

SOUTHWELL MINSTER
*The Cathedral & Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
GUILD of STEWARDS

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**FACT
SHEET
No 41**

VESTMENTS AND GARMENTS WORN BY THE CLERGY.

A talk by John Meredith
Head Verger.

<u>COLOURS:</u>	Green, Red, White, Violet and Black. (Black not used in the Minster).
<u>WHITE</u>	Purity (i.e. Christmas, Easter and Saints Days)
<u>RED</u>	Blood or Fire (Whitsuntide and Martyrs etc.)
<u>VIOLET</u>	Penitential (Lent and Advent)
<u>GREEN</u>	Neutral (Used for much of the year (i.e. Trinity) (But not Trinity Sunday, which is White).

Colours first used by Augustinian Canons in Jerusalem in the 12th Century.

VESTMENTS WORN AT THE MASS

Copies of Roman Clothes: ALB, AMICE, STOLE, GIRDLE, CHASUBLE, MANIPLE, DALMATIC AND TUNICLE.

NOTE: Chasuble worn by the Celebrant.
Dalmatic by the Deacon.
Tunicle by the Sub-Deacon (Not always a Clergyman).

<u>ALB</u>	Means white tunic. Undergarment with straight sleeves. Unlike the Surplice.
<u>AMICE</u>	Former linen hood, worn over the head, but now dropped to the back of the neck. Can be worn with APPAREL attached, but Apparel must be in the colour of the season, or plain white.
<u>STOLE</u>	Like a scarf, worn round the neck falling down each side at the front of the Alb, to below the knees. The only one of the clerical vestments which has a religious origin, and the most important. Signifies Priesthood. And binds them to Christ. Also worn in the colour of the seasons or Saints Day.
<u>GIRDLE</u>	A white cord worn around the waist.
<u>CHASUBLE</u>	A kind of outer cloak, again in the colours of the seasons or Saints' Days etc. Around the 9th Century it began to be called a 'Casula' (A little house) hence the word Chasuble. At first a round piece of cloth with a hole in the middle, but now more oval in shape. At the Reformation the English changed its shape to short in the front and long at the back, with more open sides. One of the best examples in England can be seen worn by Archbishop Sandys, on his memorial in the Minster. Date 1588. The Chasuble was revived by the C of E in the mid 19th Century.
<u>MANIPLE</u>	Worn on the left arm, a symbol of the napkin or towel used for wiping the Chalice at the administration, or for washing of the vessels at the end of the service. (But not used in the Minster).
<u>DALMATIC</u>	
<u>TUNICLE</u>	Like the Chasuble, they are also outer garments, but in the form of a short tunic, slit up the sides, worn by the Deacon and Sub Deacon. Also in the colours of the seasons etc. A Tunicle can also be worn by the Crossbearer.

<u>ALB</u>	Symbol of purity, or the white cloth put on Christ by Herod.
<u>ANICE</u>	Signifies Faith, or the cloth placed on Christ's head at the time of his Passion.
<u>STOLE</u>	Signifies Christ's obedience to Death, or the rope he was led by, to his death.
<u>GIRDLE</u>	The rope he was bound by to the post and cross.
<u>MANIPLE</u>	Signifies Patience in adversity, or washing of feet at the Last Supper.
<u>CHASUBLE</u>	Symbol of Charity, or the cloth of purple put on the head of Christ at the Mocking.
<u>DALMATIC</u>	Signifies the Passion of Christ.

OTHER GARMENTS WORN BY THE CLERGY.

<u>CASSOCK</u>	Just an everyday undergarment, also worn by members of the Choir and Vergers etc.
<u>SURPLICE</u>	The only garment invented as a clerical vestment. Worn over the Cassock at other services. Also by members of the Choir. Developed from the Alb, but with fuller sleeves.
<u>BLACK SCARF</u>	Worn like the Stole at other services. i.e. Mattins and Evensong.
<u>COPE</u>	Cloak worn by Bishops and Clergy for special services. Formally had a Hood, but this is now represented as a decorated flat piece of material attached to the back of the Cope.
<u>MITRE</u>	First worn in the form of a cap. Developed into two sections with a depression in the middle. Then two sections became pointed, and worn with the points front and back. Tails were first thought to have been used as a strap under the chin, but when turned; hung down at the back.

Please note that I have not mentioned all the seasons, Saints Days and Festivals, when colours are changed, as there are far too many. You can check when they take place, by following the Lectionary or the weekly Service List. Another way, in the Minster, is to take note of the colour of the High Altar Frontal, The finest of which is the White one, decorated with Coats of Arms of the Diocese, and Provinces of York and Canterbury. The Red one was made up in recent years, by Leonard Childs from material used as a throw-over frontal for the Nave Altar, which was made redundant when the new Nave Altar arrived.

In the modern Church, the idea is to have a Multi-Coloured Frontal which covers all Seasons. We have a new example of this, in St. Thomas' Chapel.

The Minster also has quite a large set of Copes. The two most interesting ones were those worn by Bishop Ridding, and Bishop Hoskyns, and are featured on their Memorials. Of the Chasubles, we have a full White High Mass set, presented by Canon George Sprittles in the 1950's, and a Red and Green sets made by Leonard Childs, both incorporating designs from the Norman Minster.