Revd Canon Bronwen Gamble

The Revd Canon Angela Fletcher (from April)

The Revd Canon Julian Hemstock (retired December)

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Hippisley-Cox (from May)

The Revd Canon Barbara Holbrook

The Revd Canon Alan Howe (retired September)

The Revd Canon Peter Huxtable

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Kellett

The Revd Canon Fiona Shouler

The Revd Canon Steve Silvester

The Revd Canon Nicolas Spicer

THE HONORARY LAY CANONS

Canon Michael Arlington

Canon Philip Blinston

Canon John Loughton

Canon Nigel Spraggins

PRIEST VICARS

The Revd David McCoulough

The Revd Erika Kirk

THE ECUMENICAL CANONS

The Rt Revd. Mgr. Patrick McKinney, The RC Bishop of Nottingham (from April)

Bishop Pangani McNight Thipa (from April)

READER WITH PTO

Canon Angela Ashwin

THE CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

The Right Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

Judge Anthony P. Mitchell (Chair)

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Dame Elizabeth Fradd DBE DL

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

Mr Peter Gibbins

Councillor David Mellen

Mr Christopher Perrett (RIP June)

Mrs Jan Richardson MBE

Col. Tim Richmond OBE TD DL (ended October)

Mr David Shannon (ended March)

Mr Richard Vigar (ended July)

The Ven. Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham

Every person or body having functions under the Constitution or Statutes shall, in exercising those functions, have due regard to the fact that the Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission.

(From the Introduction to the Constitution and Statutes, March 2000 – Revised January 2012)

'The Minster Community seeks to celebrate God's life, love and beauty in the Cathedral at the heart of the Diocese, in the life of the Parish and across the world.

Our hope is in God, the source of all community, and our purpose is the service of His Kingdom in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

THE FOUNDATION PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us members one of another in the mystical body of your Son: grant your grace to Paul, Bishop of this Diocese, to the Cathedral Chapter, the College of Canons, the Cathedral Council, to all members of this Foundation, and to all who work and worship here. Give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that they may live to your glory, to the furtherance of the Church in this place and this Diocese, and in union one with another through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.

THE MINSTER COMMUNITY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, you embrace the whole world in your love. Inspire and guide the life of this Minster that the clergy and people, continuing to share their hopes and seeking the vision of your purpose for them may grow in grace and rejoice in the service of your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

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THE DEAN'S WELCOME

"If you want to make God laugh... tell God your plans" is a saying attributed to the film director Woody Allen. Well, a year ago we may have thought 2021 would be post-pandemic, life returning to normal and the progress in growing the Cathedral's mission and ministry continuing. We were not short of ideas and plans but few materialised. The reality was two further 'lockdowns' with continuing uncertainty with ever-changing health guidance which meant 2021 was heavily disrupted. However, this Annual Report is testimony to the hard work and outstanding commitment of our staff and volunteers, and the resilience and faithfulness of the Minster Community.

Our aim has been to rebuild the Minster community around worship, keeping our focus on the love, faithfulness, and goodness of God even in challenging times and to serve our town and diocese. There have been outstanding highlights - installing high quality live-streaming equipment (funded by a grant) and so extending our reach; celebrating the completion of the reopened Chapter House now with access for all with stunning new interpretation; delivering the first ever Lent Course via Zoom; gathering with the 30 permitted for a moving service to commemorate the late Duke of Edinburgh in April, others joining online; signing the Partner in Action A Rocha agreement at Harvest Festival. By the end of the year, we had announced the appointment of a new residentiary Canon - after a two-year vacancy - Paul Rattigan to be Canon Missioner, arriving in January 2022.

As always, I am immensely grateful to the Chapter and to colleagues who have worked tirelessly alongside me, notably Canon Richard Frith, and Canon Nigel Spraggins, Chief Officer who followed Adele Poulson, who left in June. It has been a busy and fulfilling year - not as planned but we trust all within God's perfect plan in sharing and living the gospel of Christ.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and generosity, and may you be inspired by what you read in this Annual Report.

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WORSHIP, LITURGY AND MUSIC

Worship and Liturgy

Following the upheavals of 2020, 2021 was another extraordinary year in the Minster's worshipping life.

Following a Christmas at which we had at least been able to hold most of our usual services, albeit with severely

limited numbers and a 'ballot' system for attendance at major services, on 15th January the rise in Covid cases locally and nationally led to the difficult decision once again to close the Minster for both public worship and private prayer. Services once again moved online, with recorded liturgy and music. This meant that important events such as our Patronal Festival and Ash Wednesday were not celebrated in the Minster, and for the second year in succession, there was no service in the Minster for Mothering Sunday.

It was not until Passion Sunday that public worship returned - once again with severely restricted congregations. We were, however, able to celebrate a full liturgical Holy Week, with all the services that we had missed in 2020 taking place, albeit with many fewer people and without congregational singing. It was a real joy to be able to proclaim Christ as risen in the Minster after what had seemed to many like a year-long Lent.

Also a joy, was that from Holy Week, a new live-streaming system meant that those who were unable to join us onsite for worship were now able to join in with services from home, either live or afterwards. This facility - initially in the Nave but later also installed in the Quire - has transformed our provision of online services, and we are committed to continuing to explore how we might best take advantage the exciting possibilities of this technology for expanding the reach of our worship over the coming months. It was also a moment to thank Jeff Sutton, our videographer, for his work in editing and producing the recorded services that had been the mainstay of our pandemic-period worship up to that point.

Following the sad news of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April, we welcomed civic leaders from across the county for a special Evensong with prayers for the Queen and Royal Family.

In June, civic leaders gathered again for the happier occasion of the Queen's Birthday Service, another occasion which we were unable to hold in 2020; and at the beginning of July, we were able to hold the diocese's ordination services under somewhat less restricted conditions than last year.

Finally, in July, most Covid restrictions were lifted, and congregational singing was able to return to the Minster for the first time since the start of the pandemic. 'Ye holy angels bright' was the processional hymn at the Cathedral Eucharist on 25th July, the feast of St James, and singing together again after some fifteen months was an experience that many of us will never forget. Although many limitations would remain on our worship for the rest of 2021 - we have continued to suspend the common cup, and altar rails, collection plates, and post-service coffee were all yet to be restored at the end of the year - our worshipping life from the summer began to assume

something more closely resembling its normal aspect. From the autumn, it was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome back our serving team and the Minster Chorale, both of whose dedication and enthusiasm had been sorely missed in our worship since the first lockdown.

At the end of July, we were able to say farewell not only to those choristers coming to the end of their time in the choir this year, but also to those who left during restrictions on singing, and to whom we were not able to bid a proper farewell at the time. Other choristers have joined the choir during the pandemic. Their dedication and adaptability, in the face of constant disruption to their singing as well as their schooling, is a model for us all.

September brought the announcement of the Minster's first ever Head Girl Chorister, Ellie-Jean, but also, at the end of the month, a sad departure, as Andrew Todd stepped down as Head Verger after 26 years' service. Andrew embodied, perhaps more than anyone else, the continuity of the Minster's worshipping life, having upheld the excellence of our worship over some two and a half decades. He handed on the verge to Michael Tawn as Acting Head Verger, and we continue to be deeply blessed by our professional and committed verging team, overseeing the upkeep of the building and quietly enabling the continuity of our worship through changing and deeply challenging times during the pandemic.

It is pleasing to be able to report that for the most part the rest of the year continued in a more familiar fashion. The Cathedral Choir led us in celebrating a joyful Christmas, though the escalating case numbers towards the end of the year due to the Omicron variant meant that some anxiety around the virus returned the end of the year, and attendance at Christmas services was well below levels in 'normal' years.

In important respects, 2021 felt like a year of recovery of our worshipping life. At the same time, we are still conscious of challenges. Among them is the fact that the year-long trial period of a new Sunday service pattern (with a 10.00am Cathedral Eucharist in place of the 9.30 and 11.15am services), which we had once expected to begin in spring 2020 and conclude a year later, was still far from concluded, leaving open the questions of what shape our Sunday worshipping life will take for the longer term.

Throughout it all, however, those who enable our liturgical life to happen have continued to be reliably magnificent. Some have already been noted. Mention should also be made of our wardens and sidesmen's team, who continued to welcome regulars and visitors to services with a smile throughout the year – even if the smile was sometimes hidden by a face covering. The Cathedral Choir, led by Paul Provost and Jonathan Allsopp, has continued to do us all proud. And by no

means least, the Minster community continues to be a joy to worship alongside.

May 2022 bring us all more stability, more singing, and more opportunities to share fellowship together.

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Cathedral Choirs

As for many, 2021 has been a year full of challenge for Cathedral musicians. The start of the year was somewhat abruptly changed by last-minute governmental decisions that sent children back to home learning and raised questions about what sort of choral involvement we could offer. Whilst this was something of a blow following the rather more positive Christmas services, members of the music team were quick to rally round and make something work. Credit is due to all my colleagues as well as the wonderful choristers for being so flexible and open to the changing circumstances. A pattern quickly resumed whereby music was recorded for online worship (live-streaming was not at this point possible in the Minster), and the lay clerks and organists were at the heart of all of this. We meanwhile kept choristers running on a diet firstly of online rehearsals with the promise of a performance some way down the line, and latterly with recordings that were eventually to become part of 'in person' worship. Along with plenty of music that already existed for lower voices, it was a delight to have several original compositions from Guy Turner, James Furniss-Roe, and Erik Sharman as part of our offering.

We were finally able to bring the full choir together to sing for some of the Holy Week liturgies, but sensitivities at the time did mean choosing between congregation and choir to a large extent – the Triduum ended up being sung by Lay Clerks with some pre-recorded music from the full choir, but at least the full choir could return for Easter Day Evensong. Sadly, this was the occasion on which we said "farewell" to Erik Sharman, Decani Alto and Liturgy and Music Administrator. Erik played a vital role throughout the pandemic, holding far more than should have been expected of any one person, and keeping us all on the straight and narrow at times. Despite some excellent replacements in the form of Alastair Clarke as Liturgy and Music Administrator and Matthew Farrell as Decani Alto, we have missed Erik greatly since his departure.

