

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 2022

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

The Revd Canon Paul Rattigan, Canon Missioner (from 22 January)

Mrs Vicky Thorpe (Co-opted as Safeguarding Coordinator)

Elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Southwell Minster

Mrs Jan Richardson MBE

Mr Andrew Corner

Appointed by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

Canon Philip Blinston

Mr Arwel Griffiths

The Revd Canon Steve Silvester

Appointed by Bishop's Council

Mr Nick Alexander

Mrs Sarah Benedek

THE COLLEGE OF CANONS

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

The Revd Canon Paul Rattigan, Canon Missioner (from 22 January)

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

The Right Revd Dr Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood

The Ven. Victoria Ramsey, Archdeacon of Newark

The Ven. Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Milbank, Canon

Theologian

THE HONORARY CLERICAL CANONS

The Revd Canon Kate Bottley

The Revd Canon Bronwen Gamble

The Revd Canon Angela Fletcher

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Hippiisley-Cox

The Revd Canon Barbara Holbrook

The Revd Canon Peter Huxtable

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 Erika Kirk

The Revd David McCoulough

THE ECUMENICAL CANONS

The Rt Revd. Mgr. Patrick McKinney, The RC Bishop of Nottingham

Bishop Pangani McNight Thipa

READER WITH PTO

Canon Angela Ashwin

THE CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

The Right Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

Judge Anthony P. Mitchell (Chair) (resigned June)

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Dame Elizabeth Fradd DBE DL

The Rev Canon Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

Mr Peter Gibbins (resigned September)

Councillor David Mellen

The Ven. Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham

Mrs Jan Richardson MBE

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

CONTENTS

THE DEAN'S WELCOME	5
WORSHIP, LITURGY AND MUSIC	5
Worship and Liturgy	5
Cathedral Choirs	6
Visiting Choirs	6
Choral Outreach Programme	7
Southwell Minster Choir Association	7
WORSHIP SUPPORT	8
Vergers	8
Guild of Minster Servers	9
Southwell Minster Bell Ringers	9
Needlework Guild	10
Flower Guild	10
PASTORAL CARE AND THE MINISTRY OF WELCOME	11
Pastoral Care	11
Churchwardens and Sidespersons	111
Honorary Chaplains	111
Guild of Minster Stewards	12
Safeguarding	122
GROUPS IN THE LIFE OF THE MINSTER	133
Staff	133
Mothers' Union	133
Friends of Southwell Cathedral	14
Minster Book Group	15
MISSION AND OUTREACH	15
Mission Partnership Group	15
Friends in Faith	15
Minster Justice Action Group	15
Friday Lunchtimes at the Cathedral	177
Social Committee	17
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTHWELL	17
Southwell Christian Aid Committee	17
Silence and Meditation Group	188
EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS	18
Schools and Community Engagement	19
Children and Families	199
The Minster School	19
Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School	19
Historic Chapter Library (HCL)	20

Theological Library	20
THE COLLEGE OF CANONS	20
Electoral Roll	20
Stewardship	21
SITES AND BUILDINGS	21
Sacrista Prebend Retreat House	21
Cathedral Shop	21
Fabric Advisory Committee	22
Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group	22
MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	22
Marketing & Events	22
Media Relations	23
Minster Website and Social Media	23
THE LEAVES OF SOUTHWELL PROJECT	24

THE DEAN'S WELCOME

"Events, dear boy, events" was Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's famous reply when asked what was the greatest challenge for a statesman. The same is true for all leaders and organisations. 2022 held more than enough world and national unexpected events which rippled down to every one of us. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February breaking over 75 years of peace in Europe; the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September when only weeks before we had celebrated her glorious Platinum Jubilee; the Proclamation of the new King Charles III; three Prime Ministers; the rising cost of fuel and food; soaring inflation to over 11%; the highest interest rates in over 15 years and so on. The Cathedral continues to offer a space for prayer, reflection, celebration, and lament through these changing times. The aftershocks of the pandemic are still with us and many of us succumbed to Covid-19 at some point in the year, although mercifully with greater protection against serious illness because of the vaccinations.

On Easter Day we were determined to 'return to normal' in worship, including offering the communion cup, and community gatherings and events restarted. But it has not been a 'normal year' by any means and many people are feeling the accumulated strain and weariness begun in March 2020 and now exacerbated by economic worries.

For the first time, in the 2021 census of England and Wales, less than half the population (46.2%) described themselves as 'Christian' (a decrease from 59.3% in the 2011 census). Some may well ask what place or relevance has a Cathedral in a growingly secular age.

The Report shows Southwell Minster has a clear mission and firm purpose. The following pages tell the story of the extraordinary commitment, creativity and resilience of our hardworking staff and volunteers who have delivered so much in 12 months and a faithful Minster community at its heart. A year full of challenges, which we believe, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, are not random "events" but rather opportunities to share the love and hope we have in our creator God, shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Following the successful completion of the ambitious 'Leaves Project' at the end of 2022, the Chapter has refreshed our vision for the Cathedral to be 'a living well of spiritual refreshment' under three headings: Extending Welcome, Exciting Faith, Embracing Community. By reading on you are part of the story.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and generosity, and may you be inspired by what follows.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean's PA)

Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

WORSHIP, LITURGY AND MUSIC

Worship and Liturgy

On many occasions since coming to Southwell, I have found myself saying that, owing to the unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic, I still had not seen this or that service done 'at full scale', or 'under normal circumstances'. By the end of 2022, it is a pleasure to say that (still with a couple of exceptions) this is no longer the case, and our worship has been able to return to 'normality' – though that 'normality' is always one that is evolving and adapting to new circumstances and opportunities.

The Church's yearly round of times and seasons – Epiphany and Candlemas, through Lent and Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, and on to All Saints and Advent and Christmas once again – was celebrated in all its richness. A particular highlight was Easter Day, when the Central England Camerata joined our Cathedral Eucharist for a superb, orchestrally-led celebration of the Resurrection.

We have also been able to return to fulfilling our role as the Cathedral by accommodating all who wish to come for important milestones in the diocesan year such as the Chrism Eucharist in Holy Week, and ordinations at Petertide.

As well as being a refreshingly ordinary year, however, 2022 was also an extraordinary one. In June we celebrated Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with an special Jubilee service; and just a few months later we led the County in marking the late Queen's death over the official period of mourning, culminating in a service of Commemoration on 18 September. On occasions like this it is one of the great privileges of our work to bring together County, Diocese, and local community in a spirit of unity and togetherness, in times of celebration and of mourning.

It was wonderful to see our choir continue to regain strength in 2022, and to take part in new ventures such as the hugely enjoyable concert ending our Organathon in October, and in the 'Magic of Christmas' concert in December.

An important development in the worshipping life of the Minster community last year was the conclusion of the trial period of the trial period (originally intended to be one year, but in the end much longer due to the pandemic) of our move to a single Cathedral Eucharist at the heart of our Sunday morning worship. In the spring we held a Worship Consultation, following which it was announced at a special Community Forum in October that we would be retaining and developing the current pattern except on

the second Sunday of each month, when the 11.15pm BCP Sung Eucharist would return, preceded by a shorter, less formal 10.00am Cathedral Eucharist. It is still early days, but there are hopeful signs that this arrangement is beginning to become embedded and to bear some fruit, with new people coming to both services on that Sunday, and others returning who have not otherwise been attending regularly since lockdown. We hope that over time both of these services will continue to grow and to develop their own distinctive character.

As ever, the maintaining and flourishing of our worshipping life depends on a large number of individuals and groups, employed and volunteer, many of whose contributions are unseen – our organists, choristers, Lay Clerks, Liturgy and Music Administrator and Chorister Supervisor; the Minster Chorale; our vergers, churchwardens and sidespersons, and servers; our readers, intercessors, and lay chalice administrators; not to mention those who operate the live-streaming equipment enabling others to join our worship from outside the building, and in some cases outside the diocese. It is pleasing to report that, towards the end of the year, a number of new servers in particular were recruited. We are always happy to hear from people who are interested in contributing to our worship in any way.

Beyond any particular roles and responsibilities, though, the duty and joy of worship belongs to us all. May we continue to share it, with one another and with all those who seek God in the Minster, in 2023 and into the future.

The Revd Dr Richard Frith, Canon Precentor

Tel: 01636 817282 / 07516 909456

Email: richard.frith@southwellminster.org.uk

Cathedral Choirs

For the Music Department, 2022 was a year of returning to something like what we had done pre-covid. The Cathedral Choir was moving back towards full strength, the Minster Chorale up and running again, and services taking place in their full round. It was necessary to be careful with repertoire for the choirs, and a great deal of repetition of music was needed, but we have continued to build through the year.

Highlights of the year included the Epiphanytide Carol Service, Ash Wednesday with the iconic *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri, and a full Holy Week. In particular, it was wonderful to be joined by the Central England Camerata for the Easter Day Eucharist, performing Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. We also took a full part in the celebrations for the Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Of course, we had no idea then that we would later on be taking part in services to commemorate the Late Queen's life, and it was a huge honour to do so –

the choristers in particular were wonderful in bringing things together so early in a new choir year, and showed amazing flexibility. Also of note was a commissioned work as part of the Leaves of Southwell project: we commissioned renowned composer Roxanna Panufnik to provide an anthem based on a George Herbert text, and the result was a fantastic and well-loved piece with an intrinsic connection to Southwell.

