



# Southwell Minster

Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace




# WHAT'S ON

## Spring & Summer 2026

April – August

# SPECIAL SERVICES

Services marked  will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

**Easter Day Eucharist** Sunday 5th April, 10am, The Nave 

Celebrate the most joyful day of the Christian year as we proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bishop Paul will give the Easter Sermon, and children's activities will run during the service, followed by an Easter egg hunt.

**St George's Day Service & Parade** Saturday 25th April, 2.45pm, The Nave 

A celebratory service honouring England's patron saint with Nottinghamshire's Scouting and Guiding associations.

**The Dean's First Eucharist** Sunday 26th April, 10am, The Nave 

A significant and joyful moment as we gather for the new Dean's first celebration of the Eucharist at the Minster.

**Rogation Service & Procession to Brackenhurst** Sunday 10th May, 3pm, The Nave 

Join this service and countryside procession as we pray for God's blessing on creation, fields, and local livelihoods. Wear sturdy boots, bring your dog, and enjoy afternoon tea together afterwards.

**Pentecost Praise** Sunday 24th May, 9.30am, The Nave 

All seven churches of Southwell come together for a vibrant celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, with uplifting worship and music.

**King's Birthday Service** Sunday 14th June, 11.15am, The Nave 

A service of prayer and thanksgiving to mark His Majesty's official birthday.

**Gate to Southwell Service of Celebration & Blessing** Saturday 4th July, 11am, The Nave 

This service marks the opening of Southwell's renowned folk and roots festival, concluding with the ancient tradition of presenting the Southwell Pence purses to the Dean, followed by a procession of dancers into town.

**Feast of St Clare Eucharist** Tuesday 11th August, 12.15pm, Palace Gardens

An outdoor celebration of St Clare's faith and witness, with Holy Communion.

# SHINING A LIGHT ON... talks programme

## **The Archbishop of York's Palace** Tuesday 14th April, 2.30pm, £7

A fresh look at the origins, significance, and story of the historic palace beside the Minster, revealing its role in both church and national life.

## **The Minster Organ** Sunday 3rd May & Sunday 28th June, 1pm, £15

Enjoy rare behind-the-scenes access to the Minster organ, including areas not normally open to the public. Watch one of our organists at close quarters as they perform.

## **Christian Roots of English Law** Sunday 17th May, 2pm, £7

A thought-provoking exploration of how Christianity helped shape English law, influencing many of the principles and rights that continue to underpin society today.

## **Nature in the Light of the Holy Trinity** Saturday 20th June, 2.30pm, £7

Guest speaker Rupert Sheldrake reflects on how the Christian understanding of the Trinity can be glimpsed in patterns found across the natural world.

## **Casting a Christian Light on AI** Saturday 27th June, 2.30pm, £7

Associate Professor Michael Burdett (University of Nottingham) examines Artificial Intelligence and considers how emerging technologies interact with Christian faith and ethics.

## **Helios: Here Comes the Sun!** Tuesday 4th August, 2.30pm, £7

Professor Emeritus Alison Milbank (University of Nottingham; Canon Theologian of Southwell Minster) explores how cultures across the centuries have responded to our life-giving star – from Aztec mythology and Stonehenge to Turner's radiant paintings and poetry portraying Christ as "the Great Sun".

## **Booking Information**

To book tickets, visit [www.southwellminster.org/talks-programme](http://www.southwellminster.org/talks-programme) or the Cathedral Shop (in person or on 01636 812933).

Please note: All talks will be held in the State Chamber, except the Organ talk, which will take place inside the Minster.

This series of talks complements Luke Jerram's magnificent 'Helios' installation which will be in the Minster in July and August – see overleaf.

29th July – 15th August

# HELIOS

Experience Helios, the breathtaking 7-metre illuminated sculpture of the sun by internationally acclaimed artist Luke Jerram. Suspended beneath the soaring heights of the Minster nave, this detailed NASA-inspired replica brings the power, beauty and awe of our nearest star into one of England's most magnificent sacred spaces.

Whether you come for quiet contemplation or a full day out, there's something for everyone beneath the sun.

**Helios is on public display from Wednesday 29th July to Saturday 15th August.**

### **Opening hours:**

Mondays: 12–5pm (last entry 4.30pm)

Tuesdays–Saturdays: 10am–5pm (last entry 4.30pm)

Sundays: 12.30–3pm (last entry 2pm)

### **Tickets:**

Adults £5, U16s £3, U5s free

### **Relax & indulge ...**

After soaking up the spectacle of Helios, wander to the beautiful Palace Gardens next to the Minster. Why not bring a picnic, enjoy a snack, treat yourself to an ice cream, or simply stretch out on the grass and bask in the summer atmosphere.

### **... or simply pause**

Find a seat. Look up. Breathe. In the extraordinary setting of the Minster, Helios offers a rare chance to slow down and reconnect – with nature, with history, and with each other.

## Don't miss these spectacular events during Helios:

### VIP Launch Night

*Tuesday 28th July, 7pm, £12 / £6, includes complimentary drink*

Step into the light before anyone else! Join us for an exclusive VIP Preview Evening and experience Helios ahead of the public opening.