A gradual return towards fuller duties for choristers began in the summer term, where something approaching a more normal round of services was emerging. We also welcomed Matthew Farrell to our ranks, and he quickly became a firm part of the team. We still sang principally in the Nave, which, with social distancing, had both benefits and drawbacks. However, the advent of live-

streaming did at least allow for more services to be sung whilst limiting capacity for congregation. It was a relief to provide music for Ascension Day as well as some of the more major occasions that happen in the summer term. The 'pingdemic' did affect us – many musicians disappeared *during* an Ordination liturgy – but the ever-adaptive music department soldiered on to the end of the summer term, when we were able to say a formal farewell to two whole years'-worth of leaving choristers and our Organ Scholar of two years, James Furniss-Roe. Of course, this was just before governmental restrictions were lifted to allow larger outdoor gatherings!

And so, the autumn term (Michaelmas) began with a wonderful choir barbeque at the Residence, and a sense that at last we were rebuilding rather than treading water – appointing our first Head Girl Choristers was a great honour for me at this point, and a great joy was welcoming Michael D'Avanzo as Organ Scholar. The Minster Chorale was able to resume at this point: a real and wonderful milestone in our recovery. It has been a deep joy to welcome this group back, and especially for Jonathan to introduce them to a whole new repertoire of Mattins music. Organ Recitals also resumed, starting with a tremendous live improvised score for *Phantom of the Opera*, performed by Martin Baker to a full house. During this term, we said farewell to Julie Write, Chorister Supervisor, and to Michael Gregory, long-standing Cantoris Tenor and indeed a real member of the family. His replacement, Matthew Spillett, arrived in December, but Mike stays with us as an Auxiliary Lay Clerk. It is enough to say here that as term progressed a sense of normality began to return, and we continue to work hard recruiting choristers (two wonderfully well attended Chorister Experience Days were particularly fulfilling) as well as developing the music in general terms.

As we look into 2022, things are still fragile and uncertain, but the hard work continues as we strive to return to being the thriving and vibrant music department worthy of Southwell Minster.

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Visiting Choirs

Although the Cathedral Choir were able to resume singing at Easter, COVID restrictions severely limited the ability of any amateur choir to meet to rehearse and sing, which unfortunately meant that we had to cancel all the scheduled visiting choirs who had planned to come in the first half of 2021. After over a year of being unable to meet, it was understandable that some of the choirs who had originally planned to come in the summer no longer felt able to do so. However, we were delighted that two choirs, the St. Michael Singers and the Orrishmere Singers, were

each able to come and sing a week of summer services. This did leave three Sundays without a scheduled visiting choir, and we were very grateful to one of our Lay Clerks, Guy Turner, and a former Organ Scholar, Ben Mills, who were able to assemble groups of singers to cover the services on these remaining Sundays.

In mid-October, Worksop College came to sing at a Wednesday Evensong (and brought a large number of parents and other visitors to attend the service). Finally, during the October half term, *Te Decet Hymus* were able to come and sing the services for one weekend.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks to all the singers, directors and organists, who come to Southwell to lead the music in our services when the Cathedral Choirs are not available.

Alastair Clarke, Liturgy and Music Administrator

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Choral Outreach Programme

A brief report as 2021 was a quiet year for the Choral Outreach team due to the ongoing Covid-19 limitations on singing and school visits. Guy Turner and I were pleased to join the Choir Schools' Association's first partnership animateur Zoom meeting in February, being encouraged to hear what other outreach programs were managing to do online during lockdowns.

Our plans for a June "Celebration of Choral Outreach Day" that I wrote of in the Annual Report 2020 had to be postponed – fingers crossed that it will be possible in 2022. Nevertheless, with the special song "These are our Leaves" already composed (words by Martha, Minster school student; music by Guy Turner) an opportunity presented to make it available to schools. Thank you to Guy for masterminding this project and to the four choristers who provided individual recordings for the teaching and performance videos. A teacher from a local primary school, who used this resource, wrote: "wow, this sounds really amazing and exciting". We look forward to hearing a performance of this song in the Minster in 2022.

Likewise, thanks to Guy for preparing some downloadable resources for the Minster's virtual Time Travelling in March giving an insight into the life and music of the choir, a tour of the spaces used for rehearsal and services, and how music is used in worship.

In September we welcomed organ scholar, Michael D'Avanzo to the team. With the easing of restrictions, in the autumn term the animateurs were once again able to lead workshops for children attending Education days at the Minster. For "Sacred Spaces" the singing leaders introduced the Song School and talked about the

Cathedral Choir. Following a vocal warm-up and singing of the Mayan Song to the Sun, various pieces of sacred music were played. Students were asked to consider the atmosphere evoked by each piece and which might be chosen for a particular occasion. After so many months of enforced inactivity, it was a pleasure to observe these sessions and the enthusiasm of the pupils and staff.

As ever, my warmest thanks to the team for their support and our gratitude to The Pilling Trust for its funding of the Southwell Minster Choral Outreach Programme in 2021.

Elizabeth Johnson, Administrator Southwell Minster Choral Outreach Programme

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Southwell Minster Choir Association

Membership numbers are stable and finances comfortable, though several planned events in support of the Music Foundation were either cancelled or postponed in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

Nevertheless, there were some notable positives to report after a busy year, and thanks are due to our loyal members, for their support through annual subscriptions and donations.

David Sneath took part in the national Cathedral Cycle Ride and chose *SMCA* as his nominated charity.

SMCA continued to fund chorister prizes and presented gifts to leavers—Erik Sharman (*Lay Clerk*), James Furniss-Roe (*Organ Scholar*), and Andrew Todd.

The boy choristers enjoyed a successful bowling outing. The girls ice skating was postponed.

Choral Workshops led by Martin Baker were held for the boy choristers, and for the Minster Chorale. The costs of a short series of organ recitals were underwritten.

The annual Cathedral Choir BBQ with parents and committee members was again kindly hosted by Dean Nicola and Terry Westwood in The Residence Garden, held in September.

A new, attractive *SMCA* leaflet and application form was designed by Ruth Massey; and newly designed logos by Miranda Oslow - one for *SMCA*, and another for Music in the State Chamber (previously named *Music in the Great Hall*), the Sunday evening music recitals especially featuring young local musicians, which is to be re-launched May 2022.

To celebrate the completion of the Leaves Project, *SMCA* commissioned contemporary composer Roxanna Panufnic to write an anthem for the cathedral choir, using the text of George Herbert's poem 'Heaven'.

New Black Cat Choir Folders were funded; similarly, the Honours Boards were updated.

A lovely Christmas Card commissioned from Emma Frith proved very popular and packs sold out

well before Christmas Eve.

At the AGM, chairman Robin Turner retired and was thanked for his leadership over the last 5 years, whilst David Sneath was welcomed as the newly elected chairman.

The annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* returned at Christmas in 2021 to great acclaim; on this occasion Jonathan Allsopp directed the Minster Chorale and singers from the Minster School Chamber Choir, with fine soloists and accompanied by the period instruments of the Musical and Amicable Society- all a welcome celebration in so many ways!

Thanks also to all who have served on the committee and sub-committees.

Michael Davidson, Honorary Secretary

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WORSHIP SUPPORT

Vergers

2021 been quite a challenging year for the vergers. I think like everyone else we had gotten to the end of 2021 and had thought 'surely things can only get better?' We began January with another lockdown, however unlike the first lockdown none of us were furloughed and this gave us the perfect opportunity to do those jobs that rarely, if ever get done. A great deal of cleaning was done which involved the building of a tower scaffold to reach higher parts of the minster interior including the nave side aisle vaults and the windowsills in the nave and crossing. Intricate dusting of the choir stalls in the quire was done and an almost complete clean of the gutters was undertaken.

As we moved into spring, we began to reopen a few hours a day and admit a limited number to services. By Easter we were back to the usual pattern albeit with reduced numbers. The rest of the year continued to get busier and over the August bank holiday weekend we welcomed back the music festival after last year's cancellation.

September brought perhaps the biggest change for the department in recent history when our beloved Head Verger Andrew Todd decided that 26 years was quite enough and made the difficult decision to move on. His last Sunday was a memorable occasion with a fitting 'goodbye' after the eucharist. As Andrew has worked here longer than any of us none of us has actually experienced

working here without him and this has taken a great deal of adjustment for us all.

Another sad departure was that of Andy Gill in December. It could be argued that he had amassed more years of service than Andrew as in addition to his 7 years as verger he had been working as an electrician here ever since he was big enough to carry his dad, Mick's toolkit around after him!

This led to us facing Advent and Christmas severely depleted but with huge thanks to remaining colleagues Kenny, Nick and Andy Mac and with a little help from lay clerk Matt Farrell we somehow managed. I would like to close by thanking not only those colleagues but also the sidesmen, churchwardens and stewards who assist us on the shop floor and also our families who support us in our work and put up with our unsocial hours without complaining too much.

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Guild of Minster Servers

The Guild of Servers is extremely grateful to all our team. We are slowly returning to near normal duties. At present, not all of our team are back serving but it is a huge thank you to everyone in the Guild. During the pandemic, we unfortunately had Bobby Craik and Brendon Haigh retire. They both have dedicated many many years of service to the Guild, and we shall miss them, but do wish them well and are very grateful for all the time and service they have quietly given to the Guild.

Thank you to all our members for their unstinting service and we all hope we shall be back to normal very soon.

Jill Arrowsmith, Head Server

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Southwell Minster Bell Ringers

My last report ended with ringing suspended and the hope of resuming only a hope. After the lockdown period it was necessary to ensure that the bells were safe and fit to be rung, not in many, many years had they been silent however as they had only been thoroughly serviced in 2018. I was confident they would be fine, and they were. Prior to resuming ringing on 23 May there was one solemn duty undertaken. On 9 April 2021, HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, died and a half-muffled bell was tolled at midday on Saturday the 10th and again the following Saturday for his funeral. On Sunday 23 May 2021 six ringers climbed the steps again and entered the ringing chamber. For 434 days the bells had not been rung so this was an occasion we had been

waiting for. Still being restricted by Covid-19 regulations meant we were limited to six people gathering together.

At the minster we are lucky to have a large airy ringing chamber with opening windows so with the fan going we rang. Those who had been anxious soon realised that ringing is like riding a cycle, you never forget! Eventually the restrictions eased, and we were able to ring more than the six bells although the lay-off had had an effect of our numbers. Ringing is a commitment and a team effort; some ringers were waiting until they felt it was safer to return and some decided that lock-down had prevented them from doing other things and wanted to catch up with those activities. I fully understand that, however my role as Tower Captain became more difficult in bringing a band together, not just for services but for the number of weddings being held at the Minster, many that had been postponed from 2020. Some ringers haven't come back yet but we have recruited too! Now that we are holding our Tuesday evening practices again (7:30-9pm...hint) the band will develop and improve. Ringing across the diocese is not back to pre-lockdown levels. Within the Newark District a number of churches have not resumed ringing, for the reasons mentioned and in one case the tower is unsafe. Illness and age have also hit some tower bands. I can foresee ringing towers struggle to keep going, the number of services are fewer and recruitment of ringers is a challenge. The Minster ringers are members of the Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers whose aims and objectives are supporting, training, recruiting and improving the art of ringing. Increasingly the Guild is providing a network of mutual support to those towers currently struggling.

