

# Chapter News



Southwell  
Minster

Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace

## Episode Eleven – February 2024

This month we are excited to launch 'Cathedral 140' marking the 140th anniversary of Southwell Minster becoming the Cathedral to the new Diocese of Southwell. We begin a special 10-month exhibition where we explore over 1000 years of history in 140 objects, each month showcasing 14 objects from a period in our history, from the Romans to the present day. We hope to welcome local people and visitors from afar to find inspiration as we uncover the roots of our faith and mission flowing from this remarkable place of worship and pilgrimage over the centuries, and in the last 140 years serving not only Southwell but the growing populations of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. Our thanks for the inspiration behind this rolling exhibition goes to Sarah Clemson working closely with Ruth Massey, Diana Ives and the Guild of Stewards. We are grateful to sponsors and supporters whose enthusiasm and generosity makes this initiative possible. Do spread the word among work colleagues, friends, and neighbours.

We have a fascinating and unusual history. Some of you may know that the new Cathedral was closed from 1884 until 1888, to complete the long overdue fabric repairs and works — not least the challenge of heating the building! So, the grand reopening was held on 2nd February 1888 (The Feast of Purification/Candlemas) with three services attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, numerous dignitaries and an estimated 2000 people from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, many of whom arrived in the town by train! But the following Sunday evening, 5th February, the Bishop of Southwell, George Ridding, preached on the text: Give the Lord the honour due unto His name: worship the Lord with Holy Worship (Psalm 29:2). He compared the work of his new Cathedral with the Temple in Jerusalem

receiving the six-week-old child Jesus with his parents. The Temple hosted big festivals with crowds and activity, but it was the daily work of intercession for the whole nation that gave it identity and purpose. “...so in Southwell, the daily worshippers must make their special work, given them to do for this great Diocese. It was to the two daily worshippers, the aged Simeon and the aged Anna, not at a crowded Festival, that the Lord himself was revealed in His Temple”.



*Southwell Minster pre-restoration in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century*

Today, while we are always pleased to welcome visitors, tourists, concert lovers and more, our primary vocation remains a place of worship, proclamation and mission, the seat of the Bishop gathering the diocese for teaching and prayer. In 2024 Bishop Paul is planning a further series of monthly diocesan prayer gatherings culminating at 5.30pm Evensong followed at 7.30pm by informal worship in the State Chamber. The next one is Thursday 8 February. Our daily rhythm of worship and intercession is vital so please support it when you can.



The Chapter has adopted a new logo which you will notice on the Minster's communications: 'Southwell Minster: Cathedral • Gardens • Palace' alongside refreshing the Cathedral's vision, strategy, and priorities in response to the opportunities and challenges we face. The final phase (called Certificate 2) of the new Cathedrals Measure will be formalised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. At this point every Chapter member is a trustee of the charity. Over the last 140 years our cathedral has embraced change and remained at the forefront of the Church of England's service to our communities. We look forward to the next season of ministry with hope and faith.

*The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan*

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## Monthly Themes for the Cathedral 140 Exhibition

February	Foundations and Footsteps: Who walks before us
March	A Grand New Building: The Normans arrive
April	Medieval Life: People and place
May	God's Living Creation: Where heaven and nature sing
June	A Changing World: Reform and revolution
July	Southwell: Town and country
August	The Bishop's Seat: Becoming your cathedral
September	Your Cathedral: Memories and Memorial
October	Your Cathedral: Here and Now
November	Your Cathedral: Foundations to the future



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