

Southwell Minster

*The Cathedral and Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



Annual Review 2018



The Dean's Welcome

'Cathedrals are spectacular and wonderful expressions of the mission of God in His world... Cathedrals 'do God' in ways that resonate uniquely with aspects of contemporary culture... Cathedrals bring something unique and wonderful to Church and nation'. Words from the opening paragraphs of the most significant report on English Cathedrals in over 25 years. The Cathedrals Working Group Report, published in June 2018, highlighted both the wonderful opportunities Cathedrals have to make an impact for the Christian faith in the public sphere, and yet also named truthfully the challenges of ensuring financial sustainability, effective management, good governance and visionary leadership.

As I reflect on 2018, I am confident that Southwell Minster is travelling in the right direction in addressing these issues while holding our primary calling as a place of prayer, worship, hospitality, gathering, engagement and community at the very core of our mission. This Annual Report celebrates the remarkable achievements of the Cathedral's staff and volunteers who have 'gone the extra mile' to ensure that we do all to the best of our ability. Memorable moments for me included saying "thank you for all you do" in hosting 300 volunteers over two tea parties in the Walled Garden on a glorious July afternoon. In contrast, it was the year of deeply moving commemorations for the town and county in November marking the Centenary of the Armistice and later that month preaching for the Vote 100 for Women service, with beautiful music sung by the Girls' Choir.

Improved communication has also characterised our focus. Mr Glenn Formoy's arrival as Head of Marketing and Events has channelled vital resources into more income generating events, a new website, an increased presence on social media and a higher quality and broader distribution of printed promotional material. Visitor numbers have increased by 7.9% to over 57,000, and with exciting progress during the development phase of the Chapter House Leaves Project, we are confident that we can attract many more visitors. Visitors frequently comment on the quality of welcome, the tranquillity of building and its environs, and the sense of the Minster being a place of prayer. One wrote after coming to the stunning Threads Through Revelation exhibition in the Autumn that she felt renewed in hope in the face of

the uncertainty of current national and world events. So much of our ministry is hidden and rarely we know in what ways the Holy Spirit touches lives through a visit to the Minster.

Mrs Adele Poulson, Cathedral Administrator, arrived in March and quickly settled in to her new role, working energetically with Chapter in our focus on sound management of resources, people as well as property and finance to support our mission and vision for the future. Chapter said goodbye and thank you to Dr Hugh Middleton as an elected Parish Representative, and in July welcomed Mr Andrew Corner to this role. Canon Jacqui Jones left in July to take up a new post in Chelmsford diocese and more of her contribution over 15 years is celebrated in the Worship and Liturgy section.

As Dean, I enjoy being fully involved in the Diocese as a member of the Bishop's Senior Staff, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and I am excited by the ways in which parishes are responding to the vision of *'Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper'*. In my visits to parish churches and Deanery Synods I find lively expressions of Christian faith, love and service extending out of the church doors into the community. The Cathedral is the heart of a diverse and outward focused Diocese and together we seek to work tirelessly to make Christ known in changing times.

As you read through this Annual Review, we hope you will join us in being inspired, encouraged and hopeful for the future.

Thank you for your support.

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan,
Dean of Southwell
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Walk of Remembrance



Artist Jacqui Parkinson introduces
 Threads Through Revelation

Worship and Liturgy

Canon Jacqui Jones left in June to take up her new post as priest in charge of Danbury and Little Baddow, returning to her former diocese of Chelmsford after 15 years as Canon Precentor. At her farewell service on Sunday 3 June we expressed our gratitude and affection for Jacqui's ministry, which touched not only the Minster's congregations but reached far into the Diocese and across the county, over the years working with three Bishops and three Deans, many changes of staff and countless choristers and organ scholars. Tribute was paid to the establishment of the Friday Lunchtime recitals, her encouragement of the creative arts in the Minster, the development of the Advent Procession, Queen's Birthday Service, the Animal Blessing Service and the Palm Sunday Procession jointly with Our Lady of Victories. Jacqui's imaginative and sensitive intercessions, poems and Pilgrim's Guide will be long remembered. A coach full of supporters from Southwell travelled to Danbury to attend the memorable Licensing Service on 12 July, conducted by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

Ms Jasmine Oakes, Liturgy and Music Assistant, also left in June to take up a new appointment at St Martin in the Fields, London, so there was much pressure on the

department over a few weeks of transition. The arrival of Mr Erik Sharman (also a Lay Clerk) in September helped in bringing a fresh approach into the department and together with the Rector Chori and Assistant Director of Music we have worked hard to produce the services which characterise the Cathedral's rich liturgical year. In both the one off specials such as the County World War One Commemoration in November and in the 'day in and day out' of Cathedral worship we seek to offer all to the praise and glory of the living God, and we see lives transformed and renewed as worshippers touch something of the beauty and mystery of the divine.