Just as I said in my last report, recruitment and retention has now become the most important topic in ringing nationally. If people want to hear the bells, then everyone must do their part to ensure it continues. Even if you can't ring or would not want to, suggesting and encouraging people you know to consider taking bell ringing up as a pastime is a discussion that may well bring in the new recruits so desperately needed. Technically not bell ringing, but I thought here was the place to mention, that very recently and with the backing of The Chimes Trust, the musical chime machine that plays the tune of Bedford at midday and again at 4pm has received some serious mechanical attention. It now plays faster and is no longer the ponderous piece it once was. Many people have already commented on the improvement; listen out I'm sure you will agree! If you want to be part of this exciting band of ringers, please don't hesitate to be in touch. If you know someone 8 - 75 years old who might be interested in learning to ring, get them to get in touch too. Our thanks go to the Dean and Chapter for their ever-enthusiastic support.

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Needlework Guild

This year, because of the Covid Pandemic, we have been unable to meet, since the Trebeck Hall, where we keep our materials, has been closed for most of the year. Our tutor of 26 years, Hilary Tinley, retired from her role during this time. We are extremely grateful for the enormous contribution Hilary made to the needlework in the Minster, which has ranged from working a new hood for our Jacobean cope, designing new frontals, and making many cushions and kneelers. Although the work of the Needlework Guild is mainly carried out "behind the scenes", Hilary's sensitive design work is evident on any walk through the Minster. She has been with the Needlework Guild since it started in 1994 and will be greatly missed. The Guild wishes her a happy and well-deserved retirement!

After Hilary's retirement, Emma Frith (already a SMNG member) was asked to take up the position of tutor and designer. She trained at the Royal School of Needlework, and is passionate about hand embroidery and textile design, particularly ecclesiastical work. Emma's work has been exhibited in Durham and Hampton Court Palace; and will feature in the RSN 150th anniversary exhibition at the Fashion & Textiles Museum in spring 2022. She took over as tutor in September 2021 and is very much enjoying her new role.

During the lockdown, members continued working on our longer-term ongoing projects, in particular the canvas work cushions for the prebendal stalls in the quire, and also the gold-coloured sashes for the wardens and sidespersons. Because Guild members were confined to their houses away from our stores of wool, progress was slow, and the lockdown meant that all the materials for the sashes were with Christine Homer, who ended up making all of them! They were put to use as soon as the church reopened.

We finally began to meet again in September 2021, with our first meeting at Emma's house. A couple of our members have decided not to return after the Covid break, and two new members were welcomed, leaving us with a current membership of nine. We then resumed our meetings in Trebeck, meeting four times before Christmas.

Our first project was to design and make activity bags for young visitors to the Leaves exhibition. The education department asked if we could design a logo based on a dragon, as our chapter house carvings include many mythical beasts. Emma came up with a dragon design and

made it into an applique patch for the bags, embroidered by Guild members.

Emma and Liz attended a meeting of all the voluntary groups associated with the minster. The idea of having a Minster open day was discussed, so that people can see what all the different groups do, and potentially volunteer.

On our return to Trebeck we had a sort through of our cupboards, and we found several Mothers' Union banners for disbanded branches. These were sadly beyond repair, but we were able to salvage the vintage Japanese gilt thread which can be useful when repairing old embroideries. We also found a beautifully worked banner which we have discovered was probably made for the Minster when it first became a Cathedral in 1884. On removing the backing, we discovered a piece of paper, on which were written the names of the ladies who worked it, along with the designers, Ernest Geldart, the first Rector of Clumber, and Charles Hodgson Fowler. Both were noted Victorian priest architects. The banner is in need of repair and conservation, several areas of silk are crumbling, and the gold thread needs securing. As the banner is of some age and importance, we are seeking advice on achieving the right balance between repair vs conservation.

Future plans

Emma had a meeting with the Dean to discuss potential future work, and it became clear that the Minster's supply of vestments is very patchy, and in need of renewal, with particular attention paid to designing vestments specifically for our setting in the cathedral, and that work well together as a full cycle of colours through the liturgical year. This is a long-term vision which would require many years of work and fundraising. Our first priority is to design and make a set of rose vestments (comprising chasuble, dalmatic, tunicle and stole), something the cathedral currently does not have. These are used on Laetare and Gaudete Sundays (lent 4 and advent 3). The rose colour signifies a slight lifting of the penitential nature of these two seasons, where purple is normally worn. Designing for this is already underway.

We will continue working with the outreach/education departments, possibly supporting events by running textile art/embroidery workshops, as well as participating in any Minster open day.

We are in the process of rewording the Guild web page on the Minster site, and we are hoping to do some publicity around the Diocese to help with recruiting new volunteers.

Liz Turner and Emma Frith
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Flower Guild

Once again, we were unable to meet as a group in the Spring to plan for the year ahead. A small team welcomed the opportunity to provide some arrangements for Easter. These were much appreciated by socially distanced congregations at a time when few services were allowed. For obvious reasons, some of our team were unable to return to arranging and after Easter we managed week by week to provide a simple pedestal and a decorated candle ring.

Flowers were provided for ordinations and the Civic Service before regulations were relaxed and the many rescheduled weddings, most requiring flowers, were allowed to take place.

A busy summer and autumn followed with 3 or 4 weddings per month, some on consecutive days. Thanks to Ann Bristow for sharing the workload of meetings with the bride, planning, ordering, preparing containers, collecting flowers, picking foliage and conditioning - all this before a single flower is placed.

In August, the Minster was tastefully decorated for the Music Festival with some colourful, striking designs. Jan Winson, Glenice Ward and Diane Salama's eye catching harvest arrangements in straw containers were most appropriate.

Rachel Tew produced the lovely arrangement of poppies for the Remembrance Service as well as decorating the Advent candle ring with a selection of seasonal foliage. An enthusiastic group had the pleasure of enhancing our beautiful building for Christmas. Traditional red, gold, and green arrangements certainly lift the spirit at this time of year and the decorated carol singers on the font added to the festive mood.

I would like to thank our dedicated team for all their support throughout this difficult year. The vergers, as always, are more than helpful and without them our job would be so much more challenging.

We are delighted that representatives from the Flower Guild appear in the welcome video showing visitors our contribution to the life of the Minster.

Kathy Hocking

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PASTORAL CARE AND THE MINISTRY OF WELCOME

Pastoral Care

2021 was another challenging year for the Cathedral's ministry of pastoral care, with most of the ways in which we normally keep in touch disrupted by the pandemic during the first part of that year. The Minster is enormously grateful to the Pastoral Care team, and in particular to Mrs Elizabeth Yule and Mrs Karen Edginton. During the first lockdown in 2020, Elizabeth and Karen compiled a Pastoral Care list, apportioning members of our Electoral Roll, and those of the Minster community for whom we had contact details, to a section of the list.

The list concentrated particularly on people who were known to be unwell, recently bereaved, or without access to the internet. One person within each section of the list was then asked to act as a contact person to keep in touch with its members by phone. The contact persons did a most important job in providing a link with the Pastoral Care team and clergy. Then, as now, the effectiveness of pastoral care at the Minster does depend to a large part on people making members of the Pastoral Care team or the clergy aware of where there is particular need, or where a visit or phone call might be appreciated.

The Pastoral Care team would normally meet several times a year to discuss its work, but due to the pandemic, members could only meet in person once in 2021. In spite of this, the team was able to arrange to send Easter cards and also provide Harvest gifts for the sick, housebound, and bereaved. The delivery of over 50 plants at Harvest was a particular achievement.

The paramount importance of protecting residents of our local care homes from infection meant that it was not possible for clergy to visit or hold monthly Communion services at Southwell Court Care Home, and the annual Carol Service could not take place there at Christmas. The Pastoral Care team and the clergy tried to maintain contact with residents through cards and phone calls.

Similarly, it was not possible to visit people in their homes to take Communion to the sick and housebound, until restrictions were lifted later in the year. Home Communion is now possible again, and the clergy will visit those who need this.

Pastoral offices were severely affected by the pandemic. At the start of the year, national guidance from the Church of England meant that numbers allowed at funerals were severely restricted, and no hymn singing was permitted. This made a difficult time for families even more distressing. In the course of the year as restrictions were gradually lifted, greater numbers of people were allowed

to attend the pastoral offices, and hymn singing was permitted once more. In all, Minster clergy officiated at 12 funerals in the Minster and 8 at crematoria. 14 weddings and 8 baptisms were celebrated during the year, with others postponed into 2022.

During September 2021, officers from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) visited the Minster to conduct an audit of the safeguarding provision at the Cathedral. The Pastoral Care team and clergy are grateful to SCIE for the insights and advice offered in their report concerning pastoral care. The contents of the report are being absorbed, and appropriate action will be taken.

Finally, thanks are due to Mrs Nikki Smith in the Minster Office for her work in co-ordinating the administration of pastoral care – a task especially important during the vacancy for a Residentiary Canon who will be responsible for pastoral work in the future.

The Revd Erika Kirk

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Churchwardens and Sidespersons

It has been a privilege to continue as Senior Churchwarden for another year and I am hugely grateful to the dedicated team of Wardens, Emeritus Wardens and Sidespersons who have embraced this task. 2021 – 22 has been challenging as we have carefully navigated our way through the guidance of road maps and plans to ensure the safety of everyone worshipping and visiting Southwell Minster.

After many years of service, we have been sorry to say “goodbye” to Graham Ball, Gwen Bragg, Tony Dykes and Lee Harbour who feel it is time to step down from this important ministry, and I would like to record my sincere thanks to them all for a job well done.

This year we have welcomed two new Sidespersons to the team - Howard and Jean George (Gilly Smith joining in early 2022). In addition, Karen Edginton very kindly stepped in to help over the busy Christmas period.

