



Southwell
Minster

Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace

WHAT'S ON

Autumn & Winter 2026



THE SOUTHWELL LECTURES

Tickets for Lectures are £7 (plus booking fee) from our website, the Cathedral Shop or on the door



Christianity and the Common Good

Sunday 18 October, 4.45–5.45pm, The Minster

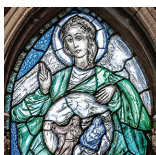
An afternoon exploring the concept of the Common Good at a time when it is widely felt that institutions are losing their purpose and integrity. *Speaker:* Jenny Sinclair, founder director of Together for the Common Good, a small national UK charity dedicated to spiritual and civic renewal.



English Language in Early Medieval Southwell

Tuesday 27 October, 2.30–3.45pm, State Chamber

People spoke and wrote Old English in early medieval Southwell. How much do we know about their language? What did it sound like? This engaging talk will include discussion of *Beowulf*, The Lord's Prayer and place-names from the Southwell area. *Speaker:* Dr Christine Rauer, medieval English literature specialist based at the University of St Andrews.



Christianity and Welfare

Tuesday 17 November, 7–8.15pm, The Minster

Christianity was crucial in the development of the welfare state in this country. Has it anything to say as we rethink welfare at a time of great economic pressure? *Speaker:* Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow at Theos, a think tank that stimulates debate about the place of religion in society, challenging and changing ideas through research, commentary and events.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



Bramley Apple Festival of Food and Drink

Saturday 24 October, 10am–3.30pm

Meet dozens of stallholders offering food and drink including pies, chocolates, jams, chutneys, pickles, sausages and much more.

Entry: £3 suggested donation (under 16s free)

HERITAGE DAYS & TOURS



Guided tours of Southwell Minster

Tours usually take place on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays

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 or exploring the historic gardens.

Please check **www.southwellminster.org/tours** for exact times, seasonal variations and booking availability.



Shining a Light on the Organ

Sunday 20 September & Sunday 22 November, 1–2pm

Join a member of Southwell Minster's music department on a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Minster's organs, including areas not open to the public. Please note that much of this tour is at height, with steep steps and narrow passageways.

Tickets £15 (plus booking fee) from our website or the Cathedral Shop



A Day of Music and Heritage at Southwell Minster

Saturday 31 October, 12–7.15pm

Join us for a special day celebrating music, history and one of England's finest cathedrals. Your day will include a guided tour and talk, Choral Evensong with the opportunity to sing alongside the Lay Clerks, an informal recital by the Lay Clerks in the magnificent State Chamber, and a well-deserved glass of wine to round off the day! Music will be provided for those wishing to sing Evensong.

Tickets £25 (tbc). To book, visit www.cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/events



Winter Craft Fair

Friday 6 November, 4–8pm, & Saturday 7 November, 10am–3.30pm

Browse beautiful handmade gifts, decorations and crafts from makers and artists at one of the region's best-loved craft events.

Entry: £4 suggested donation (under 16s free)

EXHIBITIONS: STORIES THAT MATTER

The Minster is a place where people and communities can come together, where difficult questions can be brought into the light, and where there is space to listen, reflect and hope.

This autumn, our exhibitions explore some of the challenges facing people in our communities – from homelessness and domestic abuse to isolation and belonging. Through art, lived experience and the creativity of local people, they invite us to look beyond the headlines, see the person behind the issue and consider what part we can play in creating a kinder, safer and more hopeful world.



From Trauma to Hope to Independence 11–19 October

Homelessness is more than not having a home. Behind every experience of homelessness is a person, with their own story, hopes and challenges. This powerful exhibition from Framework brings together art, photography, real-life testimonies and the voices of people who have experienced life on the streets. It invites us to look beyond the stereotypes, understand the realities of homelessness, and consider what it takes to move from trauma to hope, and from hope to an independent life.



Red Flags, Green Flags 9–19 November

What does a healthy relationship look like? And how can we recognise the warning signs when one becomes harmful? Inspired by the medieval Green Men of Southwell Minster, women taking part in Mansfield Museum's Green Power project have created ceramic Green Women and richly stitched flags exploring abuse, recovery and resilience. The exhibition transforms experiences of trauma into powerful expressions of hope and strength, highlighting the red flags of abuse and the green flags of healthy relationships. It also points visitors towards local sources of support.