As well as the Music Foundation Concert in the summer, the Old Choristers' Evensong, and our choir valedictions, we re-engaged with our full Christmas programme of services and concerts with enthusiasm. In particular, it was good to see a return to Carols in the State Chamber with the ever popular *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten. However, the gem of everything was the new *Magic of Christmas Concert*, which packed out the Cathedral. Enormous thanks to all colleagues, and to Marcus Farnsworth and Frances Finn for the parts they all played in this stupendous celebration of all things Christmas, not forgetting the return of the fabulous Central England Camerata.

We have had several changes in the team, saying farewell to Michael D'Avanzo (organ scholar), Matthew Farrell (alto lay clerk) and Jeremy Pemberton (long-serving bass lay clerk), and to several choristers. We thank them for their service, especially for Jeremy's long-standing commitment to the music here. We have also welcomed new people: Lauren Osmond (alto lay clerk), Matthew Jordan (bass lay clerk), and George Balfour (organ scholar), and a number of new choristers – all welcome and valued members of the team. At the same time, Chapter formalised the ages of both boy and girl choristers, with both groups now running from 7-14 years of age.

Recruitment remains our biggest challenge, and we work hard to recruit new choristers, new lay clerks, and not to forget new members of the Minster Chorale which plays such an important role in our musical ministry. There are plans for the future, and we do see the music continuing to grow and develop as a positive part of life in Southwell Minster.

Paul Provost, Rector Chori

Tel: 01636 817281

Email: rectorchori@southwellminster.org.uk

Visiting Choirs

Despite cancellations from a couple of choirs (who had originally booked in prior to the pandemic), we were once again able to have visiting choirs for all the choral services on Sundays whilst our own choirs were taking a well-earned break, in addition to a significant number of other weekday services throughout the year. Two choirs, the Ferrabosco Singers and the Naylor Singers, were each able

to cover a whole week of services over the summer – but a further fifteen other choirs came at some point during the year (some just singing one service, others singing for as many as four). We received many positive comments from choir directors and members about the welcome, appreciation and help they received from the whole Minster community whilst they were here. We would like to thank everyone involved in this –especially our Vergers and Clergy. but particularly the team of volunteers who provide tea for our guests on Sunday afternoons. We remain incredibly grateful to all the members of the visiting choirs (and their organists) who come to Southwell – usually at their own personal expense meeting the travel and accommodation costs of their visit – in order to help us to maintain the worshipping life of the Cathedral throughout the whole year. We look forward to receiving many other visiting choirs during 2023.

Alastair Clarke, Liturgy and Music Administrator
Tel: 01636 817280

Email: alastair.clarke@southwellminster.org.uk

Choral Outreach Programme

In my report for 2021 I reflected on how good it had been in the September of that year to be able to resume singing sessions for children attending Education days at the Minster. What a delight then also to restart school visits at the beginning of 2022, after almost a two-year break.

As in previous years, singing sessions have taken place during the Time Travelling weeks in both March and June, and for the November Sacred Space Day.

Without doubt the highlight of 2022 was Wednesday 8th June, the Celebration event as part of the Leaves of Southwell Project, organized jointly by the Education and Choral Outreach teams. The afternoon concert saw the long awaited first performance of “These are our Leaves,” composed by Guy Turner in 2020 setting to music words written by the winner of a poetry competition held at the Minster School that year. The programme also included “Songs of the Forest”, a set of five songs specially composed by Guy for this celebration, words and themes reflecting nature and the Chapter House carvings, linked with the stories given on the day by storyteller Nicky Rafferty.

In preparation for this special day, during the spring term, the singing leaders had led outreach projects in Bleasby and Richard Bonington Primary Schools for the pupils taking part, so that by the June date the children were already familiar with the songs. Choristers joined for the afternoon performance, attended by a very supportive audience of over one hundred family and friends who gave enthusiastic feedback. Everyone felt inspired and

encouraged by the event. “A wonderful way to make children proud of their Minster.”

Singing leaders George Balfour and Lauren Osmond were welcomed to the team in September. During the autumn term the Programme continued its core work of school visits, four sessions in each with parents/carers invited into the schools on the final week of the projects to listen to their children sing, which was much appreciated. “The children so enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their work; it was very exciting for them.”

Elizabeth Johnson, Administrator Southwell Minster Choral Outreach Programme

Tel: 01636 817280

Email: southwelloutreach@gmail.com

Southwell Minster Choir Association

2022 was a very encouraging year for SMCA! First, thanks to all our loyal members for regular subscriptions and generous donations, so necessary at this time in our support of the maintenance and development of the Music Foundation. Your support helped us to reinstate many of our activities following the lifting of the pandemic restrictions.

A successful ‘Come & Sing’ workshop and performance in February of Mozart’s *Coronation Mass* directed by Peter Nardone (formerly at Worcester Cathedral) attracted over 130 singers and was funded by part of our Co-op community grant.

The choristers, and separately, members of the Chorale, took part in choral workshops led by Katherine Dienes-Williams (of Guildford Cathedral) concentrated on vocal & general musicianship.

And in June, Anita Morrison (Temple Church, & Professor of Singing at the Guildhall) led Masterclasses for the choristers, and for the Chorale. We are grateful to a member of SMCA for a generous donation specifically to fund these sessions.

The Channel Swimmers, Jonny Allsopp, Jeremy Pemberton, Becky Burrows and Harriet Astbury—so called because of their fund-raising initiative to swim the equivalent of the 34km distance across the channel, at the Leisure Centre Pool during March. They well exceeded their target; thank you swimmers, and all 81 donors who raised the grand sum of £3,625 for SMCA funds.

Music in the State Chamber (MISC) 2022 series of monthly Sunday evening recitals from May to December proved extremely popular. The first recital in May followed the Drinks Reception in the Walled Garden (with thanks to our patron, Bishop Paul) to mark the re-launch of MISC, and featured the Cathedral Lay Clerks who displayed a remarkable range of musical talents.

The Cathedral Choristers were the stars in June, and as well as their singing skills, displayed accomplished instrumental acumen for their age. The series then featured a variety of performers, culminating in *Carols for Christmas*, including Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, sung by the Girl Choristers, with seasonal carols and snacks. Audience figures throughout were very encouraging.

To mark the completion of The Leaves Project, SMCA commissioned an anthem from the contemporary composer Roxanna Panufnik with words from George Herbert's poem 'Heaven'. The world premiere was sung at a crowded Evensong on 15th May, after which Roxanna spoke of her delight at receiving the commission, and duly signed many an autograph at the drinks reception.

The anthem was sung again at the SMCA promoted Summer Concert (in July) which marked HM the Queen's Jubilee, and thus included royal favourites. Robert Ashfield's gem 'There is a Stream' was also sung in memory of former Lay Clerk and school master, the late Don. Fox.

At the end of the final Evensong in the Summer term, the chorister prizes thanks to members were distributed. This was followed by the BBQ at the Hearty Goodfellow.

On his retirement as Senior Lay Clerk in July, Jeremy Pemberton also retired as a committee member of SMCA, and from his trustee role after five years invaluable service. Gladly, he has joined our Refreshments Team, organised by Elizabeth Johnson, and which has benefited much from further recruits. Elizabeth, long standing member of committee, was elected trustee at the AGM. Many thanks also to Michael Gregory, Matthew Parris, Rob Burns, and Kristin McIntosh who completed their committee service. Ben Challoner (*Head of Minster School*), Derrick Dring (*Head of Minster Junior School*) joined committee.

The Junior Choir- the Minster Melody Makers- was inaugurated. Open to children in years 1&2, led by Lauren Osmond, it meets in the Chapter House on Saturday mornings during term time between 10 and 10.45 am. It is funded using the bulk of the Co-op Community Grant.

A really successful social event returned in 2022 – a Quiz & Curry evening in the State Chamber. Mainly organized by Jonny Allsopp, with Guy Turner asking the questions, and Rama from The Reindeer providing a tasty curry, it attracted a full house of eager competitors.

Our 2022 Christmas card, designed by Fiona Howick, sold well at the Cathedral Shop. A distinguished seasonal *Messiah* performance by the Chorale & School singers ended a year of positive achievement. Many thanks to all involved!

Michael Davidson, Honorary Secretary
Tel: 01636 813840
Email: m.d46@btinternet.com

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Vergers

2022 seems to have been determined to provide as many challenges as 2021. The first half of the year we continued with our depleted numbers following the departure of Andrew Todd and Andy Gill in the latter part of 2021 with Michael continuing as Acting Head Verger. It was a tiring time, especially when COVID and unforeseen circumstances temporarily depleted our numbers down to two. Being a building that is open for up to 11 hours per day, 7 days per week it was looking very precarious to keep the doors open and ensure those still standing in the team weren't stretched beyond breaking point. We are very appreciative of Nigel, the Chief Officer, and the clergy for their assistance and help in covering getting the building open each day during this challenging time.

As we moved towards summer the team structure and working hours continued to be on all our minds with the Head Verger post still to fill after a first advertisement failed to produce a suitable candidate (and Michael not wanting to take on the role), Nick wanting to retire from verging duties and Kenny wanting to reduce his hours. With the fragility of the team capacity recently exposed the recruitment process began again in earnest, for a Head Verger and two new Vergers to expand the team and allow Nick to retire. In the meantime, Alfie Ramsey joined us over the summer to fill in until he went to university and the new recruits could fill their posts. Edmund Le Brocq and Francis Shepherd responded to the calling for the Verger posts and I decided that I could possibly meet the requirements of being Head Verger, and that I would like to lead the team into the future. Our interviewers saw something in all of us and the vision of a new team was born, combining the experience and knowledge of Michael, Kenny and myself with the new skills and experience Edmund and Francis have brought.

