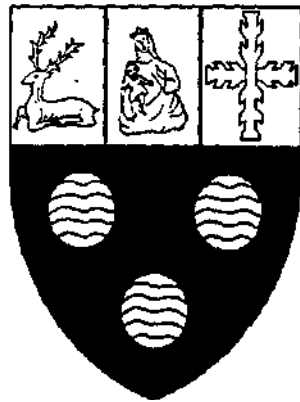
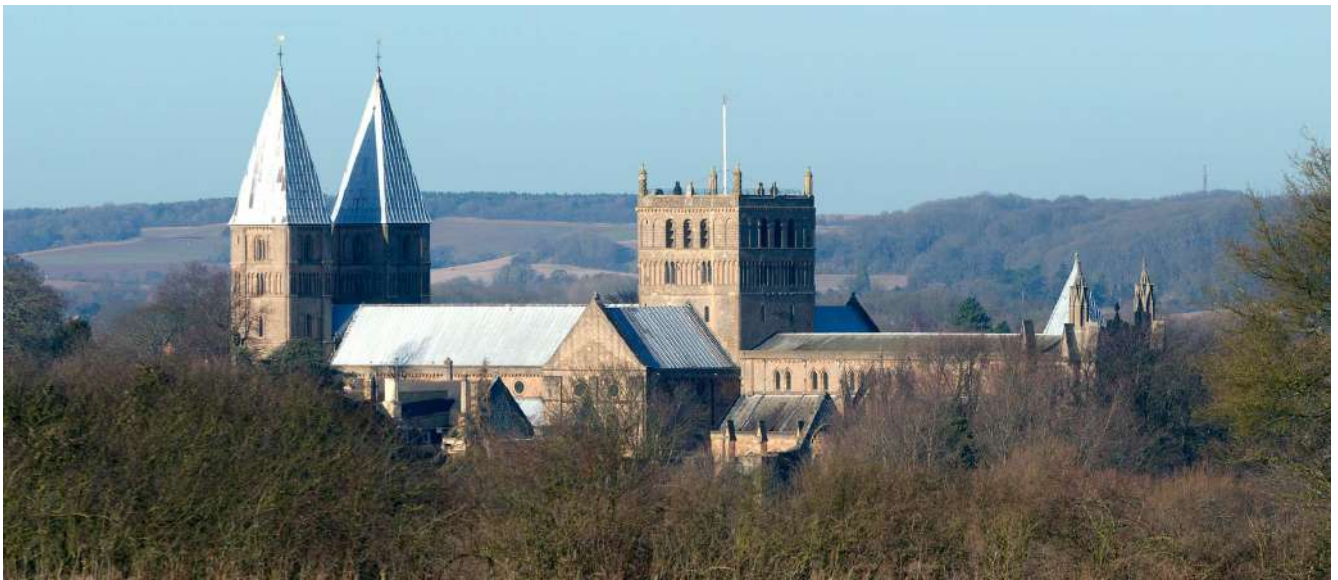


Southwell
Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Organ Scholarship
2026–27
Information Pack
and Application Form



History

Southwell Minster is of Saxon origin and was founded as a collegiate church in the tenth century. In 1108 Archbishop Gerard put in process the rebuilding of this Anglo-Saxon church and Southwell Minster was created. The church was elevated to cathedral status with the creation of the Diocese of Southwell in 1884 and is now the Cathedral of Nottinghamshire.



The Cathedral stands adjacent to the ruined Archbishop of York's Palace, which had a major renovation in 2013, courtesy of a £1.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The State Chamber of the original palace has remained wonderfully preserved, and acts as a concert venue for the Cathedral. The music department below has undergone a complete renovation, including an addition of two new rehearsal rooms, an Organ Scholar flat and a new music library.

A choir has existed at Southwell for over 900 years; the current Cathedral Choir consists of Boy and Girl Choristers, and adult Lay Clerks. Choristers have always been drawn from the Minster School—now a voluntary aided Church of England academy complete with a junior school for the education of the younger Choristers and other musically gifted children; it is also part of the Choir Schools' Association. A Girls' Choir was added in 2005 to enhance the worship at the Cathedral, which was fully integrated into the Cathedral Choir in 2019; there are now equal opportunities available for both boy and girl Choristers. In 2019 the Cathedral invested in a complete new set of cassocks and surplices as to have one style and colour for the Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, Lay Clerks, Organists and Clergy.

Locality



Originally a Roman settlement, Southwell is a historic town with some 7,500 residents and lies on the River Greet. The town boasts a number of impressive buildings, including multiple Georgian prebendal houses, an old workhouse (now owned by the National Trust), a racecourse, independent shops and restaurants, and many old taverns. Notable events include the Southwell Music Festival and the Gate to Southwell Folk Festival.