An invitation to notice the signs, start conversations, and help create a world where everyone can feel safe.



Framework's Community Quilt Early December: dates to be confirmed

What can happen when hundreds of people each contribute something small to create something extraordinary? To mark Framework's 25th anniversary, people are coming together to create a huge community quilt. Every panel tells a story; together, they form a celebration of connection, belonging and the power of people supporting one another.

Watch our Facebook page for the exhibition dates. Come and see what our communities have made together.

CELEBRATING CREATION

This Season of Creation, we give thanks for the beauty and richness of the world around us, and highlight the growing pressures on it and our urgent responsibility to respond. We mark 25 years of A Rocha UK, a Christian charity and Southwell Minster partner helping churches and communities care for the natural world, and 10 years of its Eco Church programme, now supported by 9,000 churches.

Southwell Minster is proud to be a Silver Eco Church, and we're working towards Gold. For us, that means turning our commitment to creation into practical action – from the way we care for our buildings and gardens to the way we worship, learn and work with our community.

Caring for Creation exhibition 4–17 September

Discover how the Minster and its partners are responding to the challenges facing our natural world. An opportunity to learn, reflect and be inspired.

Caring for Creation Celebration Service Saturday 12 September, 11am

A joyful service of celebration and thanksgiving, with guest preacher Canon Dr Ruth Valerio, environmentalist and theologian. All are welcome, with refreshments afterwards.

Creation Sunday Cathedral Eucharist Sunday 13 September, 10am

A reflective service of prayer and thanksgiving for creation, with birdsong woven into the service to help us pause, listen and reflect on the natural world.

Animal Blessing Service Sunday 27 September, 3.30pm

Bring your furry, feathered or scaly companions to this much-loved service. All creatures great and small are welcome!

Harvest Festival Eucharist Sunday 4 October, 10am

A time to give thanks for the food we share and all those who grow and produce it. Please bring a donation of non-perishable food for Newark Foodbank.

Harvest Evensong Sunday 4 October, 3.30pm

A service of prayer and hope featuring beautiful music, with a focus on our farming communities.

Children's Creation Trail 1 September – 4 October

Children can explore the Minster with a special Creation-themed trail. Pick up a trail from the stewards. Suggested donation £2.



SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

You are welcome to light a candle at any time in memory of someone special, to sit quietly in prayer, or simply to spend a moment in this sacred place.

Throughout our Season of Remembrance, we offer a range of services and opportunities to come together, honour those we have lost, and find comfort in shared memories, music and prayer.

All Saints' Day Sung Eucharist Sunday 1 November, 10am

A joyful Eucharist with thrilling music to remember the countless people, past and present, whose faithful lives have shaped Christianity, and go on doing so.

All Souls' Day Requiem Monday 2 November, 7.30pm

This service includes an opportunity to light candles for loved ones, to hear their names remembered in prayer, and to share together in Holy Communion. Minster Chorale will sing Duruflé's *Requiem*.

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 8 November

Act of Remembrance 10.45am, starting on The Burgage

Southwell comes together to remember those who have given their lives in service and sacrifice. The traditional Act of Remembrance takes place at the War Memorial on the Burgage, followed by a procession to the Minster for a service.

Requiem Eucharist 3.30pm

A service of remembrance and prayer for all those affected by war and conflict. The Cathedral Choir will sing Fauré's *Requiem*.

Act of Remembrance Wednesday 11 November, 11am

Join us for the traditional two-minute silence at the Minster's War Memorial as we remember all those who have given their lives in service and sacrifice.

Blue Christmas Reflective Service Monday 21 December, 2pm

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people, particularly those experiencing loss, grief, loneliness or separation. This gentle service of quiet reflection, carols and prayer offers an unhurried space to acknowledge that sadness and hope can sit alongside the Christmas story.

SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Celebrate the quiet beauty, wonder and joy of Advent and Christmas at the Minster.

Advent Procession – Darkness to Light Sunday 29 November, 6.30pm

A beautiful and atmospheric service of music and readings. Unmissable!

Carols for Everyone with Southwell Lions Saturday 5 December, 7.30pm

Favourite Christmas carols for all the family, with music, singing and festive cheer.

Christmas with Southwell Music Festival Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm

A wonderful evening of seasonal music from Southwell Music Festival.