In February we made a small change to the times of midweek services; Evensong 15 minutes earlier at 5.30pm (prompted by the change in the school day) and Morning Prayer on Tuesday – Friday at 7.30am and Holy Communion at 8am. This has been generally welcomed.

**The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan,
Dean of Southwell**
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Remembrance Sunday poppy drop



Cathedral Choirs

Our musicians have been tremendously busy throughout 2018, ensuring a high quality of music-making within our rich pattern of liturgies. The boy and girl choristers continue to thrive, as do the lay clerks. There have also been a few changes in personnel, moving us positively into the future.

The second Saturday of February saw the boys and lay clerks make a trip to Derby to sing with the choirs of Derby, Leicester, and Coventry Cathedrals. This was particularly anticipated as we were to catch up with Edward Turner, onetime chorister and then organ scholar at Southwell, now Assistant Director of Music at Derby. The opportunity to sing with our local cathedrals was enjoyed by everyone, as was the excitement of a trip out and Derby Cathedral showed us great hospitality.

This term also, the girl choristers enjoyed a workshop session with leading vocal coach Hilary Jones, in which they learned about vocal technique and health. These sorts of occasions are critical in the formation of our young choristers as we afford them the opportunity to develop their already remarkable skills.

As well as all the usual summer excitements of the Queen's Birthday, Civic services, Ordinations and so on, it was also a pleasure to welcome young singers from Sarzana to perform in the Minster and to sing with our girl choristers and lay clerks at Evensong. This was both a musical triumph and a thoroughly cultural occasion, with parties and receptions. Everyone enjoyed making connections with our twinned town in Italy.

There were many other notable moments in the summer, not least the farewell to Jacqui Jones. Having worked here for a significant period, Jacqui provided real continuity and it was a sadness to see her leave.

The autumn is possibly our busiest time musically and always begins by revving up for the St Cecilia Concert. This year we took in Parry's Blest Pair of Sirens alongside as his Songs of Farewell, which are tremendously challenging and beautiful. Our choristers and lay clerks rose to the challenge with real assurance to give a stunning performance of some of the hardest music we have sung. This concert was a very special occasion for The Cathedral Choir and attended by a large and appreciative audience. Hot on the heels of this

was the RSCM Festival Service and, for the first time, the girl choristers took part in this uplifting occasion, having also travelled to Coventry for another Four Choirs Evensong.

The autumn term of course saw the commemorations marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. It was excellent to combine the Act of Remembrance on the Burgage so well with our own remembrance service. Later in the day, the Requiem Eucharist in place of Evensong attracted a sizable number of people and felt like a fitting way to round off our commemoration of those who lost their lives because of conflict. We are particularly proud of the girl choristers, who were invited to sing the children's chorus parts in a performance of Britten's War Requiem in Nottingham with the Nottingham Harmonic Society. This is challenging music and they acquitted themselves with real assuredness and confidence, not to mention musicality.

The Advent Procession and Christmas Services all worked exceptionally well, despite the absence of a Precentor. This is in no small part down to the wonderful team with whom I am pleased to work, from the smallest chorister to the Assistant Director of Music and everyone who contributes to liturgy in this place.

There are challenges ahead, particularly in recruiting the choristers of the future, but we remain optimistic about the direction in which we are travelling. We have said farewell to numerous choristers, as well as to Ben Mills (organ scholar from January, bravely taking on the post at short notice), Peter Nicholson (Decani Tenor), Keith Hewitt (Auxiliary Cantoris Tenor), Jasmine Oakes (Liturgy and Music Administrator) and, as noted, Jacqui Jones. We have been pleased to welcome Tristan Moore (Decani Tenor) and Andy McIntosh (Auxiliary Cantoris Tenor), a selection of new choristers, our organ scholar Anthony Gray, Erik Sharman (already a lay clerk, but also now Liturgy and Music Administrator), and our professional team of chorister supervisors. My thanks go out to all who make music in Southwell Minster and especially to Simon Hogan, with whom I work the most closely. Music has always had a special place here and we look forward to the next year of music and liturgy.

Paul Provost, Rector Chori
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Choral Outreach

2018 has been another successful year for Choral Outreach with almost 800 children taking part in singing sessions at their primary schools. School staff have much appreciated the singing leaders selecting songs to complement school topics, which have included animals, weather, oceans, Victorians, the book *Azzi in Between*, and minibests! In addition to their regular four-week project, Fernwood Primary School asked for animateurs to lead singing sessions as part of their end of term Festival day of art, music and dance.

During the year, hundreds of children have attended singing workshops in the Song School as part of their visits to the Minster arranged by the Cathedral's Education Department, be it for Time Travelling, or a day such as "Faith through the Arts". A new venture for the animateurs was working with year 7 students at an Education Day where they explored the topic of music providing the appropriate atmosphere in the Minster for different occasions.