There are good transport links by bus to Newark (20 minutes) and Nottingham (40 minutes). Regular trains from Newark to London take 1 hour 20 minutes.

The Choirs

Southwell Minster has a choral tradition stretching back over 900 years and currently comprises Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, Lay Clerks—six Lay Clerks and six Auxiliary Lay Clerks—and the Minster Chorale. Between them, the Boy and Girl Choristers rehearse and sing services on six days of the week, including Evensong on their own on Monday and Tuesday. The Lay Clerks sing with the Choristers from Thursday until Sunday, and for Feast Days and Holy Days at other times. The Cathedral Choir's repertoire is large and aims to include the best of all eras, from Byrd and Palestrina through to MacMillan and Panufnik, with much in between. They regularly broadcast and record, and foreign tours are undertaken frequently.

The Rector Chori is responsible for both the Boy Choristers and the Girl Choristers. The Assistant Director of Music is the principal accompanist for the Cathedral Choir, while the Organ Scholar plays for services as required, for any combination of Choristers and Lay Clerks, and for the Minster Chorale. The Minster Chorale, the Cathedral's voluntary choir, is directed by the Assistant Director of Music, and sings at Cathedral liturgies as necessary, complementing the Cathedral Choir's duties. All the members of the music foundation form a singularly warm and welcoming group; an incoming Organ Scholar would be assured of becoming a member of a happy and sociable team of distinction.



Duties of the Post

Southwell Minster is offering an Organ Scholarship to a player of suitable achievement and potential to start in September 2026. The award is aimed either at a gap year candidate (filling a year between school and university) or at a university/college leaver wishing to embark on a cathedral career and needing more experience, in which case the scholarship **may** be tenable for a second year. Experience of accompanying Anglican repertoire and working with both adult singers and young Choristers is desirable.

The Organ Scholar's duties include:

- Accompanying the Cathedral Choir as directed. The amount of accompaniment expected will depend on the incumbent's skill and experience, and will build as the months go by.
- Normally accompanying (and sometimes conducting) the Minster Chorale
- On occasion conducting the Cathedral Choir, as directed
- Helping supervise Chorister pick-up from school, 'Chorister Club' and tea
- Taking a lead in the training of the Junior Choristers, and also being involved in working with the full Choristers from time to time
- Assisting with the administrative duties of the Music Department
- Being the principal librarian—the daily task of getting out and putting away music from the Choir Library falls to the Organ Scholar, as does binding and labelling new copies. There is a fully equipped office in the Choir Library, usefully adjacent to the Organ Scholar's flat.

- The Organ Scholar will be invited to run the West Trent Churches Choir, a group comprising singers from local churches, singing at a number of events in the West Trent Benefice. Remuneration of a modest level is given for this duty, which normally comprises bi-weekly rehearsals and a small number of services during term time.
- The Organ Scholar's hours of work are 30 hours per week
- External professional engagements are considered part of the Organ Scholar's development and are encouraged, by arrangement with colleagues

The standard of playing for which we are looking would be no less than ABRSM Grade 8 merit/distinction, with a view possibly to studying for an external diploma such as ARCO during the year. Good sight-reading and extemporisation are vital. A broad musical outlook will be hoped for, including an active and informed interest in the Cathedral choral repertoire.



The Instruments

Southwell Minster is blessed to have four organs on campus. In the Song School a two-manual pipe organ by Grant, Degens & Bradbeer (refurbished 2014) is available as a practice instrument. A chamber organ by the same company is located in the Cathedral. The Cathedral also boasts two fine cathedral organs, one for the Quire and one for the Nave.



The 1995 Nicholson Screen Organ is the principal instrument, and is used for all services in the Quire. 2024 saw a comprehensive cleaning and overhaul of the instrument by Nicholson, including a new memory system.

Great Organ	Swell Organ (enclosed)	Choir Organ (enclosed)	Pedal Organ
16 Bourdon	8 Open Diapason	8 Gedeckt	32 Subbass (digital)
8 Large Open Diapason	8 Lieblich Gedeckt	8 Viol d'Amour	16 Open Bass (digital)
8 Small Open Diapason	8 Salicional	8 Voix Céleste	16 Open Diapason
8 Stopped Diapason	8 Vox Angelica	4 Gemshorn	16 Bourdon
4 Principal	4 Principal	4 Spitzflute	8 Principal
4 Wald Flute	4 Nason Flute	2½ Nazard	8 Bass Flute
2 Fifteenth	2 Fifteenth	2 Fifteenth	4 Fifteenth
IV Full Mixture	II Sesquialtera	2 Blockflute	IV Mixture
III Sharp Mixture	III Mixture	1½ Tierce	32 Contra Posaune (digital)
8 Trumpet	IV Plein Jeu	1½ Larigot	16 Ophicleide
Tremulant	16 Contra Posaune	III Mixture	16 Bassoon
Swell Sub Octave to Great	8 Cornopean	8 Clarinet	Great to Pedal
Swell to Great	8 Oboe	8 Vox Humana	Swell to Pedal
Choir to Great	4 Clarion	Tremulant	Choir to Pedal
Solo Sub Octave to Great	Tremulant	Swell to Choir	Solo to Pedal
Solo to Great		Swell Octave to Choir	
		Solo Sub Octave to Choir	
		Solo to Choir	
			Solo Organ (unenclosed)
			4 Concert Flute
			V Mounted Cornet
			8 Bombarde
			Tremulant