The summer was a time of anticipation and a reduction in anxiety thanks to Alfie providing welcome support to the team, the full return of the Music Festival and the knowledge that we would soon have a full team to allow the hours to change for existing staff. Edmund joined us full time in Mid-August and Francis on a part time basis a week later. Nick took his retirement, finishing as a verger in mid-September however, he hasn't left us completely - he is back working part time looking after property maintenance.

The start of September was far from a plain sailing start for our 2 new members or even for myself – newly in post. The death of our late Queen Elizabeth II and the proclamation of King Charles III was somewhat of a baptism by fire. Extra services, extended opening hours,

last minute changes and our job to make it look seamless. In normal times I would not need a member of the team to spend several hours at the top of the tower in order to change the flag multiple times in one day! Once again everyone pulled together and everything went off without a hitch.

After all that had gone on, the rest of the year has been a time to appreciate the new normal and build our team knowledge and bonds. We have come out the other side of Christmas unscathed and look to continue to build the team during 2023. I would like to express my thanks to Michael, Kenny, Edmund, Francis and Nick for all their work during the course of the year, as well as all those that have stepped into vergers' shoes in times of need, Stewards, Churchwardens and Sidesman who help us on the shop floor, and also the clergy and office staff for supporting and helping me through my first months as Head Verger.

Andy McIntosh, Head Verger

Tel: 01636 817290

Email: andy.mcintosh@southwellminster.org.uk

Guild of Minster Servers

Still a very strange year for servers at The Minster. Beginning with a few duties to almost our normal duties before Covid 19. It is wonderful that our Servers give so much time to their duties and it is a warm thank you to all. Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to Jessica Pacey and wish her well for the future. We are fortunate to welcome four new Servers Martin and Celia Burge, Joss Howell and Jack Stuart. We hope later in the year to may be able to staff festive evensongs. The Guild works quietly, and members give a lot of their time to the Guild and it's a huge thank you to each member. If you feel that you would be interested in the work of the Guild, please get in touch.

Jill Arrowsmith, Head Server

Email: jillarrowsmith@icloud.com

Southwell Minster Bell Ringers

As I sit down to write another year's report for the Minster, I reflect on how another year of ringing has come and gone. Many a step has been climbed and hours of bell ringing enjoyed but also the realisation of how blessed we are to have such a beautiful place with a glorious ring of bells, so privileged. Bells that have been rung to call the congregation to service, St George's Day, Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, to announce the delight of ten weddings and this year to proclaim the death of her late Majesty the Queen.

Nationally bell ringers knew what was to be expected of them when the sad day came, meticulous planning had

been published under the cover of Operation London Bridge and we knew that this duty whilst an honour would require the Southwell Minster Bell Ringers to step up to the task. Preparing the bells by fitting muffles on both sides of the clapper, the death of a monarch is one of the few occasions when this is done, and it took quite a while. None of us had ever rung the bells muffled like this before, the sombre tones with the unmuffled tenor bell really impacted as we rang for an hour from midday on the 9th of September. No sooner they were on that we had to take the all the muffles off again and ring the bells 'open and bright' at the proclamation of the King...and then re muffle the bells, half muffled this time for the period of mourning. I must really thank all our ringers who made this possible.

Coming out of the Co-Vid19 lockdown in March 2021 when the bells were silent for almost twelve months, we wondered what impact that would make on the ringing band. One immediate impact was the loss of three ringers who had decided not to return and pursue other things. Michael D'Avanzo, last year's Organ Scholar who rang with us on practice nights and another younger ringer both moved away. Having such losses impacts greatly and puts even more demands on the band when there is no spare capacity. With age and the high level of commitment required and the need for a relatively good level of fitness it is recognised that there has always been a time when people stop.

To hear the best from Southwell Minster bells we need to have a band that are proficient to ring all twelve bells. Ringing on 12 requires a greater level of skill than ringing on rings of 5 or 6. The methods (music) are more complex and regular practice on higher numbers is essential to achieve this. Sadly, this level is not currently there. Why you might ask? Every year that I have written this report I have banged on about recruitment and retention. This year all I'm going to say is if there isn't a continual steady uptake to the art then these precious bells of Southwell Minster will fall silent! If you are reading this and you or someone you know might be interested, just contact me directly or through the Minster.

Four carol services are rung for before Christmas Day and then to ring in the New Year. Following on from that we will be focusing on the 6 May 2023 the coronation of King Charles III. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is actively promoting 'Ring for the King' and already there have been media pieces to try and bring new ringers forward and train them so they can join in an important piece of history. I recommend <https://ccbr.org.uk/news/> to see the world of bell ringing.

With the important focus in the Church of England on safeguarding there comes an increasing amount of administration which for me means that the Tower Captain's role is not as pleasurable a job as it has been in years gone by. Volunteers as we know are a precious resource and striking a balance so as not to discourage them is paramount.

Our thanks go to the Dean & Chapter, The Chimes Trust and the ringers from within the diocese and beyond for their support.

Trevor Bryan, Tower Captain
c/o The Minster Office
Tel: 07921 140884
Email: trev.bryan@gmail.com

Needlework Guild

We started the year with a short AGM on the 11th of January, to review the past year and to plan future work.

We have begun sourcing brocade fabrics for making the Rose vestments planned for Laetare and Gaudete Sundays in Advent and Lent.

The Victorian processional banner which was found last year has been taken to the Manchester People's Museum Conservation Department, for an assessment of the work needed and the cost. This is likely to exceed £6,000. The Friends have very generously offered to pay for the conservation and display of this banner, as it is an important artefact in the history of the Minster and Diocese.

Work is proceeding on designing and working more tapestry cushions for the seats of the Prebendal Stalls in the Quire.

Apart from the usual repairs to vestments, other projects completed were; a new bag to store the Verger's Wand, a small banner for the Minster Kids to carry as they process out during the Service, and a linen altar cloth for another church in the Diocese. One of our members has made amices for the Servers, and a miniature green altar frontal for the Children's Corner.

Under Emma's tuition, we have been making gold-work samplers, to practice the techniques needed for working on the new vestments.

In May, we were given permission to use the Theological Library as our workroom, once the books have been moved out. We began to clear out our cupboards in readiness for this.

In July, we took part in a Volunteer's Day, which enabled us to explain and show what we do. This generated some interest, and we have recruited several new members as a result.

In October, Emma started an Embroidery Club, to run alongside the Guild, to introduce new members to embroidery techniques.

In November, Emma addressed the Guild of Stewards on The History of Church Embroidery, at their Annual Lunch. She was able to display the Banner and explain what we have been able to discover about its' history.

She then explained how England had been the centre of the world for Christian embroidery from the late 12th to mid-14th Centuries. These were used to decorate vestments, altar frontals and hangings to enhance worship in churches and cathedrals.

Liz Turner
Tel: 01636 812250 (Liz)
Email: turnerelizabeth345@gmail.com

Flower Guild

It was so lovely to meet as a group again in the Spring and make plans for the year ahead. After a break for Lent Easter saw a good turnout of our members and it was a pleasure to produce some traditional arrangements using longi lilies as well as some more contemporary ones. We encourage our group to be as creative as they like with their choice of flowers and mechanics. The discovery of some exceptionally large pin holders in our store cupboard may urge our group to revert to some more traditional mechanics. We hope to continue reducing the amount of foam we use and reuse where possible. The use of Fairtrade flowers is encouraged but we have yet to find a reliable and regular supplier.

A busy summer of meetings with brides followed with 9 weddings requiring flowers. Planning the designs and placing orders is a time consuming task. Some compromise was necessary when on 2 occasions 2 weddings were scheduled for the same week.

As usual our team provides arrangements for Civic services, Ordinations, Harvest, the Bramley Apple Festival, the Remembrance Service as well as the Queen's birthday and of note this year the Jubilee services. The Music Festival attracts many visitors to the town and the designs created by Jenny Mellors' team are always admired. Obviously the untimely passing of our Queen meant that extra arrangements at the condolence tables and throughout the Minster were required for the memorial services. I am very grateful to our team for their flexibility and ability to rise to the occasion sometimes with very short notice.

Thanks to Rachel Tew for creating the Advent ring and setting the mood for the Christmas arrangements to follow. Gilded hydrangea feature strongly in our designs this year giving a more contemporary look.

We welcome 2 potential new members who are learning on the job. Like many groups in the Minster we are an ageing one and some do require extra help with the fetching and carrying. We appreciate all the help we get from the vergers and some of our husbands. Without them our job would be so much more difficult and time consuming.

Thank you especially to Graeme who has repaired the wooden plinths and repainted them along with the wrought iron pedestals.

Kathy Hocking

Tel: 07983 815292

Email: kathy.hocking1@btinternet.com

PASTORAL CARE AND THE MINISTRY OF WELCOME

Pastoral Care

2022 saw my (Canon Paul) arrival. I am hugely grateful to Revd. Erika Kirk, Elizabeth Yule and Karen Edginton for holding things together and drawing me gently into the group. What was very quickly apparent was the amount of care and support that goes on in the Minster community, both formally and informally. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this.

