



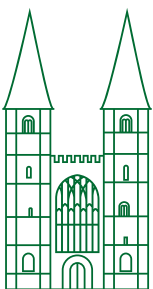
Pepperpots

Magazine of The Friends of Southwell Cathedral – issue 58, Autumn 2023



A fresh start

Following the adoption of our new constitution at a Special General Meeting on 17th June, Friends enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the Walled Garden. (see Chairman's Welcome, page 2)



Southwell Minster – Established in Saxon times and a cathedral from 1884

Chairman's Welcome

Charlie Leggatt writes

*Victorian photograph
from Mrs Julie Wykes.*



2023 has witnessed the most substantive changes to the governance of the Friends since our foundation in 1947. Following the Special General Meeting (SGM) on 17th June, we have a new constitution and an independent (of Chapter) chairmanship – a role I was humbled to be asked to take on, whilst remaining Editor of Pepperpots. On the facing page, you will find the Minute of the Special General Meeting which brought the new constitution into being. My colleagues on Council join with me in thanking Dean Nicola most warmly for chairing the Friends up until the SGM – and we much look forward to working closely with her and Chapter in this new era.

Our Annual General Meeting preceded the SGM with a most illuminating talk by Martin Bussey as the ‘overture’ to the business of the day – all this will be reported upon in detail in the Spring 2024 issue of Pepperpots.

With the meetings concluded, members moved over to the Walled Garden of the Archbishop’s Palace where, by kind permission of our President, Bishop Paul, a wonderful summertime lunch was held in a marquee on the lawn *front cover*. The day ended on a perfect note with Evensong in a packed Quire, Bishop Paul being the preacher.

The week before our meetings, on 8th June, several Friends helped Minster staff and volunteers in welcoming a visiting group from the Friends of Winchester Cathedral. Modesty forbids me from quoting the many kind remarks we all received from them but, suffice to note, the day went splendidly. Pepperpots goes to many other cathedrals who exchange their publications with us and,

should a reader who is part of another cathedral’s network feel a group visit a good idea, do please get in touch and I can get the ball rolling (contact details on the back cover).

Along with our regular subventions to the Flower and Needlework Guilds, we have several funding projects for Chapter in the offing which I will report on in the next issue, when they have firmed up. As members know, we are presently funding the conservation of the Victorian Processional Banner; this is ongoing and, again, I hope to update you in the next Pepperpots.

Members will recall the most generous legacy we received from Barbara Barker, with her testamentary request that we use this for the benefit of the Music Foundation. In this regard, I noted in the last issue that we had given £40,000 to help fund the restoration and ‘MOT’ of the Quire Organ. Since then, we have donated a further £40,000 to help with the costs, over the next few years, of the organ scholarship – a particularly appealing element within the Minster’s overall education offer – with the residual distribution from the estate, £13,000, going toward Chapter’s ‘Milo’ appeal, which benefits the Choristers (see Ruth Massey’s article, page 4). So, a broad sweep of donations across the range of the Music Foundation’s work – and ones I think Barbara would have approved of.

Mrs Julie Wykes very kindly got in touch about the fascinating Victorian photograph illustrated here. As this hung in the house of her late great-aunt in Mansfield, it is tempting to speculate whether the foreground figures are ancestors (or family friends) on an outing to Southwell Minster. The spires on the



Chairman's Welcome – continued

western towers – the ‘pepperpots’ – were removed a little after 1800 and replaced by circa 1881, so it is always interesting to see the building without them. Note, too, the lower pitch of the Chapter House roof.

The supplement to the Spring Pepperpots flagged up that our 17th November Reception would centre around a talk by three Ukrainian specialists in Icons of the Kyiv school. An invitation is enclosed and I much look forward to seeing many of you then; needless to say, one of Margaret Noble’s splendid afternoon teas will be served.

Finally, I am delighted that Elizabeth Johnson has agreed to be co-opted on to the Council. Elizabeth was responsible for running the Choral Outreach programme and is often to be found helping out at a wide range of Minster events. She is a trustee of our sister charity, Southwell Minster Choir Association, as well as being a committee member of Southwell Music Festival since its beginning. Her presence greatly strengthens the expertise on Minster life available to your Council.



