

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 501302

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1972-01-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE MINSTER AUTHORITIES IN TH PRESERVATION AND ADORNMENT OF BEVERLEY MINSTER AND THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF THE MINSTER, ITS ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES, ITS ORNAMENTS AND FURNISHINGS; TO MAKE GIFTS FOR THE MINSTER WHICH MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE P.C.C., TO PROMOTE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE MINSTER, ITS HISTORY AND ITS WORK; AND FOR ALL THESE PURPOSES TO SEEK TO BIND TOGETHER IN A COMMON FELLOWSHIP ALL THOSE WHO LOVE BEVERLEY MINSTER.

Activities: The presevation and adornment of Beverley Minster and the general mtce of the Minster, its activities and services, its ornaments and furnishings;To make gifts to the Minster which may be acceptable to the PCCTo promote public interest in the Minster its history and its work

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BEVERLEY MINSTER, BEVERLEY.
- East Riding Of Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£54,508	£41,430	-	-
2024-03-31	£75,794	£21,323	-	-
2023-03-31	£114,724	£7,708	-	-
2022-03-31	£148,265	£391,916	-	-
2021-03-31	£150,829	£246,823	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mary Elizabeth Mead	Chair	2022-09-22
Dr Susan Anne Neave		2023-12-12
Fiona Goel		2023-12-12
JAMES MOORE		2022-11-01
James Palmer		2023-12-12
Michael Robson		2023-12-12
PAMELA JOAN MARTIN		2022-09-22
Rev Stephen Deas		2022-09-22

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

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Accounts

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

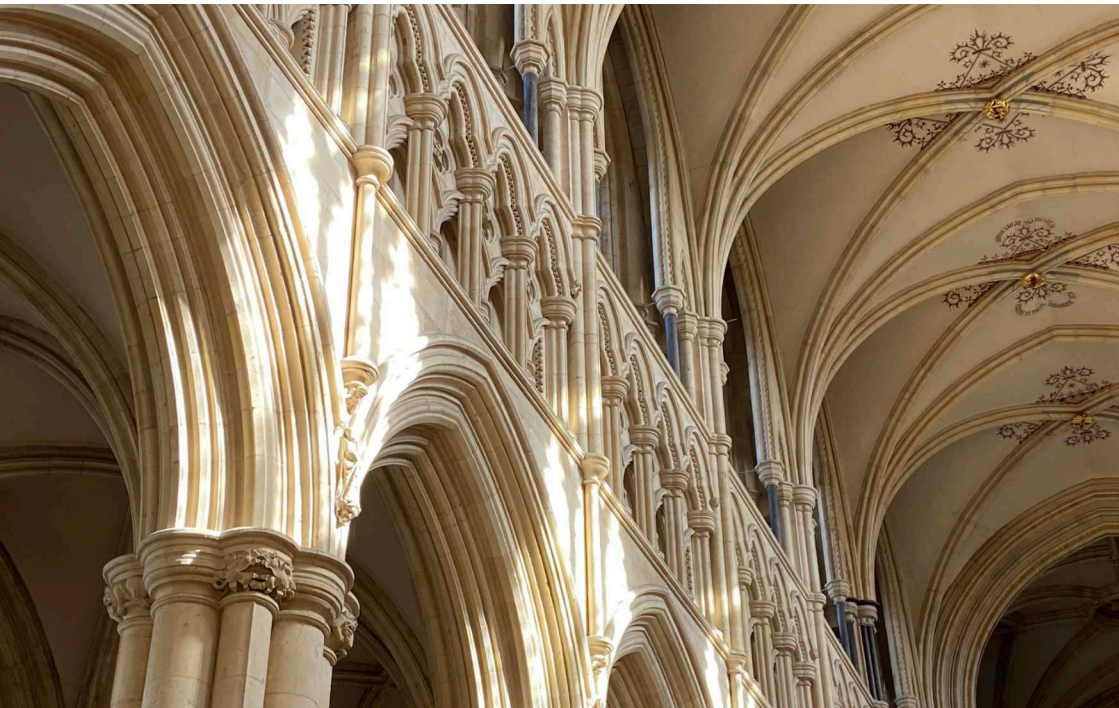
89th ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



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Chair's Report



Over the past year, a key focus for the Council has been the Minster's Destinations project. I am pleased to report that, since the publication of the Spring Newsletter, work on the development grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been completed and was submitted in May. A decision is expected in September.

If successful, the grant will fund essential preparatory work for a further application to support a major restoration at the East End of the Minster. This will include restoration of the Great East Window, and repairs to the Quire, Retro Quire, and Lesser North Transept roofs. The project also includes a new lighting scheme, improved landscaping around the East End, enhanced visitor interpretation, and increased public engagement with the

building's heritage. One element of this will be a schools' Choral Outreach programme, offering a valuable opportunity to use the Minster's musical expertise to bring the benefits of choral singing to the wider community. As you may be aware, The Friends has agreed to provide a part of the funding for this initial phase and, in principle, to make a contribution to the future restoration work.

At our last AGM, members agreed in principle to change the legal structure of The Friends to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Since then, the Council has approved a new constitution, which has been submitted to the Charity Commission for approval. We will be asking members to confirm their approval at our forthcoming meeting, and a copy of the new constitution accompanies this report. As discussed previously, this change is administrative and designed to support our operation as an organisation. Our charitable aims and the nature of our work will remain unchanged. You will notice that the new constitution differs in structure from our current one. This is because it follows the model recommended by the Charity Commission, with specific additions and amendments tailored to the needs of our organisation.

We have been delighted to welcome both members and non-members to this year's events, once again expertly organised by Pamela Martin. Pam has decided to step down as Programme Secretary at the forthcoming AGM, and I know members will wish to join me in expressing sincere thanks to her for her

work over many years to create such enjoyable and informative events. Looking ahead to our October weekend, I'm very pleased that Professor Barbara English has agreed to be our speaker for this year's St John of Beverley Lecture. As in previous years, the weekend will conclude with a Festal Evensong in the Minster, to which all are warmly invited.

Two other members of the Friends Council, Karla Vickers and Lucy Duckworth, will be stepping down at the AGM and I would like to thank them both for their contributions to the Council's work.

Elsewhere in this report, you'll find articles by Steeple Keeper Mike Robson, writing on the subject of Time in the Minster, and our new PCC

representative, Martin Eldred, who shares his research into the history of his house and I'm grateful to them for taking the time to do this.

Many members now pay their subscriptions by standing order, and I would encourage others to consider doing the same if possible. That said, we are of course very happy to continue receiving cheques from those who prefer this method. May I also take this opportunity to ask that you let us know of any changes to your contact details, including your current email address?

In closing, I would like to thank all members of the Council for their time and commitment over the past year, and to you, our members, for your continued support of The Friends.

Mary Mead



Programme Secretary's Report

With commencing the Programme somewhat later this year, there have been two events held so far.

Helena Anderson (Council Member) has written about the recent visit to Skirlaugh St Augustine's Church one Monday evening in July and I will give insight into the 'North Riding Pevsner' recently revised and published in April of this year - a talk and presentation delivered by Dr Jane Grenville, the editor.

Approximately 27 Friends and Non-Friends gathered in the Peter Harrison Room on Saturday 21st June, one of the hottest days of the summer! They were not disappointed as Jane Grenville began to unwind the fascinating story of how Nikolaus Pevsner (1902 - 1983) came to England from Germany prior to the 2nd World War and created a notable career with the research and writing of forty six Architectural Guides of the Buildings of England. Archival clips of film illustrated Pevsner at work in the office and on his visits to some of the churches he recorded. His wife, Lola, played a big part in the operation, providing him with support as well as undertaking all of the driving.

Jane continued to compare her travels in the North Riding with that of Pevsner and how she approached the enormous task of recording her discoveries. Her talk was not without humour, as she showed a clip of the Kearton Brothers of

Thwaite in Swaledale, nineteenth and twentieth century British naturalists and wild life photographers, who created innovative ways of photographing animals and creatures in the wild - disregarding any health and safety regulations!

Much discussion took place after what was undoubtedly an interesting, informative and memorable lecture. A buffet afternoon tea followed, bringing the event to a satisfactory close.

As I write, events to follow include 'Pickering - a Virtual Historical Video Talk' presented by John Kinghorn on Friday 29th August at 2pm in the Peter Harrison Room and finally the October St John Lecture, after the AGM on Saturday 4th October, entitled 'A Tale of Two Church Stalls'; a presentation and talk delivered by Professor Emerita Barbara English, MBE. Afternoon tea buffets will be provided on both occasions.

This will be my final newsletter before I step down from the office of Programme Secretary after thirteen years. I would like to say a big thank you to the many people who have assisted me in my role behind the scenes over the years and to you, the members, who have supported the events programmes with enthusiasm. It has been a pleasurable and honourable experience.

Pamela J Martin

Programme of Events

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER at 14:00

Peter Harrison Room/Minster Parish Hall, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DT

Annual General Meeting

(Members of the Friends only)

15:15

St John of Beverley Annual Lecture: 'A Tale of Two Church Stalls'

Speaker: Professor Emerita Barbara English, MBE

Barbara English discusses the archbishop's quire stall in Beverley Minster and the north-eastern stall in the chancel of St Mary's Beverley, considering them in the context of the famous misericords of both the churches and the other carvings around them.

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: Free for Friends; £10 per person for non-Friends attending the lecture and buffet

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR FRIENDS AND NON-FRIENDS

For further details see the Friends website

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER at 17:30

Festal Evensong at Beverley Minster

Choral evensong sung by the full choir of Beverley Minster. Open to all, booking not required.

2026

SATURDAY 10 JANUARY at 18:00

Epiphany Organ Recital at Beverley Minster

Messiaen: 'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Organ recital by Robert Poyser (Director of Music, Beverley Minster)

Epiphany Concert followed by refreshments (sponsored by the Friends).

For more details or to book our events please see the Friends website:

<https://beverleyminster.org.uk/friends-events/>



Booking enquiries can also be made to:

**The Programme Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster,
85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR**

E-mail: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk

Telephone 01482 442221



Membership

Membership (August 2025):

430 members

26 associate organisations

New Friends:

Ms T Nicholson

Mr & Mrs M & N Pliener

Mr M Ramshaw

Mr & Mrs C R & S Barton

Mrs C Benson

Mr J Bradley

We regret to report that we have learned of the deaths of the following members:

Mrs J Chipperton

Mr R Shaw

Mr M Needler

Mrs R Fletcher

Mrs Y McGrady

Mr J Phillips

Mrs R Adamson Clark

Mr P Blacker

Mrs J Peebles

Mr M R Petch

Report by the Director of Music

I write this report in recovery mode after a busy end of term with services, concerts and event galore. The choir head into their Summer break after an excellent year with a multitude of highlights.

An example of our packed schedule is Holy Week and Easter that saw 15 services in 8 days - each with some provision of music. People often say 'Christmas must be your busiest time of year' but by the time I have explained these services they have changed their minds! Each service has its own identity and liturgy and therefore its own music choices. Whether that is the exuberance of the opening of the Palm Sunday service outside (always in the wind it seems!), or the solemnity and profoundly moving Good Friday Matins and Litany, Holy Week and Easter takes us through a rollercoaster of emotions and the music reflects and underpins this.

Musical highlights of the past year have been many and varied. I joined forces in a marvellous and light hearted concert featuring the Minster Organ and Lewis Scott's amazing digital theatre organ (we are repeating this in 2025 twice due to popular demand!) a choral festival with the presentation of awards at the Minster in October, a first outing for us of Maurice Durufle's Requiem for Remembrance Day, as well as the standard pattern of three choral services a week. Recently, many of our choristers took their Dean's and Archbishop's awards and these will be presented in the Autumn. The choir have also sung jointly with a number of choirs, most

recently the Chamber Choir from Ampleforth School and always enjoy doing so. We welcome St Mary's Newark to us in September.

During our choir's holidays, we have hosted visiting choirs from across the UK, and do so again this Summer. We are a popular destination for choirs due to the fabulous welcome they receive from our virgers, welcomers, staff, and clergy and many seek to return.

The Friday Lunchtime Concert Series had a breakthrough year with record audiences and a high quality and variety of performers including choirs, a brass band, organists, pianists, harp, violin, and singers. Elaine Dyson's fabulous efforts with the catering have been instrumental to the success of the series and, now we have linked up with the East Riding College our soups have gone to the next level. The students have been great ambassadors for the College - friendly, hard working and creators of delicious food. The 2025 series has started where the last series finished and if you have not experienced the buzz and energy of a Friday at the Minster do join us for soup and concert soon.

We made publications from both the Royal School of Church Music and also the Cathedral Music Trust recently in celebration of our choir numbers heading over the 100 mark. When you add up our Junior Choir, Boys Choir, Girls Choir, Consort, Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses it is quite a formidable enterprise. Our Junior Choir, under Rachel Dent's inspired leadership has grown and developed over the past

year and is our chief source of new singers into the Choir as well as a lovely community of young families coming together each week.

Our choir tour in 2024 was to Shrewsbury Abbey where a group of nearly 50 singers sang the services and a concert in the marvellous Abbey. We also enjoyed a day at Blist's Hill Industrial museum. A huge thank you to Mary Mead for helping manage the tour, our 8th choir tour. Sadly we will not be going away this Autumn but look forward to a resumption of our travels in 2026.

A number of volunteers have helped hugely with the music over this past year. In particular, Jane Todd in leading the music group, Alison Wise leading Taize including putting together a memorable Joint Service in January, Sue Wheeldon in helping to direct the choir and co-ordinate our Safeguarding Rota, Kevin Wheeldon for his help at Boys Practice and strategic planning, and Nick Wise for his fabulous organ playing at many of our Sunday morning services and special occasions throughout the year. There are so many others who have helped to contribute hugely to the musical enterprise and without their support we would not manage to do all we do.

The organ has featured in a standalone concert series over the Summer and was used for the New Paths Festival Organ Competition in front of a panel of eminent organists. Our organ continues to delight all who hear it.

We truly possess an instrument of national importance under the watchful care of David Wood of Wood of Huddersfield. We also acquired a delightful chamber organ earlier this year that has already proved its worth both in services and concerts. It is surprising how something so small carries so well in our Minster.

Our Steinway Grand Piano gets ever more use in our Concert Series, concert pianists love it and such is its quality it copes admirably with the changes of temperature and humidity in the Minster. It has been a fabulous investment in the music by the Friends of the Minster.

Our Choral Foundation (which provides music lessons to our choristers) has produced outstanding results and budding young musicians. Our last tranche of funding from the DeFlog Foundation has now come to an end so we will be looking at how we fund it going forward. In fact, there is a lot to look at through the prism of the Vision and Strategy Document relating to Music and how it will be shaped and resourced. We have a lot that is good in the department, but it is time to cast energy towards the future in order to see it develop and thrive and act as the glorious ambassadors for the Minster in new and creative ways as well as its fundamental role in worship.

Robert Poyser

Visit to Skirlaugh Church



Fifteen members of the FOBM were welcomed with tea and cake, which was served in the west end of the church by Judy and Cliff Stott and Penny.

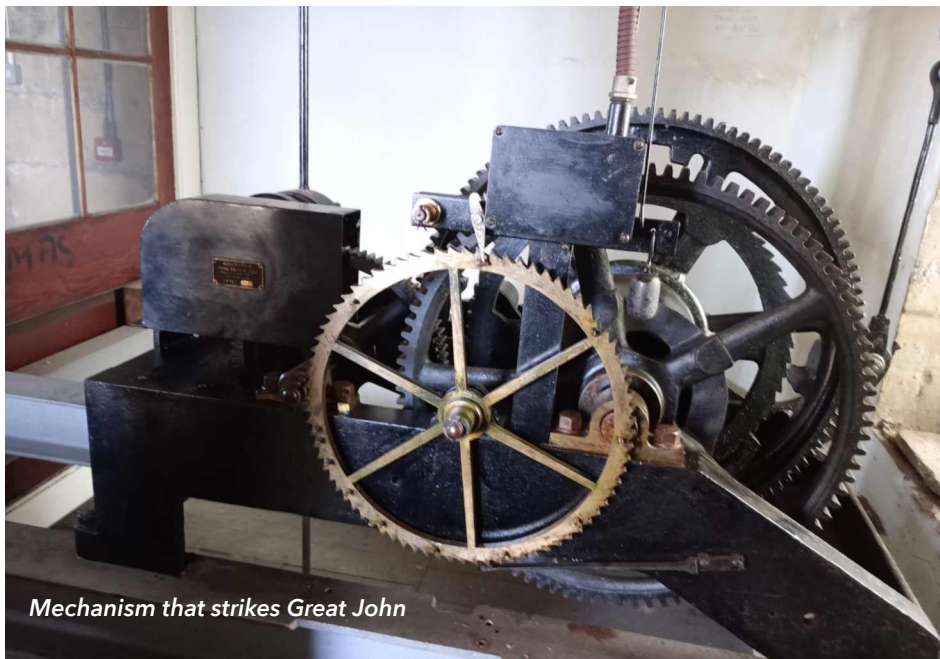
Penny told us of the story of Walter Skirlaw, born in 1330 to a basket-maker, educated at Swine and Beverley Grammar school. Taken under the wing of Archbishop John Thoresby, he studied at Oxford (probably at Balliol as his coat of arms are in a chapel window there), and was priested. As secretary to Thoresby he became Archdeacon of the East Riding, a Canon at York, and prebend of St Andrew's chapel in the Beverley Minster. In the late 14c he worked for three kings, Edward I, Richard II and Henry IV. He held bishoprics at Coventry and Lichfield, Bath and Wells, and then Durham where he built the Bishop's palace at Auckland.

Between 1401-4 Skirlaw endowed this church as a chantry, on a new site at Skirlaugh (previously the nearest church had been the abbey at Swine). Built of magnesium limestone from Tadcaster, as is Beverley Minster, it is a perfect example of Perpendicular architecture. Some traces of the interior plastering and painting are visible. The internally cobbled tower and the porch were added fifty years later when the chapel became a parish church. There would have been a minstrels gallery at the west end, a rood screen and reredos, all now removed. There is some medieval glass with Skirlaw's coat of arms in the east window, otherwise the windows are clear glass with some recent perpendicular bands of colour. The church sits amidst its graveyard, with a wildflower area.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to Judy, Cliff, and Penny for a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Helena Anderson

Time in the Minster



On the 15th June 2021 a large crowd of people stood below the North West tower of the Minster to watch the hands being refitted to the clock face after the restoration work. This turned my thoughts to another event that was reported about a Minster clock (York Courant, Beverley, February 11th, 1756).

Last week was finished and played off here a set of chimes upon the 8 bells in St. John's church by that eminent artist James Harrison of Barrow. The chimes afforded general amusement to all that hear them, having for variety ten different tunes. Nine of the tunes are changed by its own motion from one tune to another every time it plays, which is every 3 hours till Saturday night when of itself it plays the tenth which is 2 Psalms. These play until midnight Sunday and then goes to its changing

course as before, being 9 weeks before it plays the same tune on the same hour on the same day of the week. The machine is curious, yet simple, the model plain yet beautiful, the motion free and easy, for all it is looked upon as a fine piece for its design and performance. These tunes played between 3 to 4 minutes each on the hours of 3,6,9,12.

The winding gear for these chimes can still be seen on the north aisle wall near the tower door.

These chimes lasted until the 1860's when they started failing and were replaced by 5 tunes. The 5th tune, a minuet was probably copied from the old 9th tune on the previous chimes. These chimes remained during the clock restoration of 1884 when the clock was overhauled and improved. The black



wooden face was replaced by the present Gothic wrought iron dial, 14ft in diameter. The quarter chimes that until 1860 had been struck on the 3rd and 6th bells were now changed to the 3rd and 5th bells. The hour was struck on the tenor. Peter was cast in 1366 and is now the prayer bell in the south tower. This bell along with three others were cast in pits near where the font stands today in the present building and were hung in the previous church.

In 1901 a new peal of 10 bells was installed which meant a new clock would be needed. Canon Nolloth's idea was to have quarter chimes on all ten bells and the hour to be struck on Great John, the 7-ton bell in the South West tower. What made this unusual was that the Minster would have the only clock in the world that would chime on bells in two different towers from one main mechanism; it is probably the same today. Nolloth took the Minster organist John Camidge down to John Taylor's bell foundry in Loughborough to hear the bells when they had all been cast and asked him to compose the quarter chimes. Each of the four tunes ends

differently so as to make it clear which quarter it denotes. Camidge says at the time in the *Minster Magazine* in April 1902, "the chimes contain the avoidance of anything like a tune which soon palls and grows wearisome by repetition."

The arrangement of the chimes is such that the correct time is indicated at the start of the quarters and at the first strike of the hour bell. We still use this system for a very good reason - the hands on the dial will probably be slightly out. The dial, hands and their cogs (pictured above) were fitted in 1884, the new clock and its cogs are 1901 and the difference between the cogs causes a problem in that they don't match. We have tried over several years to get the hands as close as possible to the correct time, but by moving a cog by one tooth changes the time by two and a half minutes making the hands fast or slow.

The new clock and chimes were started by the Mayor of Beverley James Elwell in a special service on Saturday 15th February 1902. Silence was maintained while the clock struck 5.00pm, which was the first time that Great John



(pictured above) had been heard. It is interesting to note that both of these clocks were first started in the month of February.

The chimes are played in exactly the same way as a musical box. A barrel with pegs on it rotates and lifts individual levers. The levers are connected to the hammers by wires and angled moving brackets. The wires come up through the roof of the clock case and then go off in different directions under the clock room ceiling and then up into the bell chamber. Once in there they run along the bell frame to their respective hammer, which could be 30 feet or more from the clock. The hammers vary in weight from 33 to 70lbs.