Christingle Sunday 13 December, 5pm

Celebrate the light and hope of Christmas at this special service for families.

Crib Service Thursday 24 December, 2pm

A joyful re-telling of the Christmas story, especially for children and families.

Cathedral Carol Services Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 December, 7pm

A much-loved Christmas tradition, with readings, congregational carols and glorious music from the Cathedral Choir.

Christmas Day Services Friday 25 December

Join us for joy-filled worship as we celebrate the birth of Christ with services all day.

8am Start Christmas Day with quiet reflection

10am Cathedral Eucharist – celebrating Christmas together as a community

11.15am Choral Mattins – words and music to celebrate the gift of Christ

3.30pm Evening Prayer with carols, readings and reflection – with a visit to the Crib to sing *Away in a Manger*. The perfect end to the day.

Our full programme of Advent and Christmas services will be published in a separate booklet.

CONCERT SERIES



Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral

Fridays 1.30–2.15pm, The Minster

- 4 September Music for Bassoon and Cello – Edyon
- 18 September Songs to Entertain – The Artisan Singers
- 2 October Jazz – The Brian Humpherson Quartet
- 16 October Music for Viola – Rachel Spence
- 30 October Music for Wind Quintet – Nottingham Chamber Wind Ensemble
- 13 November Victorian Parlour Songs – Matthew Spillett and Matthew McCullough
- 27 November Early Music – Zoffany
- 11 December A Christmas Serenade: seasonal songs and instrumental music

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



Music in the State Chamber

Sundays 7.30–9pm, State Chamber

- 13 September Susie McIntosh (cello) & Mary Brazier (piano)
- 11 October The Music of Gilbert & Sullivan
- 8 November Comic songs with Guy Turner (baritone) & Jonathan Allsopp (piano)
- 13 December Carols in the State Chamber with Mosaic

Free entry; donations welcome. Proceeds support the work of the Southwell Minster Choir Association.



Gala Organ Concert

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30–9pm, The Minster

Performed by Carolyn Craig, Assistant Director of Music at Wells Cathedral. Carolyn's programme will include Bach, Brahms and Reger.

Tickets on the door: £10 (cash or card), U18s free.



Silent Film: The Phantom of the Opera

Wednesday 14 October, 7.30–9pm, The Minster

A screening of the 1929 silent film *The Phantom of the Opera*, starring Lon Chaney, with live improvised organ soundtrack by renowned organist Martin Baker, former Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral.

Tickets £15 (U18s free, ticket required) available from our website



Southwell Choral Society presents Bob Chilcott's Requiem

Saturday 21 November, 7.30–10pm, The Minster

Discover Bob Chilcott's radiant *Requiem* – a moving contemporary choral work of remembrance, hope and exquisite beauty. Hear Southwell Choral Society perform in the magnificent surroundings of the Minster, a place at the heart of the choir's musical life.

Tickets available from Southwell Choral Society members or from the Minster Shop.



Handel's Messiah

Tuesday 8 December, 7–9pm, The Minster

Southwell Minster Chorale's annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* is a much-loved and popular staple in our run-up to Christmas, and once again they are joined by a professional orchestra and four acclaimed soloists.

Tickets available from TicketSource: search 'Handel Messiah Southwell' or call 0333 666 3366

CONCERTS BY CANDLELIGHT

Experience Southwell Minster in a whole new light. As hundreds of candles illuminate the cathedral, enjoy spectacular live performances of your favourite rock and pop classics in an unforgettable setting. With a licensed bar and a buzzing atmosphere, Concerts by Candlelight promise a brilliant night out – and a magical introduction to one of Nottinghamshire's finest historic buildings.



Bruce Springsteen by Candlelight

Thursday 10 September
7.30–9.45pm



Ed Sheeran by Candlelight

Thursday 1 October
7.30–9.45pm



Whitney Houston by Candlelight

Friday 11 September
7.30–9.45pm



80s Anthems by Candlelight

Thursday 12 November
7.30–9.45pm



Scan the QR code for tickets or visit
www.southwellminster.org/2026-events



More music to enjoy at Southwell Minster

Black Dyke Band presents World-Class Brass Saturday 5 September, 7.30pm

A Night at the Opera with London Concertante Saturday 10 October, 7.30pm

De Mowbrays Musicke talk and concert Saturday 17 October, 1pm

Young Virtuoso Final featuring Braimah and Jeneba Kanneh-Mason Saturday 31 October, 7.30pm. See katharinedryden.co.uk

Christmas Movies with London Concertante Saturday 14 November, 7.30pm

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

COMMUNITY CUPPA

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

Join us in the Minster on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 10.30–11.30am.