Accessories

- A full complement of divisional, general and reversible pistons, with stepper and sequencer
- Great & Pedal combination coupler, Generals on Swell Toe Pistons
- Transfers to enable the player to operate the Nave organ from the screen console
- Mechanical key action; electric couplers and stop action.
- Key compass: manuals 61 notes, pedals 30 notes.



In 1990, Wood of Huddersfield relocated a three-manual J. J. Binns organ from Yorkshire into the South Nave triforium to accompany Nave services. It is designed for leading large congregations. It is playable both from the screen and from a mobile console on the Cathedral floor.

Great Organ

16 Double Open Diapason
 8 Open Diapason No. 1
 8 Open Diapason No. 2
 8 Gamba
 8 Hohl Flute
 8 Rohr Flute
 4 Principal
 4 Gemshorn
 4 Harmonic Flute
 2½ Twelfth
 2 Fifteenth
 IV Full Mixture
 III Sharp Mixture
 8 Posaune
 4 Clarion
 Tremulant

Swell Organ (enclosed)

16 Bourdon
 8 Open Diapason
 8 Gedackt
 8 Salicional
 8 Voix Céleste
 4 Geigen Pincipal
 4 Flauto Traverso
 2 Fifteenth
 2 Piccolo
 II Sesquialtera
 III Mixture
 16 Double Trumpet
 8 Trumpet
 8 Oboe
 4 Clarion
 Tremulant

Pedal Organ

32 Double Open Wood
 16 Open Diapason Wood
 16 Open Diapason Metal
 16 Bourdon
 8 Principal
 8 Bass Flute
 4 Fifteenth
 4 Stopped Flute
 32 Contra Trombone
 16 Trombone
 8 Clarion
 Great to Pedal
 Swell to Pedal
 Choir to Pedal
 Solo to Pedal

Solo Organ (unenclosed)

8 Clarinet
 8 Tuba
 4 Clarion

Accessories

- A full complement of divisional, general and reversible pistons, with stepper and sequencer.
- Great & Pedal combination coupler, Generals on Swell Toe Pistons
- Key compass: manuals 61 notes, pedals 32 notes

The department also possesses six pianos: two in the Cathedral (including a Bechstein Grand), one in each of the three Song Schools and a further Bechstein Grand in the State Chamber of the Archbishop's Palace.

Remuneration

- The Organ Scholar is employed on a fixed-term, eleven-month contract, totalling £18,144.06, paid in equal monthly payments for the duration of the contract
- Fees for weddings, funerals etc are paid separately
- The Organ Scholar is invited to direct the West Trent Churches Choir, comprising singers from local churches, singing at a number of events in the West Trent Benefice. Remuneration for rehearsals and services is paid separately.
- The Cathedral's organs will normally be available, free of charge and by arrangement with the Cathedral diary, for the Organ Scholar's lessons and practice
- Organ lessons with the Rector Chori and/or Assistant Director of Music are offered free of charge. Occasional lessons may of course be taken with another teacher of the scholar's choice. Assistance with preparing for Oxbridge and/or RCO exams can be given.
- Cathedral income may be supplemented by some private teaching. Occasional other opportunities for paid work arise in the locality.

Accommodation

Discounted accommodation is available for the Organ Scholar in a one-bedroom flat in the Archbishop's Palace, adjacent to the Cathedral (bedroom, shower-room and living room with fully equipped kitchen).



Dignity at Work

Southwell Minster is committed to creating a harmonious working environment, which is free from harassment and bullying and in which everyone is treated with respect and dignity. It is committed to ensuring that individuals do not feel apprehensive because of their religious belief (including theology or church tradition), political opinion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, age, or disability, or through any inappropriate behaviour towards them.

Safeguarding

Southwell Minster is committed to:

- safeguarding, caring for and nurturing children and young people in the Minster and community.
- safeguarding and caring for vulnerable adults in the Minster and community.
- informing those involved with children and vulnerable adults in our church of the behaviour expected of them.
- explaining the procedure for background checks of those involved with children and vulnerable adults in the Minster
- protecting adult members of the church from malicious or false accusations of abuse.