Top to bottom (clockwise): Elizabeth Johnson, who joins Council.

With a lay Chairman now in place, a badge of office was privately commissioned and donated for the use of the present Chairman and his successors.

The Chairman, Charlie Leggatt, flanked by left Roger Wilson (Hon. Treasurer) and right Alison Salter (Hon. Secretary). The three represented the Friends at a Volunteer Fair organised by the Minster on 18th July.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the charity was held on Saturday 17th June 2023, immediately following the Annual General Meeting, at which a new constitution was adopted. Sixty-three subscribing Friends were in attendance.

The Chairman of the Friends, The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, noted that the reasons for the new constitution had been prior distributed to the membership via an extra mailing of ‘Pepperpots.’ (Members whose email addresses are held had additionally received information at the start of the year).

The Chairman read out the Resolution and invited the members present to cast their vote, in accordance with the provisions of the existing constitution.

Resolution: Pursuant to Clauses 16 and 18 of the Constitution and Rules of the Charity (as adopted by the Charity at its AGM in June 1994, amended at its AGM in June 1998 and further amended at its AGM in June 2001) (“the Existing Constitution”), we, being the members of the Charity entitled to vote on a resolution of the members, hereby resolve by way of **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** that:

1. a new constitution of the Charity in the attached form be and is hereby adopted as the constitution and governing document of the Charity in substitution for the Existing Constitution.
2. The new constitution in the attached form shall hereafter be known as “the Constitution of the Friends of Southwell Cathedral”.
3. The Existing Constitution is hereby revoked.

The Resolution was carried unanimously, there being no votes against, nor abstentions.

The Dean of Southwell, The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, then invited the members present to confirm the existing Council (under the old constitution) in office for a fresh three-year term. The motion was carried unanimously, there being no votes against, nor abstentions.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs Alison Salter, announced to the meeting that Charles Leggatt was the Council’s candidate for Chairman. Addressing the Council, she invited them to confirm this before the membership. The Council voted unanimously, that this was their wish (note: one member of Council had been unable to attend, being on holiday).

The Chairman of the Friends, Charles Leggatt, spoke briefly, thanking Dean Nicola warmly for her six and a half years as Chairman. Noting that it had been a long morning, he invited members to proceed to the Walled Garden where a lunch (kindly sponsored) was held to celebrate the milestone of the new constitution.



Dean's Column

The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan



It was very good to see so many of you at the Friends Festival. What a splendid day with a delicious lunch and time to relax together. The adoption of the new Constitution means I no longer write as Chair of the Friends, but I continue to give you my full support.

The Minster recently hosted Luke Jerram's *Gaia*, an art and light installation which reflects the wonder of looking back on earth from space. *Gaia* and another of Luke Jerram's artworks *The Museum of the Moon* have been 'doing the rounds' of Cathedrals and Greater Churches for a couple of years and have been successful in bringing in new visitors and giving an opportunity to engage in thoughtful reflection on God's creation and the fragility of our beautiful blue planet. Bringing *Gaia* to Southwell was a risk – will people travel to our small town? Will they pay to see it? Will we meet costs and bring in valuable income? I am delighted to report that it has been a great success. Despite the wet summer, over eleven thousand people came during the eighteen days to stand in awe under the seven-metre diameter globe suspended from the nave roof. We held different events including concerts, poetry reading and an evening with our very own Canon Kate Botley, of Radio 2 and *Songs of Praise* fame. Sunday morning worship under the earth was unforgettable and concluded with a spontaneous rendition of *He's got the whole world in His hands!* Minster staff and volunteers were magnificent in ensuring everyone received a warm welcome at the door. Twenty-nine percent of our visitors were under sixteen and a special explorer trail in the Minster and Palace Garden provided by Diana Ives and the Education team was a huge hit. Curiously, a record number of votive candles were lit, and prayer cards taken away which tells us about spiritual searching in our less religious age. People went away inspired, moved, even in tears seeing the wonder of God's world turning gracefully in our beautiful building.

We heard time and time again local visitors telling us they had never been into the Minster and now they feel they can return. We have an extraordinary Cathedral to share which is so much more than a tourist attraction or exhibition hall. It is a living Christian community with deep roots, a place of worship and a centre for mission where everyone is welcome. The new popular free guide *What's On* promotes all there is to enjoy and explore in the Minster for everything revolves around our love of God and our longing to share life together in Christ.