As in previous years, Guy Turner led a singing workshop at the Discovery Day, and he and Ben Mills, organ scholar at the time, gave a short performance of light songs at the "HLF, ABP Celebration event for volunteers" in March.

In February, several members of the team attended an excellent study day arranged by St Paul's Cathedral and the Choir Schools' Association, which also provided a welcome opportunity to network with colleagues from other Choral Outreach programmes.

As always, thanks are due to the singing leaders, choristers and their families, and the support of Paul Provost. The Choral Outreach team remains indebted to The John Pilling Trust for its continued funding, which makes this work possible.

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Southwell Minster Choral Outreach
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Mission and Outreach

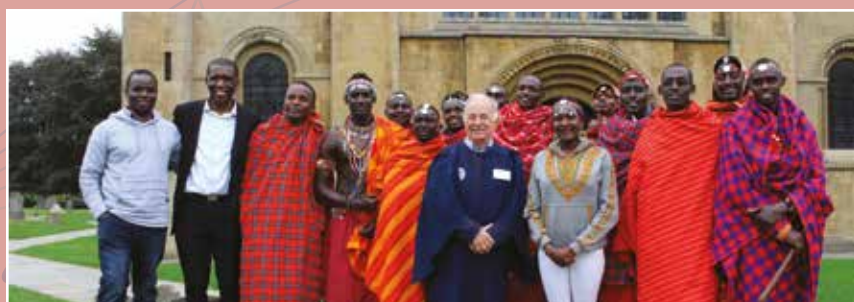
The Minster's 'Mission Partnership Group' continues to focus on God's mission outside the life of the congregation, in this country and overseas.

Part of our task is publicity, and we submitted regular articles to *Southwell Leaves* about the Bible Society's work in China, the Mission Aviation Fellowship in Tanzania, schools projects in Swaziland and Uganda, the Nottinghamshire Rural Support network, Framework Housing, and Home Start, a charity supporting vulnerable families in Newark. We continue to support the Cathedral's long-established partnership in the Holy Land and Dean Hosam Naoum visited in March, staying with the Dean for two days.

The Minster gave away 10% our planned giving (based on the 2017 total of £110,000). Our biggest grants were to the two hospitals run by the Diocese of Jerusalem which we have supported for many years; they are a way that the Anglican Church serves members of the local Palestinian community, irrespective of their religion. Other large grants were to the Mission Aviation Fellowship in Tanzania and to ministry among refugees in Nottingham. Additional collections supported victims of the Indonesian tsunami, translators of the Bible in China, hard-pressed families in Newark, and struggling farmers and the homeless in Nottinghamshire.

The group is always happy to hear of other charities, particularly church-based ones, with which the Minster could have a partnership.

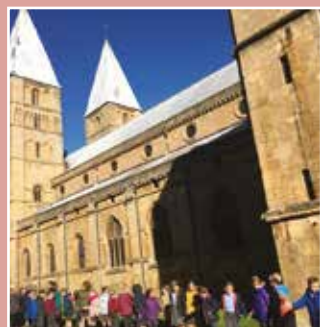
The Revd Canon Vincent Ashwin, Chair
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Chief Steward Shaun Boney welcomes Maasai Warriors from Kenya



Image © Mike Farnsworth





Education

'It was a fantastic trip that children, accompanying parents and staff got a lot out of. It gave us all time to stop and reflect on the past and to the future.' (Year 5 teacher 2018).

Words from a school evaluation form in November following a visit to the Minster to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1. 240 primary and secondary aged pupils came over 4 days to explore the ways in which war and peace are interpreted in art, memorials and through music and drama. We ended each day reflectively - building a cairn for remembrance and pledging to work for future peace. Students' creative responses were wonderful - some of their poems were read aloud and their artwork displayed during Southwell Choral Society's performance of 'The Armed Man' later in the month. It is hard to choose highlights from any year, but this stood out in 2018.

'Time Travelling is a tour de force of heritage education'



This year, we welcomed around 8,000 learners in our usual mix of school visits, new projects, large scale events and provision for informal learners and families. The schools' work is planned to meet the requirements of the curriculum, and way back in autumn of 2017, I began work on a new project, 'The Romans in Southwell.' With the help and expertise of the Southwell Community Archaeology Group (SCAG), on a sunny day in May our first school came to test the activities we'd planned, and they approved - so this is now a full day's learning session available for schools to book. Thanks to SCAG for their enthusiastic support and help in planning and delivering this project.

The two annual Time Travelling schools' RE days were fully booked, filling a week in March with 1,750 Key Stage 2 children. Our new partner organisation, Toilet Twinning, was popular with the children as they learned how Christians live out their faith by helping others. At the Key Stage 1 week in June, where there were 1,500 children, it was great to welcome some new volunteers, including Dean Nicola. I'm pleased to report that she performed her task to perfection! Most excitingly, we were visited by judges from the Heritage Education Trust, who assessed the Minster's learning programme - and were thrilled to meet the standard

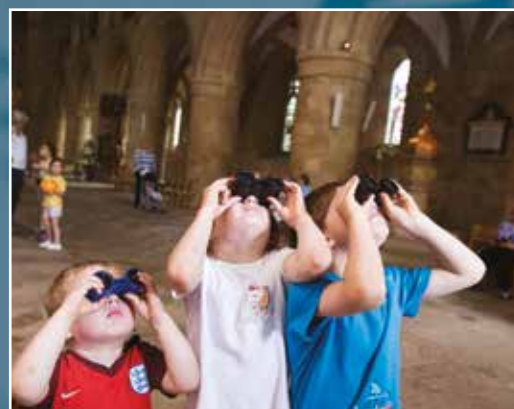
required to gain a Sandford Award for Heritage Education, which we hold for 5 years. In November, Matt (Education Administrator) and I received the award at a ceremony at the Tower of London. Our judge's comment was 'Time Travelling is a tour de force of heritage education'.



Lego® Charles I from our popular BrickMinster display

The Oswald family once again did us proud and created Lego® models for the summer Brickminster trail on the theme of 'Centuries' - each one depicting a different historical event connected to the Minster. I would, as ever, like to thank Matt (Education Administrator) and the wonderful education volunteers, the Minster community, staff and stewards for supporting the education work here. I continue to believe that it is core to the Cathedral's mission and outreach giving life and energy to this wonderful building we share.

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Children enjoying one of our many interactive trails

Minster School Chaplain

2018 began for me with the wonderful silence of the Taizé Service in January for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Over at the Minster School, the ecumenical chaplaincy team continued to develop well. All chaplains contributed to Prayer Week, engaging our Year 8 students with ways of praying, and providing opportunities later in class to engage with chaplains and ask questions about prayer and faith.

The Student Communion Service was introduced in this academic year as an opt-in Eucharistic service with preaching and prayer, led as a group-effort by the chaplaincy team. This has been popular with students, meeting once every half term for an hour in the main hall and attracting typically between 50-75 students. Students also contribute to this service by singing and praying, live music and by reading.

We moved the Foundation Service in 2018 back to the autumn and reshaped the format, bringing the whole of the new Year 7 cohort and every member of teaching staff into the Minster. The Nave was filled for a wonderful celebration and renewal of our historic foundation. The boy choristers sang for us and we launched the first ever Minster School Book of Prayer, giving out a copy of it alongside a Gideons Bible (and other goodies) to every Year 7 student. The Book of prayer was compiled to reflect the five school virtues of Wisdom, Optimism, Resilience, Kindness and Service (WORKS),

with prayers written by our students under each heading.

Our Messy Church, 'Messy Minster', continues to grow, meeting once a month on a Wednesday afternoon and attracting families from Southwell and further afield. We spend time together, with crafts, informal worship in the Minster and ending with a shared meal together back in Trebeck Hall. We typically welcome around 40 people each month. Towards the end of 2018 we introduced the new Messy Minster Family Service, meeting on a Sunday in the Nave at 5pm for an hour. Our first Family Service was a baptism of five people all from the same family and of four generations! We welcomed 75 people at the Messy Baptism, making our own baptism candles with real wax and sharing a simple picnic together at the end.

Towards the end of 2018 the Minster began its involvement with the Bishop's new 'Young Life' initiative, which will encourage a step-change in both children's and families' ministry in 21 churches throughout the diocese. This project is ongoing and the Minster is likely to see its first new contributions to our families' ministry from September 2019.

**The Revd Matthew Askey,
Minster School Chaplain**

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The Leaves of Southwell



Last year we reported on a successful HLF Stage 1 development grant of £352,697. This has enabled the project to consider ways of celebrating and conserving the cathedral's internationally famous carvings in the Chapter House.

The project team has been assembled and we have benefited from the work and expertise of professional access consultants, architects, archaeologists, graphic designers, heating engineers, lighting consultants, stone conservators and project managers. It has been an interesting and exciting year as further practical and academic information has been gathered with the aim of better presenting the leaves to a wider public and preserving them for future generations.



Some of the team were able to visit Naumburg Cathedral in Germany and Rheims Cathedral in France where other 13th century stone foliage carvings are to be found. Both places now have UNESCO status and it was fascinating to compare and contrast our carvings which are undoubtedly their equal in quality if not in scale. The visit also highlighted the uniqueness of the setting of our leaves in a relatively small chapter house and sharpened our questions concerning their significance.

On the practical side, stone conservators are still at work examining the causes of salting and advising on humidity and heating. This is with a view to stabilising an environment that ensures minimum deterioration. Research continues on the possible colouration of the original Chapter House and Slype. Archaeological investigations have confirmed that the 19th century flooring

is considerably higher than the original and should enable under floor heating to be installed. The vault is exceptional and unique amongst chapter houses having a stone roof but no central supporting column, so it was critically important to develop a discrete lighting scheme. The importance of the leaves requires that access, both physical and intellectual, is as wide as possible. The development phase has enabled us to discover that a cantilever lift and handrail are viable at the entrance to the Slype. There are plans to renew the high Quire roof in lead. This is adjacent to the Chapter House and protects other valuable fabric such as the stiff leaf carving of the Quire and the Simpson choir stalls.

There are plans to build an outdoor classroom in the education garden and to grow the trees and plants of the chapter house. This is with the aim of helping children and adults alike to reconnect with the natural world.

In November, at the mid-stage review, HLF confirmed that we could submit our plans for Stage 2 implementation. They will be adjudicated upon in June 2019 by the national trustees of the HLF. Meanwhile we travel hopefully believing that the heritage of our chapter house is something we are called upon to treasure, not only because of its intrinsic beauty and interest, but also because of its contemporary significance.

The Revd Canon Nigel Coates,
Canon Chancellor
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Notts TV recording an episode of their history show Rediscovering Notts

Guild of Stewards

The Guild, created in 1983, has grown considerably since its early days. We now have 140 members, some of whom travel considerable distances. 120 of them regularly provide a welcome to visitors, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Last year we welcomed 13 new Stewards to our family. Two of our most experienced Stewards, Hilda Hutchinson and Diana Pitchford were appointed Honorary Life Members in recognition of their long and distinguished service to the Guild and to the Cathedral at the Annual General Meeting in February.

We have now been counting visitor numbers for nearly two years and the total number of visitors for last year reached 57,081 (not including people attending services, weddings, funerals, baptisms and organised events such as concerts, exhibitions etc.) which represents an increase of 7.9%. Detailed analysis of these figures enables us to plan our cover carefully.

The number of guided tours last year reached 80 - a considerable increase on the previous year. The average number of visitors in each tour was 25 which equates to 2,000 people having enjoyed being taken around our Cathedral by trained guides. We now have 32 Stewards trained as guides for the Minster and The Archbishop's Palace and an additional nine guides for the Tower.

The focus on individual development continues through the *Learning More* programme, and specific development days. These included Prof. Michael Jones discussing the White Book, a medieval register of the ecclesiastical history and social and economic development in Southwell and Nottinghamshire. On another occasion, Tony Consadine discussed heraldry and Lizzy Doorbar her experiences on visiting every Cathedral in England. In addition, sessions were run on medieval graffiti, deaf awareness and safeguarding.

The volunteers previously covering the Information Desk have now joined the Guild of Stewards and the Desk has now been moved to a new position and is now known as the Welcome Desk.

The Rector Chori was our speaker after our annual lunch attended by the Dean and her husband and the Canon Chancellor

and his wife. Paul Provost spoke about the challenges he has faced and his ambitions for the future.

Notts TV visited us in May to record an episode of their history show *Rediscovering Notts*, which resulted in a 25 minute programme about the Cathedral being transmitted in June and watched by thousands.

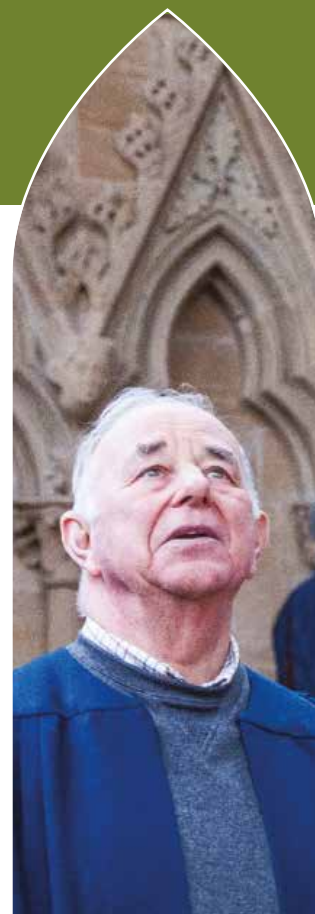
This coming year is a particularly exciting one as we support in any way we can the ongoing work of the Cathedral and of course the developing significance of the Leaves of Southwell project.

Shaun Boney, Chief Steward

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(Please note, from February 2019, the new Chief Steward is Kevin Hender, kevin.hender@btopenworld.com)



Adult Learning



House Groups

Vicky Thorpe and Hugh Middleton have taken up the reins after Patrick Sills stepped down as House Group convener. During the summer Canons Nigel, Alison and Angela collaborated with retired Bishop Ronald Milner, Jeremy Pemberton and others to produce a set of study materials. These were collated under the title *"Listening to The Leaves"* and were intended to offer participants an opportunity to consider theological implications of the Chapter House carvings. Sessions continue and feedback to date has been very positive. Preparations are in hand to arrange a study day on 2 March 2019 to draw these reflections together. That may well lead in to next years' series.