Dates coming up: 17 September, 15 October, 19 November

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Family Trails for children aged 5–11

Discover Southwell Minster in a fun and imaginative way! You can even borrow binoculars and a torch for your adventure. Ask our friendly stewards for the latest trail, including a special Christmas trail in December. Suggested donation £2.



Minster Kids: *Sundays at 10am*

Activities, games, crafts and Bible stories during the 10am Cathedral Eucharist in term time. Children under 5 should be accompanied by a parent or carer. In school holidays, children's activity packs are available to use during the service.



Small Sounds: Music for babies, toddlers and grown-ups

Fridays during term time, 9.30–10.15am, The Minster

Sing, play and explore music together at Southwell Minster. **Brand new for Autumn 2026**, Small Sounds is a relaxed weekly session where babies, toddlers and their grown-ups can enjoy songs, movement and games. Suggested donation: £5 per session. To join, come along to a session or visit our website for more details.



Melody Makers: A choir for children in Years 1 & 2

Saturdays during term time, 10–10.45am, State Chamber

Fun singing sessions for children in school years 1 and 2, led by the Minster's inspiring professional musicians. No experience necessary – just enthusiasm to give it a go! £5 per session (first session free). To join, come along to a session or visit our website for more details.

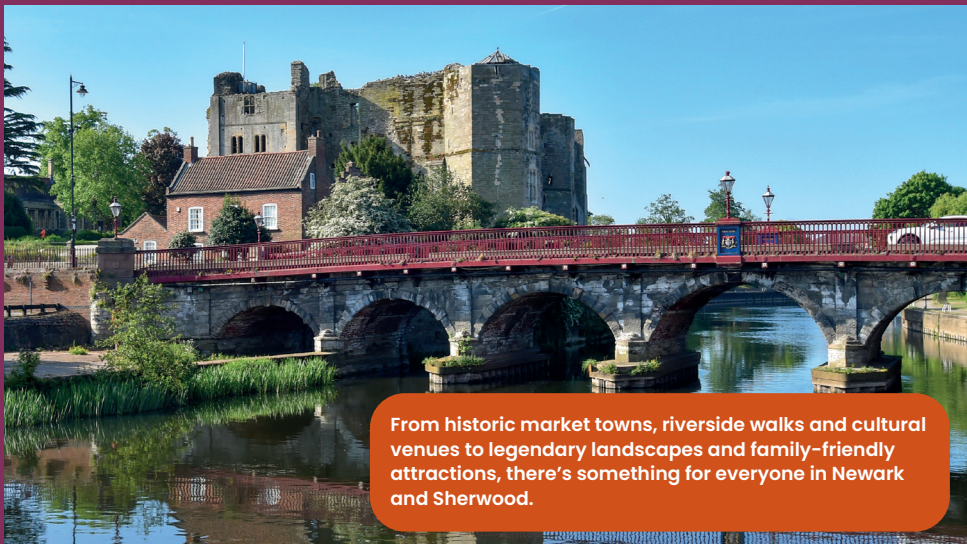


The Chorister Experience: Singing, discovery and fun for children in Years 1 & 2

Saturday 10 October, 10am–12.30pm, The Minster

A special morning where children can experience singing in the Minster, meet the Cathedral Choristers, explore the Minster Organ and discover more about cathedral music. Refreshments are provided. Entry is free, but you will need to book in advance. To sign up or find out more, visit our website.

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



From historic market towns, riverside walks and cultural venues to legendary landscapes and family-friendly attractions, there's something for everyone in Newark and Sherwood.

VISIT 
**NEWARK &
SHERWOOD**



Discover Newark and Sherwood
and start planning your trip
www.visitnewarkandsherwood.co.uk



A few of our recent awards



CATHEDRAL SAFEGUARDING

For information, visit
www.southwellminster.org/safeguarding

To report a safeguarding concern, email
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.