List of past Organ Scholars

1991–92	Charles Harrison (Organist and Master of the Choristers, Chichester Cathedral)
1992–93	Matthew Halls (conductor)
1994–95	David Soar (opera singer)
1995–96	David Gostick (conductor, Bournemouth Sinfonietta Choir)
1997–98	Thomas Wiggall (composer)
1998–99	Anthony Smith (priest, Diocese of Durham)
1999–2000	Matthew O'Donovan (Director of Academic Music, Eton College)
2000–01	Christopher Bucknall (continuo player)
2001–02	Oliver Lallemand (Director of Music, Holy Trinity, Sloane Square)
2002–03	Charlie Segal (Organist, Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Chicago)
2003–04	Stephen Moore (Director of Music, Llandaff Cathedral)
2004–05	Dr Emma Gibbins (Director of Music, Chelmsford Cathedral)
2005–06	Simon Earl (Director of Music, Christchurch Priory)
2006–07	Daniel Battle (Director of Scholae Filiorum, Cork)
2007–08	Richard Moore (Sub-Organist, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)
2008–09	Peter Holder (Organist, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)
2009–11	Jonathan Turner (Assistant Director of Music, Woodbridge School)
2011–13	Hilary Punnett (Assistant Director of Music, St Paul's Cathedral)
2013–15	David Quinn (Director of Music, Bradfield College)
2015–17	Edward Turner (Assistant Director of Music, Derby Cathedral)
2017–18	Benjamin Mills (Assistant Organist, Durham Cathedral)
2018–19	Anthony Gray (Director of Music, St Wilfred's, Harrogate)
2019–21	James Furniss-Roe (formerly Director of Music, St Peter's, Streatham)
2021–22	Michael D'Avanzo (Organ Scholar, Exeter Cathedral)
2022–23	George Balfour (Organ Scholar, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)
2023–25	Timothy Selman (Organ Scholar, Lincoln Cathedral)

The current Cathedral Organists are Paul Provost (Rector Chori) and Jonathan Allsopp (Assistant Director of Music). Paul studied at St John's College, Cambridge, and has subsequently held posts at Winchester College and Guildford Cathedral; he took up the post of Rector Chori in 2017. Jonathan studied at Durham University, and has held posts at the Cathedrals of Hereford, Durham and Westminster; he took up the post of Assistant Director of Music in 2019.

Method of Application

Applications are to be made by **9.00am on Monday 22 September 2025** to Jonathan Allsopp (Assistant Director of Music) using the application form below. There will be a selection process culminating in a shortlist and audition process, to be held on **Monday 29 September 2025**. At audition, candidates will be expected to present a short piece of J. S. Bach, a contrasting piece from the nineteenth or twentieth century, a psalm (provided in advance), some sight-reading and improvisation (all at ARCO standard), as well as briefly rehearsing the Choristers (repertoire also provided in advance). There will be a formal interview. An appointment will be made as quickly as possible, and all candidates will be informed of the outcome.

Please submit a completed application form, Curriculum Vitae, and a covering letter by **9.00am on Monday 22 September 2025** to the Assistant Director of Music: adom@southwellminster.org.uk, or Jonathan Allsopp, The Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0HD.

Please include two referees with your application form: a personal referee, and a musical referee (ideally your organ teacher).

The Organ Scholar will come into residence at the beginning of September 2026 and will remain in Southwell for the three Choir terms, which include a few days over Christmas and Easter. A week's holiday at each half term and about ten days' break around Christmas and Easter are taken. The Scholarship would normally conclude at the end of July. Exact dates will be discussed once the Organ Scholar has been appointed.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

From 1 January 2021, freedom of movement between the UK and the European Union has ended; therefore we anticipate that we will only be able to offer this post to a UK citizen.

To arrange a confidential conversation about the role, please email the Assistant Director of Music, Jonathan Allsopp, at adom@southwellminster.org.uk.

Southwell Minster
Organ Scholarship 2026–27
Application Form

Name of applicant:

Address:

Contact telephone number:

Email address:

Date of Birth (optional):

Nationality:

Instruments played (including highest grade and mark obtained):

Relevant musical experience and achievements (continue on separate sheet if required):

Personal Referee:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Musical Referee:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Current school/post:

A level/degree predictions (if relevant):

Choice of University/College (if relevant):

Career/profession hoped for:

How did you hear about this vacancy?

I would like to apply for the Southwell Minster Organ Scholarship from September 2026.

I have read, understand and accept the attached details.

I understand that any false or misleading information given in this application may result in my dismissal if I am appointed.

I understand that this information may be stored and processed as part of the employer's recruitment process and give my consent for my details to be used for this purpose.

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the above information and that submitted in any accompanying document(s) is correct.

Signed:

Date: