

Southwell Minster

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



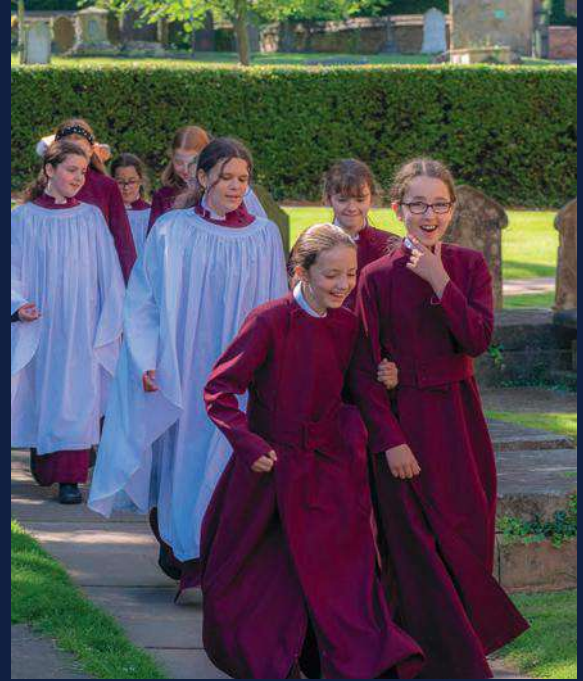
Annual Review 2021

Looking back at 2021

Like 2020, the year 2021 saw numerous restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. The live-streaming of Sunday services continued to be broadcast on our YouTube channel and website and have remained popular amongst those from further afield and those who aren't quite ready to re-join the in-person congregation.

Visitor numbers thankfully picked up in the second half of 2021, and we look forward to welcoming even more people in 2022 as the visitor economy slowly gets back to pre-Covid levels.

Despite the range of restrictions throughout the year, there was a huge amount to celebrate and be proud of; please read on for more.



History in the making

The Cathedral Choir returned to its full programme of sung services in the autumn, for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. But alongside the joyful return of the familiar rhythm there were some new developments. For the first time, the choir has achieved complete parity between boy and girl choristers in terms of the services they sing, but also in that, for the first time in September we appointed our first Head and Deputy Head Girl Choristers, to serve alongside our Head and Deputy Head Boy Choristers. The year ended with two wonderful services of Lessons and Carols at Christmas, and with much to look forward to in 2022.



A Royal Visit

We were all excited to welcome HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who visited the Leaves of Southwell project in September. His Royal Highness' passion for architecture and conservation work was clear and he took the time to speak to many volunteers and members of staff who had worked so hard on the project to conserve the world-renowned 'Leaves of Southwell' for future generations.



What Else Happened in 2021?

In April and May we were delighted to install not just one, but **five Honorary Canons**, including The Revd Kate Bottley of Gogglebox fame, and we look forward to them playing a significant part in the life of the Minster as the Cathedral of the diocese.



Image © Jeremy Pemberton

A Fond Farewell

Later that month we said goodbye to Head Verger Andrew Todd, as he left the Minster after 26 years of service, 22 of which as Head Verger. A special reception was held to thank Andrew for his dedication and hard work after the morning Eucharist, which was attended by a large number of well-wishers.



The Leaves of the Trees, a reflective memorial to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic by acclaimed sculptor Peter Walker, was displayed in the Minster in May/June. The installation was designed to link directly to the sentiments of those who have experienced the pandemic, both those who have lost loved ones and those additionally or personally affected.

The installation comprised 5,000 leaves, each carved with the word "Hope" and shaped by hand, allowed for individuals and families, as well as communities, to take time to consider the past periods of lockdown and isolation and provide a focal point for their thoughts, prayers and personal reflections.



Whilst many indoor services and events were still impacted by Covid restrictions, thankfully our **summer outdoor entertainment programme** carried on as usual. We welcomed back our friends from The HandleBards for their typically zany take on Macbeth, as well as This Is My Theatre for a wonderful performance of The Secret Garden.

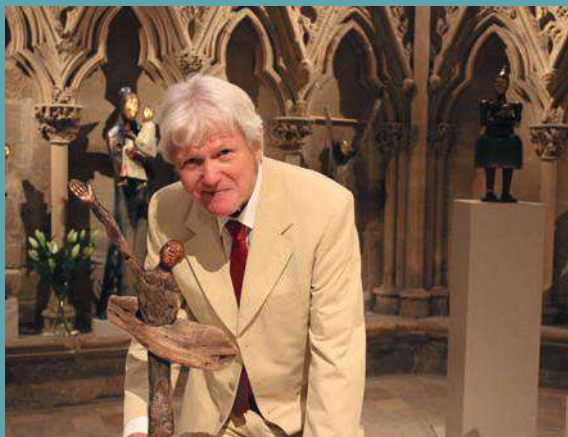
New for 2021 were **two outdoor concerts** which were both wonderfully received by the public, so much so that both will be coming

back to the Palace Gardens in 2022. Over 500 people across two nights danced the night away to 21st Century ABBA and Tina's Ultimate 80's Rock Show. It was truly a wonderful summer seeing people out and about and enjoying themselves once again and we can't wait to do it again in 2022.



Art exhibitions have become a popular sight in the Minster and we were honoured that acclaimed sculptor **Peter Eugene Ball** chose us to be the host venue of his final exhibition before retirement 'Farewell To All That'. Over the course of an extensive career, Peter's work has become an intrinsic part of our spiritual landscape. His final exhibition, opened at Southwell Minster on Sunday 8 August and feature more than 60 new works, including the Hawton Madonna, carved from a 14th-century beam removed from the belfry floor of a local church during recent refurbishments, a life-size Julian of Norwich and a large Ship of Fools, one of Peter's favourite subjects. Other works, both secular and religious, featured

acrobats and dancers, pilgrims and mermaids. Peter is no stranger to the Minster, his majestic Christus Rex was installed high above the nave in 1987, becoming a focus for contemplation and worship. Three more sculptures followed, as well as several major exhibitions. Peter explained, 'for me, Southwell Minster is the perfect setting for my final show.' We wish Peter all the best in his well-deserved retirement.



Our popular **Animal Blessing Service** returned to its outdoor slot where dozens of people brought their pets to be blessed in the grounds of the Minster on a gloriously sunny day in September. There were numerous dogs, cats, rats and even a turtle and we look forward to welcoming all creatures great and small next year!



In October, we were delighted to announce the recruitment of **Canon Paul Rattigan** as our new Canon Missioner, starting in January 2022. Paul will be responsible for overseeing the cathedral's work on areas of eco and social justice ministry, education, children and families work, and pastoral care, as well as developing the Minster's new partnership with the Christian development charity A Rocha UK.



After the disappointment of so many events being cancelled in 2020, it was wonderful to be able to open up the Minster for our two most popular events, namely **The Bramley Apple Festival** and the **Winter Craft Fair**. Both events saw around 2,000 visitors to the Minster and small independent stallholders were delighted with a bumper sales day after such a difficult two years financially.





Art exhibition organised by The Friends of Southwell Cathedral

The Leaves of Southwell

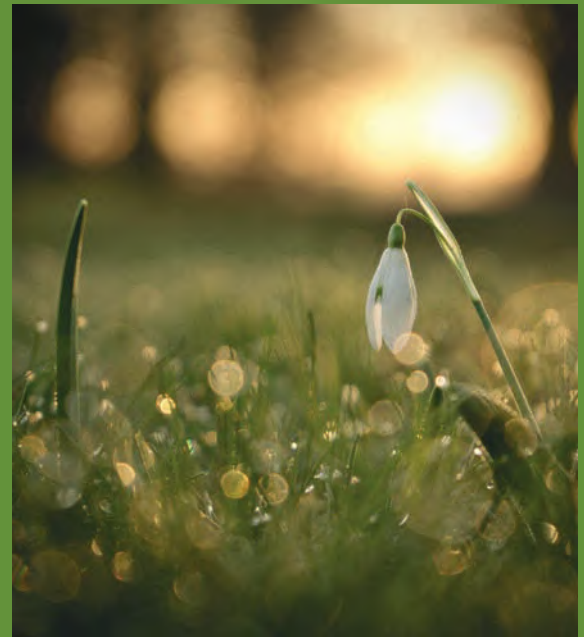
This multi-million-pound project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continued at full steam and with the exception of the garden works, had been completed by the end of 2021. The stone floor had been re-laid after the installation of underfloor heating, new LED lighting was put in both indoors and out which illuminates the Minster in all its glory, and a high-tech cantilever lift was commissioned, allowing full access to the Chapter House for the first time in its 700 plus year history! October saw the official re-opening of the Chapter House where donors and the project team who have worked tirelessly on the project were thanked for their generous donations and effort to ensure the project was a success. We look forward to the garden works being completed in 2022.