Thank you, Friends, for your support and encouragement.

May God bless you.

The Milo Chorister Fund

Ruth Massey, Head of Fundraising, writes

A new term is underway for Southwell Minster Choir, and the Cathedral Choristers are settling into another busy year. Chorister numbers continue to thrive: there are twenty-nine Choristers in the Cathedral Choir this academic year: thirteen boys and sixteen girls, eight of whom began their chorister journey in September. Such exciting times! As Choristers they will learn to perform to a world-class standard, and enjoy achieving extraordinary things at a very young age. It's the start of what we hope will be a lifelong relationship with church music, and we are honoured to take these children under our wing as they grow in confidence, knowledge and skill.

The chorister 'leadership team' this year consists of Head Choristers Natalie and Elliott, Deputy Head Chorister Rosie, and Tippet Choristers Ewan, Florence and Shreya. These senior choristers take on responsibilities that help with day-to-day running of the choir, and an important aspect of their role is looking out for and setting a fine example to their younger colleagues.

Earlier this year the Minster launched the Milo Chorister Fund, dedicated to raising money to meet the £42,000 cost of running the chorister programme each year. That covers everything involved in the chorister experience, from singing lessons to pastoral care, robes and the ever-popular Chorister Teas that the children enjoy between the end of the school day and Evensong.

So far, we have raised £29,550. Alongside grants from church and music trusts, The Friends have donated a wonderful £13,000 (from Barbara Barker's bequest) while several individual Friends responded most generously to the request for donations in the last issue of *Pepperpots*. A heartfelt 'thank you' for your support.

As we head towards the end of the year, we will be mounting a 'push' to find the remaining £12,450. Central to this is a Choir Exhibition, which will be held in the Chapter House from 1-16 November. All Friends are most warmly invited to see the exhibition: learn about the history of the Choir, enjoy looking at pictures of the Choir through the decades, and discover a few well-kept secrets...

To finish with a plea: if you feel able to support the work of Southwell Minster's Choristers through the Milo Fund, please donate at southwellminster.org/donate. Your support, no matter how great or small, will make a difference. £25 will pay for a chorister's music lessons for a week; £200 supports all the choristers for a day; £1,500 creates a Chorister Bursary that will support an individual chorister for an entire year. Please help us keep the Choral Tradition alive and thriving at Southwell Minster.



Fiona Allen: An Appreciation

Malcolm Stacey, Editor Emeritus, writes



It is forty-nine years since I first met Fiona Allen who died on 12th May at the age of 83. I had been persuaded to take on the editing of the Friends' publication (at that time limited to a slim annual report) by the Revd John Treadgold who was moving from Nottinghamshire. I had never heard of the Friends and knew no-one in Southwell, but for some reason agreed. So how fortunate that at the first Council meeting I attended I met Fiona. I rapidly discovered that, even though she had been the Friends' Hon. Secretary for only a short time and had arrived in Southwell not so long before that, she seemed to know everyone connected with the Minster and in the town and could bring to life thumbnail pictures of many individual distant Friends. Not only this, but she was more than ready to allow this treasury of knowledge to compensate for my unpreparedness.

We quickly established an effective working relationship, the high point of which every year was when we came together, usually in Nottingham for my convenience, to plan the annual report. The first item on the agenda was always the colour of the cover. A further bonus was that her husband Peter, who also sat on the Council as Hon. Treasurer, had his office in the city centre quite near mine and quickly came to give me a lift back to Southwell, a custom that persisted, with a brief break, for almost twenty years. We always managed to arrive in Southwell in time for a sherry at Easthorpe House before the meeting.