We have served the regular pattern of worship at a variety of weekly services, and it has been a joy to resume special events including Confirmations, Baptisms and Weddings. I am very grateful to Stephen Littlewood who oversees the cover for funerals. Noteworthy occasions were the special Evensong on 16th April to remember the long life of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and the Dedication of the Leaves Project in October. The Animal Blessing and Crib Services have grown in popularity and were well-attended outdoor events.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35

Andrew Bates, Senior Churchwarden

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Honorary Chaplains

The small but faithful group of chaplains have ministered in extraordinarily difficult conditions – face coverings in situ and chilly draughts in our superbly ventilated building being just two. Their presence in quiet and busy times during the April – October visitor season, operating alongside the Stewards in offering welcome to all who cross the threshold, has kept the main purpose of the Cathedral visible. These women and men discreetly glide around in a cassock, eyes smiling behind the mandatory mask and forever alert to a conversation which often is of great depth and spiritual significance in the anonymity of a visit to a Cathedral. I want to pay tribute and thank them for leading prayers and offering pastoral support to those seeking it. We hope to grow the team in 2022/23 from Readers and clergy across the diocese.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

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Guild of Minster Stewards

Our main purpose is to welcome and interact with visitors to the Minster thereby creating a warm and caring environment to all that enter for whatever reason. This is something we enjoy and throughout 2021 craved for a normal environment to fulfil this.

However no sooner had the year begun we were stood down 5 days later under Tier 5 National Lockdown for some 14 weeks. When private prayer opening was allowed only a single steward was present on duty to quietly welcome and guide those that came in for solace, in line with the necessary protocols.

It wasn't until 17th May, when Government restrictions allowed a wider range of visitors, that numbers picked up and our journey back to stewarding began.

This was interlaced with risk assessments, mandated restrictions and this really felt quite strange as our welcome was almost dominated by the requirements of hand sanitising, face coverings, social distancing as well as ever evolving test & trace, one-way systems and gown wearing protocols.

Throughout though our smile was ever present although literally masked from view with the necessary face coverings!

The Leaves project with the excellent talks online kept us enthralled and seeing builders progress added a further nod to more normal times. Our in-house publication 'The Steward' also continued unabated with topical items of interest to engage us. Whilst our own self learning and developments were on hold it was good to be part of Minster events and offer support along the way.

We assisted in manning the entrance to the Chapter House, at the time still technically classed as a building site, to enable the Peter Ball exhibition to proceed as well as offering our usual support to the Bramley Apple and Winter Craft events.

Our new welcome desk area emerged alongside shop displays to keep us busy together with new Guidebooks. Add to that the silent visual screens revealing the life of the Minster then one can see much progress made by The Leaves project.

Visitor numbers ebbed and flowed with the sentiment of the pandemic although we did see an encouraging upturn from the previous year and at odd times almost at the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

After almost two years of these issues, it has been quite wearing but we start 2022 with renewed optimism. We are looking forward to more fully recommencing our Guiding role, Learning More and social events as we go forward. We have just completed our first new stewards' preparation programme for two years, successfully welcoming three new stewards with a further intake set for March and another in the autumn.

Our Guild, consisting of and managed by volunteers, was established some 39 years ago and is as robust as ever. We welcome new applications from all walks of life and of differing faith or none. What is a constant though is an admiration and respectfulness for the place and its people.

If you are interested in joining us, or perhaps know of someone that might be, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are a friendly lot!

Kevin Hender, Chief Steward
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Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be important in all aspects of our work. The safeguarding of all who work, worship, volunteer and visit remains our priority.

In January 2021 leaders in key roles including the Safeguarding Coordinator, Church wardens, Head Verger, Education Team and Music staff were able to

update the Leadership Level Safeguarding training facilitated by the Diocesan Team via Zoom. This training was prepared specifically for the Minster, for which we are very grateful. Our closer working partnership with the Diocesan team helped us also access training relating to a report software and to Safer Recruitment Training, all online.

Unfortunately, we were unable to offer any face-to-face Basic Awareness Training due to the restrictions of the Pandemic, which had been offered previously. Basic Awareness and Foundation level training has been updated and is available via the Church of England website. Log in details can be obtained from the Safeguarding Coordinator. We plan to reinstate face-to-face training as soon as possible.

One of the main actions for the year was to continue to audit all things relating to safeguarding giving the opportunity to reflect on what was going well and what needed to be developed, established and improved. This was to form the basis of our initial conversations with the SCIE auditors before they visited us in September 2021. Two auditors visited us for three days in early September. They scrutinised documents, files, reports and policies and collated and scrutinised survey responses relating to safeguarding and spoke to a wide selection of people across different aspects of Minster life. It also included discussion with external stakeholders who work with the Minster concerning safeguarding e.g. Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP). (The report is available on the Minster website)

Following the final report work began on an Action Plan to help give a clear vision for the next steps to develop, establish and improve taking into consideration the points highlighted by the Audit.

We continue to work closely with the Diocese and are working towards an agreement to have further safeguarding professional support and guidance to assist in moving our work forward.

As the work on our key priorities develops information regarding any changes and development concerning aspects of our safeguarding practice will be shared so that everyone becomes aware of how it affects them and their involvement in the life of the Minster.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all for the safety of us all.

Vicky Thorpe, Cathedral Safeguarding Coordinator
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01636 817290 (Vergers' Vestry)
Email: safeguarding@southwellminster.org.uk

Mothers' Union

As with most things, Mothers' Union meetings happened over the internet using Zoom for the first half of 2021. After a shaky start, we all became much more at ease with our various screens, and even quite proficient. Although we missed the fellowship of being together, the online meetings and email enabled us to maintain relationships and support each other in prayer.

In the summer, though, things began to change. We had a very enjoyable Strawberry Tea in a member's garden in June, with the weather being very kind to us. By July Sacrista Prebend was open again, with windows open, of course. A coffee morning in August raised £172 for the annual Summer of Hope appeal from Mary Sumner House. 2021 was the 145th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner, and 100 years since her death.

Mary Sumner led a breakthrough for women, whose role during her lifetime was chiefly to give support to male leaders in the Church, work, and society. Her vision was a world where women's voices were heard, and their own rights recognised.

Today, all around the world, women are growing their leadership skills, supporting one another, and making a difference.

Our meetings through the Autumn were again in Sacrista and included a visit from Revd David McCoulough to talk about his work, a focus on the annual "16Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence" and our December Carol service. We were delighted that the Warden, Michele Hampson, joined us for tea and mince pies after that and explained some of the thinking and problems for the Prebend in the future.

This has been a difficult year for so many, but the work of Mothers' Union worldwide has continued, although in new ways. In just one example, in Uganda, as in many parts of Africa, Covid lockdowns have led to an increase in domestic violence and teenage pregnancy. Mothers' Union members delivered radio and television shows to raise awareness and break cultural norms which impose silence. As a result, in one diocese 25 under-age girls were rescued from abuse in one village.

As we look forward to 2022, we are planning a full programme of meetings focusing on Mothers' Union work and campaigns in this diocese and across the world.

Shelagh Baird-Smith, Branch Leader

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Friends of Southwell Cathedral

Due to the continuing pandemic, Friends' activities were fewer than usual in 2021, but we were able to hold our 73rd Annual General Meeting on June 12th in the Nave, with appropriate social distancing measures. The election of officers, postponed from last year, took place. Malcolm Stacey, founding editor of our magazine *Pepperpots*, and Roy Pearson, our former Treasurer, decided not to seek re-election after many years' service, as did Col. Tim Richmond. Our warmest thanks to all three of them. Instead of a morning lecture, our Russian Art Exhibition opened that day in the South Quire Aisle and then ran for two weeks. Proceeds from sales benefited our funds. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide the usual sumptuous tea. Bishop Stephen Oliver preached at Evensong.

Our Events Secretary, Pauline Rouse, had hoped to arrange an autumn outing to Deene Park, but regrettably that had to be abandoned; we hope it will now take place in the Spring of 2022.

Charlie Leggatt was, though, able to give his twice postponed talk about the Canadian artist, Tom Thomson, on 10th November with an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Margaret Noble again provided delicious canapes. A most successful and happy evening.

The Friends' support of the Leaves of Southwell (Chapter House) project ended after the final payment of the grant we had pledged. We were pleased to be acknowledged at the reopening events as the largest donor after the National Lottery Heritage Fund (and delighted that the new donor board in the North Quire Aisle mentions the Friends prominently). As a mark of our appreciation of the scholarship of Nigel Coates, our former Canon Chancellor, we utilized a grant received to underwrite the costs of producing an updated booklet on the Simpson choir stalls, which he had edited. We continued to support both the Flower and Needlework Guilds, along with our usual other annual commitments.

Our twice-yearly magazine, *Pepperpots*, edited by Charlie Leggatt, came out on schedule and both issues were well received. Charlie is also leading for Council on a review of our constitution, and we should be ready to report on this during 2022.

We were delighted that former Head Verger, Andrew Todd, joined the Council and that his extensive knowledge of the Minster has therefore not been lost. A sadness was the death of Bishop Patrick Harris, one of our Vice-Presidents, but it was wonderful to see such a large congregation at his thanksgiving service.

We always welcome new Friends and, during the year, updated our membership application leaflet. Copies can be found in the Minster and Archbishops' Palace (or please contact me through the Minster Centre).

Alison Salter

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Sacrista Book Group

Like many others, this ecumenical Minster Group has had a difficult time during the extended Covid crisis, not least, because our members were reluctant to use Zoom. Nonetheless, via e-mail we were able to exchange news about each other and to conduct the occasional activity (usually over several days), e.g., an exploration of the linked parables of the healings of sick woman and of Jairus' daughter; an appreciation of a small anthology of 20 poems; and an in-depth study of accounts of the Resurrection. In November 2021 we had a joyful reunion in a private house to discuss books we had read in the intervening period. It was, however, the opportunity to meet in person with book group friends once again, that was most cherished by members. In February, we hope to re-start our usual program of six (daytime) meetings a year. We are always pleased to welcome new members or others who would like to drop in just for a visit.

Olga Hudson

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MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission Partnership Group

The Minster's Mission Partnership Group continues to build up partnerships of friendship, prayer and financial support for parts of God's mission outside the Minster. We always ask, "what are the needs of the world, and how can we at the Minster respond to those needs?" For nearly 25 years, the congregation has given away 10% of our planned giving, as well as holding special collections for Lent, Harvest Festival, etc., and 'bucket collections' when there is a special crisis. People who received grants from us in 2021 included Stewart Ayling's ministry in Tanzania, Archbishop Hosam Naoum and projects in the Diocese of Jerusalem, builders in eSwatini renewing classrooms and toilets with the Swaziland Schools Project, and – nearer home – Framework Housing and two projects in Nottingham helping Refugees. Recent additions to the list include A Rocha, the Christian conservation project that is partnering the Minster in its ecological mission, and Starfish Zambia which focusses on training engineers and nurses.