For newcomers, groups are held both in the evening and during the day, in people's homes, Sacrista Prebend and The Hearty Goodfellow. They are small and informal. Pairs of joint leaders guide discussions and ensure a commitment to the confidentiality of members' contributions. Sometimes a social gathering and/or home communion led by one of the clergy takes place. All are encouraged to join a group at any time of the year.

Hugh Middleton

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Historic Chapter Library

During the year, the small team of library volunteers encouraged the use of the wonderful collection by scholars and researchers and for education and enjoyment. At the same time we continue to be aware of the need to preserve the valuable books for future generations.

Examples of some of the treasures of the Minster's Historic Chapter Library have been on display throughout the year in the Chapter House passage. Many different topics have been represented, e.g. 'Weddings', 'World War I', 'Seventeenth Century Portraits' and 'Centuries' to coincide with the Brickminster children's summer trail. The White Book of Southwell was put on temporary display for the launch of Professor Michael Jones's new

commentary, with the White Book and the Historic Chapter Library itself featuring on the Notts TV documentary about the Minster.

The library is open at reasonable times by appointment and the librarians always welcome requests to visit.

Marion Oswald, Hon. Librarian

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Sacrista Prebend Book Group

We are a growing group of people of different interests and diverse religious backgrounds, who continue to enjoy lively debates on a variety of topics, chosen by our members. This year, we read: an interesting historical novel by Philippa Gregory; a thoughtful Lent book by Revd Sam Wells of St Martin in the Fields; 'Conclave', a compelling novel by the famous local author Richard Harris on the intricacies of electing a new pope and a self-help manual on developing 'the art of daily resilience'. Undoubtedly the most outstanding book of the year was *'The Corpse Washer'* by the emigré Iraqi author Sinan Antoon. This painful but beautiful book gave us new insights into the immense and ever-increasing suffering of the people of Iraq over the last few decades and into the delicacy and deep devotion of Muslim funereal practices and prayers.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Olga Hudson, Secretary

Tel: 01636 814434



© Andrew Greenslade

Pastoral Care

This year has seen the broadening of clerical support for pastoral care with the appointment of two priest vicars, Canon Tony Evans and the Revd Erica Kirk. They are both well known in the Minster community and their ministry amongst us has been warmly welcomed.

The lay pastoral group continues to be coordinated by Elizabeth Yule and offers help when needed to those who are housebound or unwell and in need of support. They often advise on the appropriateness of a clergy visit and whether home communion would be valued. We continue to rely on the Minster community to tell us of particular concerns, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

The group has also supported the annual bereavement service, the harvest distribution, Westgate services and Mothering Sunday. In addition, they are now offering support at the monthly communion services at Southwell Court care home and a number attended the annual Carol Service.

The occasional offices offer significant opportunity for ministry at important times of celebration and of sorrow. This year there have been 29 baptisms, 15 weddings and 22 funerals.

**The Revd Canon Nigel Coates,
Canon Chancellor**

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Churchwardens and Sidesmen

We are very fortunate to have a team of just shy of 50 dedicated Churchwardens and Sidesmen whose job is to meet and greet those attending services, help ensure that services run smoothly and tidy up afterwards! The Churchwardens, aided by the Sidesmen, also play a part in the role of safeguarding at the Minster, working closely with the Clergy in this regard.

There seem to have been more services than ever this year to cover, and November was especially busy due to the WWI commemorations and the service to mark 100 years of votes for women. We aim to provide cover for all the main

Sunday services and events in the Church calendar as well as funerals, baptisms and all the 'special' services which include Ordinations, Confirmations and Civic services along with the more informal events such as the Animal Blessing service.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Sidesman then we will be very pleased to hear from you. Do please feel free to speak to any of us at any time.

Lindy Todd, Senior Churchwarden

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Vergers

Over the course of 2018 the Vergers were busier than ever! We were involved in not only the usual run of Daily Offices but also 29 baptisms, 15 weddings, 11 funerals, seven memorial services, 29 diocesan services, 56 other special services and 118 other events. Our duties included preparation for and tidying away afterwards, as well as participation during them, leading processions, working the sound system, and providing first aid cover.

We have completed numerous general maintenance tasks over the whole site including Trebeck Hall, The Archbishop's Palace, Bishop's Manor and of course the Minster itself.

I would like to end by thanking my colleagues and, just as importantly, our families, who support us tirelessly behind the scenes.

Andrew Todd, Head Verger

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Bellringers' Association

An exciting year of ringing of the Minster bells started with bell ringers from all over the country coming to Southwell for The National 12-Bell Striking Competition (Eliminator Round) which was a huge success.

In 2018 we have rung for 13 weddings, two funerals and 13 other services and events in addition to regular Sunday service ringing and practices. Other significant services and occasions included the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle and a Quarter Peal in remembrance of Sgt George William Foster and all the men from Southwell lost in the First World War.

