



COMMUNITY NEWS

A new home for the Cathedral Shop

As part of a wider commercial decision about the future use of the building currently occupied by the Cathedral Shop and Café, **the Cathedral Shop will move from Church Street into Southwell Minster in October.**

We know this will be a significant change. The Cathedral Shop has been part of the life of the Minster for many years, and we know that our community values not only the shop itself, but also the friendly welcome they receive there. We want to be absolutely clear that the decision to move the shop is not a reflection on our wonderful shop staff or volunteers.

Amy, Nicola and our team of volunteers are knowledgeable, creative and passionate about the shop and the Minster, and have strong relationships with our customers. We are enormously grateful for their hard work and commitment, and they will be central to developing the shop in its new home.

Moving into the Minster gives us the opportunity to build on what people already value about the shop. We will curate a sensitive heritage offer – one that feels inseparable from the story, architecture and character of the Minster.

Having a shop within the cathedral building is an established model elsewhere. A number of cathedrals successfully operate their shops within their main cathedral buildings, bringing their retail offer closer to the visitor.

Why is the shop moving?

The decision to move the shop is a financial one.

Southwell Minster is facing what is probably the most significant financial challenge in its history. This means that we cannot continue doing things as we have long done them. As an independent charity, we have to make the best possible use of the assets and spaces we have. This requires making careful and considered decisions now to put the Minster on a more secure financial footing.

By moving the Cathedral Shop into the Minster, we will make the whole of the Church Street site available to our new catering partner. This gives us the opportunity to increase the rental income we receive from the building and reduce our maintenance costs. This income will make an important contribution to the Minster's finances, while the shop will continue to welcome visitors and generate income in its new setting.

What happens next?

The Church Street shop will be open until **Sunday 4 October**, closing from Monday 5 October.

The Cathedral Shop will begin its new life inside the Minster, initially building on the shop presence already located to the right as you enter through the main (north) door. Later in October, we will introduce a special Christmas-themed shop offer in this space.

We hope the Minster will quickly become a new favourite place to shop, whether you are looking for a gift, something to remember a visit to the Minster, or simply something beautiful and distinctive.

We will take time to get the shop right. Initially, we will make use of furniture and fittings we already have in place, allowing us to develop the offer while we consider the longer-term layout and location of the shop within the Minster. We won't rush this process, and will share more about those plans as they take shape.

A time of change

There is a lot of change taking place at the Minster at the moment, and we know that some of it will take time to get used to. Please be assured that we are making these decisions carefully, balancing the things that matter to our community with our need to stabilise the Minster's finances.

The current café will remain open until **Sunday 4 October** and will close from Monday 5 October for a refit.

There is a lot to look forward to. We will be sharing more about the new café partnership soon, and we look forward to seeing the Cathedral Shop take shape inside the Minster over the coming months.

We are also very grateful to the team who ran the Refectory and helped make it such a welcoming part of the Minster's life for many years. We were sorry that the team decided not to take part in the tender process to appoint a long-term catering partner, and we wish them every success in their wonderful new home.

We know that moving the shop is a big change, and we are grateful to our staff, volunteers and customers for their support. Thank you for bearing with us as we make the move. The new shop is a temporary arrangement while we develop our longer-term plans for it. We look forward to welcoming you to the shop in its new location this autumn.