The clock was fitted with electric motors in 1962, one to turn the quarter chime barrel and the other one to wind up the clock weights. The weights still power the clock. When they run down to their lowest point about 40 feet below the clock the motor starts and winds them up again; this happens about every day and a half. If the clock was still hand wound this would need to be done every day, and considering the largest weight on the old clock was over half a ton it would take a while to do. Great

John also had large weights that needed to be wound up as every day as well. When the lever drops to start the 4th quarter another one drops part the way through the chimes and taps a rod that goes through the tympanum and into the south west clock room and starts the motor to strike the hour. The hour chimes also work on a large drum. The lever has a 12mm thick wire attached to it and this goes directly up through the ceiling to the hammer which weighs 70 kg.

We are often asked why the clock keeps stopping in the summer and the answer is that there are windows on the east and west side of the clock room that let the sound of the bells on the lower level out and also ventilate the clock room. Some years ago, the grill on the east side was removed and a sealed window was fitted, then in recent years when the grill came loose on the west side that was also replaced with a sealed window. So now in summer whilst we leave doors open to cool the room, the brass and the other metals heat up at different temperatures and can start to bind, as well as the grease drying out, and this stops the clock.

Canon Nolloth said in 1902 that there had been a clock in the tower for at least 250 years, the records show that in years 1727/28 that oils for the bells and clock had been bought at a cost of 3s 6d, which seems to prove the existence of an earlier clock.

When Canon Nolloth retired as Vicar of the Minster he was presented with a long case clock that played the Minster quarter chimes and the hour, it is understood that the clock maker liked the chimes so much he made an identical clock for himself.

Mike Robson

The Story of a Research Project



Who would have thought, when I bought a neglected, run-down house, one of a terrace of seven, in almost central Hull, that it would lead to a research project lasting many years?

In 2007 I bought such a house, partly because it overlooked the rather attractive grounds of some 1970s sheltered accommodation. A chance remark by the vendor's son - "There used to be a dirty great cathedral over there" - really tweaked my interest and so the research project began.

Initially I visited the Hull Archives (this long before the City's History Centre was built) and from there I acquired building plans for my terrace and a mysterious ground-floor plan for a church hall.

From the East Riding Archives I was able to obtain facsimile copies of three memorials for the sale of the land on which my house stands and for the sale of neighbouring parcels.

Thus I was able to find out about the Parish of Sculcoates and how in the course of three generations its population rose from a few hundreds to tens of thousands.

I discovered how the parish had been served for over fifty years by an absentee vicar's succession of curates and how, when the last of these curates spoke and wrote publicly about the evils of pluralism, he was deprived of his curacy and his licence by a spiteful and heartily disliked Archbishop of York.

This same curate had been a local hero during the cholera outbreak of 1849, putting his life in danger and conducting over 330 burials, the fees for which ("A One Hundred Pound Note") went directly to his absentee vicar.

I was able to research the original Parish Church of Sculcoates, Saint Mary's, and discovered how it was regularly inundated by the River Hull most winters and the benches were routinely taken each autumn to the Charterhouse - where winter services were held - and routinely returned each spring.

I discovered that Sculcoates had never had a patronage and how successive incumbents had solved this problem by pluralism, either holding another living with a house, or in a few cases by combining the vicarage of Sculcoates with the role of Master of the Charterhouse and living in the rather splendid Master's House there.



I researched the first resident vicar of Sculcoates after the dismissal of the poor out-spoken curate. He was the younger son of a Baronet, came from an assistant curacy in a poor working-class area of Paddington in London and proved to be an inspirational Vicar of Sculcoates, esteemed by the rich and influential who lived in such houses as mine and the poor who lived cheek-by-jowl in the many courts and alleys in the parish.

I discovered how, only months after his arrival in the parish, the foundation stone was laid for a new parish church, on land donated by John Jarratt, the Vicar of North Cave and how, only three years later the new Parish Church of Sculcoates, All Saints, was consecrated by Archbishop Thompson. This was the same archbishop who had dismissed the outspoken curate and who had torn up the winning entry of the design competition for the new church, substituting a design by an architect he favoured.

I learnt how over the next few years the new church had been expanded to include, amongst other things, a huge church hall to "provide services for the poor" and how it was described in the local press as the most perfect and complete church establishment in Kingston upon Hull or the East Riding.

Sadly I discovered how this paragon of virtue died from blood poisoning, aged only 44 after serving his parish for sixteen years.

Each new discovery seemed to open a new line of enquiry. For example, the gift of land by the Vicar of North Cave opened up a whole new line of research into the Jarratt family, a long established land-owning, merchant class Hull family.

Besides the ever expanding research into the church in Sculcoates there were the people who lived in the square. Through census returns, rate books, local press cuttings, court records and records of births, deaths and marriages I was able to conjure up a vivid picture of the people who had lived in the square surrounding All Saints. Their lives, their worries, their fears, their hopes and aspirations were, on a domestic level, exactly the same as ours. They speak quite vividly to us from a hundred and sixty years ago.

Each September I open part of the ground floor of my house, as part of the Heritage Open Days scheme and present a series of illustrated talks on "The lost Church of All Saints and the elegant square that once surrounded it."

Watch out for it in this year's Hull Brochure: 18th and 20th September at 10am and 2pm both days. You would be most welcome.

Martin Eldred



Annual Accounts

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities	2024/25		2023/24	
	£	£		£
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income				
Subscriptions	13,540		14,739	
Donations and Bequests	5,824		28,905	
Tax Recovered	1,972	21,336	1,812	45,456
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days/ Trips	1,820		2,013	
Book sales	190	2,010	240	2,253
Investment Income		31,162		28,085
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>54,508</u>	£	<u>75,794</u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities				
Bells	34,988		11,780	
Published Article	-		2,802	
Grotesque	324	35,312	-	14,582
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days /Trips/Events		2,233		2,936
Governance Costs				
Printing and stationery	1,035		1,459	
Insurance	280		308	
Sundries	1,190		748	
Accountancy Fees	1,380	3,885	1,290	3,805
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>41,430</u>	£	<u>21,323</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>13,078</u>	£	<u>54,471</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses				
Gain/Loss on investments	-	45,203		86,031
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>- 32,125</u>	£	<u>140,502</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		1,131,911		991,409
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>1,099,786</u>	£	<u>1,131,911</u>

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

Fixed Assets	Note	2024/25	2023/24
		£	£
Investments	3	1,008,069	1,053,272
Total Fixed Assets		1,008,069	1,053,272
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	2,226	1,812
CBF Deposit		50,090	50,090
Cash at Bank		40,781	28,027
Total Current Assets		93,097	79,929
less			
Creditors	5	1,380	1,290
Net Current Assets		91,717	78,639
Net Assets	£	<u><u>1,099,786</u></u>	£ <u><u>1,131,911</u></u>

Funds of Charity

Unrestricted funds

Brought forward		1,131,911	991,409
Add Deficit/Surplus for the year	-	32,125	140,502
	£	<u><u>1,099,786</u></u>	£ <u><u>1,131,911</u></u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of Preparation

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations

Donations are included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Subscriptions and Donations

The tax reclaimed included in the SoFA is the recoverable amount on the receipts received in the year.

Investment Income

Investment Income earned from the deposit fund is for the period earned in the accounting period. Monies earned from the income fund is accounted for in the period it is received.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance Costs

Includes costs of the trustee meetings and the AGM

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Assets

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Note 3 Investment Assets

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Market Value at the beginning of the year	1,053,272	899,241
Purchase	-	68,000
Net Gain /loss on revaluation	- 45,203	86,031
Carrying (market) value at the end of the year	<u>1,008,069</u>	<u>1,053,272</u>

Note 4 Debtors

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
The debtors figure is made up as follows		
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid)	2,226	1,812
	<u>2,226</u>	<u>1,812</u>

Note 5 creditors

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fees	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,290</u>

Note 6 Trustees' Remuneration, Benefits and expenses

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Beverley Minster

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Elizabeth Blanchard ACA
Sowerby
Chartered Accountants
Beckside Court
Annie Reed Road
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 0LF

Financial Review

Summary Review

The total income received for the year amounted to £54,508, including income from members subscriptions, donations and bequests of £21,336 and investment income of £31,064. The total expenditure for the year was £41,430, including expenditure on projects of £35,312, resulting in a nett surplus of £13,078. However the value of our investments at the end of March 2025 was £1,008,069 a reduction from the previous year end of £45,203 thus reducing the overall value of the funds available by £32,125.

Reserves

The reserves at the date of the balance sheet total £1,099,786 and are all unrestricted. The funds are held for future expenditure on projects on which collaboration between the Friends and the Minster P.C.C. continues to identify suitable projects. It is expected that any projects identified will be of a scale which will require a substantial level of funding and consequently it likely the level of the Friends funds will reduce significantly over the medium term.

Investments

The investments are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and a cash deposit account managed by the CCLA.

Bequests

In this financial year the Friends have benefitted from bequests from the estates of

Mr D.G. Buttery

Mrs J Pepper

Annual General Meeting 2025

**THE AGM OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER
TO BE HELD IN BEVERLEY MINSTER PARISH HALL
ON SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025
at 2.00 pm**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM held on 7th October 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Council Chair's Report - Ms Mary Mead
5. Hon. Secretary's Report - Mrs Fiona Goel
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report - Mr James Moore
7. Hon. Programme Secretary's Report - Miss Pamela Martin
8. Vicar's Report - Rev. Canon Jonathan Baker
9. Adoption of the reports
10. Election of Officers and Council Members

To be re-elected:
President - Prof. Roger Lewis
Vice Presidents
Chair - Ms Mary Mead
Hon. Minutes Secretary - Dr Susan Neave
Hon. Secretary - Ms Fiona Goel
Hon. Treasurer - Mr James Moore
11. Conversion of structure to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and associated new constitution.
12. Any Other Business

Anyone who would like to find out more about the process for standing for election to the Council should contact us via the contact details given in this report.

AGM Minutes 2024

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2024 AT 2 PM IN TOLL GAVEL HALL

The meeting was chaired by the President-elect of the Friends, Roger Lewis.

Present: Roger Lewis, Fiona Goel, Mary Mead, James Moore, Susan Neave, Pamela Martin, Mike Robson, Stephen Deas, Jonathan Baker, James Palmer, Pam Davies, Lisa Byass, Valerie Coss, Jan Crowther, Pam Davies, Gillian Fawcett, Peter Fox, Barbara English, Liz Grove, Diane MacLachlan, Neil MacLachlan, Marcus Ramshaw, Janet Ostler, Rita Steadman, Sheelagh Strawbridge, Alan Wilkinson, Pam Wilkinson, Margaret Bailey, Stan Bailey, Jane Bowen, Erica Burt, Jan Crowther.

1. Apologies for absence:

Robert Poyser, Karla and Bernard Vickers, Martin Eldred, Linda and Graham Johnson, Tony Huzzard, Peter and Pam Quigley.

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 7th October 2023

The minutes of the AGM held on 8 October 2023 were passed nem. con. Proposed by Stephen Deas, seconded by Annegret Aveyard. All in favour.

Matters arising - none

3. Chair's Report (Mary Mead)

In addition to the remarks included in the Chair's report in the 88th Annual Report issued to members (2023-2024), MM made the following comments:

Since the publication of the Annual Report, we have welcomed Martin Eldred to the Council as the new PPC representative and Gail Cahill has decided to step down. I would like to thank Gail for her contribution to the Friends during her time on the Council.

James Palmer was thanked for help with the introduction of the ChurchSuite software programme for administering the Friends, which has brought real benefits to the management of our membership data.

Pam Martin was thanked for her work as Programme Secretary, in particular the organisation of a great number of events over many years. A survey was being circulated asking for input from members regarding the events programme.

Anyone wishing to receive a hard copy of the Annual Report (rather than receiving it via email) can request this.

4. Hon. Secretary's Report (Fiona Goel)

FG's report was as follows:

At all our meetings, we receive reports from the Officers of the Council and discuss the state of the Friends' finances, our membership numbers, our social programme and we also receive a report from the PCC. In addition to these items, we have discussed the following.

In November 2023, we were pleased to welcome Prof Kate Giles (Dept of Archaeology, University of York) who outlined a proposal for the Friends to provide research bursaries for students from the university who would like to work on topics related to Beverley Minster. This could range from travel bursaries for students taking the MA Historic Buildings course to funding towards larger projects to be undertaken by PhD students or post-doctoral researchers. Areas of research might relate to proposed funding bids for work on the Minster. As a first step it was agreed that a travel bursary of £1000 would be offered.

To date, we have received no expressions of interest from any University of York students.

Gail Cahill reported that the Capital Works Board's current foci are heating; lighting; Parish Hall, Peter Harrison Room and Parish Centre Repairs; Toilet Refurbishment; and the Retrochoir Roof/ Great East Window. The Lesser North Transept Aisle roof is in a worse condition than previously thought and may be linked to the Retrochoir Roof works as an add-on. It was further reported that the costings for these projects need updating and was likely to cost around £1,500-£2,000. The Friends agreed they would pay for a share of the architect's time to attend these meetings, along with the other parties involved.

A proposal for a Major Bells Restoration project was also discussed in our November 2023 meeting. This had been submitted to the BM Capital Works Board, with a request for it to be added to their portfolio. In addition to urgent repairs to the bell frame casting etc, it was proposed to carry out inspection and maintenance work on other items (which would in any case be required over the next 10 years) taking advantage of specialist lifting equipment. The work would be done over a 6 week period, under one Faculty. The cost would be up to £27K, + VAT and The Friends Council agreed to fund this work in full, subject to the new fundraiser checking if any other funding is available.

The bell restoration project was completed in May 2024.

In February 2024, the Council agreed to contribute towards the funding for the design stage of the Minster Lighting project (with a ceiling of £20,000) and for the Friends of Beverley Minster to be significant funders of this project in principle.

Background to the Lighting Project

In 2023, the PCC agreed that development of a new, more energy efficient, lighting system for the Minster should be progressed as priority. It was proposed that the costs for this project could be shared between the TCOT, PCC, Old Fund and The Friends of Beverley Minster.

The Minster then invited Lighting Designers to express interest in developing the scheme and three (of six) firms were shortlisted. They then undertook an initial design exercise to demonstrate their capability and a vision for the Minster lighting, producing concept ideas based on the Nave and Aisles. On 25th July, these ideas were presented to a panel (consisting of representatives from the three funding bodies and PCC staff), supported with written submissions of how they approached the design, how they would go about developing it and undertake procurement.

A scoring panel (agreed at Capital Works Board) was established; this met in August and evaluated submissions against the following criteria: 8

- Understanding of and approach to the lighting problem
- Initial ideas and how they respond to the brief
- Effectiveness in communication during the presentation and in documentation
- Understanding of cost limitations.

Following this, the panel made a value for money assessment on the preferred Lighting Designer's fee proposal and a recommendation for appointment of the Lighting Designer to Capital Works Board (including FoBM representatives), for approval at their September meeting.

Upon appointment of a Lighting Designer, a Design phase will be entered. The Lighting Designer (under the direction of the Minster Architect) will undertake consultation with stakeholders (incl. informal DAC engagement) and lighting trials to fully develop and confirm the requirements of lighting scheme. Upon agreement of this scope between all funders at Capital Works Board, the Lighting Designer will then produce a detailed design to enable submission for a Faculty and competitive tending for a Lighting Supplier.

The cost of the Design phase is made up of two components (excluding VAT and contingency):

- Lighting Designer: The three submissions range from £18,855 - £30,450.
- Architect: £6,700.

It is proposed that The Friends pay the design fees and the Architect's fees will be split three ways.

The Council of the Friends of Beverley Minster was requested to approve the approach to the design phase and authorise FoBM contribution to it (not to exceed £40,000), subject to agreed appointment of the Lighting Designer. The Council approved this in principle in August 2024.

It is expected to enter stage 4 and seek funding for the Delivery phase in mid 2025. The prospective lighting designers have indicated a rough Anticipated Final Cost range for the scheme (assuming all 3 scope levels are included) from £500k to £1m, subject to the scope options and designer chosen.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report (James Moore)

Financial Review

Summary of Results

The total income received for the year amounted to £75,794, including income from members subscriptions, donation and bequests of £45,456 and investment income of £28,085.

Expenditure on projects of £14,582 and other costs including governance costs resulted in a nett surplus of £54,471. The value of the 33 investments increased by £86,031 increasing the overall funds of the Friends by £140,502 to a total of £1,131,911. Further details are provided in the accounts included in this report.

Reserves

The reserves at the date of the balance sheet total £1,131,911 and are all unrestricted. The funds are held for future expenditure on projects for which ongoing collaboration between the Friends and the Minster P.C.C continues to identify suitable projects. It is likely projects will be identified which will require substantial levels of funding and consequently it is anticipated the level of funds will reduce substantially over the medium term.

Investments

The investments are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and a deposit account managed by the CCLA

Bequests

This year the Friends have benefitted from bequests from the estates of
J C Jeffrey
I Goldthorpe

The Treasurer referred to the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 which were published in the Annual Report. He asked members who have not completed a Gift Aid form to do so if they can.

6. Hon. Programme Secretary's Report (Pamela Martin)

In addition to her remarks contained in the Annual Report, PM thanked James Palmer for developing the online booking system, and reported on the visit the previous day to Selby and Wressle.

7. Vicar's Report (Revd Canon Jonathan Baker)

JB summarised his remarks from the Annual Report, which included staffing changes, changes to service patterns and some of the high-profile events that have taken place in the past year, such as the Gaia installation. Jonathan also drew attention to the work taking place to update the Minster's Vision Strategy.

In response to a question raised by Mike Robson asking if TCOT has any ideas for fundraising apart from the lottery, the Vicar explained how this will depend on first agreeing the nature of the project as some bodies fund specific areas of work such as stained glass. Alternative sources of possible funding are grant-making trusts, a legacies campaign, business community sponsorship, funding from high net worth individuals and community fundraising events. TCOT co-ordinates bids from both the Minster and St Mary's. St Mary's currently has a lottery bid in.

8. Adoption of the reports.

Proposed by Councillor David Boynton, Mayor of Beverley, seconded by Liz Grove. All in favour.

9. The Friends' Constitution - conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Stephen Deas briefly outlined the benefits of conversion. A CIO has a 'legal personality' and can, for example, enter into contracts, employ people and purchase property. This offers extra protection to Members and especially trustees in terms of liability. There would be no material change to the Friends. Jonathan Baker offered his support to the proposal. In response to a query from Liz Grove it was confirmed that this would not affect gift aid.

At this stage support in principle was being sought.

Proposed by Stephen Deas; seconded by Susan Neave. All in favour.

At a later date the Friends will be asked to approve the Constitution.

10. Election of Officers

Vice Presidents: Mayor of Beverley

Hon. Chair Mary Mead

Hon. Programme Secretary Pamela Martin

Hon. Minutes Secretary Susan Neave

Hon. Secretary Fiona Goel

Hon. Treasurer James Moore

Proposed by James Palmer, seconded by Rita Steadman.

All elections were carried, nem. con.

Election of new President

Prof. Roger Lewis

Proposed by Stephen Deas, seconded by Mike Robson. All in favour.

Election of new Members of Council

Helena Anderson

Proposed by Susan Neave, seconded by Bob Aveyard. All in favour.

Stephen Deas

Proposed by James Moore, seconded by Mike Robson. All in favour.

The meeting closed at 3pm, there being no further business. Pamela Hopkins was presented with a gift and card to mark the end of her Presidency with the sincere thanks of Council members for her many contributions and hard work for The Friends of Beverley Minster. Martin Needler then gave the St John of Beverley Annual Lecture, providing an entertaining account of his involvement in the restoration of York Minster after the 1984 fire.

This was followed by afternoon tea.

Members of the Council 2024-2025

Mary Mead, Chair
Fiona Goel, Secretary
James Moore, Treasurer
Pamela Martin, Programme Secretary
Susan Neave, Minutes Secretary
Mike Robson (Retires 2026)
James Palmer (Retires 2026)
Karla Vickers (Co-opted)
Rodney Barton (Old Fund Representative)
Martin Eldred (PCC Representative)
Stephen Deas (Retires 2027)
Reverend Canon Jonathan Baker
Robert Poyser (Co-opted)
Lucy Duckworth (Co-opted)
Helena Anderson (Retires 2027)

Members who have left since
the 2024 Annual General Meeting

John Phillips



A service of Choral Evensong and Blessing of a Civil Partnership celebrated in the Minster in June 2025.

Photo: William Temple



**Friends of Beverley Minster
Parish Centre
38 Highgate, Beverley
HU17 0DP**

E: friends@beverleyminster.org.uk

W: www.beverleyminster.org.uk/the-friends

Facebook: The Friends of Beverley Minster

Instagram: [friendsofbeverleyminster](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbeverleyminster)

The Friends' Annual Report is compiled by Fiona Goel and designed by Mervyn King
Photo: Sculpture of St John of Beverley by Peter Eugene Ball

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 501302

Accounts

A photograph of the interior of Beverley Minster, showing the nave with its high Gothic arches and a large stained-glass window at the far end. The floor is checkered, and the pews are covered with red carpeting. The lighting is warm, highlighting the stone architecture.

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

88th ANNUAL REPORT
2023 - 2024

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Chair's Report



This year has seen some changes to the Council, with several members, including our President Pamela Hopkins, stepping down. Many of you will recall that Pamela was the Secretary to the

Friends for many years and we are hugely grateful that she agreed to return as President, bringing her great experience and interest to our work. Assuming our members approve the appointment at the forthcoming AGM, we look forward to welcoming Roger Lewis as our new President in October.