Fiona's contribution to the Friends was phenomenal. Not only was she still a member of the Council after fifty

years when she died, but she was a pivotal figure as Hon. Secretary twice, one long stint and a second brief, but critical. Her first spell from 1972 to 1987 was marked by the brisk but thoughtful efficiency which she brought to all her activities. Not the tiniest detail escaped her meticulous attention. All this was achieved without the help of a typewriter. Then in 1987 she and Peter decided that someone else should have the chance to direct the affairs of the Friends. However between 1992 and 1994 they generously agreed to resume their duties on a temporary basis to cover a critical spell in the Friends' administration and no-one was better equipped to do so. Her forthrightness was legendary, but her contributions to the life of the Friends were modestly out of the limelight. She was never averse to expressing an opinion out of step with the mainstream, but the perceptive came to spot a twinkle in her eye on most occasions.

She found time to serve the wider community. Among her areas of activity over the years Meals on Wheels, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Nottinghamshire Boys Clubs might be singled out. But her support for the wider mission and ministry of the Minster was unwavering and shaped her whole life. Her simple family funeral in the Minster on 21 June included moving touches. At the thanksgiving service which followed Fiona had banned a eulogy, but her son Giles neatly sidestepped this with some illuminating and fond 'recollections and memories'. The Dean in her address referred to Fiona's being 'gloriously and wonderfully made new and whole in Christ'. The Friends have lost a true Friend, but one who will not be forgotten.

Chris Johnson

Treasurer of Bradford Young Signers Group, writes about a visit to the Minster

How do you know how difficult a craft or artistic activity is? Do you pick up the knack of knitting from listening to your grandmother? Or get an idea of the skills of carpentry from talking to your cousin while he knocked up a garden shed in an afternoon? Most of us have at least a vague picture of what is involved before we pick up the knitting needles or the saw.

For those who have no contact with people possessing such skills, or cannot hear any discussion of them, it is a very different matter. Deaf young people miss much "general knowledge". When Bradford Young Signers Group first planned to bring a group of deaf young people to see the Chapter House Leaves of Southwell, we realised that their very sketchy background knowledge would limit their appreciation of the time, skill and effort that must have gone into such a marvel of stone-carving.

It is a sad fact that many deaf young people grow up in hearing families with whom they cannot communicate. This is because the amazing advances in technology that help deaf people with some residual hearing are of little or no value to those with no hearing at all. The latter group relies on British Sign Language. If the other family members do not learn BSL, a deaf child grows up in a very isolated existence, not knowing who visiting relatives are, where the family went on holiday, or even why a new baby had appeared at home.

The six deaf young people whom we wanted to bring to Southwell in the October half-term 2022, had no conception of stone-carving. They could understand "stone" but anything connected with masonry, building and sculpture

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Chris Johnson – continued

was completely unknown. For this reason, we arranged a visit to Yorkshire Stone Carvers in Halifax. This group teaches the skills of stone-carving from taster sessions for beginners – just right for our deaf group – to full-year courses leading to accreditations and qualifications.

Our letters to parents and carers before each trip always include a picture so that, even if communication at home is extremely limited, they can show an image to their deaf child to help them understand the nature and purpose of the trip. A stock image of stone-carving gave them the idea that people “used tools to make a picture in stone”. This is what one deaf child signed to our interpreter when we asked them, on the morning of the trip, what they were expecting.

At the start of the three hour taster session, each deaf young person was given a block of soft stone and introduced to the safety goggles, mallets, chisels and other tools. The instructor had drawn the outline of a ten-petalled flower with a stem and two leaves. The task was then to turn the two-dimensional image into something resembling a large stone daisy.

Happily, by the end of the session all the deaf young people (and the accompanying staff) had completed something that was recognisably floral. Crucially, the group now had a clear idea of what it took to carve one flower with two leaves.

It made an interesting mathematical challenge, on arrival in the Chapter House two days later, to ask how long they thought it had taken to carve the hundreds of leaves on the walls. They knew that it was a very, very large number. One number that they could put a figure on was the number of seats in the Chapter House. Our BSL interpreters explained how meetings used to take place and the significance of the names on each seat. None of our group was familiar with the organisation of the Church of England, now or in the past, so there was some very useful inter-cultural education here.

The value of educational visits is widely recognised for hearing young people, but for those who live in a silent, visual world, seeing things first-hand is a vital learning experience. They noticed the facsimile leaves that the recent Lottery funded project had created for the benefit of people with visual impairments. They were helpful and they made sense because these deaf pupils are taught in a unit that also caters for blind and partially-sighted children, so they did know about things such as Braille and other tactile resources.

