

Chapter News



Southwell
Minster
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Episode Eight – October 2023

At the recent Harvest Festival service our guest speaker, Andy Lester Conservation Director of A Rocha UK, reflected on the account in St John's gospel of Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection by the shores of Lake Galilee. (John 21:4-14). "Cast the net to the right side of the boat...", he instructs them after their night fails to make a catch using usual methods. In comes a great haul of fish. Andy was encouraging us to be unafraid of doing things differently and taking risks. He focused on the Christian's response to climate emergency, but it occurred to me that the image of casting the net on the other side of the boat was what we have been doing during the busy summer weeks in the Minster.

We have cast the net by hosting Gaia, Space Voyage, outdoor theatre productions, Plant Hunters' Fair, Southwell Music Festival, numerous concerts, the Season of Creation Avenue of Trees, and much more. We have been thrilled to see many different people come for the first time to discover the beauty and tranquillity of the Cathedral, Palace, and Gardens and all that our lovely town and community has to offer. Both the *Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* have carried major travel features on Southwell and its beautiful Minster! We have reached out to many across the county and city with the message that this is a cathedral where everyone is welcome. We could do none of it without the hard work and dedication of the Minster staff and the teams of volunteers who have given hours of time in addition to 'business as usual' in our daily round of worship, receiving visitors and ensuring the 'back office' work gets done. THANK YOU to each and every one of you.

As we have reported in previous months, the Chapter is focused on addressing our financial challenges while also strengthening our core mission to serve the diocese and parish in sharing the generous love of God we encounter in Christ. We were encouraged by a recent discussion with the Rector Chori on the recruitment of choristers, recognising the

demands placed on them as they learn to participate in worship and the discipline of music making.

Chapter has been scrutinising the new Constitution and Statutes under the 2021 Cathedrals Measure and ensuring that our suite of policies is in line under the requirements of the Charity Commission. While not exciting work, we understand why it is necessary, and we are pleased to be on track so that we will be fully operating under the Measure by February 2024. Find out more at our Consultation meeting on Sunday 15th October at 11.30am, in the State Chamber.

In the October and November Chapter meetings we be shaping the 2024 budget, as by then we will have a clearer indication as to the 2023's deficit. We are thankful for positive changes in the last weeks because of increased visitor donations and income from events, but these alone are not enough to get us to where we need to be. Like every church community, in the end we are a faith enterprise doing what we do because of the call of Christ, just like the first disciples. Please pray for the Chapter and the Minster staff as we will with you 'cast the net' in faith-filled expectation.

Dean Nicola Sullivan

On behalf of Chapter

TUNE IN NEXT MONTH FOR THE NEXT
EXCITING EPISODE OF CHAPTER NEWS!



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