Following the retirement of Liz Grove, the post of Membership Secretary remains vacant and, in common with many Friends' organisations, it is a challenge for us to find new people to join the Council, which is vital if we are to continue to do the work we do. I would therefore be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in this post or getting involved in other ways. For example, we are looking to increase input from members regarding our events, so please get in touch if you would like to participate in the planning and organisation of our events programme.

Our new Secretary, Fiona Goel has stepped admirably into this role and I am very grateful for her work in keeping the Council running smoothly. Martin Needler has retired as the Old Fund representative and we have been

pleased to welcome Rodney Barton as his replacement. At the time of writing, we do not have a PCC representative, following Meg Choules' appointment as Minster Safeguarding Officer. We wish her well in her new role and hope to have a replacement soon. Finally, Karla Vickers has reached the end of her elected term and I would like to thank her for her work on behalf of the Friends.

We were delighted to unveil the John Phillips grotesque carving at a well-attended reception held in May. It was interesting to hear Professor Barbara English's thoughts on the importance of work done by John and others in increasing understanding of the development of ancient buildings. The carving was designed and created by Minster Welcomer Klaus Selke and reflects aspects of John's work; do come and have a look at it if you haven't already. This event was one of many expertly organised by Pamela Martin during the past year and I would like to thank her for this. Pam has once again organised an interesting October Weekend programme and I look forward to meeting many of you there. The programme will finish with a Festal Evensong in the Minster, which no doubt will make an inspiring and fitting conclusion to the weekend's events.

As mentioned in our Spring newsletter, the Council has provided funds to complete repairs to the bells and clock and most recently has funded a major restoration of the bells. A report by Steeple Keeper Mike Robson can be found elsewhere in this report.

The Capital Works Board has continued work on the Minster's highest priority projects and the Council has agreed in principle to make a substantial contribution to the lighting project, which is due to move into its design phase shortly. We look forward to seeing this, and other projects, progress over the forthcoming year.

It is good practice for organisations such as ours to periodically review their constitutions and the Council has been considering whether changes should be made to the constitution of The Friends.

As a result of this work the Council will be seeking approval at the AGM to convert The Friends of Beverley Minster to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It should be emphasised that is for operational reasons and it is not proposed that we change the charitable purposes of The Friends, nor the things that we do. Further details of this proposal are enclosed with this report.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Council for their work during the year, and also you for your continued support of The Friends.

Mary Mead



The carving was designed and created by Minster Welcomer Klaus Selke to mark John Phillips' retirement.

Programme Secretary's Report

Where has this year gone? It seems no time since plans were being made for the Spring/Summer programme which has come to a close. Preparations are now in place for the final main event of the year, the October AGM weekend including the St John of Beverley lecture. A coach tour to Selby Abbey and Wressle Castle is planned for Friday 4th October and the St John of Beverley Lecture (on Saturday 5 October) will be delivered by Martin Needler on the subject of the fire which destroyed the roof of the South Transept of York Minster in 1984 and his involvement as Chartered Quantity Surveyor. The weekend will conclude on Sunday with a festal evensong, sung by the Minster Choir.

The season just past has not been without its problems in getting final arrangements in place and to some extent, this has affected attendances. The visit to Hull Minster proved to be a most interesting afternoon focussing on the history of the Minster within the development of the town/city of Hull. Mike Robson's June Minster Tower Graffiti Tours were successful and participants were treated to viewing masons' marks and other graffiti, the like of which they had not seen before... in unexpected places. The June visit to Everingham Hall, the home of Helen & Philip Guest, and St Mary the Virgin and St Everilda Italianate Roman Catholic Chapel on site, was a great success with an attendance of some 18 members and friends. A detailed tour of the House was led by Mr Philip Guest covering the architectural history of the building as well as a commentary on the furniture, paintings and other items of interest. This was followed by a short walk across to the church where Mr Guest and Joel Westaway gave a general introduction and more detailed history of the church, respectively. The recently decorated ceiling

was a delight to behold. We then walked over to the newly converted Stables Events Room for a splendid afternoon tea arranged by Mrs Helen Guest and those who wished, were able to stroll around the grounds afterwards. Our final event of the year, took place only a few days ago as I write... a minibus tour taking in Malton Priory (Gilbertine order founded c1150) and Kirkham Priory (Augustinian order founded in the 1120's). The morning in Malton was arranged through the Malton Museum team led by Andy Harvey. We were welcomed with tea/coffee on arrival followed by a most informative and interesting talk given by one of the Museum team, a lady by the name of Chris, on the general history of the Priory and its demise. This was followed by an internal and external tour of the Priory and ruins delivered by Andy Harvey, but also ably assisted by Dr Stuart Harrison (professional archaeologist). The original magnificent Priory materialised in front of our eyes as we walked around the site. An ample buffet lunch was provided by the Priory ladies before we departed to Kirkham Priory some 20 minutes away. Again, Dr Stuart Harrison gave us an illuminating tour of the site and brought to life the architectural features which would have existed alongside the life and work of the Augustinian canons and monks, and the commercial aspects of the wool trade. All this, and in beautiful sunshine, brought the day to close with a welcome supply of ice-cream from the site kiosk!

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all those members who have helped/supported me in any way with the Events programmes over my twelve-year time in office. Some have sadly passed away, but others have remained stalwarts; all have been greatly appreciated.

Pamela J Martin

October Weekend Programme

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2024 - SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER (8.30 for 8.45 start)

Coach Visit to Selby Abbey and Wressle Castle

On arrival at the Abbey, tea/coffee will be served, followed by a guided tour of the church and a buffet lunch on site. We then proceed to Wressle Castle where Ed Dennison (with permission of the owners) will conduct a guided tour. On the return home there will be a short stop at Howden for a brief visit to Howden Minster or for refreshments.

Estimated time of arrival home 18.30.

Cost: £49 per person for Friends; £54 per person for non-Friends

Meet on Eastgate near the junction with Minster Yard North, Beverley HU17 ODP

Minster Car Park will be open. Sensible shoes recommended for afternoon visit

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER at 14.00

Annual General Meeting

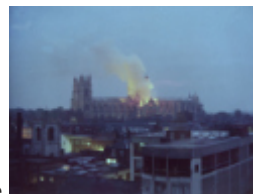
Toll Gavel United Church Hall (behind the church), Toll Gavel, Beverley HU17 9AA
(Members of the Friends only)

15.15

St John of Beverley Annual Lecture - 'After the Fire'

Presentation and talk by Martin Needler

Martin Needler is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor who, during his working life, had an expertise in connection with historic buildings. His illustrated talk will explain his involvement in the greatest Gothic structure north of the Alps in relation to the fire which destroyed the roof of the South Transept of York Minster in 1984.



An **Afternoon Tea** buffet will follow

Cost: Free for Friends; £6 per person for non-Friends attending the lecture and buffet.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR FRIENDS AND NON-FRIENDS

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER at 17.30

Festal Evensong at Beverley Minster

Choral evensong sung by the full choir of Beverley Minster. Open to all, booking not required.

For further details of the weekend programme see the Friends website

2025

JANUARY 2025 (date to be confirmed)

Epiphany Organ Recital at Beverley Minster

Messiaen: 'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Organ recital by Robert Poyser (Director of Music, Beverley Minster)
Epiphany Concert and Reception followed by refreshments (sponsored by the Friends).

Open to all, booking not required.

BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO:

The Programme Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster,
85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

E-mail: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk

Telephone 01482 442221



Vicar's Report

Over the last 12 months the mood of the Minster has been buoyant, with several changes to staff and office holders, and many new faces in the congregations.

Our attempt to recruit a new Mission Priest in September came to nothing, causing us to re-run the process in the New Year. As a result Rev. Eileen Connolly was appointed and joined us in May. Eileen was previously a Curate in Sutton Park and Wawne, and brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles as a teacher and banker, and of churches across different denominations. Our Curate, Charlie Shefford, was priested at the end of June, so after 2 years the Ministry Team is now back up to full strength.

My last report ended with some comments about how our mission and ministry are necessarily limited by the capacity of our staff and volunteers to handle only so much activity. This has been helped by the appointment of Kate Howell as Director of Operations, and the creation of this role has already made a significant impact on reducing staff stress and bringing the Minster up to speed with various staffing, health and safety, insurance and procurement issues. Alongside this appointment, our capacity has also been increased by the appointment of an additional relief virger, Kathy Booth. As a result the virgers' department is running more smoothly. There has also been a recent attempt to recruit an Assistant Organist, but without a successful appointment being made.

Alongside new staff appointments there have been several changes amongst

office holders on the PCC. One of our hardworking Church Wardens, Jane Chipperton, sadly had to stand down on health grounds and we have not yet been able to find a replacement. After a year without a Treasurer we were delighted to appoint Lia Argentou and Matthew Leivers to hold the post jointly. Lia and Matthew have embraced the role with enthusiasm and we are grateful to them for bringing the finance team up to full complement. After many years of dedicated service as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Ian Merryweather stood down at the APCM and has been replaced by Meg Choules. Safeguarding has become an increasingly important responsibility for the PCC, and Meg is leading a review of our policies and practices with a view to deepening our awareness of safeguarding issues.

We have continued to refine the pattern of Sunday services with occasional 'Joint' Services combining elements of the 9.15 and 11am congregations. There was a successful Lent Course on the theme of exploring different ways of engaging with the Bible, and a more recent Alpha Course which introduced the Christian faith to a new circle of people, several of whom are now worshipping with us. There are a number of new members of the Minster congregations, which is encouraging. Last autumn a monthly Film Discussion group also began meeting.

Perhaps the major event in the last term of 2023 was the 'Gaia' installation which attracted in the region of 30,000 people across the three weeks it was with us. This was followed in December by the Christmas Tree Festival which gets ever

bigger, and this year hosted 137 sponsored trees. Just before Christmas there was a sell-out concert by Jethro Tull, who generously donated all of their profits to the Minster. In February we welcomed the 'Lux Muralis' light show which again attracted thousands of visitors, and which we have booked again for next year. Alongside these events run by the Enterprise Committee we have hosted a growing programme of concerts, including the Tallis Consort and recently the Kings Men. The Friday lunchtime concerts organised by Robert Poyser have been very popular, not least because of the lunches which are provided.

The Minster choir and Junior Choir both continue to thrive, with many new members, despite the inability to find an assistant organist. The choristers and full choir each gave an outstanding concert at the end of the summer term.

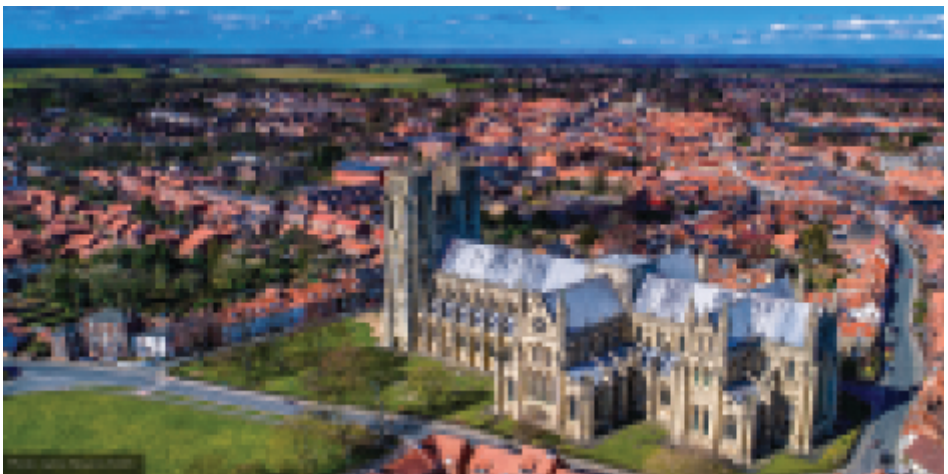
Outside, the volunteer gardeners were recognised with an award by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for their work on the Secret Garden, and the Eco-Church group, as well as organizing the successful Gaia exhibition, have encouraged the adoption of more

sustainable lifestyles with regular tips in the weekly Notice sheet.

The recently formed Capital Works Board, of which the Friends are part, has been looking at the various projects for which the Minster is needing to raise funds. Progress is being made on designs for a new lighting scheme, but we were disappointed that an early 'Expression of Interest' put forward to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a large grant towards repair of the Quire and Retro-Quire roof along with the east Window has not been accepted, although further conversations have been invited. We face many issues around the state of property and infrastructure which resist swift resolution.

In order to help us maintain focus in the midst of so many competing demands and opportunities, the Minster's Vision Strategy is being revised. Its next iteration should guide the PCC as it sets future priorities, which will also help the Friends as they consider what role they can play in the ongoing life of the Minster.

Jonathan Baker



Membership

Current members: 434 (1.8.24)

New Friends:

Mrs F Goel

Mrs A Hood

Mrs M Imrie

Mr & Mrs Lanning

Mr M Martin

Mrs A Normington

Mr & Mrs Seymour

Ms S Signoretti & Mr C Mead

Mrs E Strachan

Mr S Turner

Mr & Mrs Wallington

We regret to report that we have learned of the deaths of the following members:

Mr & Mrs Brumfield, of Beverley

Would you like to become more involved with the Friends?

We are looking for a new **Membership Secretary** for the Friends' Council and would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in this key position. The role includes: attending quarterly Council meetings plus the AGM, managing Friends' communications, including with members, other Friends' organisations, and general enquiries, updating the membership database, and promoting interest in the Friends at events in the Minster and elsewhere. Essential skills: PC skills including email, word processing and basic database management. To find out more please get in touch via our email address friends@beverleyminster.org.uk or our Facebook page 'The Friends of Beverley Minster'.



Report by the Director of Music

This past year has been its customary busy one for the music department of the Minster. The choir has gone from strength to strength and has finished the year off with around eighty members. We have sung in Hexham Abbey, Rudston, St Mary's Beverley, Everingham, Walkington, Harpham and The Monk's Walk, and have joined forces with the choirs of Hexham Abbey, Sherburn in Elmet Parish Church, St Mary's Beverley, Papplewick School and George Heriot's School and the band Jethro Tull!

In the Minster, we have enjoyed exploring new repertoire, particularly Jonathan Dove's setting of Seek him that maketh the seven stars, Richard Shephard's Responses and William Harris's fine anthem Bring us, O Lord. We have sung in many special services, including our curate, Charlie Shefford's ordination and the licensing of our new mission priest, Eileen Connolly.

Recruitment has progressed steadily throughout the year and a particular source of encouragement has been the progress made by the Boys Choir. As the newer choristers gain valuable experience their singing and confidence has gone from strength to strength. It was good to see a number of our choristers, both Boys and Girls, do well in recent examinations at RSCM Silver and York Diocesan Dean's and Archbishop's levels. You will see a growth in the number of choristers wearing medals in the Autumn! Our choir tour to Hexham and Beamish was lots of fun. Having sung under Gaia (at both Chelmsford Cathedral in 2022 and our own Minster in September) we sang

under the Moon in Hexham Abbey. We are all wondering what will be inside Shrewsbury Abbey this coming Autumn!

There has been a steady progress of young singers from our Junior Choir into the Boys and Girls Choir too. Under Rachel Dent's expert direction, this choir has flourished and grown. They have taken part in the Friends AGM weekend, services at Harvest and Advent, the Christmas Tree Festival, as well as having a major slot in our traditional end of term concert and their own concerts in the Parish Hall.

Our choral foundation, generously funded initially by the Friends and now by the Deflog Foundation has aided our choristers' musicianship considerably with free music lessons. Many of our choristers take advantage of this scheme. The concert we held in June was a marvellous demonstration of the talented children who are so dedicated to the Minster and their confidence in performing in what could be an intimidating space.

The Minster has been awash with musical events this past year. Our Lunchtime Concert series held on Fridays has taken a leap forward this year with average audiences around the 70-80 mark and a tremendous variety of musical styles catered for. I am already booking the 2025 series!

Challenges do lie ahead, however. We had an unsuccessful round of recruitment for the post of Assistant Organist recently. The forthcoming term will pose significant challenges as our pool of available organists to cover will

reduce due to other commitments. How we both progress and maintain our current standards and output will require some careful thought. We have been most fortunate to have a pool of able and available organists to help us out this past year. Particular thanks go to Paul Dewhurst, the Director of Music at Bridlington Priory, James Webb, and our fabulous Associate Organist Nick Wise for all they have done to aid our music making this past year.

A Music Strategy Group was formed in September last year to look at how we go forward according to the aims set out in the Minster's Vision and Strategy

Document. The group have met three times and have already produced a number of promising ideas based on short, medium and long-term aspirations. It will be good to put some more detailed plans together in the new academic year.

As I write this report, I am midway through my 15th year as Director of Music at Beverley Minster. One of the constant features of my time here has been the support, encouragement, and kindness of the Friends of Beverley Minster and for that I am truly grateful.

Robert Poyser



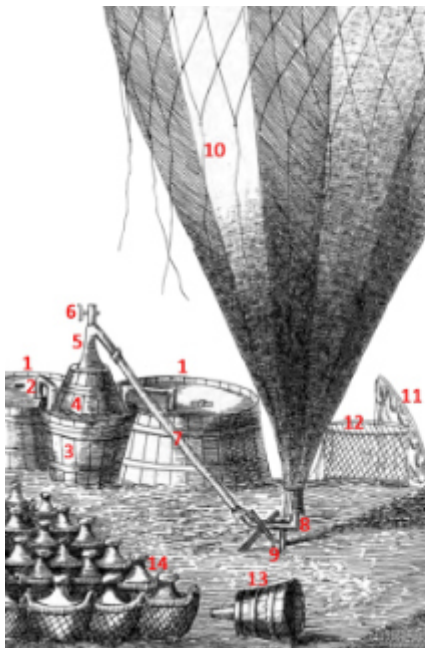
Choral Evensong under Gaia

An Air Balloon Scratching

Last year, John Phillips ended our A.G.M. with a fascinating talk about graffiti in the Minster, under the title 'Scratchings'. One slide was of an air balloon, which prompted us to investigate what experience might have prompted this image.

Balloon mania arrived in Britain in 1783/84, after the Montgolfier Brothers' successful French 1783 hot air balloon flights. By December 1783, the Leeds Intelligencer was carrying reports of unmanned air balloon flights from Manchester, London, and Derby. There was even an advertisement for an Air Balloon Diligence to travel between York and London!, although we could find no evidence that it was ever implemented.

Hot air balloons, although effective, had some significant disadvantages. On occasion the brazier flames ignited the balloon fabric with disastrous results. Also, when unmanned balloons descended, they could set crops or near-by buildings on fire. An alternative means of raising a balloon was to use a chemical reaction to create a lighter than air inflammable gas. Then it was called phlogiston, but we know it now as hydrogen. It was made by treating scrap metal with sulphuric acid and piping the resultant gas into the balloon. This gas provided less lift than the hot air method, and so larger balloons holding more gas became necessary. In the first half of 1784 a number of both types of unmanned balloons were launched in Yorkshire, but there is no record of any of them passing over or near Beverley.



Apparatus to fill the Balloon 1786

1. Large casks, containing water, metal and sulphuric acid to make the gas
2. Lead pipes, through which the gas passes into the refrigerator
3. The refrigerator, a vessel full of cold water
4. A wooden funnel, inverted over the water to receive the cooled gas
5. A large tin tube, which carries the gas into the silk pipe
6. A stop cock, to give a free exit to the gas, if necessary
7. Silk pipe, which conveys the gas to the Balloon
8. Tin pipe
9. A stop cock, to let out water, which sometimes passes over with gas in the form of steam, and, on condensation, drops down to the bottom
10. Balloon
11. Hoop, which connects the ropes of the net and gallery
12. Gallery for ascension
13. Wooden funnel, for the acid and water
14. Bottles of concentrated acid

From Luard's *Account of Aerial Voyages in Scotland 1786*
Google Book Search

By the middle of the year, manned flight arrived. James Tytler made the first successful British trip in a hot air balloon in Edinburgh on 8 September 1784. A week later, the Italian balloonist, Vincent Lunardi made an inflammable air balloon ascent in London in the presence of the Prince of Wales. With a royal seal of approval, ballooning became the craze of the age, encouraged by Lunardi's countrywide tours. Making his gas, however, was a slow complicated and potentially dangerous process: '...he began the operation of filling his balloon, which was performed by a cistern sunk in the ground, twenty feet long, eighteen wide, and thirty inches deep; the materials (metal pieces) occupied one third of it, and a tub without top or bottom served as a chimney to convey the air into the balloon, and two other tubs as funnels to pour down the liquor (sulphuric acid)' (Leeds Intelligencer 12 December 1786). In 1786 Lunardi brought his balloon to York, making an ascent from Kettlewell's Orchard, behind the Minster, on Wednesday 23 August at 1.40p.m., watched, the press said, by several thousand spectators. The wind blew the balloon to the north east over the wolds, before it landed near Bishop Wilton at 3.00p.m. It is probable that this flight would have been visible from Beverley, particularly from elevated spots such as the Minster roof.



Lunardi's Ascent at York 1786
 A0014075/2000 National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Gift of the Norfolk Charitable Trust

The first mention of a balloon ascending from Beverley is in 1814, during the town's celebrations of Napoleon's defeat, after some 20 years of war. From contemporary accounts, 28 June was certainly a memorable day. It began with much ringing of bells. Outside the Guildhall, a great procession gathered, including 24 constables with banners, the civic dignitaries, the 'principal inhabitants' of the area, bandsmen, tradesmen, and members of masonic and friendly societies. It progressed through the town before returning to Saturday Market to sing the national anthem and disperse. Later that day Beverley was 'superbly' illuminated. The market wreaths of greenery, and topped by a 'crown of glory' made with variegated lamps. The great and the good of the town filled their windows with striking transparencies back lit by lamps and candles. These included pictures of Wellington, Britannia, John Bull, the dove of

peace and even Napoleon on his way to Elba. Then, almost as an afterthought the contemporary Beverley historian George Oliver wrote 'at about half after twelve, a balloon ascended at the North-Bar'. Was this the balloon the scratcher drew? Initially it appeared possible, but closer examination of the graffito showed that it depicted a manned balloon. The other information evident on the graffito was the name 'Brown' written across the balloon shape. Was the name relevant? did it describe the colour of the balloon? had two graffiti overlapped each other? or was Brown a person?

Then came a breakthrough. Among the various aeronauts of the time, was an Irishman, Wyndham William Sadler - indeed he was the first person to cross the Irish Channel in a balloon. On 28 October 1823, Sadler made an ascent from Derby, and the Derby Mercury recorded that his passenger was a Sheffield man, a Mr. Brown. The Derby Reporter added that:

'every one was eager to know who was the destined companion of Mr Sadler in this his adventurous voyage, particularly as it had been understood that there were many competitors for this sublime honour. A Mr Brown, from Sheffield, however, speedily set this question at rest by stepping into the car and taking his seat for this purpose'.

It is not clear from this account whether Brown had prearranged with Sadler to join him on the flight, or had merely elbowed his way in front of others. Either way, it was a successful flight, and by the end of it Brown must have been bitten with the aeronaut bug. By the middle of the following year, he had built his own balloon and was putting on exhibition flights.



Balloon Graffito on lead from
Minster roof
Courtesy John Phillips

Brown's balloon was a splendid affair, described in an advertisement for one of his earliest flights:

'The dimensions of the Balloon are thirty-five feet diameter - is formed of gores of Silk thirty-three inches wide, and upwards of sixty feet long, in alternate colours of Crimson and White, manufactured in a peculiar manner, solely for the purpose. The Balloon is divided, from the Equator upwards, by ten horizontal bands of silk, intersecting and forming a double at every joint, which adds considerably to the Balloon against expansion; it is again divided by forty-eight perpendicular bands, so that it forms an interior net, which adds considerable strength to the whole surface... .To the Balloon is attached A SPLENDID CAR Covered and beautifully ornamented, and lined with rich Crimson Silk. Over the Car is suspended a beautifully festooned CANOPY'. (Sheffield Independent 17 July 1824).

The advertisement also named him as Charles Brown, who in 1824 was 22 years old, the fifth son of Roger Brown, a slater, and his wife Sarah Hibbard.

Brown's balloon differed in one significant respect from many of those which had gone before, in that, rather than making his own gas, he simply made arrangements for his balloon to be filled from a local gasworks. The pioneer of this method was a London aeronaut, Charles Green, who first used it in July 1821 in an ascent to celebrate the Coronation of King George IV. Although in theory this method was both simpler and quicker, the distillation of gas from coal at that time was not an exact science, and there could be no certainty as to how much lift a coal gas filled balloon would have. On the positive side, coal gas was less susceptible to changes in the air temperature once afloat.

While Charles Brown was making his first air balloon in Sheffield in 1824, the engineer, John Malam, began building an impressive gas works in Beverley. Two years later, these enterprises led to the first recorded manned balloon flight from Beverley. The actual ascent took place on 1 June 1826 from the adjacent Thompson's Yard on Becksides. As with earlier ascents, it attracted a very large audience, albeit few paid for their admission tickets, choosing to find other view points in the area. The balloon inflated slowly- attributed to Mr. Malam's gas, although being 'well adapted for lighting', was too heavy for air flight. Finally the ascent began in the early afternoon, although all did not go smoothly. Events were described in the Representative (3 June 1826):



Entrance to Malam's Gas Works
Courtesy Janet Ward

'About half-past twelve, although the wind blew strongly and in gusts, Mr. Brown took his seat in the car, and was followed by Mr. Rees Davies, Hull,The machine was let go; when it was found to be not sufficiently buoyant for the conveyance of two persons. After being dashed against the wall, it was, by the exertion of the spectators, brought again to the ground. Mr. Davies then, very reluctantly, gave up his seat, and Mr. Brown, throwing out all his ballast, ascended alone. In the first instance, he was in considerable danger of coming in contact with the sails of a windmill; but having cleared this obstacle, he soared aloft, in the most magnificent style, and to an elevation never before witnessed in this district. The wind was north easterly, and it was carried to an immense height. Mr. Brown descended on Thorn Moor; his grappling irons did not take hold, and the wind being high, the car was forced against him with such violence as to injure him materially'.

He was thrown from the basket, damaging his back, while the balloon rose again, finally coming to rest near Bakewell. Brown was taken to the White Hart at Thorne, from where, after being fed and bled, he returned to Sheffield in a post chaise.

In one respect, this ascent from Beverley is at variance with the graffito which shows two passengers with flags. Possibly it had largely been inscribed before the decision was taken to leave the passenger behind, but there is another possibility. The previous year, at the end of August, Brown had made an ascent in his balloon, Herschel, from Hull's citadel, described in great detail in the Hull Advertiser, 2 August 1825. He was accompanied by the Hull journalist, Mr. Rees Davies, the man who lost his place on the Beverley flight. The men carried flags as shown in the graffito; the balloon reached

an altitude of a mile and a quarter; and when it looked as if it might be blown out to sea, Brown descended eight miles away at Swine. The Advertiser article concludes:

'Owing to the fineness of the day, the balloon was observed at Beverley, from its ascent to its descent. The good people of that place flattered themselves, on its first rising, with the idea of a visit from the aerial voyager, and were prepared to sally forth to his assistance; but were soon aware of their disappointment, from the more easterly course which it took. It was seen from all parts of the town and neighbourhood'.

Possibly it was this flight which the unknown graffiti artist recorded. We will never know for sure.

Charles Brown himself was to continue his balloon exploits for another 15 years in Scotland and the North of England, but never again in Beverley.

Jane Bowen & Janet Ward



The Minster and St Mary's as Landlords - Church Property in Beverley

From the Middle Ages to the 20th century many Beverley residents lived in houses that belonged to the Minster or St Mary's.

In the centuries before the Reformation it was common to leave property to churches. The donors usually expected something in return, for example a mass to be said on the anniversary of their death. Rents from such bequests contributed to the church fabric funds. For the Minster mid-15th century accounts survive showing how this money was spent. Some was used to repair the church building or its fittings. In 1445-6 the sum of 8 'old pence' (just over 3p) was spent on 'mending a clapper of a bell'; only recently the Friends of Beverley Minster have funded a similar repair! Money also had to be spent on house maintenance - a further 8 pence was spent 'cleansing and scouring a latrine of a tenement (house) in tenure of John Sixendale'.

At the Reformation property owned by Beverley's churches was taken into Crown hands, as elsewhere in the country. In 1552 the burgesses of Beverley successfully petitioned Edward VI to get much of it back as the great Minster, now just a parish church rather than a wealthy collegiate church, could not be maintained without a fabric fund. This was the basis of the 'Minster Old Fund'. The property was administered by the Corporation who granted leases.

In 1585 St Mary's also got back many of the houses it had previously owned. In the 17th century the Minster estate comprised around 80 houses, and St Mary's 60.

As might be expected, the greatest concentration of Minster fabric property was at the south end of the town, for example in Highgate and Minster Moorgate. St Mary's property was mainly at the north end, and by the early 19th century, and possibly much earlier, was identified by stones inscribed S^t M^s C^h P^y. At a meeting of the



19-21 Ladygate, a medieval 'Minster' property refronted in the 18th century .



No. 3 Newbegin, a St Mary's property rebuilt by the lessee c. 1750.



Nos. 72-4 Lairgate, built for the Minster c. 1797.



Left: St Mary's church property stone. This example can be found in Waltham Lane.

churchwardens in August 1833 it was decided 'Boundary stones to be placed at the extremities of the church property in all cases where there are none at present'. Many examples can be seen around the town, including on Nos. 10-12 North Bar Within, a building with remnants of timber-framing. One half of this building must be the shop and chamber 'in the range called Boucher Rawe' that was left to St Mary's by a butcher called John Ulceby in 1460, for this stretch of North Bar Within was formerly known as Butcher Row. Minster property was not usually marked in this way although a wall in Friars Lane is identified as such by means of an inscribed stone.

The houses returned to the Minster and St Mary's post-Reformation would have been timber-framed (at that time Beverley was 'well builded of wood') but in the 18th century brick became the standard building material. With little timber available for repairs to the old housing stock, and conscious of the potential cost of rebuilding, the ecclesiastical landlords had several options. One was to 'make do and mend', perhaps by simply refronting a building in brick. Another was to find a lessee who was prepared to rebuild at their own cost. A third option was to demolish and build something new that would bring in more rental income.

A good example of the first approach is Nos. 19-21 Ladygate, which was a 'Minster' property although it lies within St Mary's parish. This is a sizeable building that once fronted the east side of the marketplace, although is now on a 'back street', the infill block on Sow Hill having been built in front. The brick facade, which must date from the 18th century, hides the remnants of a medieval building with a crown post roof, the timbers of which have been radio-carbon dated to 1330. Other examples include Nos. 32-5 Saturday Market, another Minster property, and the White Horse Inn (Nellie's) in Hengate, which belonged to St Mary's. Both these buildings retain some timber-framing behind their brick facades.

An example of a house rebuilt by lessees is No. 38 Highgate, a Minster property, now the Parish Centre. In 1744 Ruth Horner of Beverley and her son Henry, a wine cooper from Hull, leased quite a large block of Minster property on the west side Highgate. They were given permission to take down the 'south front or wing' of one of buildings, and rebuild it as a separate dwelling, explaining why No. 38 is at right-angles to street, facing south and only one room deep. From 1808 it was occupied by the Blue Coat School.

St Mary's also had lessees willing to rebuild including Walter Wride, a prosperous woollen draper who in 1748 took a lease of the eastern part of a large house in Newbegin that had been left to the church in 1485. He replaced this with a neat three-bay Georgian house (No. 3). The western range of the original house (Nos. 5-7) was refaced in brick in the 18th century but here substantial medieval timbers survive in what must once have been the home of a wealthy merchant.

Examples of new houses built by the Minster include a row on the south side of Minster Moorgate. In 1738 the Corporation (acting for the Minster estate) agreed with Samuel Smith, carpenter, to demolish six houses and build a terrace of as many as he could to fill the space. He managed to fit in ten (Nos. 49-67). A more ambitious scheme for the Minster estate was the building in 1797 of a pair of three-storey houses in Lairgate (Nos. 72-4) which attracted tenants such as Sir William Pennyman whose family seat was at Ormesby Hall near Middlesbrough.

Some properties owned by the Minster or St Mary's were sold in the 19th century, but at the beginning of the 20th century both churches still owned many houses which they had to maintain. As the century progressed more and more sales took place. One of the last houses to be sold was No. 30 Highgate, where Minster organist Alan Spedding lived with his family for many years.

Susan Neave

Pilgrimage to St John of Beverley in the Late Middle Ages

The shrine of St John in Beverley Minster was, by the later medieval period, one of the most high-status and popular pilgrimage sites in the north of England. Achieving and maintaining this position of eminence was the result of a great deal of work on the part of the canons of Beverley Minster and of the wider Church authorities. It could certainly not be taken for granted that even such a venerable figure as St John would always attract pilgrims. New pilgrimage cults were constantly springing up all over the country, and if established centres failed to keep themselves relevant then their saints were in considerable danger of being overlooked and eventually even forgotten by all except their most local devotees. Churches like Beverley innovated and advertised themselves to successive generations of potential pilgrims from the region and beyond. In Beverley's case the canons were eventually so successful that they transformed St John from a saint of mainly local importance to one of the patron saints of England by the mid-fifteenth century.

Pilgrims went on pilgrimage for a variety of reasons connected to bodily and spiritual health, particularly seeking miracle cures, giving thanks for cures and other miracles that had been received, and collecting 'indulgences' which shortened the time the recipient had to spend in Purgatory after death. Mixed in with these motives were some rather more familiar to the modern pilgrim or traveller. The canons of Beverley noted of the medieval pilgrims that they were "drawn there by various vows, for pleasure of course, or to be amazed, or for the sacred purpose of being inspired with devotion", and

"people entered the church so that they might pray, or to look at the [wall] paintings, or to avoid the boredom of the day through some sort of recreation or amusement". These experiences were hardly unique to Beverley, and the need to be 'amazed' or to have some sort of 'recreation or amusement' might instead draw pilgrims to more novel religious sites.

The Church authorities, Beverley Minster included, had two main tools with which to influence pilgrims' choice of destination. The bluntest of these was the penitential pilgrimage: an enforced pilgrimage imposed upon a sinner by the Church's legal courts. The miracle collections of St John of Beverley include stories of such penitents, such as the pilgrim from France who had struck his brother with a sword. As punishment he had been bound with the iron sword moulded around his waist and sent on pilgrimage to St Andrews in Scotland in the hope of absolution. Although he had no success there, on returning home he came to Beverley and while praying in the Minster his sword-cum-girdle fell off, signalling that St John had granted him forgiveness. St John was also popular in the Low Countries, thanks to trade links between Beverley and Flanders, and particularly egregious sinners were sometimes made to make the cross-channel trip to his shrine as penance.

More commonly penitents were sent from the archbishop's courts in York, where between 1357 and 1420 we are aware of at least 31 individuals who were ordered on pilgrimage for their sins, usually of a sexual nature. Some of these are quite simple. In 1372 Nicholas Gilbertson of Ulleskelf, found guilty of

living in sin with Margaret of Leeds at Milford, had to take part in penitential processions at York Minster and his local churches of Kirkby and Sherburn, then go on pilgrimage from Milford to the tomb of St William of York and offer a candle there. This was a round trip of 34 miles, the shortest pilgrimage in any of the sentences. Yet three years later he was still cohabiting with Margaret of Leeds and was sentenced to undertake pilgrimages to St Mary at Southwell, St John at Beverley and St Wilfrid at Ripon, the main minster churches of the medieval diocese of York, making an offering at each, a round trip of some 212 miles. It is usually stated in the impositions of penance that the pilgrimage had to be undertaken on foot, often with bare feet and sometimes bare-chested, marking it out as specifically a penitential pilgrimage, although none of those who left the confines of Yorkshire were forced to do it barefoot.

Almost all those sentenced to these penitential pilgrimages were guilty of fornication. Only one of them was female: Mathilda Ferthing in 1380, who had to perform a barefoot pilgrimage from York to St John at Beverley for an unspecified transgression with W. Hogg, a milliner. This is in keeping with general attitudes to the punishment. Church officials were wary of sending women, especially those already guilty of sexual misdemeanour, out of their communities, for fear of what such 'loose' women might get up to. On the other hand it was seen as a particularly apt punishment for those in the clergy convicted of similar moral lapses, who would thus be forcibly removed from their parishioners for a period. Clergy accused of sexual misdemeanours make up the majority of those known to have been sentenced to go on pilgrimage to Beverley. In all of these cases, pilgrimage would remove one of the parties from the area for long enough

that the situation could be resolved in their absence, providing some time apart and, for the offender, an enforced period of reflection while on a lengthy and, if barefoot, painful walk.

Beverley was the most common destination for penitential pilgrims from York and the most common route was York-Beverley-Ripon-York, in that order. After the canonisation in 1401 of St John of Bridlington, an Augustinian canon who had a shrine in the monastery in that town, there are several instances of the circuit York-Beverley-Bridlington being used with the stipulation to offer at the shrine in Bridlington. On 23rd November 1407 Robert Clytherow, vicar of Market Weighton, was found guilty of fornication with Elizabeth the servant of Robert Seftre, and within fifteen days had to visit the shrine of St William of York on foot from his house and offer 26s 8d, and from there he had to go to St John of Beverley and offer 13s 4d, and afterwards to St John of Bridlington and offer 13s 4d and receive letters of testimony from each shrine.

These routes were carefully planned by the Church authorities. York, Ripon, and Beverley were the sites of the shrines of archbishops of York who had been elevated to the ranks of the saints. Forcing parish priests who had failed to uphold the standards of their calling to go and pray for forgiveness at the tombs of three saintly archbishops was a way of reminding them of the seriousness of their calling. In the case of the priests, generally from the East Riding, who were sent to St John of Bridlington as well, this was a case of instilling a sense of local pride in proper Christian behaviour.

Besides the 'sticks' the Church had various 'carrots' to entice pilgrims to particular shrines and destinations. In the later Middle Ages one of the most powerful was the indulgence, a

reduction of the time spent in Purgatory after death which could be gained by going to a particular place on a particular day and making an offering. All major pilgrim sites had quite vast collections of indulgences by the fourteenth century. Beverley Minster seems to have had the largest offer of indulgences in Yorkshire, and in the 1320s pilgrims there could expect to reduce their time in Purgatory by 26 years and 40 days. By comparison St Wilfrid at Ripon had indulgences worth a little over 6 years, and St William at York Minster only 3 years, so Beverley was definitely worth a visit.

Indulgences were eagerly sought by pilgrims, but they were also to be found everywhere, from great cathedrals to tiny wayside chapels. Some pilgrimage sites, such as Beverley, sought to stand out from the crowd by making the experience at their shrines particularly exciting. From 1312 onwards the tomb of St John in the nave of Beverley Minster periodically emitted a holy and healing oil, supposedly exuding from the bones of the sainted archbishop. This was a phenomenon which had first been recorded in England at the tomb of St William in York Minster in 1223, then at St Robert of Knaresborough's tomb, the head shrine of St Hugh of Lincoln, and the tomb of Robert Grosseteste in Lincoln Cathedral. Although rare in England, miraculous oil production was fairly common amongst Continental saints, having first been witnessed at the tomb of St Nicholas. It's strange to think of Father Christmas as being oily!

In 1312 oil began to flow from the tomb of St John in the nave of the Minster, and a miracle story relates that it 'was smeared on the eyes of some boys who had not been able to see properly for three months. Immediately they began to see more clearly'. It just so happened to be on a day when the bishops of Bath

and Norwich were visiting the Minster, who duly confirmed the miracle, shortly after the translation of most of St John's relics to a shrine behind the high altar. Oil flowing from the tomb in the nave from which the relics had been moved (although probably some bones were left behind) indicated it was still a powerful place imbued with the saint's presence. It encouraged pilgrims to go to the nave tomb rather than try and get their way to the more high-status new shrine in the east end of the Minster. For the rest of the Middle Ages the oil tended to flow from the tomb on St John's feast days (7 May and 25 October) and often in Rogationtide and Pentecost week as well when laity from all over the East Riding were expected to gather in the Minster.

Perhaps the most important event in the history of Beverley took place in northern France on 25 October 1415, the anniversary and feast day of the translation of St John's relics, the day of the Battle of Agincourt. According to contemporary accounts 'oil flowed like drops of sweat' from St John's tomb throughout the day, signifying the saint's intervention on the English side. It may have been the large northern contingent of foot soldiers amongst the English armies of the Hundred Years War who promoted St John to their noble and royal generals, as men of Yorkshire would have been well aware that they were fighting on his feast day. Certainly St John was recognised at the time as having intervened to secure the victory for the English. In 1419 King Henry V went on pilgrimage to Beverley, and then onwards to the tomb of St John of Bridlington, to give thanks for the saint's aid during his wars of conquest, after which St John of Beverley became almost a national patron saint, noted especially for his 'protection of victory and peace' for the king. One interesting

survival from this time is a badge featuring St John of Beverley and St John of Bridlington together, sometimes claimed to be a dual pilgrim's badge to the two saints. It is perhaps more likely that this was a devotional badge worn by northern soldiers on going to fight abroad, carrying the two saints' protection with them across the Channel.

This article is based on research published as:

John Jenkins, 'Holy Geysers? Oily Saints and Ecclesiastical Politics in Late Medieval Yorkshire and Lincolnshire' in Christiania Whitehead, Hazel Blair, and Denis Renevey (eds), *Late Medieval Devotion to Saints from the North of England: New Directions* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2022), pp. 147-163

John Jenkins, 'Northern Ways? Pilgrimage, Politics and Piety in the Fourteenth-Century Administrative Records of the Archdiocese of York' in Paul Dryburgh and Sarah Rees Jones (eds.), *The Church and Northern English Society in the Fourteenth Century* (York: York Medieval Press, 2024), pp. 247-267

Contact: john.jenkins@york.ac.uk



Lead badge of St John of Beverley and St John of Bridlington, early 15th century, Museum of London, 88.84



St John's Tomb - A Reassessment

For the Annual Report last year, I wrote a piece about 'St John's Tomb' in which I proposed a date for the re-erection of the canopy and its contents known as the Two Sisters' Tomb. My concluding comments in that article were: 'Clearly the name of the canopy can only date at the earliest from 1736 after it was moved from the north transept. The attribution to two sisters who gifted pasture for two milch cows on the Westwood, or to the sisters of Earl Puch, a Saxon nobleman mentioned in one of John's miracle accounts are much more recent inventions. Why then was, and is, the canopy known as 'The Two Sisters' tomb?'

When doing research, and publishing it, we are very much 'flying kites', waiting on the possibility that new information will come to light which blows a theory out of the water. The original article was written using the best information and sources, and therefore deductions, available at the time.

