

## FACT SHEET No 260

NOTES ON THE CATHEDRALS - SOUTHWELL, published by the Photochrom Co., Ltd, 121 Cheapside, London E.C. c1903 (an advertisement for the Midland Railway is dated 1903) The little book which measures approximately 3½ inches by 4¾ inches, has 12 black and white, full page photographs and one smaller one, and cost 1d. The bibliography inside the cover (common to all the cathedrals I think) includes:

Introduction to Gothic Architecture (Parker) *An invaluable book.*

A.B.C. of Gothic Architecture (Parker)

A Concise Glossary of Architecture (Parker)

Murray's Handbooks to the Cathedrals. *All later writings acknowledge obligation to Murray.*

Diocesan Histories (S.P.C.K.)

English Cathedrals Illustrated. F.Bond (Newnes). *All the cathedrals in one volume. A most interesting and well-illustrated book.*

Cathedrals, Abbeys and Churches of England and Wales. A full descriptive and historical account. Beautifully illustrated. Edited by Professor Bonney, F.R.S. 2 volumes. 12/- (Cassell) *There is no better general view of the whole subject.*

The "Builder" Portfolio of the Cathedrals. *Of the greatest value.*

History of Architecture. Fergusson. (Murray)

### BUILDING DATES

A church is said to have been built by St Paulinus about 630

1025	A second church probably built by Archbishop Putla. There are remains of this in part of a lintel of a doorway in the north transept, and some capitals on the eastern piers of the tower.
1110 - 15	Present building begun by Archbishop Thomas
1233c	Choir built by Archbishop Grey
1249 - 60	Alterations and additions
1280	Booth Chapel - destroyed 1847
1290c	The Chapter House
1330c	The Choir Screen
1355c	Flying buttresses to the choir
1390c	Windows in aisles of nave
1450c	West Window
	Some destruction was done during the Civil War, but much less than in other cathedrals
1711	Fire causes great damage
1780	Vicars' buildings pulled down and replaced by houses
1802	Andent spires removed from western towers
1851	Restoration begun under Mr Ewan Christian
1880	Spires to western towers
	The palace, now largely in ruins was probably built by Archbishop Thoresby, and altered by Archbishop Kemp

## DIMENSIONS

External length	318ft
Choir	128ft
Transept	137ft
Internal breadth of nave	63ft
Height of central tower	105ft
Western towers	99ft
with spires	149ft

## HISTORY

Paulinus of York, one of the missionaries of St Augustine, is said to have built the earliest church of Blessed Mary the Virgin of Southwell about 630. It is a pleasing legend, but has very slight authority. A church served by secular canons, the number of which was from time to time increased, no doubt was built about that year and became a centre of religious activity half-way between the sees of York and Worcester, which were united during the time of the Danish invasion of Northumbria. About 956 we read of a royal grant of a demesne of 20 manses to Oskytel, the Danish Archbishop of York, the friend of Dunstan. Later on Archbishop Putla or Puttoc was a benefactor of Southwell, where he often resided, and he is said to have rebuilt the Minster. Both he and his successor, Kinsi, died at Southwell, but were buried at Peterborough, where their coffins were discovered in the 17th century.

The church as we now know it was begun by the Norman Archbishop Thomas II (1108 - 1114). He addressed a letter to the people of Nottingham asking for subscriptions in return for which they were released from the annual pilgrimage to York and were to receive a like pardon at the church of St Mary at Southwell. This building, which became the Mother church of the district, was by the efforts of Roger Archbishop of York, made free of the control of Canterbury by the Pope. Later it was subject to Rome only, though visited by the northern Archbishops. Archbishop Walter de Grey (1215 - 56) rebuilt the choir about 1235 and did much to reform the discipline of the Minster, ordaining among other Good things that the readers of the lessons were to look over them beforehand and to read audibly and distinctly; those who failed were to be flogged! The lovely Chapter House was the work of John le Romeyn the builder of the nave of York. After the insertion of the great west window the building remained practically unaltered until modern times.

In this church Wolsey sang High Mass on Corpus Christi Day 1530: for the fallen prelate spent the summer of that year at Southwell. Ten years later the estates of the Minster were surrendered to Henry VIII, who re-founded the church on the old basis. An inscription in the nave gives Archbishop Lee the credit for this. Changes were made by Edward VI and Mary. Under Elizabeth a new statute was drawn up by Archbishop Sandys, a valued adviser of the Queen.

In 1194 Richard Coeur de Lion came to Southwell to meet William the Lion of Scotland. A few years later Robin Hood and his merry men are said to have dwelt in Sherwood Forest and perchance at times visited the Minster. Hither came King James on his way to be crowned, and marvelled to find so fine a church. Here (at the Saracen's Head) Charles I surrendered to the Scottish army in 1646. Hither also came General Monk on his memorable march to London. Southwell was a favourite residence of the Archbishops of York and there several of them died. Among distinguished members of the Chapter may be mentioned Lancelot Andrewes (1589 - 99); Mompesson (1671 - 1709) who when the plague broke out at his village of Eyam so nobly and successfully worked to prevent it spreading in the district; Matthew Hutton afterwards Archbishop of York; and several bishops.

Southwell stands on the Ermine Street. On Burgage Green is the house where Lord Byron lived as a boy. Newark is nearby, once represented in parliament by Mr Gladstone, who spoke against the ecclesiastical changes, including the abolition of the Chapter of Southwell, effected by the Act of 1840. The same Act transferred the Minster from the See of York to that of Lincoln.

Restorations of the building were begun under Mr Ewan Christian in 1851, and were continued, with considerable controversy, for nearly thirty years. In 1884 the See of Southwell was constituted, with Dr Ridding as Bishop: the Minster was re-opened in 1888 as the cathedral.

#### FEATURES TO BE NOTICED

The general richness of the Norman work.

The chevron or zig-zag string courses - note how broken by the windows, and the reconnection.

Difference in the arcading of the western towers.

Triforium and clerestory of the choir in one stage.

The chapter house is an unrivalled specimen of *Decorated* work. Details, especially of the doorway, should be examined.

Glass of chancel (cinque-cento) brought from France 1818.

The sedilia.

Roman tessellated pavement in south transept.

Choir-screen - the most beautiful in England.

The lectern c.1500, presented in 1805, was formerly at Newstead Abbey. The monks there threw it into the lake to bide it from the commissioners of Henry VIU.

View from open court between chapter house and north-east angle of crossing.

#### MONUMENTS

There are fewer monuments of interest than in any other English Cathedral. That to Archbishop Sandys (1588) is the most important. Others are to Prebendary Cook (1750), son of Sir William Cook of Wheatley, and to John Thomas Becher the friend of Byron.

There are one or two monuments and brasses without names.

*The Pilgrim's Guide to the Saints of England* (British Museum MS1013) states that "the shrine of St Eadburgh is still at Southwell", but no trace of it can be found. St Eadburgh was a daughter of King Adwulf King of East Anglia and so a relative of Abbess Hilda; she died 749 Abbess of Repton in Mercia. The Archbishops of York buried in the cathedral are Ealdred (1069); Godfrey de Ludham (1265); Thomas de Corbridge (1304); William Booth (1464); Lawrence Booth (1480).