We met only once in 2021 because of Coronavirus restrictions, but plan to meet quarterly in 2022. The group is always happy to hear of charities, particularly church-based ones, with which the Minster could partner.

The Revd Canon Vincent Ashwin, Chair

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Faith and Light

As with so much of 2020 we were not able to meet in person and kept in touch with each other through quarterly newsletters and by looking forward to the time when we could safely meet again. With much joy this happened in August. We held our annual picnic in Sacrista's garden on a lovely summer day. Although not everyone felt it was the right time to finish their lockdown some of us safely gathered to enjoy fun, games and fellowship in the peaceful gardens. It felt very special to be together again.

In September we resumed our monthly meetings, paying special attention to the relevant Covid guidelines. We created a space for us to be safely together amongst our Friends, to share our gifts, exchange news, sing, enjoy craft activities as well as telling stories and worshipping in a way that is truly meaningful to us. Also in September, we were able to join with the Westgate Group for a Harvest service in the Minster which was sensitively led by Erika. During the service we presented our Harvest gifts and sang joyous music with Marion Turner and her guitar and Gwen Bragg on piano. After such a long time without a service it was very special to meet again with our Westgate family and friends to share worship together. These special services are very valued by our friends and their families and are always followed by a delicious tea in Trebeck Hall provided by members of the Minster congregation and organised by Joan Broughton. Thank you, ladies, we so appreciate your contribution to our Fellowship.

This has also be a very sad year for us. Ann Best died in August. Ann was a founder member of the group 30 years ago. She has loved and led us all this time. Ann has known many of our friends since they were born. It has been a great loss to our community and we miss her love and wise counsel.

Friends is Faith is run by a small group of volunteers who work very hard to ensure the quality and safety of our meetings to whom I am very thankful. Thank you also to Marion who greatly enhances our worship with her music and to Erika for her kindness, sensitivity, support and spiritual guidance. We also offer thanks to the Mission Committee and Chapter for providing funds to enable us

to offer this particular worshipping experience to our Friends in Faith.

Lee Harbour

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Minster Justice Action Group

The aims of the Minster Justice Action Group, as set out in our terms of reference, are "to spearhead, facilitate and sustain the Justice mission of the Minster. To this end members of the group are committed to taking the lead in promoting and raising awareness of issues of justice listed below and actively encouraging and sharing in the church's goal of achieving greater fairness for all.

Areas on which the Group particularly focus include

- modern slavery and refugees,
- the environment and climate justice
- Fairtrade,
- poverty and food banks
- homelessness and debt.

The group began 2021 by meeting online but were finally able to meet face to face in November.

There has been one major change for the group - after founding and steering its since its inception Patrick Sills stepped down as Chairman in November, to be succeeded by Jessica Pacey. Patrick has done a wonderful job for which we all warmly thank him. He will continue to be a member of the group.

The Group would warmly welcome new members. Please contact Jessica or Vincent (contact details below).

The Group ensured that Minster Stewards and Honorary Chaplains are aware of JAG activities and exhibitions.

We turn now to the Group's areas of concern, which all saw activity in 2021.

Modern Slavery and refugees

An exhibition was mounted in October to coincide with Modern Slavery Day. This attracted much attention.

The environment and climate justice

2021 saw the establishment of SMEAG (Southwell Minster Environmental Action Group), which has held frequent meetings through the year. SMEAG were involved in the designation of the Minster as the first cathedral to become an A Rocha Partner in Action. Potwell Dyke Grasslands and swift/house martin nesting boxes are the explicit commitments.

A climate change march, entitled "Listen to the Leaves" was held on 6 November to coincide with COP26. Dean Nicola addressed the gathering of around 300 people and messages were put on display. The march brought into focus the extent to which the Minster and other ecologically aware elements of Southwell's community (especially Green Southwell) share concerns and an interest in taking action & are in a position to collaborate.

Fairtrade

A successful display was mounted at the Cathedral shop's stall at the Craft Fair in November. The Group ensured that the SMCA and Music Festival used Fairtrade products. At the Refectory all the tea and increasing quantities of coffee sold is now Fairtrade.

Poverty and debt

Christian Aid: members represent the Minster in this ecumenical group. A Race against Hunger was held in Spring, raising £1,400 for the Trussell Trust campaign.

Homelessness

A Framework service was held on 10 April.

Jessica Pacey, Chair / Vincent Ashwin

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**E: jessicapacey@hotmail.co.uk or
vincentashwin@talktalk.net**

Friday Lunchtimes at the Cathedral

Due to the pandemic FLAC has been very limited in what it was able to offer its loyal and enthusiastic following. We were only able to resume these lunchtime concerts in September meaning only six concerts were possible. Everyone was very appreciative of the music, and we hope that this year we will be able to offer a full programme. Refreshments were not possible in 2021, and we are reviewing that currently. As with many activities, volunteers in the pandemic have reassessed their commitments. Age has meant that some have retired, and we have changed the time of the concerts, so all of that has to be considered as we think about if and how we restart the refreshment offering before the concerts.

Thank you to all who support FLAC, it makes a significant contribution to the cost of the Organ Scholarship, and particular thanks to our performers, all of whom contribute their gifts and artistry without fee or expenses. I also want to thank our wonderful vergers, who are always so helpful in providing what we and our performers need and Alastair Clarke, the Liturgy and Music Administrator, who manages the practicalities of running this programme. We hope very much to see you at FLAC this year!

Jeremy Pemberton

Email: jeremy.pemberton@outlook.com

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTHWELL

Southwell Christian Aid Committee

The Southwell Christian Aid committee comprises members from several Southwell Churches – The Minster, Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Victories and Southwell Methodist Church. Jean Jackson and Helen Sills are the current Minster representatives. The truth that ‘Everyone is equal in the sight of God’ has, for over 70 years, inspired Christian Aid to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Working with partners of all faiths and none, the charity’s aim is to combat extreme poverty by tackling its root causes and by speaking truth to power to effect change. The focus for 2021 has been on Climate Justice with many of their partner agencies working in areas where, due to climate change, failed harvests and drought have produced harsh and life-threatening conditions with dead livestock and widespread malnutrition. Northern Kenya has been particularly badly hit.

Our activities have been curtailed in 2021 due to continuing Covid restrictions and we could not hold our Lent Lunch. A small exhibition in the crossing in Christian Aid week in May, invited prayers from visitors and members of the Minster for Climate Justice. These were then sent to Christian Aid. Here are some examples: *“Thank you, O God, for the beauty and nourishment of your creation, and for all working for its sustenance and protection. Bless Christian Aid, its partners, those who benefit from its work and all supporters. In Jesus’ name Amen.”*

“Dear Creator God, help us all to respect your creation and act as responsible stewards. Guide us in the small things we can do to address climate issues. We are all responsible. Amen”

“How would it feel to walk miles each day for water?”
It is not too late to sign Christian Aid’s Climate Justice Appeal at christianaid.org.uk

Our usual Christian Aid week house to house collection in May was adapted in 2021. Envelopes were delivered to every house in the town and surrounding villages. However, there was no house-to-house collection and instead people were asked to take their donations to either the Minster Shop or to some dedicated collectors’ homes. We are very grateful to Amy and Nicola at the shop for all their help and support. This collection raised an amazing £7,300.

Further appeals later in the year by the Methodist church for Christian Aid’s work in Haiti following the earthquake, yielded £1,000 and the bucket appeal at the

Minster for the charity’s work in Afghanistan raised £1,300. The total collected for Christian Aid in 2021 was an amazing £9,654 - the highest amount to date. We extend very grateful thanks to everyone involved for raising such an amazing amount!

Jean Jackson & Helen Sills

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Silence and Meditation Group

This has been a year of adjustment for our group as during Lockdown we realised that if we wished to continue, we would have to meet virtually. It was very encouraging to find that members soon developed the technical skill to embrace this. However, as soon as the Minster reopened some of us took the opportunity to take each week’s online meditation with us and experience the silence of the Candle Chapel together.

Since September we have been welcomed back to Sacrista Prebend for our regular time of 12.30pm. each Thursday and we are pleased to have had more people join the group.

We continue to meet online as well so that members who have become frail or have moved away can be with us.

We are an ecumenical group, and all are welcome to share this peaceful, quiet time with us.

Elizabeth Yule

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Churches Together Ladies’ Choir

The Ladies in the Choir come from different towns and villages as far apart as Tuxford, Mansfield and beyond Bingham. We do not have regular weekly rehearsals but only get together if we are asked to sing at a service. We are now rehearsing for the ‘World Day of Prayer’ which this year is in the Minster.

Gwen Bragg, Conductor

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EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

Despite the unpromising start to 2021 with a new lockdown and closure of schools, looking back on it I’m incredibly proud of what the team managed to achieve in challenging and ever-changing circumstances as we found new ways to reach out to learners of all ages.

As the works in the Chapter House progressed on site, we wanted to keep our supporters informed and interested in the leaves project which we did through weekly project updates and a series of online talks every two weeks from

January to May. We were astounded by the take up, with audiences peaking at around 170, and topics ranging from Winter-Lore to the science of colour sampling and an architect's view of the works so far. Generous donations from the appreciative audience topped £8,000 which was earmarked for spending on developments to the palace gardens.

In February one of the many covid casualties was the cancellation of our half term family fun day. Undaunted (although disappointed), our two brilliant young interns, Aoife and Eliza, set about designing a 'Fantastic Faces' online competition for Shrove Tuesday. Entrants were encouraged to use the Chapter House faces to inspire the design and making of their pancakes. East Midlands Today heard about it and ran a feature, as did Radio Nottingham. I'm not sure who had more fun with this – the children who entered the competition or Aoife and Eliza in devising it and making their pancake prototypes!