This time I am going to tell you a story. It starts in the middle and ends at the beginning. It concerns not only the 'Two Sisters' but as an aside, more importantly, the story of St John's tomb itself. A number of sources of information have been available since 1644, which is when the story begins. These have all been published over the years. This story became possible when a new source emerged, in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

In the late 17th century, a gentleman named Nathaniel Johnston was, in common with others like Sir William Dugdale who we have used before for information on the Percy Chapel and the heraldry of the Great West window, and St John's tomb, as you will see shortly, travelling the country principally

recording Heraldry but also other items of interest. Nathaniel Johnston M.D (1675-1705) was a physician, political theorist, and antiquary. He practised at Pontefract but studied the antiquities and natural history of Yorkshire. Part of the Johnston collection in the Bodleian consists of '[t]wo volumes of topographical and church notes, with drawings of monuments, brasses and stained glass, compiled by Johnston's brother Henry, on tours mainly in the West Riding, 1669-1671. The notes are arranged in an order suggested by Nathaniel Johnston, in his instructions to his brother (Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS. Top. Yorks. c. 18, fol. 148v).' [See illustration below.]

Brother Henry Johnston was given his instructions. Henry Johnston's notes, and beautiful drawings now shed new light on the Two Sisters' Tomb. These are reproduced by kind permission of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Henry Johnston visited Beverley in January 1670. The six folios of Beverley information consist of the description and drawings in Beverley Minster, also including the canopy and tomb of Henry Percy, 4th earl of Northumberland, and the Warton tomb inside the reredos, plus a short page on St. Mary's church.

The drawings of most interest in the current context are of the canopy of the Sisters' Tomb, (the virgins tomb in 1670,) and also of the 'tomb' itself, consisting of the two Purbeck marble slabs and the supporting stonework which now stand inside it. They are drawn from the south, so Henry was probably sitting on the bench in the south aisle. It was January and Britain was going through the 'mini Ice Age' so one has to hope that he was well wrapped up against the cold. It

clearly shows that the tomb was already in that position.

His note above the tomb says: 'The south side of the nave tomb. This is called the virgins tomb and is placed betwixt 2 pillars on the south side of the main body of ye church'. He also notes, on the slabs themselves, that the two tomb slabs are 'marble'.

St John's tomb in the nave was opened and investigated in 1664, only 6 years before Henry Johnston's visit. This must have involved lifting the large and thick marble stone described by Dugdale in his account of the examination of the Saint's tomb.

In ao 1664, upon taking up of a large and thick marble stone, lying in the midst of the Church of BEVERLEY, neare ye Entrance into the Quire, there was found under it A Vault of squared freestone, five foot in length, two foot in breadth at ye head, and one foot and an halfe at the foot. In which Vault there was A Sheet of Lead foure foot in length, containyng the Dust of ST. JOHN of BEVERLEY; as also six beades, whereof three were of Cornelian, the other crumbled to dust: there were also in it three great brasse pins, and foure iron nayles. Upon this Sheet of Lead was fixed A Plate of Lead, whereon was this following inscription: (translation: In the year 1188 from the Incarnation of Our Lord this church was burned in the month of September on the night following the feast of St Mathew the Apostle [that is 26 September], and in the year 1197 on 6 Ides March [9 March] an enquiry was made into the relics of the blessed John in this place, and his bones came to light in the east part of the grave, and these concealed, mixed with mortar and dust, were discovered and concealed in the same place.) Also, A Box of Lead, about even inches in length, six inches broad, and five in

heighth, lying athwert the plate of Lead. In this Box were Divers peices of Bones, mixt with dust, yeilding a sweet smell. All which were reinterred, by direction of the present Archbysshop of Yorke.

The visitation of the county of Yorke, begun in A° Dñi MDCLXV, and finished A° Dñi MDCLXVI, by William Dugdale. Surtees Society vol. xxxvi. for the year M.DCCC.LIX. London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, Printers, 25, Parliament Street.

In this description by Dugdale we have the probable beginning of the story. We know from this description that the tomb was rediscovered in March 1197. What was the state of the building at this time? The building of the new east end of the church had started around 1190 and was built around the shell of the Norman church. By 1197 the two eastern bays of the nave would have been built to join the new building to the Norman nave which would remain in position for the next 100 years and we also know, from the dendrochronology done over the past few years, that the choir was roofed before 1206. The present roof timbers of the nave are contemporary (1177-1202) but are not the roof originally placed here which was likely to be at a different pitch to match the height of the Norman roof of the rest of the nave, but also springing from a point lower down the clerestory wall for the same reason.

Dugdale describes the 'large and thick marble stone' lifted in 1664. The stone in the Sisters' tomb is Purbeck Marble from Dorset. The use of Purbeck at the end of the 12th century has precedents in the Gallilee chapel at Durham cathedral, and also in the choir of York Minster built by Archbishop Roger. Both of these date to a couple of decades earlier than Beverley.

SPECULATION

St John's tomb is where it has always been.

I am grateful to Wikipedia for the following. "In the early Middle Ages, solemn translation marked the moment at which, the saint's miracles having been recognized, the relic was moved by a bishop or abbot to a prominent position within the church. Local veneration was then permitted. This process is known as local canonization." We know from various sources that John was 'canonized' by Archbishop Aelfric Puttock and his body translated to a new tomb on 25th October 1037, presumably from his original resting place in what was the site of the 'porticus' of the earlier church. Or perhaps it was the same church, which was improved and embellished, following the translation, by three successive Archbishops in the 11th century, making way for the Norman church in the 12th century.

He was originally buried in the porticus of the Saxon church. We know from excavations on the south side of the nave which located coffins dated 992 but on a different alignment than the present building, that there was a church, on or near this site in the late 10th century. The Saxon church may have been on the same site as the present church and been subsumed and realigned by the 11th or 12th century builders. The 1197 rediscovery may have been marked by the addition of the large marble slab. This was lifted, very likely for the first time since the 1197 event, witnessed and reported by Sir William Dugdale, in 1664. The site in the nave marked by the marble slabs, to John and perhaps Berthuin the first abbot of the 8th century monastery, may even be the original grave site, used continuously since 1037 although this is doubtful and impossible to verify.

Offerings to the 'little tombs', presumably Berthuin and perhaps others, were still being made as late as the 15th century. St John's tomb slab, unmarked by a name, was usually hidden by superstructures as described in miracle accounts of the early 14th century. When these were removed, at the dissolution or before, the stone remained.

THE STORY

This story begins on 25th October 1037 when the 'new Saint' John's remains were translated to a new tomb. There it remained undisturbed, a centre for pilgrimage and devotion, until it became covered in rubble from the fire on 21st September 1188. In March 1197 a search was made in the rubble for its location and it was rediscovered and reinterred in the same spot. The clock moves inexorably on to 1664 when presumably the floor of the nave is being relaid or refurbished, and it is opened again and its contents described. This involved the lifting and replacing of the 'large and thick marble stone'. It is possible that the canopy which originally covered Nicholas de Huggate's tomb in the north transept was moved to this location at the time of the dissolution in 1548 or soon after. His tomb was probably in a position in the transept which was inconvenient for liturgical practices at the time so it was shifted, and the canopy moved. The base of Huggate's tomb fits the canopy exactly. When the slab was lifted in 1664 it must have been regarded as a precious object and the enlightened decision was made to incorporate it and Berthuin's stone as a tomb within the canopy. It was seen here and drawn in detail by Henry Johnston in January 1670.

John Phillips

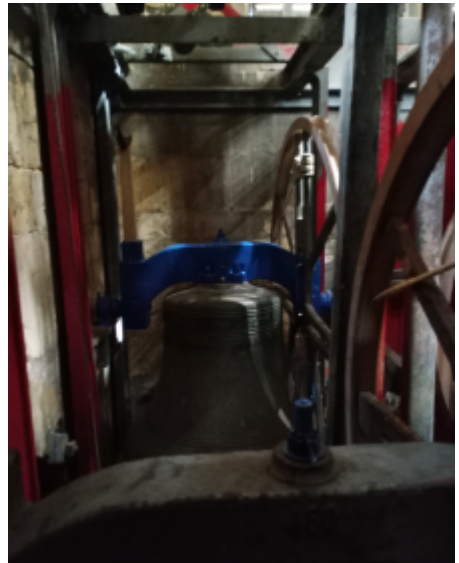
Minster Bell Restoration Project



About every 10 years I get one of the bell foundries to come and do an inspection of the bells so I can draw up a list of possible work that will be needed to be done over the next few years. This time I asked the DAC Bell Advisor to come and do the inspection first as I had noticed some things had deteriorated during the Covid lockdown period, some of which had been caused by the ingress of water into the tower. During our conversation about the new types of clappers that have been introduced since the 1970's being heavier and sitting on the bell rather than letting the full note come out I was surprised to learn that there was a firm that could restore our original 1901 wrought iron ones. Lignum vitae which had previously been used for the bush in the top of the clapper was listed as an endangered species in about 1976. Any wrought iron clappers that used that wood became obsolete when the bush wore out and a new type of clapper had

to be bought to replace it. Some of ours had been in use for over 90 years before they had to be replaced, some of the newer clappers only lasted 5 to 10 years. After some careful thought and investigation into how the restoration of our original clappers would be done, I decided it would be worth doing to give the bells back their original sound. New iron tops were cast and forge welded onto the old clappers, the iron tops being fitted with a modern bush. When you hear the bells being rung now they sound exactly as they did in 1901 when they were first installed.

Whilst fitting the clappers and test ringing the individual bells we found that the gudgeons that hold the 7th bell in place had come loose and that the bell was now unsafe to ring in case it broke free and crashed out of the frame. Other work that was looked at to do over several years was costed and it was





decided to do all the work at one time; it also meant the Minster could claim back quite a bit of the VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme which runs out in March 2025. The wheels of all 10 bells were removed to have new soling and shrouding fitted, this is the tracking that the bell ropes run in. These were fitted to the original spokes that date from 1901. New pulley boxes and pulleys were made and fitted. The bells were lifted out of their pits and the bearings checked, 7 new sets of bearings were fitted as the old ones had been in use for more than 70 years and had become worn. Part of the bell frame was removed because it had corroded badly because of water sitting on it and a new section was made and fitted to replace the old part. The bells are now as near to how they originally were when they were put in by Canon Nolloth in 1901. Some of the parts that have been replaced should be alright for the next 120 years. Removing so many of the original parts has given us a valuable insight into how the frame was constructed, how the bells were fitted into place and the original colour of the metalwork. The bells being on two levels creates a challenge when working on



them. Canon Nolloth had the frame specially designed to fit the tower with a heavy peal of bells and is the only one of its kind.

Not only did the peal of 10 bells undergo a major restoration programme this year but Great John's strike hammer did also. We looked at it last year and the hammer head which is made of 2 sections and weighs 70 kilos had come apart. Unfortunately the hammer head sheared off its fixings at the end of November and the restoration had to be carried out sooner than we thought. The hammer and all its connecting parts, some which have helped strike the hour more than 7 million times, were removed by the Cumbria Clock Company who have now fully restored everything. In the last year the Friends have covered the cost of these vital restoration projects which the PCC would have struggled to do.

Mike Robson, Steeple Keeper.

Lighting Renewal Scheme

Our Minster's lighting system has become a bit unreliable in recent years, having served us well for around 40 years. Combined with the fact that its older technology is comparatively expensive to run and increasingly hard to find spare parts for, the PCC agreed last year that development of a new, more energy efficient, lighting system for the Minster should be a priority.

The Beverley Minster Old Fund, Two Churches One Town and the Friends (as part of the PCC's new Capital Works Board), kicked off the project late last year. It began with the Minster's Architect, Andy Burrell Architecture, working with various stakeholders in the Minster to develop the right requirements of a new lighting system. This has been particularly important, as the way we use the Minster has changed considerably in the last four decades and we need the new system to serve everyone best, according to their 21st century needs.

Having agreed these requirements, we have since started the process of appointing a Lighting Designer for Beverley Minster. In the last three months, three shortlisted designers have produced and presented their vision for an outstandingly lit Minster. A panel, comprising of representatives from the funding bodies (including the Friends), will meet in August to select the most suitable designer. We will then enter a design phase until Spring 2025, where they will work with all parts of the Minster, the Diocese and heritage organisations to design the right system in detail.

This next phase of the lighting scheme is likely to receive significant financial support from the Friends, so we are very grateful that you've enabled this essential (and exciting!) work to take place. We look forward to sharing with you some progress and detail of the design in the Spring Newsletter.



Annual Accounts 2022 - 2023

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities	2023/24		2022/23
	£	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary Income			
Subscriptions	14,739		13,902
Donations and Bequests	28,905		70,137
Tax Recovered	1,812		2,745
		45,456	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days/ Trips	2,013		2,590
Book sales	240		420
		2,253	
Investment Income		28,085	24,930
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>75,794</u>	£ <u>114,724</u>
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities			
Bells	11,780		
Published Article	2,802		
Dendrochronology Study			3,400
Tower clock Repairs			612
		14,582	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days /Trips/Events	2,936		2,427
		2,936	
Governance Costs			
Printing and stationery	1,459		675
Insurance	308		313
Sundries	748		281
Accountancy Fees	<u>1,290</u>		
		3,805	
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>21,323</u>	£ <u>7,708</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>54,471</u>	£ <u>107,016</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses			
Gain/Loss on investments		86,031	- 35,993
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>140,502</u>	£ <u>71,023</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		991,409	920,386
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

Fixed Assets	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Investments	1,053,272	899,241
Total Fixed Assets	1,053,272	899,241
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,812	2,741
CBF Deposit	50,090	90
Cash at Bank	28,027	89,437
Total Current Assets	79,929	92,268
less		
Creditors	1,290	100
Net Current Assets	78,639	92,168
Net Assets	£ <u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>

Funds of Charity

Unrestricted funds

Brought forward	991,409	920,386
Add Surplus for the year	140,502	71,023
	£ <u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Beverley Minster

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Elizabeth Blanchard ACA, Sowerby Chartered Accountants
Beckside Court, Annie Reed Road, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 0LF

Financial Review

Summary of Results

The total income received for the year amounted to £75,794, including income from members subscriptions, donation and bequests of £45,456 and investment income of £28,085. Expenditure on projects of £14,582 and other costs including governance costs resulted in a nett surplus of £54,471. The value of the investments increased by £86,031 increasing the overall funds of the Friends by £140,502 to a total of £1,131,911. Further details are provided in the accounts included in this report

Reserves

The reserves at the date of the balance sheet total £1,131,911 and are all unrestricted. The funds are held for future expenditure on projects for which ongoing collaboration between the Friends and the Minster P.C.C. continues to identify suitable projects. It is likely projects will be identified which will require substantial levels of funding and consequently it is anticipated the level of funds will reduce substantially over the medium term.

Investments

The investments are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and a deposit account managed by the CCLA

Bequests

This year the Friends have benefitted from bequests from the estates of

J C Jeffrey

I Goldthorpe



Stuart Harrison writes...

At the meeting to mark the retirement of John Phillips as secretary of the Beverley Minster Friends I gave an account of the dendrochronology of the roofs of the minster and its significance to the dating of the building that had been financially supported by the Friends. This has been undertaken over a number of years with targeted sampling to try and establish a chronology for the original and later roofs. Importantly the overall results of this work and its significance was recently published in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association and is available online with open access to download.

The dendrochronology and the reconstruction of the various roof trusses used in the original roofs formed a complex account. Understanding the dating of the minster is a key to understanding the development of several major buildings in the north of England. Beverley Minster was not a solitary design but part of a significant group of churches that included, Jervaulx Abbey, Meaux Abbey and Fountains Abbey that grew out of the early Gothic designs seen at Ripon Cathedral, Byland Abbey and to a lesser degree Old Malton Priory and Tynemouth Priory. The church at Guisborough Priory where syncopated arcading was employed before it appeared at Beverley may also have played a major part in this development.

Byland Abbey and its daughter house at Jervaulx now appear to have been the

forcing ground where many of the details seen at Beverley were first developed and employed. Byland more for detail and Jervaulx for structural design with identical clerestory arcades and wall passages. This northern Gothic development can now be seen to have been independent of buildings such as Canterbury Cathedral and also Lincoln Cathedral. Beverley makes much use of Purbeck Marble and we now know that appeared in considerable quantities for both major piers and also detached shafts in the lost choir of York Minster built by archbishop Roger (1154-81).

The BAA paper, co-authored by myself and John, explores all these aspects of Beverley and the links which were forged at the time. It can be found and downloaded from Taylor and Francis online.



Jervaulx Abbey

Annual General Meeting Agenda 2024

THE AGM OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

TO BE HELD IN TOLL GAVEL HALL
ON SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2024
at 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 7th October 2023
 3. Matters arising
 4. Council Chair's Report - Ms Mary Mead
 5. Hon. Secretary's Report - Mrs Fiona Goel
 6. Hon. Treasurer's Report - Mr James Moore
 7. Hon. Programme Secretary's Report - Miss Pamela Martin
 8. Vicar's Report - Rev. Canon Jonathan Baker
 9. The Friends' Constitution - conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
 10. Adoption of the reports
 11. Election of Officers
To be re-elected:
Vice Presidents
Chair - Ms Mary Mead
Hon. Programme Secretary - Miss Pamela Martin
Hon. Minutes Secretary - Dr Susan Neave
Hon. Secretary - Ms Fiona Goel
Hon. Treasurer - Mr James Moore
To be elected:
President - Prof. Roger Lewis
Members of the Council.
Mr Stephen Deas
 12. Any Other Business
- Those wishing to stand for election to the Council should contact the Secretary prior to the meeting.

AGM Minutes 2023

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2023.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Friends, Pamela Hopkins.

Present: Janet Ward, Jane Bowers, Pam Aughley, Peter Quigley, Fiona Johnson, John Askey, Karla and Bernard Vickers, Linda Johnson, Margaret Bailey, Susan and David Neave, Rita Steadman, Alan Wilkinson, Helena Anderson, Mike Robson, Stephen Deas, James Palmer, Robert Poyser, Roger Lewis, Patricia and David Brunt, Fiona Goel, David James, Berna Moody, Pamela Martin, Pamela Hopkins, Liz Grove, John Phillips, Mary Mead, James Moore, Jonathan Baker.

Apologies for absence:
Graham Johnson, Margaret Imrie

The minutes of the AGM held on 8 October 2022 were passed - nem. con. Proposed by Stephen Deas, seconded by Linda Johnson.

Matters arising - none

Chair's Report (Mary Mead)

This year has been marked by aspects of both continuity and change. We have welcomed new members to the Council and benefited from the skills and perspectives that they have brought. Alongside this, the continued involvement of our longer-term Council members has provided the experience which contributes much to the smooth running of our organisation.

Next year promises to bring more changes with a number of Council members standing down. Our Secretary, John Phillips, will be leaving his post after many years. One of the many contributions that John has made during this time is his work with Mervyn King to produce first-class annual reports and newsletters. We are very pleased that John has agreed to give the St John of Beverley lecture this year and look forward to what I'm sure will be a hugely interesting interpretation of the Minster's "scratchings". As you will have seen from the annual report, we will be marking John's retirement with an event on

3rd November, and I hope that you will all join us for that. Bookings can be made either via Pam, or the Minster's website. If the voting goes as planned today, we look forward to welcoming our new Secretary, Fiona Goel, to the Council.

Liz Grove, our Membership Secretary, has also decided to stand down. I think Liz is perhaps best known for her unequalled ability to 'capture' new members, and is an excellent ambassador for the Friends, not least through the remarkable deployment of hat-power! This post is currently vacant and we welcome enquiries from anyone who may be interested in finding out more about it.

In addition, three other Council members, Helena Anderson, Gail Cahill and Stephen Deas have reached the end of their elected term and I would like to thank them for their work over this period. We are hugely grateful to John, Liz, Helena, Gail and Stephen for their contributions and look forward to their continued involvement in future.

As sadly is often the case for organisations such as ours, the Council has been notified of a number of deaths of members over the past year. We are very grateful for the support they gave to the Friends and recognise the role they have played in making our organisation what it is today.

Over the past year the Friends has funded repairs and enhancement work to the bells and clock. Mike Robson has used this as an opportunity to promote interest in both the Minster and the Friends and you may well have seen it reported both by the BBC and local news. This publicity provides an additional benefit from the work that we support.

This year has also seen the publication of John's article, cowritten with Stuart Harrison, regarding the role Beverley Minster played in the development of the Northern Gothic style in the late 12th and Early 13th Centuries. This is an excellent example of the role that the Friends play in supporting the development of knowledge and promoting interest in the Minster and its history.

Alongside this, the Friends have been working with the PCC, 2COT and the Old Fund to establish processes for the selection and management of the Minster's capital projects and we look forward to working with them on the newly established Projects Board. The Friends are fortunate to have the funds at this time to be able to make a significant contribution to the work of preserving and enhancing the building for future generations.

We are pleased to see the Minster's music, which the Friends have supported for many years, continue to thrive and are grateful to Robert for organising what promises to be a splendid Friends' festal evensong tomorrow. I encourage you all to come along if you can. Robert has also kindly arranged for the Junior Choir to give us a short performance at the end of the meeting.

Looking to the future, we, in common with other Friends' organisations, face challenges in a number of key areas:

The first is in the area of recruitment, and whilst membership levels remain healthy, we face the challenge of continuing to attract new members, particularly from a younger demographic.

Secondly, we need to increase the level of active engagement with our organisation, both in terms of keeping the Friends running and also participation in our events. We have had a number of hugely interesting and enjoyable events this year, including yesterday's trip to Bridlington, and we would like to find ways to encourage more people to join us on those.

A third key challenge is updating our processes. We have recently introduced an online booking system, updated our publicity material and increased our social media presence. These are changes that we hope will bring us to the attention of a wider audience and make it easier for people to become involved with the Friends. We have also introduced online banking as part of our wish to streamline the administrative work of Council members.

