

Chapter News



Southwell
Minster

Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace

June/July 2024

An update on the Property Review:

There has been keen interest in the sale of Sacrista Prebend over recent weeks. As the Cathedral's trustees the Chapter is working within the context of the Cathedrals Measure and Charities Act requirements for the sale of property supported by professional advice from Savills. It will also work with some further conditions since part of the property – St Laurence House – has been registered as an Asset of Community Value by Newark and Sherwood District Council following an application by its occupants, Reach Learning Disability. The Church Commissioners scrutinise any proposal for sale, so we are in a thorough process. We are also planning the continuation of the Minster's current activities in Sacrista, as to where they may relocate.

Staff changes: The new Chief Operating Officer David Coulthard has had a month in post enabling a smooth handover from Nigel Spraggins, and Phil Sturgeon started as interim Chief Finance Officer at the same time. We have also welcomed a new full-time verger, Hamish Alexander, who joined the team in June.

Chapter membership: Sarah Benedek and Canon Steve Silvester have both come to the end of their three-year tenure on Chapter and we are grateful for their expertise and valuable contribution they have each given during three demanding years of adapting to the new Cathedrals Measure. Chapter has received training on what it means to be a charity trustee. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Jan Richardson, is continuing its vital role in seeking potential Chapter and committee members.

The **Third Estates Commissioner**, Canon Flora Winfield, visited the Minster and met with Chapter in our June meeting. She made us aware that two thirds of cathedrals are facing financial challenges and serious consideration is being given to the financial modelling and central Church funding. We are appreciative of support we are receiving from the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund for two staff posts and will continue discussions with the Church Commissioners about a long-term master plan for property.

We reported at the Annual Meeting at the end of April that the Chapter has requested an **Independent Review** of governance, and management. This took place in early June, and we will share the recommendations after they are considered at the next Chapter meeting.

Chapter continues to keep **Safeguarding** firmly on its agenda and has reviewed and approved the Cathedral's Safeguarding Policy. Preparation work is already underway for next external audit in January 2026.

The Very Rev'd Nicola Sullivan



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