Our largest calendar event for schools, 'Time Travelling' for Key Stage 2, usually takes place in early March. This year we adapted activities to make a series of short films and downloadable resources with the option of live webinars. With help from Minster staff and education volunteers, both in front and behind the camera, this high-quality set of materials, all linked to the 2021 Agreed Syllabus for RE, was launched on the website on 8th March which coincided with the schools' return to the classroom. Spurred on by its success, we created a similar set for Easter, Key Stage 1 Time Travelling in June and still more for our annual Year 6 Leavers' days in July. We have been delighted with the take up – in all around 900 children from 30 schools used the materials and we enjoyed the 100% 5-star reviews and comments e.g.:

It was lovely in a challenging year to be able to show the children the beautiful Minster. My class were really interested and learnt a lot. I hope I get to bring them next year so they see the real building. (Teacher, Key stage 1 Time Travelling 2021)

Sadly for the team, filming the Time Travelling videos in January and February was the final task undertaken by the wonderful Education Administrator of the last 7 years, Matt Hustwayte, who moved to a new post with CPAS in February. He is much missed for his patience, good humour, attention to detail and, not least, his tech skills.

By the summer term, at last, things loosened up enough to be able take some of our sessions out into schools. It was wonderful to be with 'real' children again, although by then I had become fairly adept at the online sessions via Zoom or Teams – indeed, these platforms proved invaluable for the schools' outreach for the Leaves project as we engaged storyteller Elizabeth Baker to lead creative poetry and story writing workshops online, inspired by the Chapter House, reaching 180 children. Artist Elaine Winter also ran art workshops online with secondary

students from 4 special schools, creating a virtual art exhibition, while local storyteller Nicky Rafferty provided online story and reminiscence sessions with residents of three care homes.

By the summer holidays we could programme a full summer of events including a popular dragon trail created by Aoife and a 'proper' family fun day complete with crafts, costumed interpreters with music and medieval dance. Community Engagement Coordinator Helen Bates ran 4 local walks in August, focusing on nature and its links to the Chapter House, and an Ancient Tree Identification Day in partnership with the Woodland Trust. Helen left us at the end of the year for pastures new.

October half term saw the launch of a new Minster Children's Activity Trail after many months in design and planning. This is now available from the stewards' desk for visiting families to enjoy, helping them to explore the Minster together. However, possibly the highlight of the autumn term was the return of children to the Minster at the end of September. Brownies from Ravenshead visited to explore 'The Romans in Southwell', and this heralded a return to the 'almost normal' as we headed to Christmas and were able to hold workshops for adults on site as well as welcoming clients from REACH Learning Disability for an art project and 450 school children from nursery through to secondary during November and December.

In October we got the excellent news that we could keep Aoife Cleland until the end of the Leaves project in December 2022. In her year-long internship she has made herself invaluable to the Education Department, Marketing and Events and the Cathedral Shop. Her new title is Heritage Learning Assistant and she, along with Sarah Clemson who joined the team in December replacing Helen as Community Engagement Coordinator, will be focusing on delivery of the final year of the Leaves of Southwell Activity Plan, a vital part of the project ensuring that our newly conserved and accessible Chapter House and Palace Gardens are experienced by the local and wider community. We are excited to see what 2022 has in store and are confident that, while we hope for less of a rollercoaster, we can face whatever challenges it brings. Huge thanks to all who support us in so many ways – the vergers, education volunteers, stewards, Chapter and staff.

Diana Ives, Head of Education

Tel: 01636 817993

Email: diana.ives@southwellminster.org.uk

Children and Families

The Children and Families Development Group has continued to meet to during the various lockdowns and more open periods to deliver outdoor activities for children and families, and to make plans for 2022. At

Easter we had a succession of families to 'Journey through Good Friday'. They followed an outdoor trail with actors telling parts of the Easter story, there were things to make and do, and an Easter Garden was built outside the East end of the Minster to remind all those taking part and passing by of the joy of Easter Sunday. Other outdoor events for families included a trail and range of activities Celebration Creation to fit with the Minster's creation theme in September, and we also repeated the Halloween Trail with actors playing roles of saints through time in the dark around the Minster. We ran a morning focused on the Chapter House for a morning of craft activities and creative stories to mark the Chapter House reopening. Again, we worked with the Children's Society providing a Christingle Trail which took place over the first weekend of December with 'take home' Christingle kits, followed by a Christingle Service. Christmas Eve saw the usual two Crib Services, this year starting in the Minster and then everyone journeying out to the stable in the Palace Gardens...another lovely, moving and popular event. All these events are the result of a real team effort from the vergers, staff, and a whole host of volunteers. The group has been planning 2022, with the aim of developing some children's work on Sunday mornings during the main service, preparing to see the Children's Chapel reopen with fresh display and resources, and thinking through more events focused on the outdoor environment including the grounds, Palace Garden, and Sacrista Prebend.

Nick Harding, Children's Ministry & Safeguarding Trainer

Tel: 07426 530599

Email: nick@nickharding.net

The Minster School

As we have started to re-establish a new normal in school this year, it has been great to be able to continue to develop our community worship. We have embraced new technology for the delivery of Acts of Worship but have also enjoyed re-establishing face to face opportunities. In the Autumn term we returned to the Minster to celebrate our Foundation service, which for many students was the first time they had been in the building. This was an opportunity for us to celebrate the links between school and Cathedral and allow Year 7 students the chance to explore what it means to attend the Minster School. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our Christmas services in person, due to restrictions at the time, but we did bring small numbers over and film the services within the building before sharing it virtually with the whole school community. We are hopeful that our Easter services will once more benefit from being in the Cathedral and allow our students to experience worship within the inspiring environment that it provides.

Andy Wall – Deputy Head Teacher

Tel: 01636 814000

Email: a.wall@minster.notts.sch.uk

Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School

Whilst the impact of Omicron continues to affect everyone, Lowe's Wong Junior School has remained open throughout the pandemic. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that the children have been able to enjoy being back in school following the lockdown last year. The school continues to be a very happy place and we are extremely proud of all the children. This was previously evidenced in our November 2019 Ofsted, which states, 'This is a happy school where pupils thrive. There are lots of exciting things happening. Pupils are eager to arrive each day and to learn as much as they can. Teachers have high expectations of what all pupils can do.'

We managed to take our Year 6 on their residential to PGL in the summer, which involved lots of climbing and getting especially wet when raft building – it is amazing just how heartwarming children's laughter can be.

Christmas this year was a special time with our Carol Concerts being able to take place in Southwell Minster, our church. The children looked and sounded amazing and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. It gave us the proper opportunity to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

Plans are in place to run all our residential this year and our sports teams have begun to play fixtures again after a year of nothing. In December, the school once again entered the National Lions organised 'ROAR' competition inviting groups of children to create a product to help make a difference to our environment – with a much-commended runner up in the Midlands area.

We do not know what 2022 will bring, but we look optimistically to the future and are very happy to have all the children back in school again.

Mike Follen

Tel: 01636 813432

Email: head@lwj.org.uk

House Groups

The risk of coronavirus infection has prevented personal small group gatherings, the hallmark of our otherwise successful house groups. For that reason, this activity was suspended in early 2020 and has yet to resume.

Hugh Middleton

Email: hugh.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk

Historic Chapter Library (HCL)

This was another quiet year for the Historic Chapter Library. No tours were offered but research queries ranging from academic to family history were received and answered. Support and research were also given to the Leaves Project. Our main duties of care for the books continued during the periods the Minster was not on lock down. As always this included a lot of dusting!

Victoria Arthurson, Hon. Librarian

Tel: 01636 817291

Email: library@southwellminster.org.uk

Theological Library

The Theological Library has been pretty inaccessible during lockdown. The books have been pruned and we are in the process of moving the collection to Sacrista Prebend, where it will be more accessible.

The Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank,

Tel: 07738 873279

Email: alison.milbank@southwellminster.org.uk

Theological Reading Group

The Theology group has kept going during much of lockdown, by meeting on Zoom. We have studied *Tokens of Trust*, by Rowan Williams, on the creeds, and a book of extracts from Evelyn Underhill and Elaine Scarry, *On Beauty and being Just*. Since Christmas we have been enjoying a novel for a change, Iris Murdoch's *The Bell* and also looking at her philosophy. Since September we have been experimenting with a dual format, with some people in person in Sacrista, and others online.

The Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank,

Tel: 07738 873279

Email: alison.milbank@southwellminster.org.uk

THE COLLEGE OF CANONS

The year was again severely hampered by Covid related restrictions, both in the Cathedral for worship and for indoor meetings. While we were delighted to have two wonderful services of collation and installation for new canons, numbers were limited although livestreaming via the website opened us to the world! It was with great rejoicing Bishop Thipa of the Calvary Family Church and Bishop Patrick McKinney, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham, were installed as Ecumenical Canons on 24 April and three diocesan clergy, Stephen Hippisley-Cox, Kate Bottley and Angela Fletcher on 16 May. As the Chapter House was still closed for the restoration work our five new Canons only got as far as their seat in Quire. Bishop Paul kindly hosted the new

Canons and their VIP guests afterwards for tea in the garden of Bishop's Manor – again with strict adherence to guidance on numbers, avoiding mingling of 'bubbles and households.

Victoria (Tors) Ramsey was installed as Archdeacon of Newark in the Cathedral on 13 June, with invitees from across the civic life of the archdeaconry, a few days previously having been licensed during a service in St Mary Magdalene, Newark with clergy and churchwardens.

The Bishop invited Canon John Loughton to extend his membership which will complete ten years of service in November 2023.

The joint meeting of Chapter, Council and Chapter with the Bishop in June was also restricted but gave at least one opportunity in the year to meet and reflect on the Cathedral's life, plans and mission as we emerge from the pandemic.

We were pleased to be joined by members of the College in October for the launch and celebration of the reopening of the Chapter House and the completion of Phase 2 of the Leaves project.

We bid farewell in December to Canon Julian Hemstock, who reached retirement age during the year. Julian has been a faithful and regular attender of meetings and services, and we look forward to seeing him when we invite Canons Emeriti to tea and Evensong each September.

We have a gifted and experienced College and with the opportunities afforded by the new Cathedrals Measure plan to further integrate our honorary canons, lay and ordained, into the life of the Cathedral and ask them to be our ambassadors across the diocese, city, and county.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean's PA)

Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

Electoral Roll

The resumption of some weddings and baptisms in 2021 helped to lift the numbers on our electoral roll slightly over the past year. At the end of 2021, the number on our Roll stood at 240.

If you are not registered, please contact me for an enrolment form.

Peter Gibbins, Electoral Roll Officer

Tel: 01636 555578

Email: stewardship@southwellminster.org.uk

Stewardship

Given the continued disruption during 2021 the contribution made by our regular giving scheme was a very important source of income for the Cathedral once again, and increased by 4.3% compared with 2020 to £144,757 including Gift Aid. A huge thank you to everyone involved for their faithful giving.