The Council will continue to consider how to address these points and would welcome assistance and ideas from members in how to do this.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Council for their contribution over the past year and thank you all for your continued support of the Friends.

Hon. Secretary's Report (John Phillips)
SECRETARY'S RÉSUMÉ FOR AGM 2023
Herewith my report on the proceedings of the Friends Council for November 2022 -May 2023

As usual at all our meetings, we receive reports from the Officers of the Council so we discuss the state of the Friends finances, our membership numbers, our social programme and we receive a report from the PCC. In addition to these items we have discussed the following.

In November 2022, we discussed a defective spring in the Minster clock which would have a serious and lasting effect on its function if not repaired as well as depriving the town of the clock chimes. The Council decided that we would cover the cost of the repairs even though this was an exception to normal practice, and would not set a precedent. We also discussed advertising in the Go Yorkshire magazine, and decided not to go ahead. We should explore ways of marketing the Minster ourselves including our own website.

Our Director of Music reported that the Cathedral Music Trust had held its regional Diocesan gathering in the Minster and were entertained by the choristers. The choir had recently completed a very successful tour to Colchester, Chelmsford and Lincoln. In February 2023, we reported the successful repair of the Minster clock.

The PCC reported that the heating in the Minster had been turned off on 8th January. This had raised questions about whether the heating would actually function when turned on again, and further discussion about replacement of the boilers. In addition, the Minster Architect had hired an energy consultant to look at the issues surrounding heating the Minster and the ambition to be carbon net zero by 2030. This led to a more general discussion about the responsibility for equipment in the Minster, and damage caused to structure and fittings by periods of fluctuating temperatures. It was confirmed that the Friends need take no action and are not responsible for current issues regarding the heating.

The role of Two Churches One Town was discussed.

We reported the setting up of a group to look at the issues of publicity and communication, including our space of the Minster website. We discussed future funding requests to both the Minster Bells, and the clock. This was highlighted by the recently reported need to repair the striking hammer on the Great John Bell. It was decided that this fulfilled the Friends stated aims to assist in beautifying the church, i.e to have a working clock. Although the council agreed, in principle, to do the work, a formal costed request from the PCC was required before any further discussion could take place.

The Biennial Conference of the National Conference of Cathedrals, Abbeys and Greater Churches, is due to take place in October and was agreed to financially support the attendance of three delegates. We have attended these conferences in the past and found them very useful.

Any other business covered the Minster hosting the Gaia installation in September. Council confirmed that they are not in a position to underwrite costs.
In May 2023

As reported in the PCC report, a meeting had taken place of the TCOT, Friends etc liaison meeting (representatives from Minster PCC, Minster Old Fund and the FBM) to try and co-ordinate plans and agree on priorities. It was suggested the Friends might consider putting money towards a fundraiser or project manager to help move things forward; it is thought that this would be seen as part of capital project expenditure. The Friends can only contribute to major projects where there is also another source of funding. MM confirmed that it is not in the remit of the Friends to fund repairs to other buildings, such as the Parish Hall and that contributing to any redevelopment plans would require there to be a significant enhancement to the facilities offered to visitors to the Minster, such as a visitors' centre or a cafe. MM also explained that it was not the Friends' role to fund activities focussed solely on the Minster's religious life.

We were informed that the auction of surplus items from the Minster and St Mary's and other donated items which will now take place on 7/8 July.

We discussed the need for a new secretary as the current secretary had announced his intention to retire from the position after the AGM.

We were told that restoration work is required on Great John's strike hammer. A quote has been received from Whites of Appleton regarding the proposed work on the clappers. This would include reusing existing wrought iron clappers and the creation of two new ones. This work will restore the sound of the peal to that originally intended, as well as addressing issues regarding the excessive weight of the existing setup and the possibility of damage. This work will cost £15,332.40 including VAT.

A quote had also been received from the Cumbria Clock Company to rectify the crack in Great John's strike hammer. This will cost £8,820 incl. VAT. bringing total amount to £24,152 (including VAT, a proportion of which can be reclaimed).

It was proposed that the Friends meet the cost in full.

In August

We were informed that new Friends leaflets and a new banner were on display in the Minster. Work was in progress to improve the function of the website and to increase the Friends presence on Social media (Facebook, and Instagram) as well as increased communication with the congregation via the weekly notice sheet and the Welcome team via Whatsapp. We also agreed to investigate updating the Friends display cabinet by adding more recent photographs of projects that we have supported.

Beverley Eco Fair 30 September Friends were asked if they wished to be represented by having a stall at the Eco Fair; this would take place while the Gaia installation is in the church during September.

Capital Works Board/Finance This is now a formal group with representatives from the Minster PCC, Minster Old Fund, Friends of Beverley Minster and Two Churches One Town. The group aims to establish a route to finding projects to support. Individuals on the group have agreed to assess progress in specific areas and identify which projects are most in need of support.

(Projects on the list for 2023 were the E window, Retrochoir roof, lighting, toilets and parish hall). The Friends can provide match funding for capital projects but not fully fund major work.

In conclusion, as this will be my last report to the Friends AGM I would like to record my thanks to the members of the Friends council and members of the Friends, past and present, for their support during my time as

secretary. It has been a busy but rewarding experience. I would also like to wish the Friends continued success in their endeavours to help conserve our beautiful building for the future.

Hon. Treasurer's Report (James Moore)

The Treasurer referred to the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 which were published in the Annual Report, and answered questions.

David James asked if the requirement for match funding might be stopping expenditure on projects, and whether match funding had been given for work on the clock. The Chair explained that match funding only applies to expenditure over £100,000, and this is used to unlock money from other funders (not the PCC).

Hon. Membership Secretary's Report (Liz Grove)

The Membership Secretary welcomed new members and thanked people who are now paying subscriptions by standing order. Membership has decreased slightly and now stands at 428 but 4 new members have signed up over the past few days. New processes have been set up making it possible to join the Friends online. New members are asked for email addresses, and information will go out by email wherever possible, to save on postage costs. Those who would like a hard copy of information (especially of the Annual Report) can request this - contact friends@beverleyminster.org.uk.

The deaths of two former Council members, John Ramsdale and Richard Kemp, was reported.

Liz was thanked for her work as membership secretary, a post from which she has now resigned.

Hon. Social Secretary's Report (Pamela Martin)

October 2022. St John Lecture: Dr Susan Neave: 'The Minster Precinct from the Middle Ages to the mid-18th century' - detailed and interesting account which brought to life some long gone buildings in the area around the Minster. Approximately 42 attended.

Dr Kate Giles: delivered a lively and informative presentation about the Wall paintings in Pickering Parish Church..and the local intrigue...the publication of her book followed shortly afterwards. Approximately 30 attended.

In January this year Robert Poyser's annual 'Epiphany Recital' was another successful performance attracting approximately 60 people. Refreshments were sponsored and served by the Friends.

The Lincoln Coach trip planned for April had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Evenings in June

St Mary's Lowgate, Hull - a return invitation. Members were able to see the benefit of grants obtained by the church in the form of the creation of a new kitchen/café area, new toilet facilities, new flooring in that area, and the extensive conservation and restoration work which had been carried out and now completed. 15 attended

Sally George - Favourite Corners in the Minster - Sally gave a very personal tour of Minster features which were special to her. 12 people attended.

Mike Robson - Beverley Minster Minstrel Carvings - Mike pointed out the many musical carvings which feature in the Minster nave and chancel - some earlier, some more modern, others quirky, humorous or more sombre, but all illustrating the fascinating musical instruments of the medieval period. 19 people attended.

All of these events brought in people from outside the church as well as Friends and church members.

The Coach visit to Lastingham and Pickering Churches - the former led by Dr Stuart Harrison, who has done extensive research on the church. The tour included an examination of the outer precincts of the church, where buildings were started but not completed, the placement of the church within the general history period and particular attention was paid to the medieval Crypt. Dr Kate Giles gave an illuminating talk about the Wall paintings in Pickering Church and the controversy they created in the past - a follow up to her previous October talk. Refreshments were

plenty - Morning coffee at Malton, an appetising and ample Buffet lunch at the Barn Guesthouse at Hutton le Hole, unexpected tea and cake at Pickering church followed by the planned afternoon tea at the Forest and Vale in Pickering. 19 people were present.

6th October 2023 A visit to Bridlington Old Town when 16 members enjoyed fascinating outer and inside tour of Bridlington Priory led by Dr Stuart Harrison revealing parts of the building which remain after the Reformation and parts which have been changed in subsequent years. We began the outer tour in a gale, which subsided as we processed round the building! John Phillips also gave an account of the Mason's Marks and the wood carvings. This was followed by a very interesting visit to and tour of the nearby Bayle Museum, which was originally part of the Priory. Most managed the spiral stairs, and a lively and informed guide brought the building alive. An ample buffet lunch followed at the Lamp restaurant in High Street. We were then given a tour of the High Street by one of our members, Pam Quigley accompanied by Max Lunn, owner of a property dating from 1670, which had been a Bank for at least 100 years. A tour of this extensive property completed a most satisfying day.

Future Events

Perspectives of on Friday 3 November in St Mary's Parish Hall. To celebrate the retirement of John Phillips, Hon Secretary, his many contributions to the Friends activities, his research and other contributions to the Minster.

Robert Poyser's annual Epiphany Recital will take place on Saturday 6th January in the Minster at 6pm

On this note I would like to personally thank John for his support at events, too numerous to list all, but including guiding coach drivers in sticky reverse situations, putting chairs out at events, acting as photographer and more importantly helping with IT matters.

My thanks also go to Mervyn King for his many contributions to the production of publicity and keeping events updated on the website. His sterling work and willingness to produce art works at the drop of a hat are much appreciated.

I must also mention James Palmer's recent valuable contribution - thank you for setting up the necessary IT to introduce an online events booking facility, which is working very smoothly to date.

Finally to thank Mary Mead for her support and interest over the year.

Vicar's Report (Revd Canon Jonathan Baker)

An Annual Report is a good moment to remind ourselves of some of the things we take for granted. For example, the fact that Beverley Minster is a cathedral-scale medieval Greater Church and the largest parish church building in the Church of England. It is part of the Diocese of York and a member of the Association of Major Churches. Its parish includes the daughter churches of St Leonard's, Molescroft, St Paul's, Tickton (a local ecumenical partnership), and St Peter's, Woodmansey, each of which has its own Management Committee directing worship and mission. We are part of the Deanery of Beverley which launched its own Deanery Plan in 2022, and we play an active role in Churches Together in Beverley, of which the Vicar is currently Moderator. The Vicar is also the Rector of All Saints, Routh.

The Minster's direction of travel is set by its Vision, which seeks to become more like Christ, to reach people we currently don't, to grow as a church of missionary disciples, and to transform our finances and structures.

In the autumn of 2021 the Minster PCC launched a Vision Strategy seeking to improve the work of the Minster across a very broad spectrum of activity. In 2022 these workstreams led to a number of new initiatives. It might be of interest to the Friends to see what has been going on:

New Initiatives

New Congregations

- A new congregation called @9.15 which meets every Sunday and has an informal, contemporary style aimed at adults and those without a traditional church background.
- A new congregation called The Crossing which meets every Sunday afternoon and is aimed at families with pre-school children, many of whom are on the edge of church life.

- A re-launched monthly Taizé Service attracting folk from across the area.
- A monthly informal worship service called Encounter piloted on behalf of the Deanery.
- A strong online presence in which most Minster services are livestreamed.

Prayer and Spirituality

- A new Prayer Team offering daily prayers and chaplaincy in the Minster, regular prayer meetings and training, and prayer for those in need.
- A programme of Quiet Days through the year with visiting speakers.

Pastoral Care

- A reconstituted Pastoral Team offering contact with those in need, Home Communion, services in Care Homes, emergency support, bereavement support and a weekly Friendship Group for those alone.

- A gradually growing range of social events, eg Burns Night, Summer Ceilidh and Hog Roast.

Engagement with Schools

- Weekly Collective Worship led by the Minster team across four local Primary Schools.
- Increasing school visits and workshops in the Minster run by grant-funded Learning and Engagement Officers and our own team of retired teachers.

Engagement with the Community

- A partnership with Christian homelessness charity 'Hope Into Action' which has seen the purchase of a first house for supported tenants.

- A mother and first baby group set up during the pandemic.

- Support group for Ukrainian refugees.

Care of Creation

- An active EcoChurch group running events to raise awareness of the environmental crisis as a spiritual and discipleship issue. A major exhibition and Festival is coming up in September 2023, based around the 'Gaia' installation which has been seen in many Cathedrals.

Faith Development

- Investment in existing small groups and Lent Course to support growth in discipleship.
- Online preparation for Baptisms and Weddings which has led to better engagement with the families and couples concerned.

Existing Commitments

These new activities have grown up in addition to existing commitments such as:

Liturgy and Music

- 5/6 traditional services every Sunday across the parish with choral celebrations every Sunday morning and on major Festivals in the Minster.
- A thriving Minster choir with 60-70 members, of whom 40+ are children.
- A Junior Choir for small children not yet old enough for the Minster choir.

Occasional Offices and Christian Discipleship

- Network of house groups to provide pastoral and spiritual support for congregation members.
- 17 Baptisms, 17 Weddings and 35 Funerals.

Children's Work

- A programme for families and children including Time Out (mums and tots), Me and My Dad (dads and tots), youth group, Sunday school groups, termly family days in the Minster.

Heritage and Visitors

- A ministry of hospitality which sees the Minster open 364 days a year, welcoming 60,000+ visitors to the Minster.
- A profitable shop run by a part-time manager and 40+ volunteers.
- In 2022 an initial approach to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was turned down. An equivalent approach by St Mary's met the same fate.
- Heating, Lighting, Toilets and the Parish Hall all require significant renovation or replacement as soon as funds can be raised.
- A new Capital Works Board has been convened with representatives from the Friends, Old Fund, Two Churches One Town, and the PCC, to coordinate and fund raise for these projects.

Volunteering

- There is a wide range of volunteer-led activities including: Bell ringing, Gardening, Cleaning, Office work, Website and Social Media, Music, Stewarding, Welcoming, Leading Tours, Shop, Virging, PCC, Churchwardens, Finance and Fundraising, Junior Choir, Youth and Children's work, Time Out, Embroidery, Serving Coffee, Enterprise/ events organising, Sidesteam, Christmas Tree Festival, Foodbank, Hope into Action, Pastoral

Care, Prayer Team, Eco-Faith team, Readers, leading worship, flower arranging, catering, publicity and design, leading house groups, Choir support and Tour organising, setting up and livestreaming services, exhibitions, hosting Warm Spaces, Home Communion, laundry.

Enterprise

- A programme of concerts and events serving the wider community including Heritage Open Days, County Choir concerts and an annual Christmas Tree Festival attracting around 10,000 people. In 2022 over £90,000 was raised by the Enterprise Committee.

Outreach

- Support for the local food bank and other charities, local and international.

The Associated Churches at Molescroft, Tickton, Woodmansey and Routh.

- These congregations have their own life with support from the Minster ministry team and are an important reminder that the Minster parish is bigger than the Minster itself.

Additionally in 2022 we welcomed thousands to the Minster to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with special services and community events, and then again in September to sign Books of Condolence and attend commemorative events around the Queen's funeral, including livestreaming the service from Westminster Abbey. In 2023 we also hosted a programme of services and events marking the King's Coronation.

Future Focus

Refreshing the Vision Strategy

- Having made good progress in some Workstreams, but not in others, it will be useful to refocus the Vision Strategy and identify some of the short term priorities.

Areas which have not previously been major points of focus include music, and youth and children's work.

Rebuilding the Ministry Team

- Having said goodbye to Tim Kelly in May 2022 and to Wendy Wale in March 2023 we have now welcomed our new Curate, Charlie Shefford, in July. The Mission Priest post has been advertised and all being well interviews will have taken place when you read this.

Fabric

- We have all been aware of the need to do something about the heating in the Minster. However, the reason for there being no heating in the Minster last winter had less to do with the state of the boilers and more to do with the uncertainty over how much liquid cash was available to pay escalating fuel bills. This will not be the situation next winter – see the section below on finances.

- There is also an urgency to repair and renovate the Parish Hall. Toilets and lighting are also in the 10-year programme of works needing to be done sooner rather than later. The challenge is to develop the capacity to prioritise and run several projects at once. It is hoped that the Capital Works Board will enable this.

- The retro-choir roof and East Window is likely to be the focus for the next major phase of work on the fabric of the Minster itself.

- The Old Fund has continued to work on a rolling programme of stone and window conservation. We were sorry to say goodbye to Steve Rial in October after 33 years. Steve has now written a book about his time at the Minster which is available in the shop.

- Repairs to the clock mechanism and the clapper of the Great John Bell have been generously paid for by the Friends.

- In July an auction of disused furnishings, decayed and replaced stonework, and donated items raised £28,687 for the Minster, with smaller sums for St Mary's and Two Churches One Town. The auction generated much interest as well as clearing some much needed space!

Administrative Capacity

- The ability to implement change, or indeed run routine operations smoothly, is compromised by lack of capacity in the office. We need to look at providing additional support so that we can manage projects and get more done.

- The Minster's finances are now better understood as a result of heroic work done by the former Treasurer, Tim Carlisle, the Finance Assistant, Pippa Milner, and Accountant, Becky Dymond. This has led to the balance sheet being updated and a better understanding of the resources available, especially in restricted funds.

Many people work tirelessly to ensure that the life of the Minster and Associated Churches is maintained across such a broad

spectrum of activity, and many of them are members of the Friends. It is much to be hoped that the new Capital Works Board will be able to navigate a way through the present fabric and infrastructure needs in a way that can command support from both the Friends and our sister organisations, all of whom have a shared desire to maintain this great building as a hub of the community.

Adoption of the reports Proposed by Roger Lewis, seconded by David Neave.

The Junior Choir entertained members attending the AGM with several songs with actions, and were warmly applauded.

Election of Officers

President Pamela Hopkins
Vice Presidents Mayor of Beverley, Roger Lewis, Terry Holmes, Peter Calvert

Hon. Chair Mary Mead
Hon. Social Secretary Pamela Martin
Hon. Minutes Secretary Susan Neave
Hon. Treasurer James Moore

Proposed by Stephen Deas; second by Rita Steadman.
All elections were carried, nem. con.

Election of new Hon. Secretary. Fiona Goel
Proposed by David James, seconded by David Neave

Election of new Members of Council
(already co-opted)

Susan Neave
Proposed by David Neave, seconded by Helena Anderson

Mike Robson
Proposed by Roger Lewis, seconded by Stephen Deas

James Palmer
Proposed by Alan Wilkinson, seconded by Helena Anderson.

Before the meeting closed the President paid tribute to the late Richard Kemp, former Treasurer of the Friends, for whom a memorial service is being held on 13 October 2023. She mentioned the Gaia installation and summer evening lectures as highlights of the year.

The AGM was followed by a lecture 'Beverley Scratchings - An Introduction to Social History in Beverley Minster' by John Phillips, after which afternoon tea was served.



Members of the Council 2023-2024

Mary Mead	Chair
Fiona Goel	Secretary
James Moore	Treasurer
Pamela Martin	Programme Secretary
Susan Neave	Minutes Secretary
Mike Robson	(Retires 2026)
James Palmer	(Retires 2026)
John Phillips	(Co-opted)
Karla Vickers	(retires 2024)
Gail Cahill	(Co-opted)
Rodney Barton	(Old Fund Representative since May 2024)
Stephen Deas	(Co-opted)
Reverend Canon Jonathan Baker	
Robert Poyser	(Co-opted)
Lucy Duckworth	(Co-opted)

Members who have left since the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Helena Anderson	(February 2024)
David James	(February 2024)
Meg Choules	(February 2024)
Pamela Hopkins	(August 2024)
Martin Needler	(May 2024)

Contact details

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Facebook: The Friends of Beverley Minster

Instagram: [friendsofbeverleyminster](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbeverleyminster)

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£		£
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income				
Subscriptions	14,739		13,902	
Donations and Bequests	28,905		70,137	
Tax Recovered	<u>1,812</u>	45,456	<u>2,745</u>	86,784
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days/ Trips	2,013		2,590	
Book sales	<u>240</u>	2,253	<u>420</u>	3,010
Investment Income		28,085		24,930
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>75,794</u>	£	<u>114,724</u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities				
Bells	11,780			
Published Article	2,802			
Dendrochronology Study	-		3,400	
Tower clock Repairs	<u>-</u>	14,582	<u>612</u>	4,012
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days /Trips/Events		2,936		2,427
Governance Costs				
Printing and stationery	1,459		675	
Insurance	308		313	
Sundries	748		281	
Accountancy Fees	<u>1,290</u>	3,805	<u>-</u>	1,269
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>21,323</u>	£	<u>7,708</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>54,471</u>	£	<u>107,016</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses				
Gain/(loss) on investments		86,031		(35,993)
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>140,502</u>	£	<u>71,023</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		991,409		920,386
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£	<u>991,409</u>

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

Fixed Assets	Note	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
Investments	3	1,053,272	899,241
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,053,272</u>	<u>899,241</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	1,812	2,741
CBF Deposit		50,090	90
Cash at Bank		28,027	89,437
Total Current Assets		<u>79,929</u>	<u>92,268</u>
less			
Creditors	5	1,290	100
Net Current Assets		<u>78,639</u>	<u>92,168</u>
Net Assets	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>
Funds of Charity			
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		991,409	920,386
Add Surplus for the year		140,502	71,023
	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of Preparation

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations

Donations are included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Subscriptions and Donations

The tax reclaimed included in the SoFA is the recoverable amount on the receipts received in the year.