The group has met on several occasions this year, but my involvement stalled as firstly I got covid19 and then a trapped nerve, coincidentally happening as Pastoral Care Group meetings occurred. Besides myself other members of the team have had an up and down year health wise and as I write this, we have recently learnt of the death of Gwen Bragg a faithful member of the team.

Home Communion have restarted again this year, as has taking communion into Southwell Court Care Home. Pastoral offices have returned to 'normal' with regular baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Easter cards and Harvest plants were delivered to people.

Last year's report mentioned the SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) report. We are gradually putting into place their recommendations and hope to have the majority in place by the middle of next year.

Thank you to the whole team for all the great work you do and making me so welcome.

The Revd Canon Paul Rattigan

Email: Paul.Rattigan@southwellminster.org.uk

Churchwardens and Sidespersons

This year has seen many changes in the practical organisation of the monthly rota. I am extremely grateful to the staff in the Minster Office especially Matt and Alice

who manage the email requests, collate and distribute the rotas. My thanks go to Andrew Bates my predecessor for setting up such an efficient system. He has since been appointed Churchwarden Emeritus. We have served the regular pattern of worship as well as the extra Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations and Funerals. Also, we have had two services for Archdeacons' visitations in early June. As one would expect it has been a busy year with additional services for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and further services to commemorate the life of the late Queen and subsequently the Accession of King Charles III. The return of the Remembrance Service starting at the Burgage was a sign of our return to normality - almost - and an opportunity to welcome community worship. My gratitude goes to our team of dedicated sidespersons and wardens who, as well as their regular slots, have stepped up to offer help sometimes with very short notice. Stephen Littlewood reliably continues to oversee the cover for funerals. We welcome returning sides persons & also Maggie Peel who has joined the team as a Deputy Church Warden. Kathy Hocking, Senior

Kathy Hocking, Senior Churchwarden

Tel: 07983 815292

Email: kathy.hocking1@btinternet.com

Honorary Chaplains

The small and faithful team have sadly got smaller over the year. They do a great job being on hand to talk to anyone who comes into the Minster. We are looking at next year at ways of expanding this important act of service. Currently we draw from diocesan licensed lay and clergy members. We have experimented with a lay member of our congregation and looking to increase this participation.

The Revd Canon Paul Rattigan

Email: Paul.Rattigan@southwellminster.org.uk

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.

2022 was a year of some continued twists and turns as we were affected by what could be described as a lag effect of the previous two years with the start of the year revealing low visitor numbers, restrictions under the Governments Plan B regulations and mandatory face covering rules. This also meant doors open for ventilation and the consequential chill effect in the coldest of times.

However, as we headed for Spring Government restrictions were lifted and in a gradual and carefully considered way, we followed thus allowing somewhat extended duty times with the great uplifting bonus of Jacqui Parkinson's exhibition - Threads through Creation also coming on stream at that time. Jacqui was kind enough to give stewards a preview and briefing which allowed us to pass on some knowledge to enrich visitors experience as well as our own spirits.

This really kick started us getting back to some old ways.

Our self-learning re-commenced with our appropriately styled Learning More sessions which increased our knowledge in many different facets including the Liturgical Year, Stained Glass, Chapter House and the Archbishops Palace & Song Room.

We worked closely with the Education team to promote and develop initiatives under the Leaves Project for children and visitors alike. We undertook training in understanding autism, visual awareness and disability confidence. Guided Tours were developed focusing in on the Chapter House as well as the ability to prebook and pay via the website. We assisted in the development of virtual tours to show visitors what to expect from their actual visit. Our Guides worked hard in new recruitment and meeting the needs of the larger tour groups.

A joyous time was had with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June followed by a Volunteers Fair initiative in July leading to our recruitment in 2022 being our best ever, with 7 completing the training in the Spring and a further 10 in our Autumn intake

We worked hand in glove with the Music Festival in August- meeting with the organisers to ensure we dovetailed into their needs

With the sad news on the 9 September of the death of the Queen and the major outpouring of emotion from the public came a challenge to extend our duty times. I was grateful to members who immediately engaged and ensured we had a full rota available from 9.30am till 7.30pm to assist visitors as required in the period up to the funeral.

We went ahead with the Heritage Open Day later in September and welcomed some 400 visitors with free Guided Tours and with Guides & Stewards situated around the Minster at points of interest to assist and enrich experiences.

Our Archbishops Palace group were instrumental in developing and achieving the installation of background music in the State Chamber to enliven the visitor experience to what can be an empty space.

We assisted in both the Bramley and Winter Fairs, manning the doors to collect voluntary donations as well

as the pop-up Minster shop whilst still adopting our welcomes. It was great to see the Minster once again full.

In the year also we re-established our Development Days with the Canon Missioner Paul Rattigan giving us a lively and entertaining talk followed in October by Emma Frith of the Needlework Guild showing us literally some hidden treasures and enthraling us with her own artistry and that of her fellow members.

Along the way we adjusted our recruitment model to comply with Safer Recruitment standards which also affected all existing volunteers with some form filling.

At the end of the year we had welcomed in nearly 40,000 general visitors to the Minster which equates to around 80% of the number we saw back in 2019. Not bad given the restricted start to the year and the lag effect seen.

As a Guild formed some 40 years ago, we are proud to self-manage and to work hand in hand with the Minster to achieve the best for all who visit for whatever reason.

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 and love to smile!

Kevin Hender, Chief Steward

Tel: 01636 815389

Email: kevin.hender@btopenworld.com

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of all who work, worship, volunteer and visit Southwell Minster remains the safeguarding team's priority. May 2022 Southwell Minster safeguarding officer was appointed and a service level agreement approved between the Cathedral and Diocese which focuses on working together to improve relationships and safeguarding as a whole. The safeguarding officer and coordinator continue to work tirelessly on improving standards of safeguarding across Southwell Minster. There have been several new policies introduced. Relationships have been established with some key figures and engagement has taken place with many volunteers so they feel valued and inclusive. Our closer working partnership with the Diocesan team has helped us also access mandatory training alongside speciality subjects. We have offered three face to face sessions and intend to offer three more in the new year. We see the launch of the new learning and safeguarding hub which will make it easier to access training and statistics in the future. Safer recruitment is well underway and we have adopted the house of Bishops policies as our guides to better practice. There have been some subtle changes to the song school to improve the safety of our choristers along with new recording and reporting systems. Work is currently underway with the school to ensure a joint agreement is considered in the care of our children.

Last year the review talked about consideration to the SCIE audit, from September 2021, work has now begun on addressing the recommendations and an action plan formed, we are underway with the implementation of this plan. The original plan can be viewed on Southwell Minster website.

As the work on our key priorities continues, 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 Southwell Minster. As we sign off from this brief review may I ask that we all remember that Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all.

Penny Turner, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 01636 817200

Email: penny.turner@southwell.anglican.org

Vicky Thorpe, Cathedral Safeguarding Coordinator

Tel: 01636 817285 (Chief Operating Officer) or

01636 817290 (Vergers' Vestry)

Email: safeguarding@southwellminster.org.uk

GROUPS IN THE LIFE OF THE MINSTER

Staff

There have been a number of changes of personnel during 2022 and so it seems appropriate to recognise this in the Annual Report.

January: Canon Paul Rattigan joined us as Canon Missioner; Alice Snowden began work as Administrative Assistant, picking up Nikki Smith's work as well as additional responsibilities. Sarah Clemson replaced Helen Bates as the Community Engagement Officer for the Leaves Project until December 2022 – subsequently Sarah has moved on to be our new Visitor and Volunteer Services Officer, a role fully funded by the Church Commissioners' Cathedral Sustainability Fund.

February: Claire Connely joined as full-time Head Gardener; she has gone on to recruit a number of Palace Garden Volunteers.

March: Matt Spillett, who was already a Lay Clerk also became Administrative Assistant.

April: Penny Turner started as the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer as a result of the Service Level Agreement with the Diocese; Ruth Massey joined as Fundraiser which is another post funded by Church Commissioners' Cathedral Sustainability Fund; Kirby Stebbing started as Education Administrator – this role had been unfilled for two years due to the impact of Covid on school visits.

July: Lauren Osmond joined the choir as a Lay Clerk; with the introduction of an improved Safer Recruitment process, particularly for volunteers, Matt Spillett's time increased to take on the administration of this.

August: Ed le Brocq joined as Verger (full-time) in readiness for Andy Mc moving on.

September: Andy McIntosh moved to be Head Verger, a position that had been vacant since Andrew Todd left in Autumn 2021; Matthew Jordan joined the choir as a Lay Clerk; Francis Sheppard started as Verger (part-time) as Kenny Nairn moved to part-time.

October: Nick Turner 'retired' as part-time verger and moved into a part-time role as Buildings Maintenance Co-ordinator.

Nigel Spraggins, Chief Officer

Email: nigel.spraggins@southwellminster.org.uk

Mothers' Union

2022 has been a year of settling back into a much more normal routine, while acknowledging that the long-term effects of the Covid pandemic and unprecedented lockdowns are only just beginning to be felt. It has been a great joy to hold our regular monthly meetings in Sacrista Prebend again.

Our year began with an opening service and AGM in January, but our planned lunch out in February had to be cancelled at a few hours' notice as the staff at the venue had all gone down with the virus. After that, things settled down again. Branch meetings this year have included some lively discussions on current Mothers' Union initiatives and campaigns as reported in the national Connected magazine, covering areas such as modern-day slavery and the work of The Clewer Initiative in this country, and the ongoing Literacy and Trauma healing programme in South Sudan. We also had a remarkably interesting talk by Chris Brooke in May. Once again, the weather was kind to us for our Strawberry Tea in June.