If you are not currently a member of our Stewardship scheme, and feel able to make a regular commitment, we would be delighted to welcome you; please contact me.

Peter Gibbins, Stewardship Officer

Tel: 01636 555578

Email: stewardship@southwellminster.org.uk

SITES AND BUILDINGS

Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

Sacrista is going through a process of change. The Covid lockdown coinciding with the arrival of a new warden provided an opportunity to review our activities and the running of the house.

The house reopened in July for retreats and meetings, but it was decided not to use the bedrooms except for visiting musicians as Beatrice our housekeeper had resigned. The gardens have continued to be used on a regular basis by the Prebend Pre-school.

We now have a diverse range of activities, both at the house and on zoom and hope to make better use of the gardens in the coming year. We have continued with the popular Quiet Days and in addition have workshops and seminars related to wellbeing from a Christian perspective and creative activities.

The house continues to host the Monday Stilling Prayer, (which is also available on-line) and the Thursday meditation group. The Monday and Wednesday Eucharist services and fellowship did not restart with the opening of the house, and this remains under review.

We are delighted that these events have been well received and we have a growing mailing list of people from across the diocese and beyond. We still need to do more to promote our activities but are pleased with the growing number of attendees.

Our bursar, Andy Gregory, retired in September which means that Sacrista has a part time unpaid warden and cleaner but otherwise relies on a community of volunteers to assist with administration communication, gardening and hospitality. We would value more volunteers to

welcome and offer hospitality to retreatants as our bookings increase.

Chapter is in the process of determining the future vision for Sacrista, which will have significant implications for the use and staffing of the house. Once this is agreed, some important refurbishment, using the legacy from the convent, will be arranged.

There are some developments that will happen before then, such as the resurfacing of the car park and external maintenance of the house. We have engaged with students from Brackenhurst College, Nottingham Trent University, to help us redesign the front garden so it appears more welcoming and continue to play our part in the Minster's partnership with A Rocha

In the meantime, an ambitious budget has been set in the hope that Sacrista would ultimately be self-financing. This is challenging for any retreat house that does not have substantial endowments.

Anyone wishing to get involved can email me or speak with me at a Sunday service.

The Revd Dr Michèle Hampson, Warden of Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

Email: michele.hampson@southwellminster.org.uk

Cathedral Shop

After a challenging start to 2021 and the Cathedral Shop remaining closed for the second Easter season in a row, we were delighted to re-open the doors on 12 April and welcome back our customers for the rest of the year.

Online sales were up throughout the first quarter and we'd like to give a special thanks to those of you who continued to support the Cathedral Shop even whilst our doors had to remain shut.

Another year of invaluable contributions from our wonderful volunteers; they continue to support us and offer the Cathedral Shop their time with a smile. We couldn't do it without them and remain truly grateful for their kindness and resilience throughout the past couple of years.

We are fully stocked up for the new year ahead and hope for a successful 2022.

We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10 – 4pm and Sunday 11.30 – 3.30pm

Our online shop is available 24/7 at <https://www.southwellminster.org/shop>

If you are interested in joining our team of Cathedral Shop Volunteers, please contact us or pop in for a chat, we'd love to hear from you.

Amy Rodgers, Cathedral Shop Manager
Tel: 01636 812933
Email: amy.rodgers@southwellminster.org.uk

Fabric Advisory Committee

In 2021 the FAC met both remotely and in person.

The membership at the end of the year was: Allan Joyce (chair), Will Bowden, Martyn Duffy, Stephen Littlewood and Rebecca Burrows (who was appointed in 2021). In attendance are the Dean, Philip Dixon (Cathedral Archaeologist), Nick Rank (Cathedral Architect) and the Chief Officer. There remain 3 vacancies.

During the year we sadly noted the passing of Chris Perrett, a long-standing member of the Committee. Also, Jeffrey West and Brian Ayling came to the end of their terms and chose not to seek re-appointment.

Matters considered by the Committee included: ongoing works in relation to the Leaves Project, particularly the installation of AV03 which was agreed in the November meeting; the 'permanent' installation of the equipment to allow livestreaming; and a temporary measure to improve safety with regards to the ramp adjacent to the shop/refectory.

Canon Nigel Spraggins, Chief Officer
Tel: 07498 212775
Email: nigel.spraggins@southwellminster.org.uk

Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group

The Potwell Dyke Grasslands remain in good heart, playing a crucial role in supporting biodiversity. The wildflowers provide food for insects and lead the way for nature to follow.

The Grasslands (a 1.7-hectare site) is owned by the Cathedral and has been subject to three successive stewardship agreements with the government. Each agreement has been for a 10-year term and the latest is due to finish in October 2024. The agreement specifies that the Minster must maintain the grasslands as a traditional wildflower Meadow in return for modest grants of around £1500 per year.

Thanks to the generous gift of time and expertise by the volunteers who work on the grasslands (The Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group "PODGAG") the agreements have been fulfilled with only an unavoidable interruption due to COVID in 2020/2021.

In 2021, volunteer numbers totaled between 14 and 18 on three occasions, a record. Typically numbers are between 10 and 12. Thanks to the Deputy Chair's connections with Brackenhurst NTU, we have enjoyed the presence of student volunteers.

With the particular emphasis on climate change at COP 26, it is worth noting that grasslands - even with annual mowing and grazing - are an effective means of capturing carbon - some argue even more effective than trees.

Where the Minister has been active for a long time, other organisations are shifting their priorities towards nature. PODGAG representatives are working alongside Southern Minster's own Environmental Action Group, Green Southwell and the Town Council to bring about improvements to the following: Beryl's Meadow (the small site behind Farthingate Close and Wakeling Close) The Minster field and Harvey's field (formerly the school's playing fields, now leased by the Town Council). Initial wilding of the species rich soil is already producing dividends in the form of orchids and ladies' bedstraw. In 2022, we expect work on the flood attenuation measures to be completed on Higgons Mead, allowing a sustainable management regime to commence.

These are exciting times for wildlife and there are increasing numbers of local people who are enthusiastic about nature and who are willing to give their time *sine pecunia*. Indeed, Mr. Alan Ashley from Bilsthorpe so loved the grasslands and its wholly natural displays that he specified in his will that donations from his funeral were to be sent to Potwell Dyke Grasslands. This sum was in addition to money he had previously donated in memory of his wife in previous years. So, we have Mr Ashley's family to thank for over £1000 of income.

So not only is the Grasslands in good physical shape but it is also in good financial shape. With the current Agreement ending in two years' time, we shall start looking in 2022 to see whether an appropriate UK funded scheme might replace the existing EU funded Agreement.

Paul Watson, Chair
Tel: 01636 816954
Email: pawatson@hotmail.com

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marketing & Events

Whilst 2020 was difficult for so many reasons, 2021 saw the return of some degree of 'normality', with the return of a healthy number of visitors, congregational singing, and some events and concerts. We once again produced an Advent & Christmas brochure and it was great to be able to offer 350 seats via a booking system for the Cathedral Carol Services, which were all snapped up very quickly. The use of live-streaming services onto our YouTube channel and website has gone from strength to strength, allowing people from all over the world to watch and connect with us.

On the events side of things, we welcomed back The HandleBards for a brilliant performance of Macbeth, whilst This is my Theatre entertained us with The Secret Garden – the Palace Garden providing a beautifully apt setting. We also hosted a wonderful ABBA tribute act (21st Century ABBA) who wowed about 300 people in the garden and left them singing for more (don't worry, they're coming back in 2022), and an 80's rock night which was a step into the unknown but was extremely successful and will be back in 2022 too! The Bramley Festival of Food & Drink and the Winter Craft fair both returned and saw around 2,000 people attend. The ever-popular Plant Hunters' Fair saw about 900 people (a record!) through the gates, despite the terrible weather.

Thank you to all staff and volunteers who have helped make the events programme so successful in 2021!

Our use of e-comms through our electronic distribution channels have allowed us to send numerous e-shots resulting in over 137,000 emails delivered to people all over the world.

We have a lot planned for 2022, including art exhibitions, outdoor theatre and concerts, and much more.

Glenn Formoy, Head of Marketing & Events
Tel: 01636 817284
Email: marketing@southwellminster.org.uk

Media Relations

This past year, we've continued to be increasingly creative in the ways that we share news from across the diocese in order to inspire the communities and our social media followers. While some normality returns, we were still restricted from having fully attended services by the pandemic.

In June, we welcomed our new Archdeacon of Newark, Archdeacon Tors Ramsey. Most notably, Archdeacon Tors was interviewed about her new role via Zoom by Magnus Church of England Academy. In May, Revd Kate Bottley and Revd Dr Stephen Hippiusley-Cox were collated and installed as honorary canons. This was heavily covered in the media with Revd Canon Kate giving several interviews and invited her many Twitter followers to join online for the service.

This year's ordinations at Petertide were allowed to go ahead with social distancing in place at the Minster. Two services were held, one for those being ordained as deacons and one for those being ordained as priests. Our coverage was largely focused on social media again. Like the Lay Ministry licensing, we used photographs and stories from each candidate, allowing our diocese to celebrate their arrival online.

We also launched our new diocesan website in December. The fresh look allows our communities to explore the Christian faith and see the latest news. Our new Welcome video reflects the rich diversity of our diocese.

Jodie Price
Tel: 07921 387791
Email: jodiepric@southwell.anglican.org

Minster Website and Social Media

Website

With the relatively frequent change in Covid-related communications, the website has been an essential tool at quickly communicating to the public any relevant restrictions and closures in place. It has also been a great tool in showcasing what we've been up to over 2021, especially the Leaves of Southwell project, where we have posted numerous updates and photos as the year has gone on.

The Minster website has continued to stream certain services across the year, allowing our congregation to view from the safety of their homes, whilst also widening our audience. We know we have had viewers from Germany, Canada and New Zealand during 2021, showing there is no limit as to how far our online reach can extend.

A new virtual tour is being implemented into the website in 2022 which will allow people from all over the world to explore the Minster...watch this space!

Social Media

Our use of social media has continued to grow, allowing us to deliver our messages further and wider as well as reaching diverse audiences. Many services throughout the year were live-streamed onto our website and YouTube channel, which has seen the number of subscribers increase by over 40% over the year. Our other social media channels all continued to see an increase in followers and engagement, and this has been a pivotal way of communicating.