With a bar open throughout the evening, you'll be able to enjoy a glass in hand as you wander beneath the glowing sun, soaking up the atmosphere of the Minster in a relaxed, after-hours setting. It's the perfect way to experience the installation – unhurried and truly unforgettable.

### Morning sunrise Pilates

*Thursday 6th, Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th August, 9–9.45am, £10 (advance booking only)*

Ease into the morning with early-bird Pilates under the glowing sun – an uplifting way to greet the day in unforgettable surroundings.

### Helios: Here comes the sun!

*Tuesday 4th August, 2.30pm State Chamber, £7*

Hear from expert speaker The Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank as she explores the religious and historical significance of the star that gives us life.

### Family fun & discovery

*Wednesday 29th – Friday 31st July, times will be announced on posters and social media*

Young explorers can dive into creative activities, uncover the legends of solar deities, and learn the science behind the star that makes life on Earth possible – with plenty of hands-on discovery.



Book your tickets at  
[www.southwellminster.org/helios](http://www.southwellminster.org/helios)

or scan this QR code



# EXPLORE WITH A GUIDED TOUR



Step inside Southwell Minster and uncover over a millennium of faith, craftsmanship and stories. Our guided tours bring the Minster to life – whether you're marvelling at the soaring stonework, wandering through historic gardens, or climbing the Bell Tower for breathtaking views across Nottinghamshire.

## Book a tour and discover 1,000 years of history!

◆ Bell Tower ◆ Archbishop's Palace ◆ Minster ◆ Palace Garden ◆ Group Tours

## When do tours run?

Tours usually take place on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Please check [www.southwellminster.org/tours](http://www.southwellminster.org/tours) for exact times, seasonal variations and booking availability.

## Why join a tour?

- See hidden spaces not normally open to the public
- Hear expert stories from our knowledgeable volunteer guides
- Enjoy history up close – from medieval carvings to the glorious Chapter House
- Make the most of your visit, whether it's your first time or a familiar place you love

**"An afternoon of pure MAGIC!"**  
*Tour participant*

# FAIRS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



## Spring Craft Fair

Saturday 11th April,  
10am–3.30pm

Over 60 stalls featuring handmade crafts and gifts – expect jewellery, ceramics, art, glassware and much more. Refreshments available.

*Entry: £3 suggested donation*



## Plant Hunters' Fairs

**Spring Fair**  
Sunday 17th May,  
11am–4pm

**Summer Fair**  
Sunday 2nd August,  
11am–4pm

Specialist plant stalls, garden-related traders and refreshments. Dogs on leads welcome.

*Entry: £2 suggested donation*



## Community Cuppa

Thursday 16th April, 10am  
Thursday 21st May, 10am  
Thursday 18th June, 10am

Come and enjoy the Southwell Minster Community Cuppa!

A friendly, free and welcoming space for everyone. Drop in for a tea, coffee and biscuits, meet new people, reconnect with others, or simply enjoy a change of scenery in a relaxed setting.

You'll find Community Cuppa in the State Chamber, on the first floor of the Archbishop's Palace next to the Minster.

*More dates will be advertised on our Facebook page*



## Enjoy the Palace Gardens

A peaceful haven beside the Minster, perfect for a gentle stroll, quiet moment or family visit.

Open daily throughout spring and summer, 9am–4pm.  
Free entry – donations warmly welcomed.  
Dogs on leads are welcome

# MUSIC



## Bank Holiday organ concerts

Monday 6th April, 3.30pm  
Nathan Monk (Southwell Minster)

Monday 4th May, 3.30pm  
Ben Bloor (London Oratory)  
\*see below

Monday 25 May, 3.30pm  
Imogen Morgan (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh)

Monday 31 August, 3.45pm  
Jonathan Allsopp (Southwell Minster)

*Free admission with a retiring collection.*

## Gala Organ Concert

Wednesday 8th July,  
7.30pm

Join us for a magnificent evening of music as Paul Provost, the Minster's Director of Music, takes to the console for a concert showcasing the full power and beauty of the Quire Organ. Don't miss this inspiring programme performed by one of the country's leading cathedral musicians.

*£10 (U18s free). For tickets, scan the QR code on p. 9 or visit our website.*

## Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral

Fridays 1.30–2.15pm, Nave

17th April Lauren Osmond (mezzo soprano)

1st May Tesserae (female voice quartet)

8th May Isabella Biggs (piano)

22nd May Levi Andreassan (double bass)

29th May Maryland University Clarinet Choir

12th June Blue Fire Trio (jazz)

26th June David Machell Gloria (choral piece)

10th July Jill and Bernard Blackwell (folk)

24th July Sixteen Eighty-Five (Baroque trio)

7th August Louise Spencer (harp) (in State Chamber)

*Free entry; donations welcome. Proceeds support the Cathedral Choristers. Refreshments available.*

### \* Discover the Organs

Monday 4th May, 2pm

A free, family-friendly chance to discover the amazing organs of the Minster! Join Paul Provost, Jonathan Allsopp and Nathan Monk as they delve into the pipes and pedals of the cathedral's two magnificent instruments. The session lasts under an hour, and everyone is warmly invited to stay for the free organ concert at 3.30pm.

# MUSIC



## Music in the State Chamber

Sunday 10th May, 7.30pm  
Southwell Chamber Choir  
(Music in the State Chamber  
50th anniversary concert)  
*Please note that this concert  
will be held in the Quire of  
Southwell Minster*

Sunday 7th June, 7.30pm  
Southwell Cathedral  
Choristers

Sunday 5th July, 7.30pm  
Stephen Cooper (baritone)  
and Paul Provost (piano)

*Free entry (no reserved  
seating); donations welcome.  
Proceeds support the work  
of Southwell Minster Choir  
Association*



## Candlelight concerts

Thursday 7th May, 7.30pm  
Motown by Candlelight

Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm  
A Night at the Opera  
by Candlelight

Friday 5th June, 7.30pm  
Meatloaf by Candlelight

Thursday 23rd July, 7.30pm  
Eagles by Candlelight

Friday 24th July, 7.30pm  
Queen by Candlelight

Thursday 20th August,  
7.30pm  
The Music of The Beatles  
by Candlelight

Friday 21st August, 7.30pm  
The Music of Fleetwood  
Mac by Candlelight

A licensed bar is available at  
all candlelight concerts.

Scan the QR code for  
tickets or visit [www.  
southwellminster.org/2026-  
events](http://www.southwellminster.org/2026-events)

## More music to enjoy at Southwell Minster

Thursday 16th April  
The Sixteen's Choral  
Pilgrimage: 'Lead, Kindly  
Light'

Saturday 18th April  
Southwell Choral Society:  
Handel *Samson*

Friday 15th May  
Southwell Music Festival  
launch concert

Wednesday 27th May  
Chamber Choir of St  
George's School, Windsor  
Castle (concert to include  
Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice  
in the Lamb*). Free concert  
at 1.30pm: no booking  
required

Saturday 30th May  
Nottingham Harmonic  
Choir: 'Ocean of Light'

Saturday 11th July  
Southwell Choral Society:  
Gilbert & Sullivan *Trial by  
Jury*

Friday 28th – Monday 31st  
August  
Southwell Music Festival

*These events are promoted  
by the groups listed: see their  
websites for details*

# OUTDOOR EVENTS



## ABBA by Moonlight

Friday 12th June, doors open 6pm, show starts 7pm

A brilliant night of ABBA nostalgia! This faithful tribute captures the band's iconic harmonies, style and energy in an electrifying live show.

Enjoy all the classics – *Dancing Queen*, *Mamma Mia*, *Waterloo* and more – in the beautiful setting of the Palace Gardens.

Bring your friends, pack a picnic, and dance the night away beside Southwell Minster.

There will be a bar on site for all your refreshment needs



## Macbeth

Thursday 30th July, doors open 6pm, show starts 7pm

Join The HandleBards in the Palace Gardens for a hilariously high-octane production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* like you've never seen before.

Forget the tears and tragedy, this *Macbeth* is chock full of mishaps, mayhem and mirth.

The HandleBards are an intrepid three-strong troupe spending the summer bringing environmentally sustainable Shakespeare to venues across the UK.

Feel free to bring your own picnics and chairs. Suitable for all ages.

*For tickets to our outdoor events, scan the QR code on p. 9 or visit the Minster website. You can also buy tickets from the Cathedral Shop in person or by calling 01636 812933.*

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES



## Melody Makers

Saturdays during term time,  
10–10.45am, Trebeck Hall

Fun singing sessions for children in school years 1 & 2, led by the Minster's experienced and inspiring professional musicians.

No experience necessary – just enthusiasm to give it a go!

*£5 per session (1st session free). To join, come along to a session or see our website for more details.*

## Family Trails for 5–11 year olds

There's always a lovely, themed trail available for children and families from our friendly stewards. You can even borrow binoculars and a torch to help you explore.

*Pick up a trail for £2 at the Information Desk*

### Easter Trail

Monday 23rd March –  
Monday 13th April

Find out how the Minster tells the story of Easter.

## Good Friday: The Journey to Easter

Friday 3 April, 10am, Nave

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, this journey through the Minster is an interactive and accessible telling of the Easter Story suitable for all ages – with crafts and hot cross buns.



## Every Sunday @ 10am

Activities, games, crafts and Bible stories for children every Sunday in term time, during the 10am Cathedral Eucharist. Children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent/carer. During school holidays, children's activity packs are available for use during the service.



This *What's On Guide* is generously supported by Newark & Sherwood District Council

### A few of our recent awards



### CATHEDRAL SAFEGUARDING

For information, visit  
[www.southwellminster.org/safeguarding](http://www.southwellminster.org/safeguarding)

To report a safeguarding concern, email  
[safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org)



**ACCESSIBILITY:** Lifts provide access to the Chapter House and State Chamber. A wheelchair is available, and we offer large-print and braille guides, tactile models of the Minster, and a loop hearing system.



Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome in the Minster, its grounds and gardens.