Armistice 2018 was significant being the 100th anniversary of the end of the First

World War and bell ringers across the country made sure to ring on Sunday 11 November. The aim of recruiting 1,400 new ringers, the number of bell ringers who fell between 1914-18, was achieved and surpassed throughout the country and Joseph Williams, son of Bishop Paul and Sarah, is now regularly ringing here and carrying on in the footsteps of his Grandfather.

We are as ever actively looking for new recruits to the art of bell ringing.

Trevor Bryan, Tower Captain

c/o The Minster Office

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Flower Guild

We welcomed three new members to the Guild at our annual meeting during Lent, our time for organising the rota for the coming year. 2018 followed the annual pattern of festivals both ecumenical and secular with the addition of eight brides requiring flowers at their weddings.

Kathy Hocking, in addition to organising both the Easter and Christmas flowers, helped out again at the Discovery Day in September. She gave a short demonstration followed by a hands-on experience with the small group that had signed up.

Sixteen of us were there to help decorate the building for Christmas including two

others who wished to help on the day but are not generally available and they were made most welcome. There have been many favourable comments for both Easter and Christmas as well as throughout the year which we always appreciate.

We are very grateful for our funding from the Friends who always look favourably on any additional requests that we might need from time to time. We are also most grateful to the vergers too for all of the jobs that we ask of them, whatever they might be.

Barbara Green

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Sacrista Prebend Retreat House

Sacrista Prebend is part of the mission and ministry of the Minster and what goes on in and from the House is part of that life and work. Numbers of people using the House for Quiet Days, for Communion and fellowship on Mondays and Wednesdays, for prayer and contemplation and for meeting and training, fluctuate. Many of those using the House are from the Minster but we also welcome good numbers from the diocese and beyond.

Of course, none of this could happen without the ministry of the many volunteers and the

'extra mile' the staff go, so many thanks to them. With their continued help and the wonderful support of Chapter and the Minster community, along with the Diocese and the Friends, Sacrista Prebend will continue to develop not just as a building and garden but as a place of spirituality and prayer for all, a place for God's people, a place of meeting.

**The Revd Canon Tony Evans,
House Warden**

Tel: 01636 816833

Email: sacrista_prebend@btinternet.com

Fabric Advisory Committee

Whilst there were no major repairs during 2018, Chapter are pleased to report that the Southwell Leaves Project is progressing well. In October 2018 a delegation from the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England visited the Cathedral along with case workers from the Heritage Lottery Fund and members of FAC to consider proposals for the Leaves Project.

During 2018 the project team have been developing an application for funding to HLF, and if successful the Leaves project which will renew the 200 year old high Quire roof, install a sensitive lighting

scheme that will enable visitors to view the carvings outside of natural daylight. The project will also enable 1917 heating system in the Chapter House and Slype to be replaced with underfloor heating that will stabilise the environment and minimising deterioration of the stonework. A cantilever lift and handrail will enable full access the Chapter House for the first time in over 700 years.

Adele Poulson, Cathedral Administrator
Tel: 01636 817285
Email:
administrator@southwellminster.org.uk



Staff

Having only been in post fulltime since March 2018 I am delighted to be writing a report on the Minster team and in particular those who have joined during the year.

In January 2018 we welcomed Glenn Formoy as Head of Marketing and Events and he has made a significant contribution to new events and the use of social media. Ably supported by Amy Bromilow who joined us part-time following a successful internship run by the University of Nottingham.

After considering how we maintained the Cathedral grounds we took the decision to appoint Amanda Rushen and Miles Prothero to maintain and develop the

estate and gardens. They joined the team in spring just ahead of the growing season.

Will Farr and Julie Wright joined the music department as Chorister Supervisors, and Erik Sharman became the Music and Litmus Administrator after the departure of Jasmine Oakes. In September we also welcomed Anthony Gray as our organ scholar, replacing Ben Mills.

In 2018 we also said goodbye to Canon Jacqui and wished her well as she began a new ministry in Danbury.

Adele Poulson, Cathedral Administrator
Tel: 01636 817285
Email:
administrator@southwellminster.org.uk



Friends of Southwell Cathedral

The Friends have enjoyed another year of varied events and outings, the first of which was a visit to Wakefield Cathedral on 8 May.

Our 71st Festival was held in June and began with coffee in the Crossing followed by a lecture in the Nave given by Canon Nigel Coates and Charlie Leggatt on 'The Leaves of Southwell' following their visit to Naumburg Cathedral in Germany.

Our October outing took us to the Nottingham Council House where we had a most interesting guided tour. In the afternoon we visited St Barnabas Cathedral and heard much about Pugin who had designed the building and we enjoyed exploring the church.

In November we were delighted to hear another of Charlie Leggatt's illustrated talks,

this time on the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art.