Please visit our website: www.southwellminster.org and, if you haven't already, follow us on:

Facebook: @SouthwellMinster
Twitter: @SouthwMinster
Instagram: @southwellminster
Youtube: youtube.com/southwellminster

Glenn Formoy, Head of Marketing & Events
Tel: 01636 817284
Email: marketing@southwellminster.org.uk

Southwell Leaves Magazine

In early 2021 we recognised that the June/July 2021 edition would mark five years of Southwell Minster's ' magazine in its most recent form. The editorial and production team felt they were in danger of beginning to repeat themselves, and reluctantly took the decision to withdraw. Many thanks to all who have supported us across those years. Through various incarnations 'The Minster Magazine' has a long history and there is a little bit of wisdom and experience to hand on, should anyone feel moved to pick up the baton.

Hugh Middleton, on behalf of the Southwell Leaves production team

Email: hugh.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk

THE LEAVES OF SOUTHWELL PROJECT

2021 presented a series of challenges and delays – caused by Covid, Brexit, strained supply chains and most unexpected of all, the blockage of the Suez Canal for several days which triggered weeks of delays across the UK. Furthermore, the supplier of the then called 'Outdoor Learning Centre' pulled out at short notice in April. However – due to an impressive team effort - we managed to complete all the major work apart from the outdoor trails and new planting in the Palace Garden. The cantilever lift eventually was installed during the week of the official launch! By the end of the year, we had also an elegant construction in the garden, now named The Octagon. Canon Nigel Coates has produced superb guidebooks, two video displays and fresh interpretation around both the new welcome area in the northwest nave and in the slype.

The new external lighting is spectacular, showcasing the Minster from a distance and enabling safer negotiation of the paths after dark, whilst protecting the resident bats. We hope with further funds we may be able complete the southwest side.

We celebrated the success of the Project over two days in October, inviting the Project Team, key supporters and donors including representatives from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Friends of Southwell Cathedral to a special Evensong and party.

Visitors and locals of all ages and backgrounds have experienced the 'wow factor' when they enter the Chapter House. Early indications show we are engaging more widely with the excellent planned activities and outreach.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean's PA)

Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

**PARISH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SOUTHWELL**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held in the State Chamber on
Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7:30 pm**

A G E N D A

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2021
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2022-2023
5. Election of Two Chapter members
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer
8. To receive and consider the accounts for 2021
9. To receive and consider the 2021 Annual Report
10. Report from the Deanery Synod Representative
11. Safeguarding
12. Dean's remarks
13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 April 2023, 7.30pm

**PARISH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SOUTHWELL
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in the Nave on
Tuesday 27th April 2021**

MINUTES

Present: the Dean (Chair), the Precentor, Mrs Andrea Pritchard, Mr Peter Gibbins, Col. Tim Richmond, Mr Robert Ridgwell, Mrs Vicky Thorpe, Mr Guy Turner (APCM Clerk) and 30 Members of the Electoral Roll

1. The Dean opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from John and Vicki Loughton, Jenny Mellors, Elizabeth Murdoch, and Peter and Ann van de Kastele
3. **Minutes** of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2020 held on October 18th (later in the year because of lock down), previously made available with the Annual Report, were agreed, and signed as a true record by the Dean. Proposer Mr Andrew Bates, seconder Mr Michael Ward-Fitches.

4. Election of Churchwardens 2021-2022

The Dean expressed her gratitude for the reliability, grace and patience with which the churchwardens had served the Minster through all the difficulties and extra preparations of the pandemic.

The following people were elected unopposed:

Dean's Churchwarden – Mr Andrew Bates and Mrs Jean Jackson

People's Churchwarden – Mrs Kathy Hocking and Ms Meg Maunder (both proposed by Mr Andrew Bates, and Seconded by Mr David Shannon)

Deputy Wardens – Mr David Shannon and Mr Jamie Bostock

5. Appointment of Auditors

It was reported that BHP continue to serve the Minster well, and it was agreed that they should continue to act as auditors. The Dean commented that the auditors had been hugely impressed with the way the Finance Office had managed the complexities of the accounts in this unusual year.

6. Report of the Electoral Role Officer

Mr Peter Gibbins reported that the number on the Electoral Role at the end of 2020 was 230. This is slightly down, but some growth was expected as we come out of pandemic restrictions. The Dean thanked Mr Gibbins for his work as Electoral Role Officer.

7. The Audited Accounts for 2020

Col Tim Richmond, Chair of the Finance Committee reported on the accounts, which had been audited and approved by Chapter. The summary and full accounts were available at the meeting, and on the Minster website.

The pandemic had caused an inevitable downturn in income, but this had been offset by the Minster's award from the Cultural Recovery Fund.

There are healthy reserves, but much of this is linked to property.

The current forecast is a deficit of £70,000, but it is anticipated that this will be mitigated as the pandemic conditions lift. If we get to pre-pandemic income then a break-even is expected.

Col Richmond thanked Mrs Andrea Pritchard and Mrs Adele Poulson for all their work.

8. The Annual Report

The detailed report (black and white) and the glossier 'outward facing' version (in colour) were both received without question or comment. The Dean commented on how much development and creativity there had been in so many areas of the Minster Community, despite the difficulties of the pandemic.

9. The Report of the Deanery Synod Representatives

Mr Robert Ridgwell and Mr Jamie Bostock are our representatives, and Mr Ridgwell gave a report.

Newark and Southwell Deanery Synod is an important and mutually supportive discussion forum and support group. It has met twice on Zoom since the last (October) APCM. It is an important channel of communications for information from the Diocese, particularly in driving forward Mission – 'Growing Disciples', and it has a function in deciding Parish Share – though this does not of course directly affect the Minster.

The Dean thanked Mr Ridgwell and Mr Bostock for their work on this.

10. Safeguarding

The Minster Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Vicky Thorpe, presented her report.

Safeguarding remains at the forefront of the Minster's agenda, despite the pandemic. Our policy is constantly under review: the full policy, together with a summary, is on the Minster website, and Mrs Thorpe or the Dean are always glad to answer questions.

Our relationship with the Diocesan Safeguarding team is developing to ensure best practice, and Diocesan training of our leaders has been well received.

Safeguarding is not, of course, solely concerned with child protection.

The C of E online safeguarding awareness training is available to everyone – simply ask Mrs Thorpe for a log-in to take the training yourself.

We are working on a new, robust, recording system, tracking all concerns and actions. This will be a welcome help to our procedures.

There is an audit of our Safeguarding procedures due in 2021 (postponed from 2020)

The Dean expressed warm appreciation of Mrs Thorpe's very capable work.

11. Dean's Remarks

2020 was a unique and spiritually exhausting year which had an extraordinary impact – we must celebrate the great achievements of both staff and volunteers in this difficult time, not least relocating their work to home, and learning to function through Zoom and Teams. Everyone kept going.

Regular worship has been maintained, and online and recorded worship has played an unprecedented part in this.

It is a great tribute to the Vergers, Minster Centre Staff and Volunteers that we have continued to function, despite all the extra effort needed to keep us all safe, while strengthening our work with the Diocese, County and City.

Our creative imaginations have been unlocked while working out how to manage worship socially distanced, on-line and in some cases outdoors.

The Leave Project is progressing well. Crofts, who are the main on-site contractor, should be off site by the end of May. Most work will be finished in time to start drawing people in in the Autumn.

Unfortunately, the planned contractor for the Outdoor Learning Centre has just let us know that he is unable to proceed, which is a set-back.

The on-line talks related to the Leaves Project have had a huge following and can all still be seen on the website.

Sacrista Prebend's new Warden, Revd Dr Michele Hampson, has exciting new plans, and we look forward to being able to open the house and begin development.

The 'New Cathedrals Measure', which has recently received royal assent, means we must review our constitution, statutes and governance. We have three years to implement the necessary changes, which will give us clearer structures, and greater accountability – we will now be accountable to the Charities Commission as well as to church authorities. All this will mean a lot of work.

Many thanks to all Chapter Members who have continued doing a great job in these difficult times, and particularly to Col Tim Richmond for all he has done with Business and Finance. He is now stepping down from Chapter along with Sean Boney and Richard Vigar. Many thanks to all of them for their invaluable work.

In line with the New Cathedrals Measure, a Nominations Committee has been looking after the process of recruiting new members to Chapter, and there should be news about this soon.

Thanks also to the Clergy team, especially those working on pastoral issues in Lockdown.

It has not been possible to progress the recruitment of the new Residentiary Canon during the pandemic, but it is now hoped to move this forward to have someone in post during the Autumn. It is planned that the new Canon will particularly work on Mission, pastoral matters and the moves to make the Minster an Eco-Cathedral.

We look to the future cautiously and hopefully, as we re-gather as a worshipping community. The choristers are now back into a regular pattern of singing and everyone is asked to give them all possible encouragement.

While we lament what has been lost during the pandemic, we should move forward in an atmosphere of hope – this theme will be reflected by the 'Leaves of the Trees' exhibit from May 11th.

There are many challenges – the environmental crisis, racial inequality, social and economic worries – how do we respond?

Thank you for being part of the journey.

At the end of the Dean's remarks, Mr Michael Ward-Fitches proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean and the Precentor for all they have done to lead the Minster community through some difficult times. This was well received by all present.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

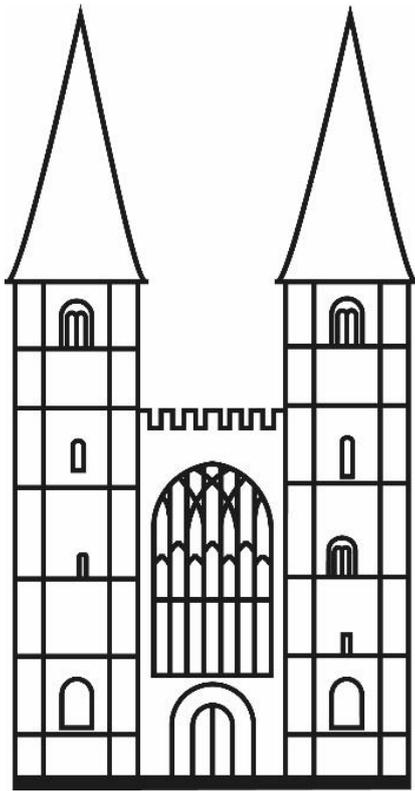
12. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26th April 2022, 7.30pm, the State Chamber, Archbishop's Palace.

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