Southwell Minster
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

FESTAL EVENSONG WITH PROCESSION

Christ the King
(The Sunday next before Advent)

Sunday 22 November 2026
3.30pm

Welcome to Southwell Minster



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**.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.
The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

This service will be live-streamed to the internet, and will be available at www.southwellminster.org/worship-online and on the Minster's YouTube channel, for one day. Live-streaming allows those joining from home to participate in the same act of worship as those in the Cathedral.

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.

The Service of Evensong

The experience of the service of Evensong is unique. It takes place at the end of the working day, and the choir leads worship through their singing. The service is centred around the singing of psalms, ancient texts that speak powerfully and accessibly to our very human hopes, fears and dreams. Every service of Evensong also includes two canticles, or songs, recorded in St Luke's Gospel: the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*. Both canticles focus on hope and the fulfilment of what God promised to his people, and so have acted as a foundation for prayer and reflection towards the end of the day for many hundreds of years. The beauty of daily sung services in cathedrals is that no two composers' interpretation of these texts is the same, so in the repetition of familiar texts we find fresh meaning every single day.

The gift of the service of Evensong is that it requires little active participation from the congregation; it is a service of respite from the stresses of the day. Our hope is that those of you for whom this is your first taste of Evensong will let yourselves be immersed in the experience: you need simply to be receptive, and to allow yourself to be carried by the choir in song and prayer. In letting others take on the responsibility for prayer on your behalf, you are left with greater freedom to be open to the presence and grace of God.

Standing, Sitting and Kneeling

Throughout the booklet, you will find various references to posture:

- **Standing** is used for parts of the service where the emphasis is on praising or praying to God together; so we usually stand to sing hymns, and for certain important prayers.
- **Sitting** indicates listening and receiving; so we sit for the first and second readings from the Bible, and for the sermon.
- **Kneeling** is the traditional position for personal prayer. Please speak to one of the Vergers or Sidespersons if you would like a cushion for kneeling.

Adopting the same posture is a way of showing that we are worshipping God together, as his people. However, please always feel free to adopt a different posture, especially if standing or kneeling is uncomfortable.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Romance (from *Symphony No 4*) Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

INTROIT *sung by the choir from the North Transept*

O Jesu, King most wonderful,
Thou Conqueror renowned,
Thou sweetness most ineffable,
In whom all joys are found!

Words: Latin, c. 12th century
trans. Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Tune: KING'S NORTON NEH 386
Jeremiah Clarke (c. 1673-1707)

Please stand at the entry of the choir and ministers

PRECES *sung by a cantor and the choir*

O Lord, open thou our lips:
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

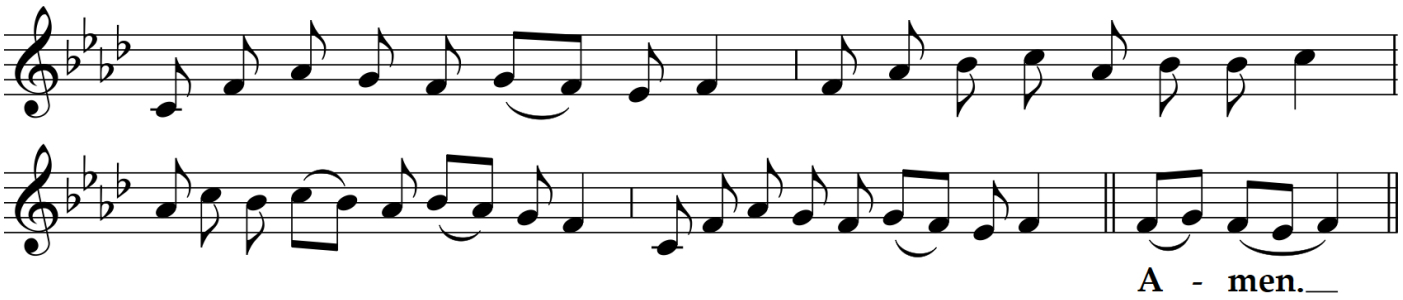
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

The congregation is welcomed by the Revd David McCoulough, Priest Pastor.

