

# Chapter News



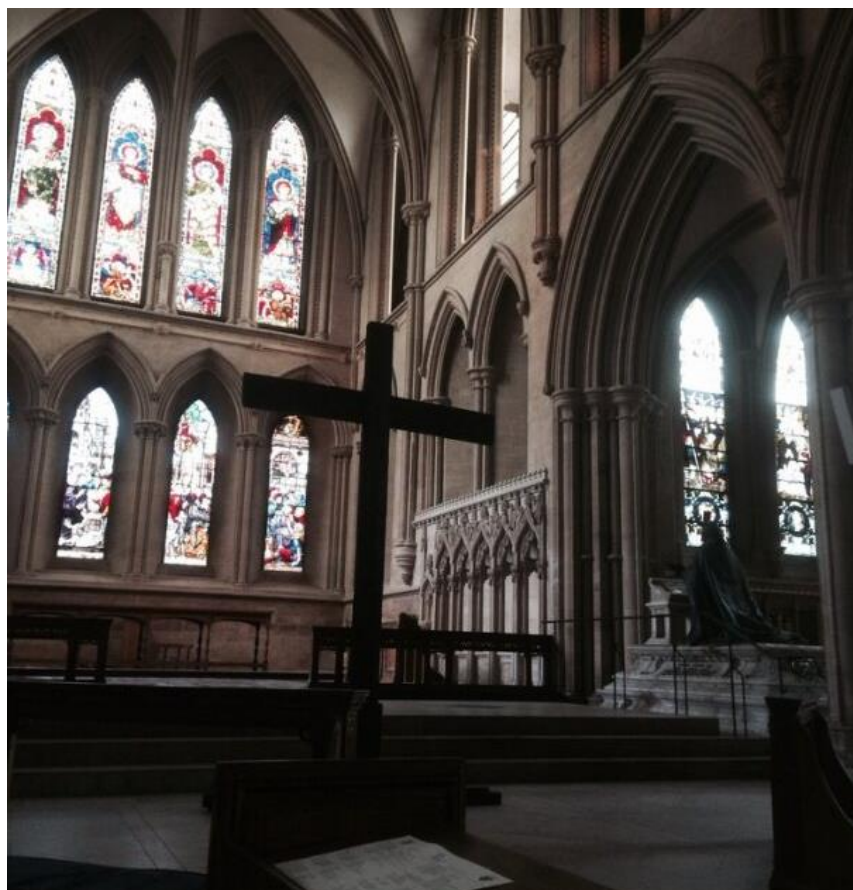
Southwell  
Minster

Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace

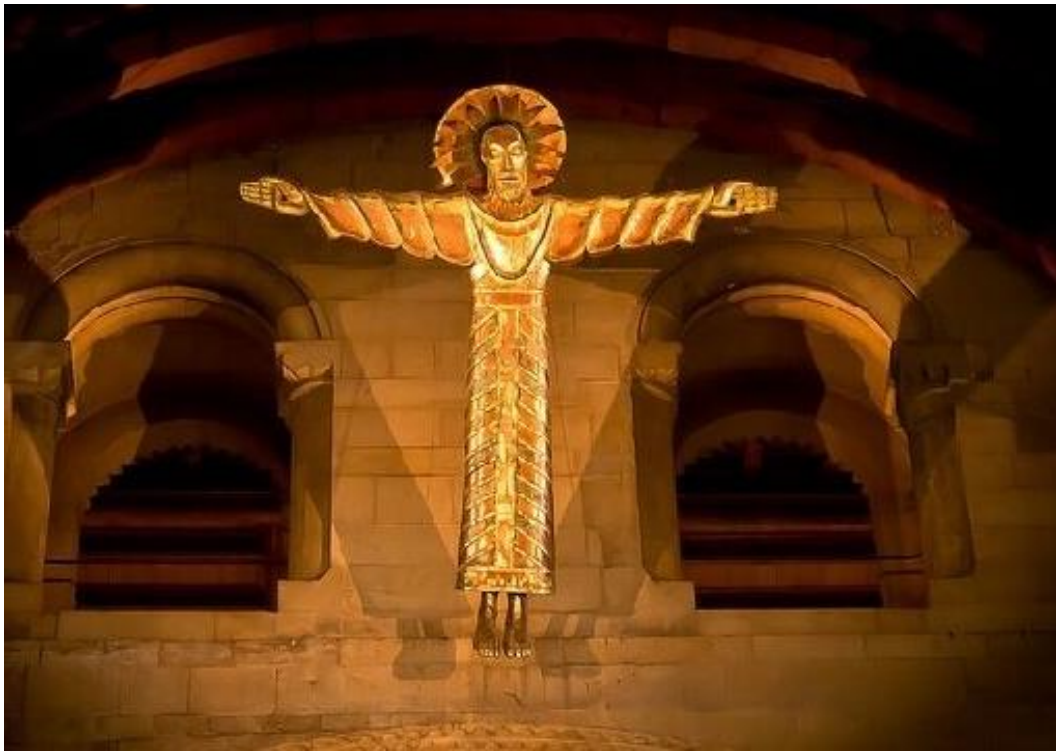
March 2024

From Dean Nicola:

This latest Chapter News comes to the Minster community just as we enter Holy Week, leading us into the most profound and paradoxical heart of our faith. We are confronted with the suffering and sacrifice of Christ, the desolation and seeming failure of his ministry ending in the humiliation of death on the cross. But from the depths of sorrow and pain comes the joyous resurrection. Death and sin are overpowered by God's immense love and mercy. The risen Christ forever comes to meet his disciples bringing new life and hope. Christians proclaim and live in the tension and mystery of the cross and the empty tomb.



The Chapter Statement below is offered in a spirit of honesty and transparency, in keeping with the series of Chapter Newsletters published over recent months. Many of you who have followed closely the Minster's financial position will not be surprised by the steps Chapter believe we must take as responsible stewards. The wider Church is confronted with similar difficult choices at a time of change, which we also believe to be a time of opportunity and renewal. We ask you to pray with us that the Spirit of the Risen Christ will help us all to be attentive and listening to God's will and purposes leading us forward.



We will share more details at the APCM (Sunday 28 April, at 11.30am in the State Chamber) but meanwhile please do not hesitate to talk to me or other members of the Chapter.

*The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan*

Dean

## Chapter Statement:

In each of the past 9 years the Cathedral has not received enough general income to cover its expenditure. There have been legacies, a bungalow was sold in 2017 and during Covid there was Government support, which has meant that some General Reserve remained. In the past 3 years the Cathedral has had to use £609,945 of its reserves to cover the shortfall, which has meant that the General Reserve has been used up.

Over the past year there have been significant increases in the net proceeds of events and fundraising for general expenditure. However, visitor numbers and donations along with shop income have not recovered to pre-Covid levels. Also, the giving by the congregation has declined. In terms of expenditure there has been an increase in spending on safeguarding and we have suffered in the way others have with regards to utility costs. A major area of 'unpredictable' expenditure is the cost of maintaining our buildings, which are predominantly listed and have not had adequate amounts spent on them across decades.

In 2023 the deficit was £275,210.

For 2024 the Chapter has set a budget with a deficit of (£45,111) which has been made possible by drawing more from funds restricted for music. Also, the Friends of Southwell Cathedral are covering the cost one of the vergers in 2024, for which Chapter is most grateful.

The Chapter has undertaken a review of its property assets to determine which are necessary for the mission of the Cathedral and how they are best managed to reduce and regulate expenditure, along with how best any sale proceeds are 'invested' for longer term sustainability. This initial review was supported by Savills, the property

agents and advisors. There have also been confidential conversations with Newark and Sherwood District Council.

The first step is that Chapter have instructed Savills to test the market with regards to the sale of the Sacrista Prebend site.

Chapter will continue to work on the implications of a sale of the site, along with the next steps with regards to property.

Any organisation in our position clearly needs to consider its expenditure. Chapter and the Senior Management Team are working on this, keeping staff fully involved and informed.



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