The Friends continue to support the Needlework Guild and Flower Guild as well as specific financial contributions to the Minster. In particular, we have pledged significant support towards the Leaves of Southwell project for a five-year five period. We were pleased to fund the refurbishment of Peter Eugene Ball's sculpture "The Light of the World" in the Candle Chapel.

Our twice-yearly magazine, *Pepperpots*, is now edited by Charlie Leggatt and makes very interesting reading.

Alison Salter
Tel: 01636 830373
Email: ajsalterbleasby@btinternet.com





The College of Canons

The College convened three times in the year, including a meeting with Canons Emeriti and spouses over tea in September. There has been only one resignation, that of Canon Jacqui Jones who was licensed on 12 July to be priest in charge of Danbury and Little Baddow in Chelmsford diocese. The Canon Precentor's stall remained vacant at the end of 2018, with the second round of interviews scheduled in January 2019. No new Honorary Canons have been appointed during the year.

Attendance at College meeting is disappointingly low. In March 2019 consultation with the College is planned (facilitated by Canon Phil Williams) to make recommendation to the Bishop and Chapter as to how the College may be more active and engaged in the life of the Cathedral, so that the skills and experience of lay and ordained Canons may be better utilised in support of the Cathedral's mission and ministry.

**The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan,
Dean of Southwell**
Tel: 01636 817282 (Dean's PA)
Email:
dean@southwellminster.org.uk



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The Cathedral Council

The Council's membership needs some refreshing and there are several vacancies at present. This has been the subject of some discussion between Dean Nicola, Tim Richmond, and myself. The problem arises from the fact that the role of the Cathedral Council is not that which many believe it to be, particularly in a parish church which is also a Cathedral.

The Council's authority is extremely limited under the measure that gives it any responsibility. Therefore, in truth, its function is largely ambassadorial. Having membership that is not made up of people from far and wide throughout the diocese is unhelpful to this role. It is this aspect that Dean Nicola, Tim, and I have been trying to address. Our annual meeting with Chapter has always been invaluable.

Much is being done by the Dean and Chapter to address the financial circumstances of our Cathedral church. These efforts are greatly applauded by Council, especially in relation to those volunteers who give so much of their time and energy for this purpose.

We have three meetings scheduled for the coming year. Hopefully, when I am next reporting, progress will have been made on the issues raised in this report.

HH Judge Tony Mitchell, Chairman
c/o The Minster Office
Tel: 01636 812649 Email: office@southwellminster.org.uk

Visitor

The Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

High Steward

Sir John Peace, H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire

The Chapter

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell (Chair)

The Revd Canon Nigel Coates, Canon Residentiary and Canon Chancellor

The Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, Canon Residentiary and Canon Precentor (*until July 2018*)

Elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Southwell Minster

Mrs Vicky Thorpe and Dr Hugh Middleton (*until April 2018*)

Mr Andrew Corner (*co-opted July 2018*)

Appointed by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

The Revd Canon John Bentham

Col. Tim Richmond MBE TD DL

Canon Philip Blinston

Mr Richard Vigar

Mr Shaun Boney

The College of Canons

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell (Chair)

The Revd Canon Nigel Coates, Canon Residentiary and Canon Chancellor

The Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, Canon Residentiary and Canon Precentor (*until July 2018*)

The Right Revd Anthony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood

The Ven. Sarah Clark, Archdeacon of Nottingham

The Ven. David Picken, Archdeacon of Newark

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Milbank, Canon Theologian

The Honorary Clerical Canons

The Revd Canon Mark Adams

The Revd Canon Peter Huxtable

The Revd Canon John Bentham

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Kellett

The Revd Canon Bronwen Gamble

The Revd Canon Fiona Shouler

The Revd Canon Julian Hemstock

The Revd Canon Steve Silvester

The Revd Canon Barbara Holbrook

The Revd Canon Nicholas Spicer

The Revd Canon Alan Howe

The Revd Canon Phil Williams

The Honorary Lay Canons

Canon Michael Arlington

Canon Elizabeth Rose

Canon Philip Blinston

Canon Nigel Spraggins

Canon John Loughton

The Ecumenical Canons

The Revd Canon David Shearman

The Revd Canon Christian Weaver

The Cathedral Council

Judge Anthony P. Mitchell (Chair)

Councillor David Mellen

The Right Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham

Mrs Jenny Mellors DL (*resigned March 2018*)

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell

The Revd Loraine Mellor (*resigned July 2018*)

Col. Tim Richmond MBE TD DL

Mr Roy Pearson

The Revd Canon Nigel Coates, Canon Chancellor

Mr Christopher Perrett

The Revd Canon John Bentham

The Ven. David Picken

Mr Peter Gibbins

Mrs Jan Richardson MBE

Mr Brendan Haigh

Mr David Shannon

Prof. Eunice Simmons

Mr Richard Vigar



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 GROWING
DISCIPLES
Wider Younger Deeper

 Southwell
Minster