OFFICE HYMN *Te saeculorum principem*



Ruler of all from heav'ns high throne,
O Christ, our King ere time began,
We kneel before thee, Lord, to own
Thy empire o'er the heart of man

The hosts of heav'n adoring kneel,
And hymns of praise to thee they sing;
We too rejoice and honour thee
As Lord of all, and sov'reign King.

O Prince of Peace, O Christ, subdue
Those rebel hearts, thy peace restore;
Into thy sheepfold lead anew
Thy scattered sheep, to stray no more.

For this upon the tree of shame
Thy body hung, with arms spread wide,
The spear revealed the heart of flame
That burned within thy sacred side.

For this our altars here are spread
With mystic feast of bread and wine;
Still thy redeeming blood is shed
From that sore-stricken heart of thine.

Jesus, to thee be honour done,
Who rulest all in equity.
With Father, Spirit, ever one,
From age to age eternally.
Amen.

Words: Source unknown *Tune: EXULTET CAELUM LAUDIBUS NEH 214 (t. i) Mode ii*

Please sit

Give the King thy judgements, O God:
and thy righteousness unto the King's son.
Then shall he judge thy people according unto right:
and defend the poor.
The mountains also shall bring peace:
and the little hills righteousness unto the people.
He shall keep the simple folk by their right:
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong doer.
They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth:
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool:
even as the drops that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish:
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
His dominion shall be also from the one sea to the other:
and from the flood unto the world's end.
They that dwell in the wilderness shall kneel before him:
his enemies shall lick the dust.
The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents:
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him:
all nations shall do him service.
For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth:
the needy also, and him that hath no helper.
He shall be favourable to the simple and needy:
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.
He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong:
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia:
prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.
There shall be an heap of corn in the earth, high upon the hills:
his fruit shall shake like Libanus, and shall be green in the city like grass upon the earth.
His Name shall endure for ever; his Name shall remain under the sun among the posterities:
which shall be blessed through him; and all the heathen shall praise him.

Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel:
which only doeth wondrous things;
And blessed be the Name of his Majesty for ever:
and all the earth shall be filled with his Majesty. Amen, Amen.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Music: Henry Smart (1813-79)

Please sit

FIRST LESSON — 2 Samuel 23: 1–7

The first lesson is written in the second book of Samuel, the twenty-third chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Now these are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
  the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
  the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
  his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
  the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
  ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
  like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
  gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
  For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
  ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
  all my help and my desire?
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
  for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
  or the shaft of a spear.
  And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand

ANTIPHON AND MAGNIFICAT *sung by the choir*

And he hath on his garment and on his thigh written:
King of kings, and Lord of lords.
To him be glory and empire
for ever and for ever.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

And he hath on his garment and on his thigh written:
King of kings, and Lord of lords.
To him be glory and empire
for ever and for ever.

Words: Luke 1: 46-55

Music: EVENING SERVICE IN G
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Antiphon: HABET IN VESTIMENTO
Mode vii

Please sit

SECOND LESSON — Matthew 28: 16–end

The second lesson is written in the gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *sung by the choir*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation.
Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Words: Luke 2: 29-32

Music: EVENING SERVICE IN G
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Please turn East to face towards the High Altar

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please turn back

LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES

sung by a cantor and the choir

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us:
Christ, have mercy upon us:
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us;
and let us not be led into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King:
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness:
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people:
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord:
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us:
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Please sit

ANTHEM *sung by the choir*

Blessèd city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who of living stones art builded
In the height of heaven above,
And by Angel hands apparell'd
As a bride dost earthward move.

Out of heav'n from God descending,
New and ready to be wed
To thy Lord, whose love espous'd thee,
Fair adorn'd shalt thou be led;
All thy gates and all thy bulwarks
Of pure gold are fashionèd.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining,
They are open evermore;
And, their well earn'd rest attaining
Thither faithful souls do soar,
Who for Christ's dear name in this world
Pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture
Polish'd well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted
By the heavenly Architect,
Nevermore to leave the Temple
Which with them the Lord hath deck'd.

To this Temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving kindness
Hear thy servants as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway. Amen.