We are incredibly grateful to Bishop Paul and Sarah for opening their garden to us in September for a Diocesan Garden Party open to all, which we hope spread a greater understanding of what Mothers' Union is (and isn't!) and what we do locally, nationally and globally.

The autumn meetings were all held in Sacrista Prebend, and included a focus on the national campaign against Gender Based Violence to tie in with the 16Days of Activism Against GBV.

Our year ended with a lovely service of carols and readings in Sacrista Chapel.

Branch members have also been involved in Diocesan events and meetings, including the Lady Day service in Arnold and Archdeaconry meetings. Although only one member was able to attend the Annual National Gathering in Belfast in September, the branch was interested to hear the report from that and encouraged by the ongoing Re-Imagining Mothers' Union consultation and feedback as we look to carry Mothers' Union forward.

Of course, there has been sadness this year, too. The death of Queen Elizabeth, Mothers' Union Patron and supporter for so many years, brought grief to us all. Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union over the decades has enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

Each year, across the world, Mothers' Union members work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those around them. They do this as part of their personal commitment to show their faith in action. The embedded nature of members in communities means Mothers' Union is uniquely placed to reach people which others struggle to reach.

Locally, nationally and globally our projects are helping build a better future: Stopping violence, stopping poverty, stopping injustice.

Shelagh Baird-Smith, Branch Leader
Tel: 01636 918341
Email: shelaghbairdsmith@gmail.com

Friends of Southwell Cathedral

For the first time for over two years, the Friends have been able to enjoy outings and social events, as well as a full Festival day in June.

The outing to Deene Park, near Corby, also necessarily re-arranged twice on account of Covid, took place on 4th May. We had a most enjoyable day visiting this stunning property, owned by the Brudenell family since the 1500s. A warm welcome, guided tours and a delicious lunch followed by the chance to look around the wonderful garden.

Pauline Rouse, our Events Secretary, had also to re-arrange our visit to Lichfield Cathedral in September. Third time lucky. Another excellent visit, guided tours and good lunch.

Our Festival and Annual General Meeting on 18th June was, as ever, a full and happy day; our young guest speaker - Dr Nathanael Price - spoke engagingly on 'Moses as Idol,' in a talk examining why Moses appears in Christian art in the form of the idols prohibited by the second of the Ten Commandments. Nathanael's talk was extensively illustrated, and he used the tomb of Pope Julius II as his central motif.

The AGM took place in the State Chamber followed by tea provided by Margaret Noble. Our preacher at Evensong was the Right Reverend Peter Hill, recently retired Bishop of Barking and former Archdeacon of Newark.

On 30th June we were pleased to be represented at the opening of the Paddock extension to the Palace Gardens. This marked the conclusion of 'The Leaves of Southwell' project, to which we were the largest donor after the National Lottery Heritage Fund itself.

On 14th October we put on an autumn reception for our members with a sumptuous tea, again by Margaret Noble, served in the North Transept. Matthew Farrell, a former Lay Clerk, returned to play his viol in the Chapter House – wonderful music in a wonderful setting. We took the opportunity to tell the many Friends who attended about the revised constitution for the Friends that we are working on. Our governing document goes back to 1947 and was last updated over twenty years ago, so high time for a fresh look; more on this when 2023 dawns.

We continue to support the Flower and Needlework Guilds and are particularly pleased to be helping with the conservation and associated costs of a beautiful late Victorian processional banner depicting St Mary the Virgin with the Christ child. This was rediscovered when a storage cupboard was being tidied at Trebeck. Of excellent quality, it was likely made when the Minster became a cathedral in 1884.

Our twice-yearly magazine, *Pepperpots*, edited by Charlie Leggatt once again is full of most interesting articles. In 2022 we welcomed nine new Friends.

We always welcome new Friends and there are copies of our leaflet and application forms in the Minster, or please contact me through the Minster Centre.

Alison Salter
Tel: 01636 830373
Email: ajsalterbleasby@btinternet.com

Minster Book Group

In 2022, this local ecumenical Minster Group, founded in 2004 with the aim of discussing books, chosen by members, from a Christian standpoint, fully awoke from its Covid torpor. Gratefully, in the autumn we returned to our Sacrista base. January brought us *I Belong Here* by Anita Sethi: outwardly a description of how this young Manchester born journalist was introduced to (ultimately solo) hill walking in the Pennines, it is also an account of nature's part in her recovery from the trauma of a racist attack. Next, for Lent, we read the classic, *How To Pray* by C.S Lewis, which gave us the opportunity to talk intimately about prayer. In May, after the beginning of the Ukraine War, our subject was *Chernobyl Prayer* by Svetlana Alexievich, based on a vast number of personal accounts from those who, if only temporarily, survived the nuclear disaster. Then, prior to the August Southwell Music Festival, our chosen book was Vikram Seth's *An Equal Music*; a poignant love story wound around the life of a musical quartet. Autumn began with *Katalin Street* by the Hungarian writer Magda Szabo, a novel about life in her country before, during and after the Second World War, including the '56 Hungarian Revolution. It was written just after the failed '68 'Prague Spring' in Czechoslovakia. In contrast, our Advent Book, *Candles in the Dark* (December 2020) by Rowan Williams, brought us right back into our own hearths and homes by giving us the opportunity to share all the difficulties we had experienced during life under 'lockdown'. Currently we are beginning 2023 with *In My Mother's Footsteps*, a family story by Mona Hajjar Halaby, a Palestinian Christian refugee, now living in the USA, focusing on her return to the Holy Land in 2007 to teach Conflict Resolution in a Quaker School in Ramallah; a book which this year is only too painfully relevant as the new Israeli Government lurches ever further to the right.

Olga Hudson

Email: olgaandrobin@googlemail.com

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. For 25 years, the congregation has allocated 10% of our planned giving for this mission. We also hold special collections in Lent, Harvest Festival, etc., and 'bucket collections' when there is a special crisis; in October we had a bucket collection to help victims of Climate Change which has resulted in floods in Pakistan and drought in Somalia. Some of our resources overlap with the Justice Action Group, and we have a good relationship with

them; we gave a grant to Church Action on Poverty. A recent addition to the list includes A Rocha, the Christian conservation project that is partnering the Minster in its ecological mission.

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

Tel: 01636 813975

Email: vincentashwin@talktalk.net

Friends in Faith

Friends in Faith has returned to almost pre-covid numbers this year and we continue our monthly meetings where we create a space to share our gifts, exchange news, sing, enjoy craft activities as well as telling stories and worshipping in a way that is meaningful to us. In August we held our annual picnic on Sacrista's top lawn, playing games, treasure hunts and sharing lots of fun. We also joined with the Westgate Group for three services during this year taken by Erika. Thank you, Erika, for your kindness, support, and spiritual guidance. Also thank you to Joan Broughton and her team who provide delicious teas after the service.

Friends in Faith is a diverse ecumenical group which is run by a small group of volunteers who ensure the quality and safety of our meetings to whom I am very thankful. Thanks also to Marion Turner who enhances our worship with her music and to the Mission committee and Chapter for kindly providing the funds to enable us to continue offering this particular worshipping experience for our Friends in Faith.

Lee Harbour

Tel: 01636 813805

Email: lee@harbour.me.uk

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
- homelessness
- debt.

2022 saw the group return to normal operations following the lifting of Covid restrictions, holding regular bi-monthly meetings.

There has been two major changes for the group. We mourn the loss of Gwen Bragg, who died in December. Gwen was a valuable member of the group on which she particularly represented the Mothers Union and Churches Together in Southwell. Rest in peace and rise in glory, Gwen.

Secondly, Vincent Ashwin withdrew from the group in December, having been secretary since the group was started in 2013. We offer huge thanks to him for all he has done. His wisdom, words of reflection and prayer, enthusiastic support of causes and activities, and tireless and excellent minute-taking and administration contributed invaluable to the group's work. The special role of Member Emeritus has been created for him.

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

The Group continued to promote awareness of social justice issues. We publicised our activities in the Minster community. A talk was given at the AGM of the Minster Stewards and at the inaugural meeting of the Growing in Faith group.

Furthermore, we inserted regular notices in Pew News about areas of social justice.

We turn now to the Group's areas of concern, which all saw activity in 2022.

The environment and climate justice

Southwell Minster Environmental Action Group (SMEAG)

'SMEAG' advances Southwell Minster's aim to become a significant ecological cathedral on four fronts:

- *Conservation.* Plans have been drawn up with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to establish Higgons Mead as a wildflower meadow once flood mitigation works are complete. Parts of the Minster Yard and the Archbishop's Palace Garden have been sown with wildflower seed, a diverse range of wildlife habitats have been created and more gentle gardening practices

have been introduced. House Marten boxes have been installed on Trebeck Hall.

- *Liturgy and Worship.* Jacqui Parkinson's exhibition, Threads Through Creation was complemented by well-attended weekly reflections and prayer. Special services celebrated the Season of Creation and the feasts of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi, and environmental concerns are finding an established place in our prayers.
- *Collaboration.* Southwell Minster hosted a Churches Together service during Big Green Week. We are collaborating with Green Southwell to promote home insulation and ethical investment. Our conservation work aligns with our responsibilities as an A Rocha Partner in Action and we are making good progress towards 'silver' Eco-Cathedral status.