The visit was rounded off with an excellent lunch at the Refectory, which gave an opportunity for them to reflect on what they had seen and share opinions. Sadly, none was persuaded to pursue a career in stone-carving – yet. However, an important factor in employment of deaf people is how much communication is needed. Crafts and arts activities can have the advantage that less is needed than, say, working in a busy office. Whether any of our group will eventually make a living out of knitting, carpentry or stone-carving we shall have to wait and see.

Many thanks to the Southwell Minster staff who greeted our group so warmly.

Jesus as Socialist?

Jamie Bostock writes



Simultaneously being a Town Councillor, the Chair of the local Labour Party, and a Christian often provokes people to ask me unique and interesting questions. One of my favourites is: ‘Do you think Jesus was a socialist?’

*The one-word answer from my perspective is ‘no’, as it is ill-advised to try and superimpose our twenty-first century thinking onto notable figures from the past. Certainly, there is much of Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels which, at a brief reading, fits under the general arc of socialist philosophy – I think of the Labourers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20). However, stamping today’s world view is particularly perilous when it comes to Jesus. This is demonstrated most starkly by the attempts to ‘sanitise’ and ‘remodel’ Jesus by the nineteenth-century Orientalist and Semitic Scholar, Ernest Renan. Renan attempted to cast Jesus as the perfect ‘Aryan’ and entirely divest him of his Jewishness (Renan, *Life of Jesus*, 1895). This removal of Jesus from his*

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Jesus as Socialist? – continued

essential Jewishness has contributed to the horrors of antisemitism from Renan's time of writing, right up until the present day. As Christians, we must not fall into the trap of making Jesus in our own image, or making him into an idealised image that reflects our own social views. This is a particularly pertinent point for those of us who are politically minded. As a Christian, I believe that Jesus is alive and present among humankind through God's word and through the sacraments. I believe that he is actively involved in the transformation of people's lives and their natures through the Holy Spirit. How, then, do I move from this understanding of the inner transformation of Christians, to an understanding of how politics should be done by those who claim to be Christian?

Ironically, The Church of England was often referred to as 'The Tory Party at Prayer.' In many ways, it is easy to see why this might be the case. The Church of England, as the established Church, encourages a conservation and a preservation of respected institutions and practices. However, I think it is wrong to characterise Anglican Christianity in England as a wholly conservative entity. In many ways, I think The Conservative Party itself has now ceased to be 'conservative' in the most basic sense, with some Tories feeling content to throw out established conventions and destabilise institutions to serve a particular, individualistic agenda. However, that is a different story for another day! Yes, Anglicans lay store by the sacred tradition that we seek to preserve. Through this tradition, by the sacraments and through an active prayer life, we may draw closer to our true nature as the image of God. We have the opportunity to become fully united with God through Christ. However, this living of a Christian life also requires rigorous and, sometimes uncomfortable, processes of self-examination and openness to change. We are taught to acknowledge our own human weakness and sin; 'the devices and desires of our own hearts' (BCP, 1662), to actively repent, and to depend on the wide mercy of God. As Christians, we must be subject to continual transformation, through allowing the Holy Spirit to broaden its work within us in order to make us more Christ-like. This process, in-turn, should promote in people yearning to have a closer, more loving relationship with God, and thus with our fellow human beings; Jesus reminds us that 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40).

Politics, to me, can be a painful and divisive project in which to invest my time, but it can be enormously hopeful too. I am always mindful that politicians who claim to be Christian bear the responsibility of growing in the image of God, while knowing that they are both democratically and eschatologically accountable for the decisions that they take. Those who stand in any election will be judged at the ballot box, but, as Christians, we recognise that we will also be judged by Jesus himself. It is the responsibility of Christians to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit prisoners, comfort those who mourn and to build as good a reflection of the Kingdom of God on earth as our flawed natures will allow (Matthew 25:35-37). We also must oppose those who lie, and those who

believe that they shouldn't be held accountable for their wrongdoing (1 Timothy 4:2). We must be careful that our concepts of nationality, political identity, and tradition do not become stumbling blocks, impeding our efforts to walk with Christ towards our final destination. Jesus was not a party-political socialist of today – he was a poor, first-century Galilean Jew who recognised social and religious imbalance when he saw it. I find it helpful to remember that God chose that specific century and a particular agrarian context – saturated with poverty and strife – in which to present to us his incarnation. By his life, death and resurrection at that time, Jesus bridged the gap between humanity and God for all time.

“By his life, death and resurrection at that time, Jesus bridged the gap between humanity and God for all time.”

When we act politically, we must prayerfully discern whether we are acting in a way that will bolster our own ego, our own national pride, our own wealth – laying up our treasure on earth, or whether we are prepared to take a step and allow God to use our unique talents to further his own plans – laying up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). I find a powerful example of one who submits to God's vision of the world in Mary, Jesus' Mother. In her Magnificat she recognises that the merciful God does great things through everyday people, even those people whom society maligns:

‘...And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scatter'd 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 forever.’ (BCP, 1662)

When we seek to magnify God in our lives, our worldview should start to spin on a whole new axis. Therefore, perhaps the question to ask isn't whether Jesus was a socialist but, rather, do political decisions of today reflect Jesus' vision for people made in the image of God? As Christians, we must allow Jesus' incarnation to shape our political thinking, instead of attempting to shoehorn Jesus into our own constrained worldview. I am by no means claiming that I do any of this even close to perfectly. However, I hope that this way of thinking can help to reframe political debate for Christians. This way we can try to eliminate a little of the bitterness that so often consumes political life.

Jamie Bostock is Deputy Churchwarden and Town Councillor for Southwell East Ward



The Historic Chapter Library

Victoria Arthurson, Hon Librarian and Archivist, invites Friends to step into a hidden world of mystery and delight

Second column,
top to bottom:

Fig. 2:
14thC *Liber Albus*,
the *White Book of Southwell*, so named
for the white vellum
cover. Now kept at
Nottinghamshire
Archives.

Fig. 3:
13thC Bible, a
contemporary of
the Chapter House
and the North Door.

Fig. 4:
John Mirk Festialis
mid-15thC in original
wooden cover and
open at the page
showing the name
of the donor, H Raper.



Next to the glorious entrance to the Chapter House slype is a plain and unobtrusive door. Yet, cross the threshold and climb thirty steep, and in places, uneven steps, pass by a beautiful piece of Norman newel carving and enter into the wonderful Library of the Historic Chapter of Southwell Minster.

The nature of the medieval Chapter library is, unfortunately, lost to us as following the deprivations of the Reformation and the looting and wanton destruction of the Civil War very few, if any, books remained. However, by the 1690s the re-established Chapter began to construct a new Library. In addition to the purchase of books, members of the clergy and local gentlemen gave from their own collections to form the basis of what was to become a most eclectic selection. Alongside many ecclesiastical works are works on almost everything from Aristotle to zoology.

It would be very tempting to believe that some of the books given had been saved from looting, hidden, and returned but unfortunately this, in the main, would be only speculation. The *White Book of Southwell*, the collection of documents which is our main source of information for the medieval Minster was taken into safekeeping by the Prebendary of Woodborough. He returned it following the Restoration of the Monarchy. It was then borrowed by the influential seventeenth century, county historian Robert Thoroton who had to be reminded several times that the Minster wanted it back! The *White Book* was invaluable in proving the Minster's right to lands and benefices that had been forfeited during the period of parliamentary rule. (fig. 2)

Many of the donations were theological and dating from the early 1500s so unless the gentry of Nottingham



were extremely pious in nature some may have been saved from a church, abbey, friary or monastery, or indeed from Southwell Minster. The Library contains two manuscript books, a Bible and Mirk's *Festialis*, a collection of homilies for Saints Days written in the fifteenth century. (fig. 3)(fig.4)

A gentleman of Norwell, Edward Lee, was one of the original benefactors of the Library. He gave more than seventy volumes towards its foundation, including the manuscript bible and a 1525 edition of Erasmus in a most intriguing binding. The Mirk was donated by a seventeenth century vicar choral, H Raper, when he left to take up a post at York Minster. One of Raper's sons emigrated to the New World, and we had the pleasure of showing the book to one of his direct descendants who was researching family history while on holiday from the United States. We are indebted to Sir Richard Kaye, late 18thC Dean of Lincoln and Prebendary of Southwell, for a splendid set of the works of Handel, the first time that an attempt was made to publish the entire Opus of a single composer. He also gave the Minster the Eagle Lectern that



The Historic Chapter Library – continued

was found at the bottom of the lake at Newstead Priory. Occasionally additions are still made to the collection, and I am delighted to have recently received a donation from former Dean of Southwell, The Very Reverend John Guille, a 1599 Geneva Bible. Also known as the ‘Breeches Bible’ in Genesis Chapter 3 verse 7 the translation reads

‘Then the eies of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed figge tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches.’ (fig.5)

It was the first bible that was readily available to the general public.

A student of theological history from the Reformation to the nineteenth century can become immersed in ‘hot off the press’ works by leading theologians of the day and the many bibles that fill the shelves. One of the most famous of our Prebendaries, Lancelot Andrewes, was unlikely to have ever been at Southwell but we have several editions of his works, which includes a work of which he was one of the translators, a first edition King James Revised Bible. Of the many bibles in the collection one of the finest has to be the superbly illustrated 1672 edition. (fig.6)

Other books of note include Walter Raleigh’s *History of the World* which was written whilst he was a prisoner in the Tower of London. Amongst several books of maps are Abraham Ortelius’ *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* dated 1575 and Georg Braun’s, *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, 1572, which between them give much insight into the geographical, topographical and civic world of Marlowe and Shakespeare, two editions of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer and a first edition of Dr Samuel Johnson’s Dictionary. (fig.7) (fig.8)

The classics are well represented, but, as befits the education of ladies and gentlemen of the 16th and 17th centuries they are in Latin, Greek, and sometimes both. Science is also well represented with works by Isaac Newton and a 25 year run of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* ending in 1809 plus five books of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*. The latter volumes formed part of a late 18th century book club with, on the flyleaf, the rules and borrowers, including a certain Mrs Byron. (fig.9)

Women, as might be expected, are not well represented but we have the works of an extraordinary woman of the seventeenth century. Margaret Cavendish, Marchioness of Newcastle, poet, philosopher, biographer, essayist, playwright, author of prose romance and the first woman to be invited to the Royal Society of London. Royalist, exile, and supporter of women’s education, she was a woman before her time. (fig.10)

For the historian the Library is a veritable treasure trove with works on Classical history right through to the ‘Dispatches of Field Marshall the Duke of Wellington during his various campaigns in India, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, the Low Countries, and France, from 1799 to 1818 ...’, which includes the Iron Duke’s own description of the Battle of Waterloo. (fig.11 – overleaf)

The 1699 Statutes make it very clear that the Library was a considerable asset.

‘In order our Securing & increasing the Library

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top to bottom:
Fig. 5 (top row left):
John Guille’s
Geneva Bible.

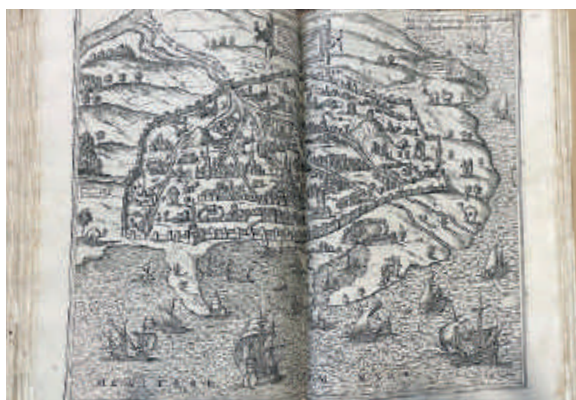
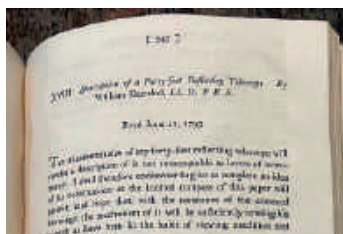
Fig. 6 (top row right):
The sumptuously
illustrated Bible
of 1672.

Fig. 7
(second row left):
The Marchioness
of Newcastle.

Fig. 8
(second row right):
Chaucer.

Fig. 9:
An article from
the *Philosophical
Transactions of
the Royal Society*.

Fig. 10:
Alexandria in
Braun’s *Civitates
Orbis Terrarum*.



‘Then the eies of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed figge tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches’



Out & About

Pauline Rouse writes



In May the Friends had a very successful visit to Elton Hall in Cambridgeshire.

This baronial Hall has been the ancestral home of the Proby family since 1660. The Hall lies in a three thousand eight-hundred acre estate, standing in unspoilt landscaped parkland. The building incorporates fifteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth century parts.

We enjoyed a guided tour of this fascinating house and then were able to enjoy a walk around the gardens and admire the beautiful topiary, an Orangery, Shell seat and wonderful borders.

It is a testament to the family that the house and gardens are so well maintained. Alexandra Proby and her family moved into the house over Christmas 2021 and continue to maintain the house and estate as well as overseeing events and a thriving garden centre and restaurant.

We enjoyed lunch in the restaurant, and then many of our party disappeared into the garden centre to reappear with some beautiful plants to take home.

The next visit for The Friends will be in May 2024 to Wentworth Woodhouse, a grade one listed country house in Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

It is one of the grandest stately homes in the country and is currently undergoing a huge regeneration by its current owners, the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust.

The house has had an interesting history and became well known for its role in the book *Black Diamonds*.

Please refer to the insert for more information and the booking form.

The Organ Scholar



Friends will recall that we donated to Chapter a portion of Barbara Barker's legacy to help with the organ scholarship. Here, Timothy Selman, the new Organ Scholar, tells us about himself.

Hi there! My name is Timothy Selman and I have, as of the end of August, moved to Southwell to take up the post of Organ Scholar. I come from Grantham, where I held a short-term post as Assistant Director of Music at the Parish Church of St Wulfram. Prior to moving to Grantham, I lived in York, where I established myself as a freelance musician. This encompassed work from choral music, to theatre music, from opera, to operetta and musical theatre. In York, too, I served as an organist for a couple of churches, playing for a few choirs there, but most notably serving as Assistant Master of Music and, for a time, Acting Master of Music at the York Oratory.

I also co-direct in the running of a chamber choir *Caelestis*, which sings services in the nation's cathedrals and major parish churches. Each year, *Caelestis* makes around five residential visits and hosts a couple of concerts. The repertoire varies from Gregorian chant through to Anglican and contemporary liturgical choral repertoire. This summer, we had a memorable trip to both Bradford Cathedral and York Minster, the latter where we sang for a week-long residency.

Alongside my work with *Caelestis*, I also try and squeeze in a few organ recitals a year; I have given recitals in Newcastle Cathedral, Howden Minster, Doncaster Minster and smaller churches like the Parish Church of All Saints, North Street; and St Martin le Grand – both of which are in York – among others.

In addition to my work in the church, I have developed a career in theatre, spanning musical theatre and opera. Having developed an interest in Gilbert & Sullivan at University (in Nottingham), both through the University society and through Derby G&S, I delved into musical theatre quite quickly. After University, I moved to York where I developed my theatre career further, and I have musically directed for shows like *Made in Dagenham*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *A Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*, a fair portion of the G&S canon, as well as playing in the orchestra for many others.

Recently, York Opera was where I continued this love of chorus training, and I helped to direct a few concerts, semi-staged concerts of choral works and operatic excerpts but also, notably, I had the opportunity to conduct *H.M.S Pinafore* in the Theatre Royal with a full orchestra.

Aside from my work as a musician and teacher, I enjoy walks in the countryside, sampling wine and visiting heritage cities. I am absolutely delighted to have moved to Southwell and to be involved with music at the Minster, Southwell Choral Society, and the West Trent Churches choir.



Pepperpots is the magazine of The Friends of Southwell Cathedral

The Friends of Southwell Cathedral exist to bind together all who love the Cathedral Church and who desire to help in preserving for posterity the fabric of this building; in maintaining daily worship therein; and in enhancing its adornment.

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Note: A new constitution for the charity was adopted on 17th June 2023. The Trustees are the voting members of the Council. The Dean of Southwell is, by right of office, invited to participate in Council meetings and may nominate up to two further members of the Cathedral Chapter to attend and participate. The Dean and Chapter representatives input, but do not vote on Council business.

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