Words: Latin, 7th-8th century
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-66)

Music: Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

HOMILY *given by the Priest Pastor*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by Canon Angela Ashwin, Reader*

One of the following responses, or another, may be used:

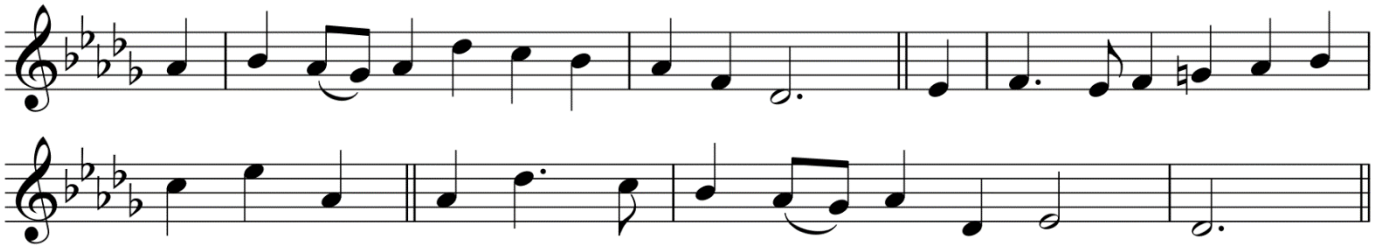
Lord, in your mercy,	Lord, hear us.
hear our prayer.	**Lord, graciously hear us.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN *during which a collection is taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral*



Sing Alleluya forth ye saints on high,
And let the Church on earth make glad reply:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

To him who is both Word of God and Son,
Who, out of love, our nature did put on:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

To him who, born of Mary, shared our life,
And in our manhood triumphed in the strife:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

To him who did for all our sins atone,
In naked majesty on Calvary's throne:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

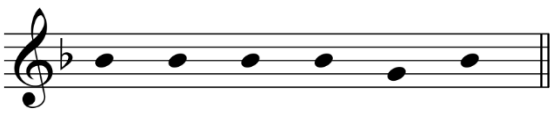
To him who rose victorious from the dead,
And reigns on high, his people's Lord and Head:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

To him who sent the Holy Spirit's grace,
To bear the Father's love to every race:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

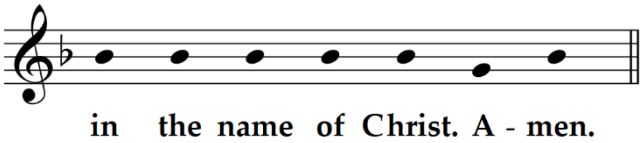
To him, the universal Saviour, now
Let every knee in adoration bow:
To Christ the King, sing Alleluya!

Words: George Timms (1910-97) *Tune: MARTINS NEH 446*
Copyright © Oxford University Press *Percy Buck (1871-1947)*

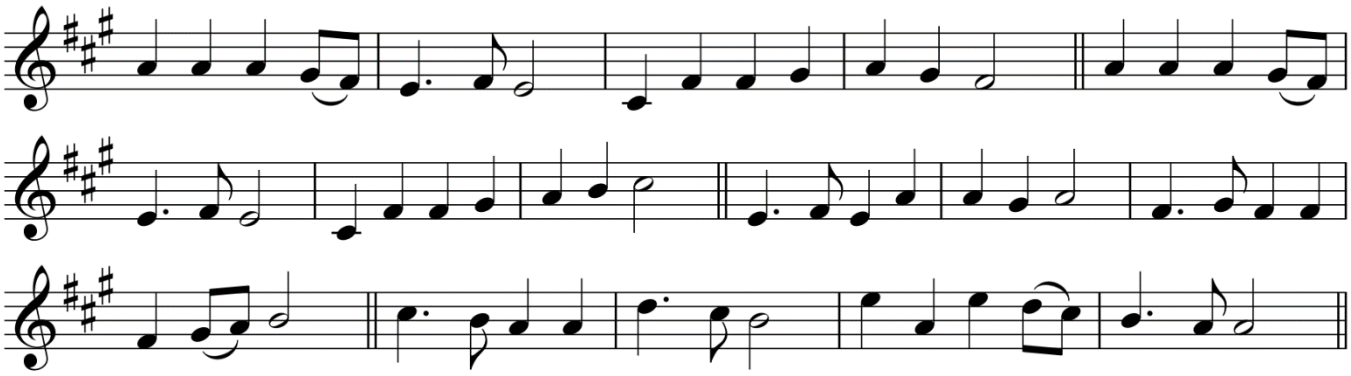
Cantor



All



HYMN *during which all are invited to join the procession into the Nave, concluding in front of the* Christus Rex.