'SMEAG' is anything but a closed group, and if you would like to contribute, or just know more, contact hugh.middleton@nottingham.ac.uk.

Food bank/Trussell Trust

An exhibition was held in January.

Fairtrade

- During Fairtrade Fortnight (21 Feb – 5 March) a Quiz challenged competitors on their knowledge of Fairtrade. The winner received a prize of a voucher to spend on Fairtrade products at the Minster shop. A display was also mounted in the Minster crossing.
- Refreshment after the Sunday morning main service resumed in 2022, offering FT tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits provided by the Fairtrade Group.
- The Group was invited to draft the updates for Chapter's Fairtrade Policy and Strategy, and these were accepted and signed off by Chapter.
- The Minster was successfully relicensed for a further two years as a Fairtrade Place of Worship by the Fairtrade Foundation.
- A first meeting was held with Minster School prefects to help them towards adopting Fairtrade as a School charity.
- A community declaration in support of action on climate change and Fairtrade was well supported

by signatures gathered as part of Big Green Week in September.

- The Group supported the Minster Shop in running a very successful Fairtrade stall at the Crafts Fair in November.

Anyone interested in actively working to promote Fairtrade would be warmly welcomed to the Group. Please contact Liz Rose through the Minster Office.

Gender Based Violence

In November, the group instigated the Minster's response to the 16 days of action against gender-based violence led by the Mothers Union and the UN.

Poverty and debt

A collection was held for Church Action against Poverty in February and further action is planned.

Homelessness

An exhibition was mounted in April to coincide with the annual Framework service.

Jessica Pacey, Chair

Tel: 01636 676475

E: jessicapacey@hotmail.co.uk

Friday Lunchtimes at the Cathedral

During 2022 we were able to restore an almost full programme of Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral – holding seventeen concerts plus one additional concert on a Sunday (from a choir who had given a concert nearby on the Saturday evening). Unfortunately, we did have to cancel a further four concerts at short notice for various unavoidable reasons – we hope this did not cause our audiences too much inconvenience. A wide variety of styles of music were given during the year – ranging from vocal and instrumental concerts of classical music through to some of more traditional and folk music. The average attendance at each concert over the year was a healthy 85, although this remains somewhat short of audience sizes achieved prior to the pandemic. During the autumn we were able to restart the serving of some refreshments prior to the concerts (tea, coffee and biscuits), and we would like to thank all the volunteers willing to come and prepare this. Special thanks goes to all the musicians who gave their time to come to Southwell to give these concerts, and who do so without any payment of fee or expenses. Thank you too to all those who attended the concerts and so generously donated a total of £4,448.44 to the retiring collections, which is a significant help towards meeting the annual cost of the Minster's Organ Scholarship.

Jeremy Pemberton & Alastair Clarke

Email: jeremypemberton56@gmail.com

Email: alastair.clarke@southwellminster.org.uk

Social Committee

As we have moved out of the restriction of the pandemic it was still challenging to bring people together. However, we have been able to help organise Harvest Lunch, much enjoyed by all and the Winter Fair refreshments. It is hoped that we will be able to offer more opportunity for the community to meet together in the future.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTHWELL

Southwell Christian Aid Committee

Southwell Christian Aid Committee is part of Churches Together in Southwell raising funds for the charity in Southwell and the surrounding villages of Edingley, Fiskerton, Halam, Halloughton, Morton, Normanton and Upton. This year, due to the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis, has been exceedingly difficult for everyone and charities have seen their funds significantly reduced. Despite this a fantastic £6212 was donated locally to Christian Aid in 2022. as follows: the Lent Lunch:£446; Christian Aid Week £5516; and a response by the Methodist Church to an emergency appeal £250. These donations will help this humanitarian Christian charity continue its work responding to global crises.

From the war in Ukraine forcing millions to flee from their homes to the climate crisis in Zimbabwe causing devastating drought and hunger, Christian Aid is raising money to help those in most need and seeking to counter the effects of climate change through advocating sustainable farming methods. These include using drought resistant crops and supporting dam building to preserve precious water supplies.

The Churches Together in Southwell Christian Aid committee would like to especially mention Brian Dunn who has very generously and voluntarily audited our annual accounts for the past 29 years We are incredibly grateful for his excellent work - thank you very much Brian. He is succeeded by John Langley. Thank you also to Amy and Nicola at the Minster shop which annually acts as a collection point for donations in Christian Aid week.

Jean Jackson & Helen Sills

Tel: 01636 815173

Email: helen.sills23@gmail.com

Silence and Meditation Group

We began this year with most of our group meeting online due to the anxiety about covid. A few of us felt able to meet in Sacrista Prebend, albeit wearing our masks and with the windows and door open.

As the year has progressed, we have returned to our pre pandemic rhythm and all who are able meditate and pray in the chapel at Sacrista and share fellowship afterwards. We continue to offer the meditation online for those who are too frail or who have moved away.

Members of the clergy and different members of the group have led the sessions, and we are grateful to those who have been willing to do this.

We are an ecumenical group and all are welcome to share this peaceful, quiet time with us. We meet each Thursday during term time at 12.30pm.

Elizabeth Yule

Email: elizyule22@gmail.com

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

Schools and Community Engagement

I am delighted to say that 2022 was defined by a 'getting back to normal' and the successful completion of the community engagement and outreach for the 'Leaves' project. This was the final year of the delivery stage of the project – major building works were completed some time ago, but the work continued for us as we worked creatively with many community groups, schools and families. The Magical Forest art competition generated over 300 entries by the under 16s, all of which were displayed in the Chapter House in a special exhibition throughout October - the winning entry was by a year 9 student from the Minster School and carved in stone as a legacy of the project. A six-month creative project at the King's Academy in Newark culminated in a summer sculpture trail in the newly opened woodland area of the Palace gardens. The culmination of the choral outreach project came in June with a celebration day – 120 children from two primary schools with some of our choristers performed songs written by Lay Clerk Guy Turner to go hand in hand with stories created and retold by local storyteller Nicky Rafferty.

Meanwhile, our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Sarah Clemson, planned and delivered a programme of training for Minster staff and volunteers around accessibility and disability awareness. Highlights of this programme was the hands-on, empowering training with Lynn Cox on touch tours and audio description – Lynn lost her sight as a young teenager and, along with her guide dog Dan, inspired stewards and staff

to bring the Minster to life for her and other visually impaired visitors in the future.

The lift to the Chapter House has been a wonderful addition, and in July we were thrilled to bring 12-year-old Iris and her friends and family into the Chapter House for the first time. Iris is a wheelchair user, lives locally and has attended many of our family fun days as well as visiting with her school on numerous occasions. Until this year she has never been able to visit the Chapter House. As a history lover, and after a hard year, she happily used the new lift and loved looking at the carvings with Minster Guide Joanne. Her mum commented

'It's not lost on us that the Minster is the oldest building in the town, yet it is the most accessible.'

Other 'Leaves' highlights were the visit from NEST (Nottingham Education Sanctuary Team) who provide education for young, unaccompanied refugees aged between 15-18, art workshops with 6th formers from Brackenfield and Oakfield schools for students with additional needs, a 'green man' needle-felting workshop for adults and the 'Saints and Monsters' night at the minster on 30th October.

The end of 2022 sees the end of the Leaves project, but we hope its legacy will remain with us for many years, including the new contacts and friends we've made, the things we have learned and the new ideas and resources which include a new film, trail, activity pack and workshops for schools and families. Sadly, the end of the Leaves project has meant saying goodbye to our wonderful friend and colleague, Aoife Cleland, Heritage Learning Assistant, who left at the end of December – she will be much missed as she continues her MA.

Time Travelling made a welcome return in 2022 and things felt 'back to normal' as groups of Key Stage 2 children (aged 7-11) followed their volunteer guides around the Minster and grounds on their pilgrimages in March, enthusiastically getting stuck into their activities. Kirby Stebbing joined the education team in April this year as our new Education Administrator, just in time for the Time Travelling week in June for Key Stage 1 (aged 5-7). She enjoyed meeting the volunteer team and learning how things run,

We published a new School visits programme this year, which is now available online and at the welcome desk – people are surprised by the variety of learning sessions on offer. While our most popular activities continue to be the RE based sessions, the Romans in Southwell day also proves very popular, thanks to our partnership with Southwell Community Archaeology Group, who provide volunteering support and huge amounts of knowledge.

It is always a joy to round off the year in festive spirit with some Christmas activities. This year, 300 Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage children visited and enjoyed drama

following the star with the wise men, hearing the story of a shepherd from Bethlehem, exploring the theme of 'light', and enjoying some of our Christmassy crafts.

Visitors to the Minster frequently comment on the warm welcome they receive from our wonderful team of stewards. We aim to support them by providing fresh, interesting trails to offer to visiting families with children which reflect the seasons or Minster-based events and we finished the year with a redesign of a Christmas-themed trail and a space for prayer and reflection in the Candle Chapel. Much of our role, as I see it, is to help ensure the Minster is engaging for learners of all ages and to bring it to life in a relevant way in all we do. I'd like to thank the Minster community – volunteers, congregation, staff and visitors for their support and look forward to new adventures in 2023.

