

## PICTORIAL SOUTHWELL BY ALFRED J. LOUGHTON

This small book contains 15 photographs, a plan and a brief text all by the author. The interior measurements (again by A.J.L.) are as follows:

Length from east to west	308ft 3jns
Length of nave to choir door	190ft
Width of nave	60ft 6ins
Width of transepts	122ft 10ins
Length of choir	119ft 3ins (the given length of nave + choir do not equal full length!)
Width of choir	63ft 3ins

The plan lists "Our Lady of the **Pike**" - the pillar west of crossing arch on south side (should it be the second?)

Lee's Pillar - The Crossing pillar beside the gate to south choir aisle.

The Holy Well, under the new vestry.

Chapel to St Eadburg - the chapel off the north transept.

### A short Guide to Southwell Minster

Southwell Minster existed long before the Norman Conquest. There is a tradition that Paulinus founded a church here about 629 A.D. The earliest mention of Southwell in history is from a copy of a charter where King Eadwig grants land at Southwell to Archbishop Oskytel, of York, in 956 AD. The College of Canons was probably then formed. The existing Norman nave dates from the time of Thomas II, Archbishop of York, 1108 -14, but was not completed before the middle of the 12th century, the circular piers are 9 ft high and 16ft in circumference. The open triforium, with its three projecting stones as though for intervening arches, should be noticed, also the round clerestory windows. The four lofty arches of the central tower have a bold cable moulding of unusual design, and the capitals of the eastern arch are enriched with early sculpture. Excellent photographs of them were taken by Alfred J.Loughton before the present organ was built in 1892. The tower contains a fine peal of eight bells and a set of chimes. Traces of an old altar are to be seen on a pillar on the south side of the nave known as "Our Lady of the Pyke". An old will of 1476 contains the following reference to it: Margaret Fisher gave her soul to be buried in the Collegiate Church of Southwell before the image of St Mary of the Pyke". The ironwork on the West doors is old, and the north porch, with its room over (the Parvise) is one of the two existing examples in England. The beakhead ornament is here seen, and the intersecting wall arcade is similar to that on the upper part of the north-west tower. Pointed arches appear on the south-west tower. The present spires were erected and the Nave and Transepts roofs raised about 1880.

Under the floor of the South transept is a Roman tessellated pavement, and in the North transept a sculptured tympanum (probably Saxon). Near it is a fine alabaster tomb to Archbishop Sandys of York. 1588, also the bronze bust to the late Bishop Hoskyns, 1928.

St Eadburgh's Chapel, formerly the vestry, is a fine example of Early English work, and contains the Aeroplane Altar. The War Memorial is in the South transept.

The Rood Screen was built in the first half of the 14th century. On either side of the central Doorway are three stalls with their miserere seats. The Bishop's Stall, used by Wolsey in 1530, has a beautiful carved diaper work at the back and sides. In the central spandrel is the Madonna and Child (the church being dedicated to St Mary the Virgin). The whole of the eastern side is a profusion of carvings, heads, crockets and finials unequalled by any stone screen in England.

The Early English Choir, 1230 - 1243, built by Archbishop Walter de Grey, consists of six arches with clustered columns, triforium and clerestory in one stage. Notice the fine corbels, bosses and capitals. The lower lights of the east windows were brought from Paris in 1815 by Mr Gally Knight. The brass eagle lectern, 1500, formerly at Newstead Abbey, given by Sir Richard Kaye about 1805. The life-like bronze figure of Dr Ridding, first Bishop of Southwell, was the work of F.W.Pomeroy, 1907.

Sedilia (1350), unusual number of seats (five) repaired a century ago by an Italian artist, Bernasconi, who also repaired the screen carvings.

Ooister and vestibule (1280). On entering notice the secular priest shaking the regular by his tonsure. The secular priests were the parochial clergy of those days, and Southwell was always a secular college. The Holy Well is under the new Vestry, formerly an open court.

We now come to what Ruskin calls "The gem of English Architecture", the Chapter House (1280 - 1300). No such beautiful doorway is to be found elsewhere in England. The interior is like York, built without a central pillar. Nothing can surpass the beauty of its carvings, for here we see carved in stone, figures, birds, beasts, berries, flowers and leaves, direct from nature. Well may Leach say, "It is the most perfect work of the most perfect style of Gothic architecture".

The Bishop's Manor, formerly palace of the Archbishop of York, was restored in 1904 for the second Bishop, Sir Edwyn Hoskyns. The third Bishops, the Right Reverend B.O.F. Heywood was enthroned in 1926 but resigned in 1928. The present Bishop the Right Reverend H. Mosley was formerly Bishop of Stepney.