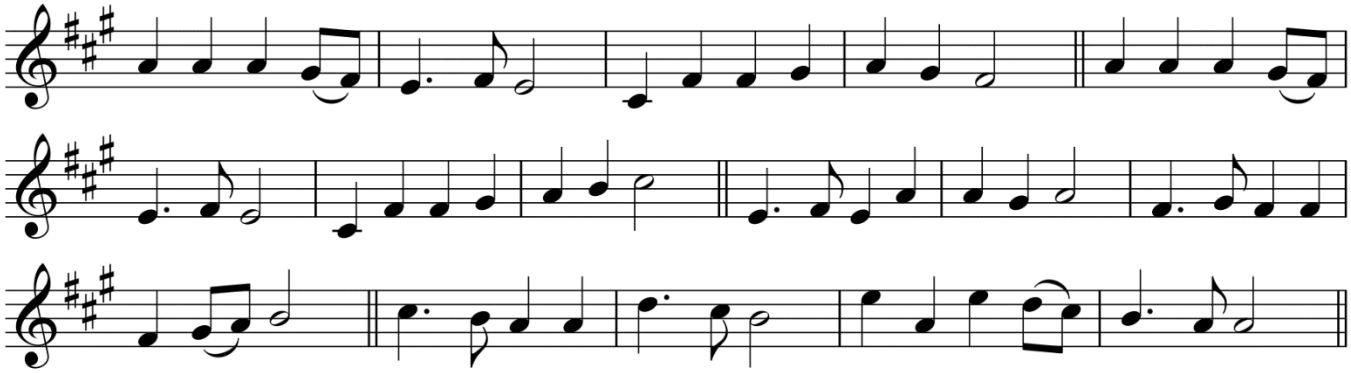


Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.
Angels, saints and nations sing:
'Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary.'

King whose name creation thrills,
Rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,
Till in peace each nation rings
With thy praises, King of kings.
Angels, saints and nations sing…

King most holy, King of truth,
Guard the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ thou King of glory bright,
Be to us eternal light.
Angels, saints and nations sing…

Shepherd-King, o'er mountains steep
Homeward bring the wandering sheep;
Shelter in one royal fold
States and kingdoms, new and old.
Angels, saints and nations sing…



Eucharistic King, what love
Draws thee daily from above.
Clad in signs of bread and wine;
Feed us, lead us, keep us thine.
Angels, saints and nations sing…

Words: Patrick Brennan (1877-1952) *Tune: KING DIVINE NEP 614*
Copyright © Continuum International Publishing Group, Ltd. *Charles Rigby (1901-62)*

Minister Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
All **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.**

O Christ, the King of glory,
who through the everlasting gates didst ascend to thy Father's throne,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers:
grant that, whilst thou dost reign in heaven,
we may not be bowed down to the things of the earth,
but that our hearts may be lifted up
whither thou, our redemption, are gone before,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

BLESSING *given by the Dean*

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL *sung by a cantor and the choir*

The Lord be with you:
And with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the ministers and choir depart*

Flourish for an Occasion William Harris (1883-1973)

Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, and our **Advent Procession** service will take place here at 6.30pm (which will replace our normal Sunday afternoon Evensong service). This atmospheric service begins in darkness, building up to a glorious light as the coming of Jesus is foretold. In word and music, themes of prophecy and expectation come together, pointing the way towards the salvation of the world. Beautiful music is sung by the Cathedral Choir, whose journey through the building reminds us of our own spiritual journey towards the light of Christ, in anticipation of the glories of Christmas. Entry is not ticketed; however early arrival is advised.

For full details of all of our Advent and Christmas services and events, please visit our website: **www.southwellminster.org/christmas2026**

Please note that Mini Pew News (the abridged version of the Weekly notice sheet), is available as a separate document given out at Minster services each Sunday. The full version of Pew News can be found online at https://www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/. Alternatively, we can e-mail you a link to the latest edition of Pew News as it is published each Friday (please complete the web form at https://www.southwellminster.org/newsletter/ to sign up to receive this regular e-mail). Similarly, the full service list for the next week, including the music, is available at https://www.southwellminster.org/worship/services-calendar/.

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Please take this order of service away with you.

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