Diana Ives, Head of Education

Email: diana.ives@southwellminster.org.uk

Children and Families

The Children and Families Development Group has continued to meet to plan events and a forward-looking strategy for children and families. During 2022 at Easter, we had a succession of families to 'Journey through Good Friday'. They followed an indoor trail with actors telling parts of the Easter story, there were craft activities with things to make and do, and an Easter Garden was built just outside the South Door of the Minster to remind all those taking part and passing by of the joy of Easter Sunday. In October we joined forces with the Leaves Project for Night in the Minster – Saints vs Monsters.' That event saw about 100 people following a saints and monsters trail around the Minster, joining with stories of saints in the Palace Garden, and making some great craft items to take home. One of the most significant successes of the year has seen the initiation and growth of the Sunday work with children led by Emma Frith and Sarah Patten, initially to provide some worship and teaching for the young people in the choir, but growing to include children who are visiting or part of the congregation. There is huge potential to grow more, subject to willing and suitable volunteers to come forward. The Children's Chapel is now fully open and regularly refreshed with revised displays, books and toys. This has become a popular space for families visiting the Minster at any time of the week to pause, rest, and play.

Links have continued to be maintained with the two primary schools in the parish – Lowes Wong Infant and Lowes Wong Junior – with regular visits for assemblies, and also welcoming those schools to the Minster for special services and events for Easter, Leavers, Harvest and Christmas. Plans are underway for increased involvement in January 2023 for a new Candlemas Christingle service and input into the schools. Christmas

Eve saw the usual two Crib Services, again 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.

Nick Harding, Children's Ministry & Safeguarding Trainer

Tel: 07426 530599

Email: nick@nickharding.net

The Minster School

It was a privilege to be able to use the Minster Cathedral once again this year for various events. These included our annual Foundation service in which all new Year 4 and 7 students, new staff and many parents were welcomed as part of our school community and in which we celebrated the historical and spiritual links between the Cathedral and school.

At Easter and Christmas, we welcomed all students back to the Minster for our End of Term Services. It a wonderful experience to once more be able to sing carols, listen to the Christian story being told and explained as well as join in prayer within such an historic and inspiring setting. Alongside this we had our Christmas concert which was a chance to showcase the talents of our students, young and old, with the wider community.

Andy Wall – Deputy Head Teacher

Tel: 01636 814000

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

Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School

Lowe's Wong Juniors continues to be a 'happy school where pupils thrive.' Ofsted November 2019. Despite the challenges of covid, our staff and pupils have continued to work hard throughout, and we are looking forwards to a busy year of events.

Major refurbishment works were completed in August, following eighteen months of upheaval, but the new heating and lighting systems are extremely energy efficient and were certainly worth the wait.

Our school has maintained its strong links with both our churches of Southwell Methodist and The Minster. Harvest at Southwell Methodist and our Christmas and Leavers Services at The Minster are real high points in our school calendar and we very much appreciate all the clergy who visit our school to offer Collective Worship.

As a school our aim is to ensure that all pupils are well prepared for the next steps in their future. As well as continuing to perform well academically in English and

maths, we strive to develop independence and the personal skills and talents of every child in our school. The challenge of covid and its impact is something we are working to counter every day and the children are a credit to us, as they learn in a safe environment founded on clear Christian and British Values.

On both the sporting and music front, we have won further awards for success including boys and girls football and indoor athletics. All our sporting teams continue to do well in their respective leagues.

Finally, through fundraising we have supported a wide range of local, national and international charities including, REACH based in Southwell and national events including Comic Relief, Ukrainian Relief and Children in Need.

As Ofsted stated, '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 all feel here at Lowe's Wong that this continues to be the case.

Mike Follen

Tel: 01636 813432

Email: head@loweswong-jun.notts.sch.uk

Historic Chapter Library (HCL)

Like many other areas of the Minster the Historic Library has made a gradual progress back to normal. We have welcomed hundreds of visitors to see examples of our magnificent collection on Minster Open Days, although donations were disappointingly low. The library has also re-started private tours. An interesting development arising from one of these is a possible in-depth scientific analysis of our manuscripts. Research queries from home and abroad have continued to come in and as ever we do our best to accommodate these. The displays in the library cabinets have ranged from medieval manuscript music to our oldest printed book, Aristotle, and photography. The position in the north aisle of the choir is proving popular but observation has shown that on rare occasions sunshine could have a deleterious effect. The use of UV film is being investigated.

Thanks to the Volunteer Fair we have added to our group of fantastic volunteers who constantly check and dust the volumes. We also welcome Professor Chris Brooke as an Honorary Deputy Librarian; his expertise is proving invaluable. Conservation work is on hold at the moment as Nottinghamshire Archives are continuing to clear their backlog of work. We eagerly look forward to the return of conserved, original, King James Revised Bible in the New Year.

The library is open at reasonable times by appointment and the librarians always welcome requests to visit. The

library catalogue can be accessed at <http://southwellminster.org/search-historic-library.php>

Victoria Arthurson, Hon. Librarian

Tel: 01636 817291

Email: library@southwellminster.org.uk

Theological Library

The future location of the Theological Library, which has been tucked away in Trebeck now for some years, has finally been decided. The books have been packed up very kindly by Canon Paul and various volunteers and are now in boxes awaiting the move into the former AV room in the Minster Centre, where they will be much more accessible. Spirituality books will be moved to Sacrista to join the collection there. 2022 sadly saw the death of Revd Canon Dr John Toy who did so much to build up the collection when he was librarian. He longed to see the library in a more accessible place so it is really good to know that this will come to pass in 2023.

The Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank,

Tel: 07738 873279

Email: alison.milbank@southwellminster.org.uk

THE COLLEGE OF CANONS

It has been a quiet year for the College with few comings and goings other than the arrival of the new residential Canon, Canon Paul Rattigan was licensed and collated on 22 January at a joyous Saturday evensong, duly 'handed over' by his colleagues from the Cathedral and Diocese of Leicester. Paul is the first to hold the title 'Canon Missioner' as a full time Cathedral post, funded by the Church Commissioners. His role is to walk with the Minster community as we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and deepen our own discipleship amidst many societal changes and challenges post pandemic. Paul and Anne settled in easily in their new home and ministry.

It was good to return to the annual September tea and Evensong for Canons past and present and for the College to gather for a joint meeting with Chapter and Council with Bishop Paul in June.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean's PA)

Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

Electoral Roll

Numbers on our electoral roll have not changed markedly over the past year. It has nevertheless been a pleasure to welcome a few new joiners, and we look forward to a rise in numbers as weddings and baptisms return to a more

normal pattern. At the end of 2022, the number on our Roll stood at 245.

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

Alice Snowden, Administrative Assistant
Tel: 01636 812649
Email: alice.snowden@southwellminster.org.uk

Stewardship

A major source of funding for the Minster's work is from regular giving by members of the Community with £141,698 being received during 2022 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.

Andrew Bates, Stewardship Officer
Tel: 07761 295764
Email: stewardship@southwellminster.org.uk

SITES AND BUILDINGS

Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

Sacrista continues to develop despite future uncertainties. All we do is underpinned by prayer. Fourteen people respond to weekly prayer letters, and many more Friends of Sacrista do so monthly. The house is once again fully operational, with post-Covid re-opening of our overnight accommodation. We continue to host private and group retreats, and we are expanding the range of other organised events. Several Minster Groups have returned to Sacrista, including the large and popular, fortnightly Theology Group. Stilling Prayer, with over 70 receiving the information by email and some attending in house, is now a growing on-line community.

This year we organised twenty-five booked events. Alongside the Quiet Days, there were seminars and workshops for creative explorations of faith. Altogether these involved more than two hundred attendees, of whom over 10% were returnees. We are delighted to be reaching a more diverse audience, and to be attracting people from beyond the diocese. At most events we welcome folk new to Sacrista, and the significant number of returnees suggests that they like what they find. One attendee said that the visit was life-changing, and many have commented on the peace they experienced, and the hospitality they received.

The gardens continue to be much appreciated. Passers-by often pause to look over the wall to admire their changing colours. We remain part of the Quiet Garden Movement, and our more wild area continues to be enjoyed by children from Prebend Pre-school.

This level of activity is remarkable given that it is largely sustained by volunteers and the Minster administrative team, who now oversee our bookings.

Equally remarkable, is that Sacrista has made a small profit this year, albeit without paid staff or increasingly pressing maintenance expenses. We await Chapter's decision on both counts. There is clearly an appetite for what Sacrista can offer and being able to provide it is a joy. Whilst we wait, and perhaps subsequently, this cannot continue without additional volunteers keen to sustain Sacrista Prebend's spiritual peace and vitality. When driving, if you take your foot off the accelerator the car gradually slows down! We have an exciting and yet more varied Spring programme. Do come and join us as a part of this vibrant and unusual volunteer community.

The Revd Dr Michèle Hampson, Warden of Sacrista Prebend Retreat House
Email: michele.hampson@southwellminster.org.uk

Cathedral Shop

During 2022 we were able to keep our doors open all year round for the first time in a while and celebrate our first open Easter season after two years of closures. Although business has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and the world is still wrestling with many different issues, we will persevere and continue to rebuild.

We are hopeful for a successful year ahead, with lots of exciting events to bring visitors to Southwell Minster and the town. All profits from the Cathedral Shop are donated to Southwell Minster and we really rely on local support especially during the quieter months. Thank you to all our customers for your continued loyalty.

This year we have welcomed two new Duty Managers to our team of Volunteers, Amanda Hender and Margaret Waddington, we are grateful that they chose to step up into the roles of Duty Manager. They are both doing a wonderful job. Our long serving Duty Manager Nannette Ball continues to be a great asset to the Shop team, and we thank her for years of hard work and dedication. We remain truly grateful for all our Volunteers without whom the Shop could not function as it does.

We are open 7 days a week again **Monday to Saturday 10 – 4pm and Sunday 11.30 – 3.30pm**

Our online shop is available 24/7 at www.southwellminster.org/shop

If you are interested in joining our 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

The membership at the end of the year was: Allan Joyce (chair), Will Bowden, Martyn Duffy, Stephen Littlewood, Rebecca Burrows and Adrian Dempster (a structural engineer who was appointed in 2022). In attendance are the Dean, Philip Dixon (Cathedral Archaeologist), Nick Rank (Cathedral Architect) and the Chief Officer. There remain 2 vacancies.

At the end of the year, we said farewell to Nick Rank who has retired. The process to recruit Nick's replacement as cathedral Architect will take place in early 2023.

Matters considered by the Committee included: the consideration of the Quinquennial Report on the Minster; the Northern Cathedrals' Inventory Project – in which we participate; the 'permanent' installation of the equipment to allow livestreaming; refurbishment of the Quire Organ; the installation of CCTV within the Minster; and the potential gift of two stained glass windows from a church which is no longer required for worship.

Canon Nigel Spraggins, Chief Officer

Tel: 07498 212775

Email: nigel.spraggins@southwellminster.org.uk

Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group

Although our group is relatively small, our volunteer members once again delivered on many fronts in 2022, undertaking 24 working parties, 5 Committee Meetings including AGM, guided walks, presentation and school visits, moth trapping, wildflower and butterfly surveys and lots of other important ancillary work, gifting a total of just under 700 hours.

Further semblances of normality resumed in the year, with the return of guided visits provided to local schools, Holy Trinity and Lowes Wong. We truly value the support from our school partners, important educationally but also for payments through the Environmental Stewardship Agreement. The group is currently assessing government changes to this scheme which will have a major impact on our future funding.

Our annual butterfly survey feeds into the UK Butterfly Monitoring Survey (UKBMS) and it reflected a very concerning national trend of a collapse in overall numbers, attributed to the long hot dry spring and summer. Wildflowers fared better and we were delighted

to find bee and pyramidal orchids increasing on our field which is dominated by cowslips and on the nearby Higgins Mead and Harvey's Field.

We undertook moth trapping in April, July and September. The latter was by far the most successful, recording thirty-seven different types and c.200 moths in total, including a "Cliffden Nonpareil" moth, only the third ever sighting in Nottinghamshire!

Sadly, one of our founding members Tony Morris passed away during the year. His contribution to the group from its inception has been immense and he is so greatly missed.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our amazing enthusiastic hardworking volunteers who selflessly continue to give up so much of their time to help manage this precious site and undertake important associated work. I would also like to thank Robin Old, a former chair of the group, who has decided to step back from the committee but will, I know, continue to play an important role within the group.

Paul Watson, Chair, Potwell Dyke Grasslands Action Group

Email: PODGAGTeam@outlook.com

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Marketing & Events

It has been wonderful seeing so many people return to the Minster and the 2022 events programme was the busiest yet.

We had three brilliant outdoor theatre performances, an amazing indoor 'street party' to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee which saw around 400 people bring picnics into the Minster. Of course, the death of Her Majesty The Queen meant that out of the deepest respect, we decided to postpone the eagerly anticipated Space Voyage – but this will be back with us in 2023.

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 Twelfth Night, whilst This is my Theatre entertained us with The Railway

Children, and Chapterhouse Theatre brought us a delightful showing of Cinderella. We also hosted a wonderful ABBA tribute act (21st Century ABBA) who sold out the Paddock (500 people) in the garden and left them singing for more (don't worry, they're coming back in 2023), and an 80's rock night which was extremely successful and will be back in 2023 too! The Bramley Festival of Food & Drink and the Winter Craft fair both returned and saw over 2,000 people attend. The ever-popular Plant Hunters' Fair saw about 1,100 people through the gates which was a record number (two years in a row!).

Thank you to all staff and volunteers who have helped make the events programme so successful in 2022 – we couldn't do it without you!

Our use of e-comms through our electronic distribution channels have allowed us to send numerous e-shots resulting in over 152,000 emails delivered to people all over the world.

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

Media Relations

This past year, we have continued to be increasingly creative in the ways that we share news from across the diocese.

In April, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with stories and events from across the diocese. In June, Bishop Paul took his seat in the House of Lords, joining the twenty-six Lords spiritual. He gave his maiden speech in July asking the Government to increase aid to the Horn of Africa and East Africa due to the risk of famine.

This year's ordinations at Petertide went ahead as normal for the first time since the Pandemic. Two services were held, one for those being ordained as deacons and one for those being ordained as priests. This year, we shared videos relating to three of our deacons' journeys to Ordination. Like the Lay Ministry licensing in October, we used photographs and stories from each candidate during the build-up, allowing our diocese to celebrate their arrival online and in person.

We joined with the nation in mourning for Her Majesty the Queen in September, we worked with Southwell Minster and other churches across the Diocese to ensure people knew about services that were taking place and where books of condolence could be signed.

We also launched the refresh of our diocesan strategic vision of Growing Disciples - Wider, Younger, Deeper as we look forward to 2030. As part of this, we have launched Diocesan Days of Prayer which are taking place on the

second Thursday of every month. Worship and prayer services take place across the diocese. Each day cumulates at Southwell Minster for Evensong and a light supper at Bishop's Manor, followed by contemporary worship in the State Chamber.

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

Minster Website and Social Media

Website

The Minster website has continued to stream certain services across the year. We know we have had viewers from Germany, Canada and New Zealand during 2022, showing there is no limit as to how far our online reach can extend.

After the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, the website offering was scaled back during the period of national mourning.

The website has been increasingly used to sell tickets for events which has helped with the revenue stream.

A new virtual tour has been implemented into the website for both the Minster and the State Chamber which allows people to take a journey around our precious buildings from home.

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 around 20% 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

THE LEAVES OF SOUTHWELL PROJECT

This has been a year to enjoy the benefits of the project and to celebrate the official opening of the Palace Garden and Paddock at a delightful garden party on 30 June in the company of teams of our amazing Minster volunteers. The ribbon was cut by Charlie Leggatt and Diana Ives – both so crucial in seeing the potential to enhance the Minster’s beautiful outdoor spaces by interpreting the Chapter House through The Octagon, sculpture trails, and planting of the 16 varieties of tree in the stone carvings – including hops. It may be a while before we brew Minster beer, but we have launched the first batch of *Spirit of the Leaves* gin, distilled using botanics found in the garden, and available from the Cathedral shop! The Garden has been a huge success, enjoyed by many visitors and local people alike, as well as hosting events. The Project concluded on 31 December – on budget and considering the impact of the pandemic, in good time thanks to the talented Project Team. It has been ‘signed off’ by our major funder The National Lottery Heritage Fund although it will continue to evaluate with us the impact over the coming years, especially as we seek to draw wider audiences to the Cathedral and engage the community. Inevitably there are some aspects of the Project which have not gone as we had hoped, for example we could not afford to repair all the external paths and lighting, nor create a permanent attractive ramped path giving access from Church Street via the Refectory. We would also like to replace the green noticeboards on Westgate and Church Street. These are on the ‘To Do’ list when we have the resources. The wooden ‘well cover’ in the centre of the Chapter House floor has warped so we will replace it with coloured stone retaining the inscription from Psalm 1. However, overall, we are thrilled with the Project and so is everyone who sees the finished work. The famous 700-year-old *Leaves of Southwell* certainly deserved the attention given to them. Once again, our profound thanks not only to the NLHF but also The Friends of Southwell Cathedral, and other grant-making bodies and individuals who made it happen. Mention and appreciation is made of them in The Octagon on the ‘donor board.’

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

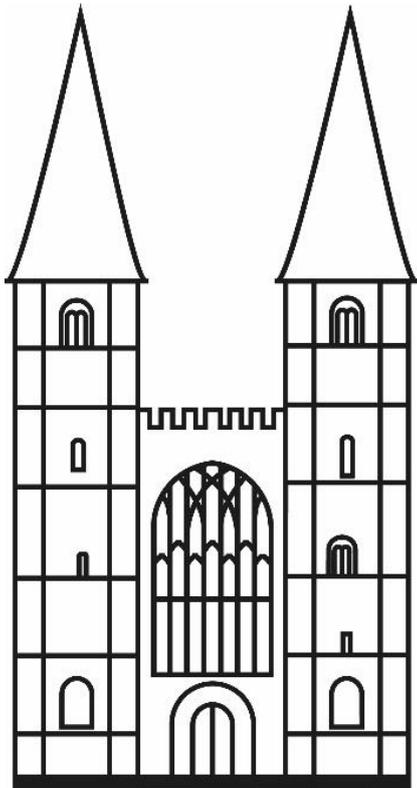
Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean’s PA)

Email: dean@southwellminster.org.uk

Thank you for reading

If you would like to make a donation to the work of Southwell Minster, please visit www.southwellminster.org.uk/donate

Want to sign up to our newsletter to hear all about our news, services and events? You can do so now at www.southwellminster.org.uk/newsletter



Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY