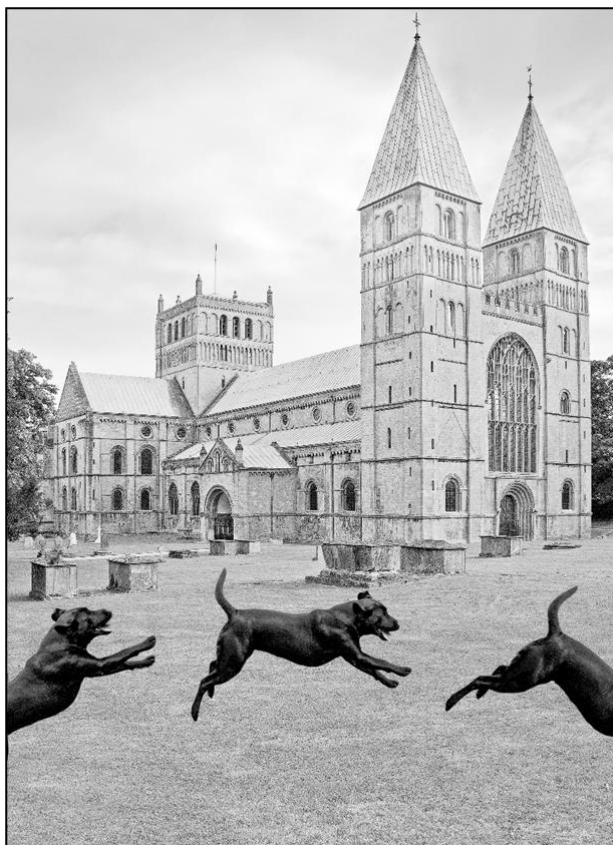
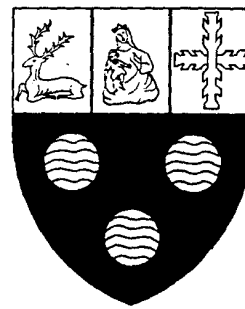


Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

Sunday 27 September 2026

3.30pm

Welcome to Southwell Minster

Welcome to our Animal Blessing Service at Southwell Minster.

At this time of year the Church celebrates the wonder of God's creation. In the approach to the feast of St Francis of Assisi (this year on 3 October), famed for his love of animals, many churches hold services of blessing for those creatures with whom we share our lives, and who bring us such joy and comfort.

When we come to the blessing of the animals, please stay where you are, and the clergy will come to you.



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



Large print orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesperson or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.



We are a Fairtrade cathedral, committed to continuing and increasing our use of fairly traded goods wherever possible.



This Order of Service is printed on sustainably produced paper.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

Support the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral. A collection for the Cathedral's mission and ministry will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK



taxpayer, please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes provided – this allows us to increase your donation by 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. Card donations can be made at the contactless stations located near the main exits. You can also donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.southwellminster.org/donate. Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.

Clergy at this Service

This service is led by the Revd Amanda Lees, *Canon Missioner*.
The Preacher is the Revd Prof. Alison Milbank, *Canon Theologian*.

Music at this service

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.
The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.
Minster Melody Makers are directed by Lauren Osmond, *Lay Clerk*.

Organ Music before the service

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele, BWV 654

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Acknowledgements

Scriptural quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (used by permission; all rights reserved). This compilation is copyright © Southwell Cathedral Chapter.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Before the service the Canon Missioner welcomes the congregation.

Please stand for the opening hymn.

HYMN



All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluya!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him...

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:
O praise him...

Words: *St Francis of Assisi* (1182-1226)
trans. *William Draper* (1855-1933)

Tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN* NEH 263
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Canon Missioner introduces the services and says

God of life, we thank you today for all the different creatures that are in the earth: we praise you for the ones we live with and care for, the cuddly and domesticated, the beautiful and special to us; but also for all the world's other creatures: the farmed, the wild and the dangerous, and for those birds, fish, and animals whose lives are endangered by the way we humans live.

We praise and bless your holy name.

We praise and bless you for all the creatures we love, and whose companionship makes our life richer: for our pets; our cats and dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and degus, for our goldfish and tropical fish. For lizards, snakes and turtles, horses and donkeys – for them all.

We praise and bless your holy name.

We thank you for all those animals whose produce and whose lives sustain ours. For sheep and cattle, for chickens and ducks, for kangaroos and llamas, for fish and shellfish.

We praise and bless your holy name.

We pray for and thank you for farmers and fisherfolk, for vets and zookeepers, for those who run kennels and catteries, and all whose livelihood depends upon animals.

We praise and bless your holy name.

For the glory of creation, for the colour of kingfishers and hummingbirds, the quickness of cheetahs and peregrine falcons, for the flexibility of octopuses, the changing colour of chameleons, and the camouflage of snow leopards and owls.

We praise and bless your holy name.

We thank you for the animals we have never heard of, and the animals not yet discovered. Help us to love, protect, and care for every one of them.

**God of all creatures,
we praise and bless your holy name.**

Please sit

SONG *performed by members of Minster Melody Makers*

Oats and beans and barley grow

Traditional

READING *read by Alice Snowden, with Brax*

Isaiah 11:1–9

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Here ends the reading.

Please stand

HYMN



He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got every creature here in his hands.
He's got every creature here in his hands.
He's got every creature here in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Please sit when invited

REFLECTION *by the Canon Theologian*

BLESSING OF THE CREATURES

Please remain in your places as the clergy walk around the congregation blessing the animals:

N, may God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you, protect you, and give you peace and happiness.

Amen.

Meanwhile, the choir sings:

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings
All things bright and beautiful...

The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them, ev'ry one.
All things bright and beautiful...

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful...

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-95)

Music: John Rutter (b. 1940)

O ye badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye badgers and squirrels and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye badgers and squirrels and ferrets and foxes and hedgehogs,
bless the Lord.
O ye parakeets and pelicans and porcupines and penguins,
guillemots and guineapigs and gallinules and godwits and badgers
and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye weasels and warthogs and wallabies and wombats, chipmunks and
chuckawallas and kookaburras and caterpillars and badgers and
hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye dromedaries and ye dragonflies and diddy little daddy longlegs,
budgerigars and bumblebees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and
badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.

Words: adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

*Music from: BENEDICITE
Andrew Carter (b. 1939)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by the Canon Missioner*

After each bidding, the following response is used:

God of life,
hear our prayer.

concluding with the following prayer:

Look upon the animals, O God, which share our homes and our lives,
and which inspire us with their love and loyalty.
Bless then for the companionship they give us a
and the work they do to help humankind.
Protect all animals that suffer neglect and cruelty, we pray,
and bring them the help they need.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

and THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Please stand

HYMN *during which a collection will be taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral.*



**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart, I pray;
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the break of day:**

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King!*

**Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Keep me loving till the break of day:**

Sing hosanna...

**Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray;
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day:**

Sing hosanna...

Words: Anonymous
Traditional melody

Tune: SING HOSANNA CP 433

BLESSING

May God, who created the animals of this earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Penguins' Playtime

Nigel Ogden (1954-2026)

Following the service, we would like to take some photographs which may appear on social media and in promotional materials for next year's service. If you and your animals would be happy to appear in these, please stay in your places at the end. Thank you!

We hope you have enjoyed today's service and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Please take this order of service away with you.

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