New lighting illuminates the Minster

Unlocking Nature's Secrets

We had an amazing response to our photo competition earlier in the year, inspired by the Leaves of Southwell project to think about nature as we spent more time outside during lockdown. The standard was truly incredible – a huge thank you to all who entered! The top 12 entries were compiled into a 2022 calendar which was available to purchase from The Cathedral Shop.



The winning shot by Kerry Adams

The Cathedral Shop

After a challenging start to 2021 and the Cathedral Shop remaining closed for the second Easter season in a row, we were delighted to re-open the doors on 12 April and welcome back our customers for the rest of the year.

Online sales were up throughout the first quarter and we'd like to give a special thanks to those of you who continued to support the Cathedral Shop even whilst our doors had to remain shut.

Another year of invaluable contributions from our wonderful volunteers; they continue to support us and offer the Cathedral Shop their time with a smile. We couldn't do it without them and remain truly grateful for their kindness and resilience throughout the past couple of years.

We are fully stocked up for the new year ahead and hope for a successful 2022.

We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10 – 4pm and Sunday 11.30 – 3.30pm

Our online shop is available 24/7 at <https://www.southwellminster.org/shop>

If you are interested in joining our team of Cathedral Shop Volunteers, please contact us or pop in for a chat, we'd love to hear from you.



Green Southwell climate march



New Chief Officer, Canon Nigel Spraggins, welcoming Lady Monson and her cousin Sir Roy Strong to the cathedral

Christmas

Our Advent and Christmas season went ahead as 'normal' but with reduced numbers for understandable reasons. The ever-popular Cathedral Carol Services, which were limited to 350 attendees per service, were booked out weeks in advance and saw a big increase in numbers compared to the 80 we were restricted to in 2020. Hopefully 2022 will see things back to normal where we can expect over 900 per service and celebrate Christmas all together once again.

In closing, from The Dean

As you have read through the 2021 Annual Review you may have been surprised to see how much happened in our Cathedral in 2021 despite the impact of the prolonged pandemic and continuing restrictions. Every picture tells a story, and we are delighted to celebrate and share some highlights with you. It has been a tough year for everyone and yet staff and volunteers have been extraordinarily resilient and cheerful in challenging and changing circumstances. We are learning to be more imaginative, for example using the gardens and outdoor areas for worship. We have been able to adapt and be flexible at short notice when government guidance changed, as happened for the Service of Thanksgiving for the Duke of Edinburgh in April and the Queen's Birthday Service in June. Throughout 2021,

Southwell Minster offered welcome to all who have come in person or online and channelled the message of Christ's peace, love and comforting presence during another year of national and, for many, personal crisis. In 2022 the Chapter is focusing on rebuilding the Cathedral's worshipping and missional life to better serve our diocese and wider community in the new opportunities we have been given. We cannot do anything without your prayers, support and generosity so THANK YOU for travelling with us.

Dean Nicola

The Very Reverend Nicola Sullivan
Dean of Southwell

What's on in 2022

21st Century ABBA, Friday 8 July

The English Cathedral Exhibition,
Tuesday 2 – Monday 22 August

Tina's Ultimate Rock Show,
Saturday 6 August

Plant Hunters' Fair,
Sunday 7 August

Cinderella, Sunday 14 August

The Railway Children,
Friday 19 August

Twelfth Night,
Saturday 3 September

Bramley Apple Festival of Food &
Drink, Saturday 29 October

Winter Craft Fair,
Friday 4 – Saturday 5 November

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