Investment Income

Investment Income earned from the deposit fund is for the period earned in the accounting period. Monies earned from the income fund is accounted for in the period it is received.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance Costs

Includes costs of the trustee meeting and the AGM.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Assets

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Note 3 Investment Assets

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Market Value at the beginning of the year	899,241	885,234
Purchase	68,000	50,000
Net Gain /loss on revaluation	86,031	- 35,993
Carrying (market) value at the end of the year	<u>1,053,272</u>	<u>899,241</u>

Note 4 Debtors

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
The debtors figure is made up as follows		
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid)	1,812	2,741
	<u>1,812</u>	<u>2,741</u>

Note 5 creditors

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fees	<u>1,290</u>	<u>100</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Beverley Minster

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Elizabeth Blanchard ACA
Sowerby
Chartered Accountants
Beckside Court
Annie Reed Road
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 0LF



SOWERBY

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£		£
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income				
Subscriptions	14,739		13,902	
Donations and Bequests	28,905		70,137	
Tax Recovered	<u>1,812</u>	45,456	<u>2,745</u>	86,784
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days/ Trips	2,013		2,590	
Book sales	<u>240</u>	2,253	<u>420</u>	3,010
Investment Income		28,085		24,930
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>75,794</u>	£	<u>114,724</u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities				
Bells	11,780			
Published Article	2,802			
Dendrochronology Study	-		3,400	
Tower clock Repairs	<u>-</u>	14,582	<u>612</u>	4,012
Activities for Generating Funds				
Study Days /Trips/Events		2,936		2,427
Governance Costs				
Printing and stationery	1,459		675	
Insurance	308		313	
Sundries	748		281	
Accountancy Fees	<u>1,290</u>	3,805	<u>-</u>	1,269
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>21,323</u>	£	<u>7,708</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>54,471</u>	£	<u>107,016</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses				
Gain/(loss) on investments		86,031		(35,993)
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>140,502</u>	£	<u>71,023</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		991,409		920,386
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£	<u>991,409</u>

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

Fixed Assets	Note	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
Investments	3	1,053,272	899,241
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,053,272</u>	<u>899,241</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	1,812	2,741
CBF Deposit		50,090	90
Cash at Bank		28,027	89,437
Total Current Assets		<u>79,929</u>	<u>92,268</u>
less			
Creditors	5	1,290	100
Net Current Assets		<u>78,639</u>	<u>92,168</u>
Net Assets	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>
Funds of Charity			
Unrestricted funds			
Brought forward		991,409	920,386
Add Surplus for the year		140,502	71,023
	£	<u>1,131,911</u>	£ <u>991,409</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of Preparation

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations

Donations are included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Subscriptions and Donations

The tax reclaimed included in the SoFA is the recoverable amount on the receipts received in the year.

Investment Income

Investment Income earned from the deposit fund is for the period earned in the accounting period. Monies earned from the income fund is accounted for in the period it is received.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance Costs

Includes costs of the trustee meeting and the AGM.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Assets

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Note 3 Investment Assets

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Market Value at the beginning of the year	899,241	885,234
Purchase	68,000	50,000
Net Gain /loss on revaluation	86,031	- 35,993
Carrying (market) value at the end of the year	<u>1,053,272</u>	<u>899,241</u>

Note 4 Debtors

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
The debtors figure is made up as follows		
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid)	1,812	2,741
	<u>1,812</u>	<u>2,741</u>

Note 5 creditors

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fees	<u>1,290</u>	<u>100</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Beverley Minster

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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Elizabeth Blanchard ACA
Sowerby
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Beckside Court
Annie Reed Road
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 0LF



SOWERBY

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 501302

Accounts

A photograph of the interior of Beverley Minster, showing a long nave with high Gothic arches and a large stained glass window at the far end. The floor is paved with a diamond pattern of light and dark stones.

THE FRIENDS
OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

87th ANNUAL REPORT
2022 - 2023

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Chair's Report



In last year's annual report, Roger Lewis identified a number of characteristics that a healthy charitable organisation should display, including: a relevant purpose; sufficient members; effective processes

and sufficient resources to carry out the organisation's aims. Reflecting on these in the context of the Friends gives us grounds for continued optimism but, as was highlighted then, challenges remain if we are to flourish in future. We have been giving some attention to our operating procedures and work remains to be done both in this area and in our wish to attract new and actively involved members. We very much welcome ideas and assistance from members for increasing membership and participation in our organisation.

Many Friends will be aware that our honorary secretary, John Phillips, has decided to stand down at the forthcoming AGM after sixteen years of committed service to the Friends Council. We are hugely grateful to John for this contribution and also for his other roles, especially his groundbreaking work as the Minster historian. You will read elsewhere in this report Roger Lewis's reflections on his time working alongside John. We will be marking John's retirement with a study day and reception on 3 November, details of which are included in Programme Secretary Pamela Martin's report, and I hope that as many of you as possible will join us for that event. In addition, three other council members, Helena

Anderson, Gail Cahill and Stephen Deas will reach the end of their elected term at the AGM and I would like to thank them for their work and hope that they will continue to be active members of the Friends in future.

Due in part to the event planned to mark John's retirement, the October weekend (6-8 October) will have a slightly different format than usual and will include a visit to Bridlington Priory on Friday, with the AGM followed by the St John of Beverley lecture taking place on Saturday. This will be given by John on the topic of social history as recorded in the fabric of the Minster. Finally, there will be the traditional choral evensong on the Sunday afternoon. As many of you will know, choral evensong, a unique part of our cultural heritage, has become increasingly popular nationally in recent years and is considered by many to provide an important moment for reflection in increasingly busy lives. I would encourage you to take this opportunity to come along if you are able to.

It has been heartening to see the Minster choirs continue to thrive, with both regular services and one or two new events, such as the very lively performance of 'Jonah Man Jazz' in March which combined the Junior Choir with members of the Girls' and Boys' Choirs to great effect. Many of you will be aware that the Friends have provided significant financial support to the choir over the years, for example funding the choral foundation which provides music tuition to choristers. In doing this we aim not only to support an important activity but also to provide a platform for growth and to facilitate the obtaining of grants from other organisations. It is therefore highly

encouraging to hear that the DEFLOG Foundation has now become a major supporter of this extremely worthwhile scheme.

It was good to see that the Coronation community event held in May was so well attended and conversations with visitors to the Friends' stall suggested that both frequent and less frequent visitors to the Minster were taking the opportunity to enjoy the music and other activities laid on that day.

In recent months we have received two requests for funding, both in connection with the bells and clock. The first was the repair to the clock mechanism carried out at the end of last year, restoring the quarter chimes. The Council was also pleased to support the application to fund vital repairs to Great John's strike hammer and enhancement work to the clappers on other bells, which will restore the peal to that originally intended and help to guard against the possibility of future problems.

I am pleased to report that the PCC has recently approved the establishment of a

Capital Works Board. This board, which includes representatives of the PCC, Old Fund, 2COT and the Friends, will oversee the selection of capital projects that have been identified as necessary to the Minster and the other buildings within the remit of the PCC. As you will see from the Treasurer's report, the Friends are in a strong position to support those projects that meet the objectives of our organisation.

Those of you that have visited the Minster recently may have seen that we have updated our banner and leaflets. Work is also underway to update our systems, including the introduction of an online booking system for those able to use this method, changes to our webpages, and an increased social media presence, via our Facebook page and newly launched Instagram account. I would like to thank all those who have helped with this and would welcome any feedback or suggestions on what we have done so far. We will also be looking at our events programme and would welcome input from members who have ideas for things that they would like us to do in future.



Programme Secretary's Report

First of all, I would like to thank all those members who have supported events over the last year. After a flourish in numbers in the aftermath of Covid, the last year's attendances have been lower. There are a number of reasons for this decline, not least due to the loss of several stalwart supporters over the years, but all quite legitimate.

Following on from my Spring Newsletter report, I am pleased to say that the 'Evenings in June' series generated a good response from Friends members and also from Minster congregation members and those from outside of the church. Fifteen people attended the visit to St Mary's Lowgate Parish Church in Hull and along with a guided tour, were able to see the new facilities which have been created as a result of a successful funding bid...and also witness the conservation and restoration which has taken place. The second talk/tour was delivered by Sally George, a Minster church member and Church Guide. Twelve people attended the event which explored Sally's 'Favourite Corners of the Minster' – a very personal and interesting delivery, which highlighted well known features in the Minster as well as some hidden and quirky points of interest. Finally, Mike Robson, Captain of the Tower and Keeper of the Steeple at the Minster, led a tour of 'Minstrel Carvings in the Minster', during which he highlighted the rich array of musical characters and their medieval instruments in his own amusing and informative way. Twenty three enthusiasts joined Mike on this occasion.

The coach tour to Lastingham, St Mary's Parish Church and Pickering, St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church is days away, as I write.

Nineteen bookings have been taken to date and we are hoping for a dry and sunny day. Dr Stuart Harrison and Dr Kate Giles are our respective guides, who are experts in their fields. Lastingham Church is famous for its links with early Christianity and was founded as a Celtic Monastery in 654AD by St Cedd. The present church was built between 1078 and 1088 and its Crypt is a unique feature. The interior of Pickering Church is decorated with Medieval Paintings - the focus of our visit on this occasion.

The October Weekend has taken a slightly different format this year in order to accommodate the AGM and St John Lecture in the Parish Hall and Peter Harrison Room. On Friday 6th October 2023, a visit to the old part of Bridlington is planned with a tour of Bridlington Priory led by Dr Stuart Harrison in the morning and a guided tour of the old town arranged for the afternoon. A visit to the Bayle Museum will come after the Priory tour and before a buffet lunch taken at the Lamp Restaurant. As mentioned above, the AGM and St John Lecture will take place on Saturday 7th October 2023 in the afternoon. The St John Lecture speaker is our retiring Honorary Secretary John Phillips, who will deliver a presentation, 'Beverley Scratchings - an Introduction to Social History in Beverley Minster', discussing one aspect of his extensive research in recent years on Beverley Minster. The usual buffet tea will be served afterwards.

After much deliberation, it was decided not to go ahead with the annual dinner, which has in the past been held on the Friday evening of the weekend. In brief, the reasons for this decision have been the sharp rise in the cost of

evening dining, lower numbers attending on the last occasion (as likewise, with events) and the preference of Cerutti 2 for the event to be held other than at a weekend.

Robert Poyser will be performing the Epiphany Organ Recital in January 2024 as detailed in the programme. Attendances at this concert have gained momentum over the years providing a welcome post-Christmas/ New Year event to put in your diary.

'New Perspectives of Beverley Minster' is a special event we are holding to celebrate the retirement of John Phillips from his 16 year Honorary role of Secretary of Friends of Beverley Minster. John has worked tirelessly

and efficiently in this role and will be a hard act to follow. A series of three lectures is planned, all of which link to the extensive research that John has undertaken (and published) on Beverley Minster over many years. The speakers – Professor Barbara English, Dr Susan Neave and Dr Stuart Harrison are all highly acclaimed experts in their fields. Tea and biscuits will be served after the first lecture and then a buffet tea will follow the lectures and presentations.

Finally, the programme for the Spring/Summer 2024 events will appear in the New Year Newsletter.

Pamela J Martin



October Weekend Programme

Friday 6 October – Sunday 8 October 2023

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 10.30am – 4.00pm

'Visit to Bridlington Old Town'

Includes a Guided Tour of Bridlington Priory with Dr Stuart Harrison, a visit to the Bayle Museum, a Buffet Lunch at the Lamp Restaurant, followed by a Guided Tour of Bridlington Old Town.

Meet at the Priory entrance

Cost: £20 per person for Friends; £25 per person for non-Friends

Own Transport - Street Parking is available in the area in front of the Priory.

Sensible shoes recommended.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER at 2.00pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Peter Harrison Room/Minster Parish Hall, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DT

(Members of the Friends only)

3.15pm

St John of Beverley Annual Lecture

'Beverley Scratchings - an Introduction to Social History in Beverley Minster'

Speaker: John Phillips

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: Free for Friends; £6 per person for non-Friends attending the lecture and buffet

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR FRIENDS AND NON-FRIENDS

For further details see the Minster website.

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER at 5.30pm

Festal Evensong in the Minster

FRIDAY 3rd November 2023 at 2.00pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, North Bar Within, Beverley

'New perspectives on Beverley Minster'

A celebration of John Phillips' retirement after 16 years as Honorary Secretary of the Friends of Beverley Minster, his research...and much more...

Three lectures followed by a buffet tea

'The Minster and St Mary's as Landlords: Church Property in Beverley'

Speaker: Dr Susan Neave

'The Medieval Roofs of Beverley Minster Reconstructed and Dated'

Speaker: Dr Stuart Harrison

'The Magnificat stall but not of the Archbishop's yet'

Speaker: Professor Barbara English

To conclude at approx. 7.00pm

Cost: £10 for Friends; £15 for Non-Friends

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

2024

Saturday 6th January 2024 at 6.00pm

EPIPHANY ORGAN RECITAL

Messiaen: La Nativité du Seigneur

Organ recital by Robert Poyser (Director of Music, Beverley Minster)
Epiphany Concert and Reception followed by refreshments (sponsored by the Friends).

BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO:

The Programme Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster,
85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

E-mail: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk

Telephone 01482 442221

Vicar's Report

In reviewing the life of Minster over last year it depends where you look – there have been many encouragements but there are also some darker corners which have been more challenging.

In general terms we have bounced back from the impact of the pandemic. Taken as a whole, numbers attending the Minster are now greater than they were before the pandemic, despite the fact that we are aware of some folk who haven't returned – which means quite a few new people have joined us, chiefly as a result of two new congregations being started: The Crossing began as an online community for families with young children and has now successfully established itself in real space in the hall, and attracts 30-40 people every week. The 9.15 service began in January and now attracts 40-50 people, including a number of folk who are new to the Minster.

The 11am service has settled down and is attended by most of the folk who previously came to the old 10.30, usually around 100. The choir is flourishing and enjoying the extra opportunities offered by the new format. Robert Poyser has done an excellent job leading the choir with reduced resources and it has been good to see a number of new members joining this year. The Friends' support for the Choral Foundation has been an important factor in enabling this.

These changes are the most obvious visible fruit of the new Vision Strategy launched last autumn, where parts of the vision expressed an ambition to diversify our forms of service and to welcome and support families and young children.

Other parts of the vision strategy have seen a renewal of the pastoral care team and several new pastoral initiatives. The prayer team has similarly benefitted from fresh ideas and leadership. A different working group led by Bishop David James has this month been raising awareness of our environmental responsibility and we have recently learned that we have been awarded the EcoChurch Bronze Award. The Minster is also leading a partnership with Hope into Action and Churches Together in Beverley to provide supported housing for a family at risk of homelessness.

Volunteer Guides and Welcomers continue to engage with visitors to the Minster and the feedback on Tripadvisor shows what a good experience most visitors have.

The Friends have of course been supporting the Sanctuary Project which is now drawing to an end. There has been some excellent work done by Anna Knowles and Cathy Thornton (the Learning and Engagement officers) reaching out to groups and organisations in the wider community, including schools, refugee organisations and the Cherry Tree Centre. The heritage workshops which they organised were fully booked and may be something we wish to repeat.

After all the work done on the Minster roof last year, this year's capital works programme has been relatively quiet, and the focus of fundraising by Two Churches One Town has been on the next phase of work at St Mary's. However, we are all grateful to the Friends for their generosity in funding work on the clock and the bells.

The joint working group from the Friends, PCC, 2COT and BMOF is working to identify which of the various capital projects on the 2COT programme of works can be undertaken next.

There are still many challenges, the most obvious of which is financial. With a new team taking over the running of the Minster's finances it has been clear that the professional support we had been relying on over the last couple of years has not been adequate. Sorting out the tangle has been a major exercise and is not over yet.

What is emerging is that the Minster is running at a deficit and has been for years. This has so far been covered by reserves and legacies, but is not sustainable. It appears that some of the balances in restricted funds shown in the annual accounts have not been written down as money was spent, giving a misleading idea of our true position.

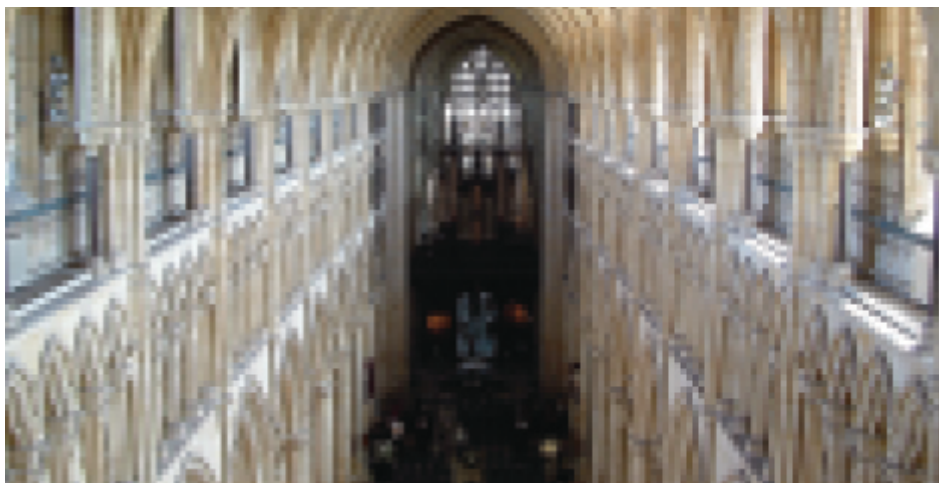
We aim to balance the books if possible by growing income. Part of this will be by deriving income from the car park, but that is proving to be a less straightforward procedure than had been hoped. We also need to increase the number of outside events using the Minster,

and the Enterprise Committee which oversees such events is now more focussed on that goal.

Paying for heating this winter is a further challenge. It is likely that there will be reduced heating and if you are planning on coming to any services or events my advice is to wrap up warm.

We are currently without a curate, with Tim Kelly having moved on in May. We hope to get a new curate next summer.

So while the picture is mixed there is much that is good and encouraging as we emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic and move forward. I am grateful to God for all that has been done, especially when I compare notes with other clergy, when it becomes clear that many other churches find themselves in much more challenging situations than we do. The changes we face here are replicated all around us, in the Deanery and at Diocesan levels. And I am so grateful for the hard work put in by so many people; members of staff, church officers, members of the congregations, volunteers, and the generosity of the Friends, as well as BMOF, and 2COT.



Membership Secretary's Report

Every year I write a report on how many Friends we have, welcoming new ones and sadly recording those who have died. This of course is an important part of my job but sometimes it seems too impersonal. This year I want to highlight various Friends alongside welcoming all and expressing gratitude and Friend-ship for their company.

The Friends Council has been undergoing changes. Last autumn our beloved Chair Roger Lewis retired. He was an almost impossible act to follow, but fortunately the wonderful Mary Mead has managed to do just that. Not only has she been a dynamic but approachable new broom but also has encouraged another young colleague, James Palmer, to join our ranks and together they are attempting to make us more efficient and attractive to a wider audience. This year one of the key Minster historians, John Phillips, is also retiring – another potential wound in our structure as he has been a brilliant Secretary for several years now. But again we hope that his successor will be equally thorough and pleasant to work with.

This brings me to the reason for my change of focus. Recently a group of us represented the Friends at the funeral of my predecessor, John Ramsdale: a lovely man. His kindness was boundless and many people still ask after him, but he will now be glad to be reunited with his wife Hazel.



So let me continue with a few more mentions, interspersed with welcomes and farewells to all, personal friends or Friends of the Minster, from far and near.

Current members: 448 (17.7.23)

New Friends

Mr K Abbott, of Beverley
Ms A Baxendale-Jones, of Beverley
Mrs J Bowen, of Beverley
Mr N Coulson, of Welton, Carlisle
Mr Dean & Ms Johnson, of Colne
Mrs D Delahay, of Beverley
Sarah Fletcher, of Beverley
Ms K Fraser, of Beverley
Miss K Hyland-Collier, of Melbourne, York
Patricia Lee, of Beverley
Ms M Mead & Mr Duckworth, of North Newbald
Mr G Metcalfe, of Hull
Mr R Miles, of Beverley
Ms B Norcaro, of Ilford
Mr J Palmer, of Everingham
Ms G Pattison, of Beverley.
Mr I Smith, of Beverley
Mr Spencer, of Tickhill, Doncaster
Mr & Mrs Waudby, of Beverley
Mr P Wood, of Brough

Deaths

John ASHURST, of Beverley
David DOUBLEDAY, of Tickhill
Darrell BUTTERY, of York
Geoffrey CAMPION, of Boscastle
Marie CROASDALE, of Beverley
John ENGLISH, Minster surveyor until 2017
Jacquie ODONI, of Lymington, Hants.
Mr & Mrs N PARKINSON, of Selby
Miss E PARSONS, of Clifton on Tees
John RAMSDALE, Hon V-P
Mavis RHODES, of Beverley
Gertie RISPIN, of Beverley - aged 106½.
Doreen SHAW, of Beverley
Mr & Mrs SKINNER, of Cole
David WEAVER, formerly of Beverley
John WILMAN

Report by the Director of Music

This past year has seen much of normal life resume as part of the rebuilding process post covid. Choir numbers are healthy with a good intake of new people although we have said farewell to a number of members as they move to pastures new. Our Junior Choir, under Rachel Dent's inspired leadership goes from strength to strength and the children love learning the interesting and often amusing songs she chooses. Last term was mostly sea based, this one, colours!

Highlights of the past year have included our first choir tour since 2019. We sang in Colchester, Chelmsford and Lincoln and stayed in Felsted School. Thank you to Mary Mead for her expertise in planning and making the tour run so smoothly. This year we visit Hexham Abbey in Northumberland and stay up near Hadrian's Wall.

Another highlight was our sell-out concert at the Chapel of St Everilda in Everingham. A fine building and historic organ, this was a real privilege for our choir and they rose to the occasion marvellously.

As we managed with a much-reduced music department I have been indebted to the skills of Sue Wheeldon in regularly directing the choir and also our Associate Organist, Nick Wise who plays for us alongside helping a number of other churches and a full-time job! The organ has received some modernisation this past Summer with plans for a little more in the not-too-distant future. Elderly and increasingly unreliable pneumatic motors have been replaced with heavy duty solenoids which has greatly increased reliability. The organ has

coped admirably with the Minster's freezing temperatures – testament to the work we have done on it in recent years and the excellence of the work of Wood of Huddersfield who look after our instrument.

The Music Group is thriving under the skilled leadership of Jane Todd and it was good to join forces for an exuberant and uplifting Easter Day service.

Our choral foundation continues to fund our Choristers' music tuition and we were delighted to receive a grant from the DeFlog Foundation in the Summer as well as a substantial donation from UK railtours after their carol service in December. The Choristers Concert held in June was a tremendous event with over 20 performers entertaining a large audience. We were delighted to welcome two trustees from the DeFlog Foundation to the event who presented us with the second instalment of a grant.

Our lunchtime concert series is thriving once again and I am indebted to the kindness of our welcomers and volunteers in making audience-goers and performers feel so much part of a community. A particular thank you to Elaine Dyson who has supplied and co-ordinated delicious soup and sandwiches that have become such a feature of our Friday lunchtime offering.

A highlight for me recently was being asked to speak at a Royal School of Church Music event at the House of Lords hosted by Lord Cormack. The music at Beverley Minster (and Peterborough Cathedral too) was chosen as an

example of good practice and social inclusion with good community links. It was good to tell the story of the music here at the Minster to an audience including various leading lights in the world of church, government, heritage, arts and culture.

As ever, the support and encouragement of the music at the Minster from the Friends of the Minster is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you have done to assist us in growing and developing our music here at Beverley Minster.

Robert Poyser



Report by the Minster Surveyor

Simon Delaney BSc (HONS) FRICS C. Build E FCABE
Building Surveyor to Beverley Minster Old Fund

The Old Fund maintenance team have had a year of transition since I last reported. The main change was that after 33 years working for the Old Fund Steve Rial retired. As the plumber/glazier to the Minster Steve was responsible for all the lead maintenance whether it was glazier or roofing lead. In my time working as the fabric surveyor, Steve has refurbished numerous plain glazed windows and undertaken lead roof repairs on all the main Minster roofs. This is all besides the other day to day maintenance items he was involved in. That was in November when we gave him a good send off and an even bigger thank you.

Steve's retirement means that currently we don't have a lead worker on site. We are monitoring this situation and planning how we approach roof repairs in the future. When it comes to windows, Steve completed the majority of the replacement plain glazed windows highlighted as priority 1 by the York Glaziers Trust in their last window report. The team and I will be monitoring the remaining windows closely for any deterioration in their condition. With regards to planned maintenance, we are currently focusing on stone work and working through the pinnacles that need repair/replacement as highlighted by the Minster Architect (Andy Burrell).

Some of you will be aware that since retirement Steve was made an honorary freeman of Beverley by Beverley Town Council for his long services at the Minster and for his unofficial role of ambassador for Beverley when

he is out and about. Not keeping still for long he has also now published a book telling the story of his 33 years at the Minster through the many photographs he took along the way.



Steve and his wife Debra at the Freeman of Beverley Event

Building up to Steve's retirement Dennis (Massey) moved more into Steve's role as lead and has now taken this role fully in our small team. Rob (Dodson) has been relishing his role as mason and has now been with us for coming up to 2 years. The team has settled down since November into our usual busy routine of reactive and planned maintenance.

The masons have been carving two replacement pinnacles that will be going up on the high roof's east end towards the end of summer. This will be Rob's first pinnacle going up on the Minster and he will be able to say 'I did that' to his young son when he passes.



New pinnacle going up summer 2023 & Rob cutting cores into pinnacle stones with Dennis supervising

Rob has tried to fill Steve's shoes when it comes to the social media side of things, and letting people know what we are up to on site. He has done well, but this is something we will try to do more of as we do different work during the year. If you are on social media and would like to see what they are doing please follow them and let us have your thoughts and encouragement.

They can be followed on Twitter
Beverleyminsteroldfund@beminster2
or on Facebook
www.facebook.com/beverley.minsteroldfund.3

You may have seen a scaffold up on the North West tower during July. This was a quick up and down scaffold as the masons did some reactive maintenance to one of the larger tower pinnacles which was rocking due to loss of pointing and the corrosion of the iron cramps fitted by the Victorians. The scaffold

was not up there long as once erected the masons were up pointing and cleaning to secure the pinnacle. This is a typical reactive job that pulls them away from the day to day carving work and has a knock on affect on our planned work.

During the spring the team have been heavily involved in the auction of the old materials and other items to raise funds for Minster maintenance. Moving items from the yard and down from the roof voids was a big job which they undertook with support of the Verger team. The stones we saved since I took over in January 2017 and the timbers retained from the replacement of the nave roof 2021-22 raised just under £16,000 of the auction total of £39,000. This is something we are very proud of, and we will be keeping the two pinnacles coming down later this year for sale to raise more funds.



Dennis & Rob working on TNN02 from a scaffold over the edge of the North West tower.

Photograph by Rob Dodson and Dennis Massey

We continue to try to raise the awareness of Beverley Minster amongst those who have as yet not paid us a visit or even know about us. Apart from the social media we hosted a site visit from the Yorkshire branch of SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) in November and a group was treated to a presentation and tour with John Phillips at the helm. We got some great feedback and hopefully these people will spread the word and return for a longer visit. This is something we will continue to do as the more people know about our great building the better.

Our latest challenge has been the safety lines that give us access to the places where we work from height. This includes all roofs as well as the clerestory. As it stands, we have a number of lines condemned and needing works and this has limited where we can get to

around the Minster including the clerestory. We are close to resolving the issues with the clerestory but still need to find the solution to the safety lines on the roof. We are also pushing this issue to be resolved sooner rather than later and access to all areas for the team to be restored.

We were upset not to have the peregrines nesting on the Minster this year, as they did for the first time last year. We are not sure if this is a result of the bird flu pandemic or the increase in drones being flown close to and around the towers. They have appeared in recent weeks to teach the fledglings to hunt from the South West tower. We hope we can entice them back next year.

We will soon be planning for 2024 and the next pinnacles to be replaced.

John Phillips



When I became chair of the Friends (in, I think, 2005) the secretary was Pam Hopkins. She and I worked together for a while. She was experienced in the systems and procedures that then operated, we knew each other and we got on easily. When she retired I was apprehensive: who would we find to replace her? How easy would it be for someone else to take up the reins of secretary? Quite quickly, someone was found - 'that man who climbs all over the place looking at stones' (or, rather better informed, 'the man who records the masons' marks').

That man was, of course, John Phillips, deep into his life-changing work of investigating the building history of the Minster using masons' marks as an entry point (subsequently to broaden to include documents and other sources of information). Here was obviously someone who loved the building and who was in the process of getting to know it probably more intimately than anyone before him (and

perhaps anyone after him). Those who want to know more and follow his explorations should read his book "'Of a fair uniforme making" - The building history of Beverley Minster 1188-1736', published in 2016.

His research equipped him perfectly for the job of secretary of the Friends - for what characterises us as a group is a love and respect for the building itself and its heritage, and a commitment to spread knowledge about it and bring people to appreciate and understand it - and to care for it.

John brought many other qualities to the job of honorary secretary. He had a business background (selling products for the agriculture industry). This meant he used language and figures daily and was comfortable in using computers for key tasks of recording, communicating, storing and analysing information. He had a good understanding of finance and how to make the most productive use of money. His job also brought him into contact with a wide range of people and his friendliness, cheerfulness and outgoing nature were great assets.

John quickly took charge of the essential administrative tasks a secretary has to carry out such as issuing agendas, writing minutes and ensuring agreed actions happen. But he soon extended his role - for example into the outward facing side of the Friends. He put together the spring newsletters and the annual report, turning the latter into a major publication, working with Mervyn King on the design and production. I made a point of

reading Friends' reports from all over the country and the Beverley reports were without doubt in the top league, in particular in advancing knowledge and understanding of aspects of the building, with John calling on his ever-developing network of scholars and specialists in such matters as medieval roof construction and misericords.

All aspects of our working arrangements were put to the test during Covid. At that time we were handling major restoration issues (such as the level of support we could offer for re-roofing the lesser south transept and the nave). We were also in the process of re-defining our funding priorities and updating Friends' procedures and core documents to meet the demands of changing charity law. John put together and oversaw the papers that were put to the Friends' Council for the necessary discussion of, and agreement on, these core strategic matters. Some proved contentious and difficult to resolve but we saw our way through by carrying out meetings by email (Council members preferred that to Zoom).

So there was no slackening in the progress of our business and John was the key person helping us achieve this when so much else had come to a stop. John was dealing with scores of emails in a week (sometimes in a day). He responded to and filed these with unflinching energy and sound judgement, often within the tightest of timescales. I thought that in some ways the email process worked better than traditional meetings - it allowed time for people to think through the issues, to decide what to say, to examine the views of others and to

make a considered judgement. It opened up new ways for the quieter participants in a meeting to contribute. We had more information than usual on which to make a decision and more time to think about the best way forward.

John and I worked very closely throughout all this. John was (is) always very positive and 'his own man'. Inevitably on occasions we disagreed but that was never a difficult process. Many times I've been grateful for his wise words and his advice. When we differed in our views he was usually right and I was happy to change tack. We never 'fell out', our relationship was never other than warm and productive. Eighteen years is a long time to work together and it isn't surprising that we have become close friends.

John's love of the Minster gave his views urgency. He pressed for ways forward, to get decisions taken and implemented - 'let's agree our priorities and get on with it'. John was quite prepared to 'speak his mind' and was respected for that and that helped to encourage vigorous discussion and debate within the Friends' Council (and beyond).

Generosity is another quality John has in abundance. He has always been happy to share his knowledge - with whomever is interested and regardless of much or little they may know or how 'important' they may be. He has regularly been in place at the Highgate door on Saturday afternoons to welcome visitors and he has been the lead tour guide (of both 'floor' and 'roofs') for many years. Recently he has helped 'train' the team of

welcomers, including briefing notes and a series of four lectures that were well attended and enthusiastically received during May.

Five or so years ago John threatened to retire. In preparation for that I organised a card and got people to sign it. But I didn't hand it to him as I had an intuition that he might be prevailed upon (subtly!) to change his mind. Which he did; I still have the card, ungiven, somewhere... Sadly this time I know John means it - he will retire this October come what may. So thank you, John. You have said many times that the Minster helped you at a critical stage in your life, it gave you direction and succour. Through it, you met many people, near and far; you became a part of a scholarly community in Beverley, in Yorkshire (churches and abbeys) and beyond. You were admitted a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. You put your findings into a book that has helped us see the building in new ways.

You would be the first to say that the Minster gave you a lot. You have repaid that in full in your service as secretary to the Friends.

Roger Lewis



St John's Tombstone - John Phillips

For many years I, and others, have been intrigued with the 'tomb' which sits in the so called 'Sisters' tomb on the south side of the nave. It is an obvious concoction of two large Purbeck marble ledger slabs made into a sort of tomb chest with short limestone shafts and quatrefoil slabs making up the structure. Why are these two large, unmarked Purbeck ledger stones preserved in this position with not even a legend to indicate why they are there and no markings to suggest who they might have belonged to? Research into different, unconnected sources has found some intriguing possibilities.

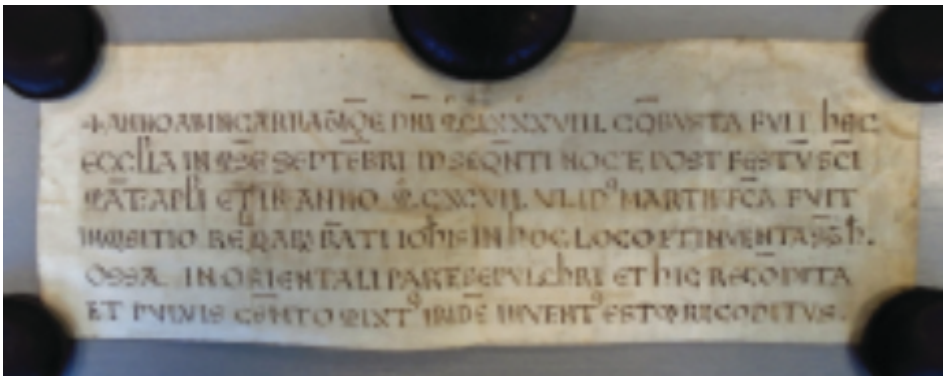
The first one is *The visitation of the county of Yorke, begun in A° Dñi MDCLXV, and finished A° Dñi MDCLXVI, by William Dugdale.*

The Publications of the Surtees Society established in the year M.DCCC.XXXIV. vol. xxxvi. for the year M.DCCC.LIX. London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, Printers, 25, Parliament street.

William Dugdale was Norroy King of Arms and made a visitation of Yorkshire in the 1660s principally to record the coats of arms of all the arms bearers in Yorkshire. These were

published. The following paragraphs appear on page 22 of the published book as a single entry between the achievements of Skelton of Osmundthorpe on page 21 and Austwick of Pontefract on page 23, so apparently completely out of context.

In ao 1664, upon taking up of a large and thick marble stone, lying in the midst of the Church of BEVERLEY, neare ye Entrance into the Quire, there was found under it A Vault of squared freestone, five foot in length, two foot in breadth at ye head, and one foot and an halfe at the foot. In which Vault there was A Sheet of Lead foure foot in length, contayning the Dust of ST. JOHN of BEVERLEY; as also six beades, whereof three were of Cornelian, the other crumbled to dust: there were also in it three great brasse pins, and foure iron nayles. Upon this Sheet of Lead was fixed A Plate of Lead, whereon was this following inscription Also, A Box of Lead, about seven inches in length, six inches broad, and five in heighth, lying athwert the plate of Lead. In this Box were Divers peices of Bones, mixt with dust, yeilding a sweet smell. All which were reinterred, by direction of the present Archbyssshop of Yorke.



(Original copy, probably contemporary, Hull History Centre.)

Translation:

In the year 1188 from the Incarnation of Our Lord this church was burned in the month of September on the night following the feast of St Mathew the Apostle [that is 26 September], and in the year 1197 on 6 Ides March [9 March] an enquiry was made into the relics of the blessed John in this place, and his bones came to light in the east part of the grave, and these concealed, mixed with mortar and dust, were discovered and concealed in the same place.

The Sisters' tomb in the nave has within it a 'tomb chest' composed of the two large marble ledger stones and constructed with moulded stonework of indeterminate date. We know, from other sources, that at the time the event described by Dugdale took place that the nave still contained a large number of medieval ledger stones. These were drawn and described by James Torre, an antiquarian who also catalogued York Minster's ledger stones, and was also interested in genealogy so he recorded arms as well. He died in 1699 so his Beverley catalogue is earlier. (*MS in the British Library, Lansdowne 896.*)

He drew all the ledger stones, and it becomes obvious that nearly all had contained brasses or brass plates which had already been robbed. The 18th century restorers obviously believed that these stones, because no names were recorded, had no value which is why they cut them up, turned them over, and used them to make the black diamond patterns in the transepts, particularly the north transept. He doesn't mention any uninscribed stones 'of blew marble' which is how he describes many of the Purbeck marble ledger stones.



A page from British Library Lansdowne MS 896 showing Torre's drawings

According to Poulson in 'Beverlac' the nave floor was re-laid in the 1736 as part of ongoing improvements which must have necessitated the removal of the 'large and thick' Purbeck marble stone in the centre of the floor, together with a second, which may represent the grave of Berthuin, the first abbot of John's monastery. It is reasonable to assume that the 18th century improvers, recognising the great significance of the stone in the history of the place, decided not to destroy it, as they did with all the other ledger stones, but to preserve it in an appropriate place. He also records that the tomb location was left unmarked but was under the 'fifth centre square slab of black marble from the tower westward', whereas the engraved stone which now marks the grave site is fourth from the central tower.

Poulson's 'Beverlac' (1829) records the event: (page 681.)

'Having lifted the stone and before the new floor was laid an arched vault of brick was built over John's remains and an additional inscription was added to those already recorded.'

"Reliquae eadem effossae et ibidem reompositae fornice lateritio dignabuntur xxv die mensis Martii anno domini MDCCXXXVI quando et tessellatum ecclesie hujus pavementum fuit instratum".

Which translates thus: "The same relics having been taken up and replaced in the same situation, were honoured with an arched brick vault on the 25th day of the month of March, 1736, when the chequered pavement of this church was first laid."

A search of the accounts for the Warton Benefaction in the East Riding Archives in the Beverley Treasure House gave no further clues to possible connections between these two apparently unconnected events. Most of the accounts are simply payments for goods and services. However, one entry in the Warton accounts opens another intriguing possibility. '1735, May 29. Mr Jubb his fees and for removing Percy's monument.' 'Removing' in this context probably has the same general meaning as 'removals' as in moving house, relocating from one place to another. Is this the moment that the 'Sisters' tomb canopy was moved from being over the tomb chest in the transept to its current position in the nave. The structure itself is thought to have been moved because of the way it is fitted into the space between the piers and was clearly not built for that space.

Poulson, again in 'Beverlac' also describes the tomb in the north transept as that of 'Mr Percy', - the attribution of the tomb to Nicholas

Huggate came much later, - but the only Mr Percy that we know of who was buried in the Minster was 'George Percy, a priest.' His tomb is mentioned by John Leland in the early 16th century when he came to Beverley and described the Minster as 'of a fair uniforme making.' George Percy died in 1474 so the tomb in the north transept clearly cannot be his for stylistic reasons but the designation seems to have persisted at least until 1829 when 'Beverlac' was published, complete with illustrations of 'Mr Percy's' tomb. Both tomb and canopy are discussed in detail by Nicholas Dawton in 'Beverley 2000' edited by Rosemary Horrox and published by the Friends. (Pages 131 et seq.) He errs towards the attribution of the canopy to Idonea Percy who died in 1360 but, again, stylistically it can be attributed to the second quarter of the 14th century which ties in with Huggate's death in 1338.

All these snippets raise intriguing questions. Mr Jubb was paid for removing the Percy monument in May 1735. The new floor of the nave was laid in March 1736 which would have necessitated the removal of the marble slab. There being no memorial within the 'Sisters' tomb canopy this may have proved to be the ideal place to preserve John's tomb slab. I have recently measured both the Huggate tomb chest, and the 'Sisters' canopy and it is no surprise that the two fit together exactly, so the deductions made from the small pieces of information that we have are likely to be correct.

As a postscript, one of the many legends that surround the Minster says that the dole of bread was instituted by the 'Two Sisters' and distributed to the poor of the parish off this stone throughout the 19th century which indicates that it is probably a place of some significance. Clearly the name of the canopy can only date at the earliest from 1736 after it

was moved from the north transept. The attribution to two sisters who gifted pasture for two milch cows on the Westwood, or to the sisters of Earl Puch, a Saxon nobleman mentioned in one of John's miracle accounts are much more recent inventions. Why then was, and is, the canopy known as 'The Two Sisters' tomb?



Aspects of Pilgrimage at Beverley Minster



Medieval Pilgrims (from Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'.)

In the late 1890s the American modernist architect Louis Sullivan coined the maxim that 'form follows function'. In other words, the way a building looks is determined by its purpose; so if we pay attention to the appearance of a well-designed building, we may learn something important about what it is for.

Beverley Minster is a church; but not just any church. When visitors ask, 'Why is it so big?', the answer is, chiefly, because it is a pilgrimage church. If we wish to understand the appearance of the Minster, it is worth paying attention to the nature of medieval pilgrimage.

Medieval Christianity was expressed not only through formal services such as the Mass. Preaching crosses, wayside shrines, bridge chapels, holy wells and the ringing of the angelus all provided ways for people to be reminded of God's presence and guidance in the everyday landscape without the need for 'going to church' as such.

Pilgrimage was an important part of that non-liturgical dimension of religion; and a place like Beverley Minster needed to accommodate the regular round of formal liturgical worship undertaken by the College of Canons with their pastoral and institutional responsibilities alongside the less organized and more personal forms of devotion required by the pilgrims.

Pilgrims needed to be able to move around and gain access to the saint's tomb and shrine; they needed to be able to confess their sins, seek absolution and purchase indulgences since many undertook pilgrimage as an act of penance; they would want to be able to offer prayers and intercessions as close to the shrine as possible; they needed to be able to gather for the major festivals, especially the saint's feast day, which would be marked by big liturgical services; and they would want to be able to touch, kiss and venerate the relics on display, or the tomb or shrine containing them. They would also want to buy candles as ex voto offerings, and badges which not only showed that they had visited a major shrine but were also thought to confer protection on the journey home.



Pilgrim badge of Sts John of Beverley and Bridlington (Museum of London collection)

The focus of a medieval pilgrimage was the shrine of a saint; and the shrine would contain the saint's bones. Holy bones were important because they provided a hotline to heaven. A saint was someone whose holiness of life had been recognized through the performing of miracles, and who was believed to be in the presence of God in heaven, where they could intercede on behalf of those who petitioned them. The relics of a saint were therefore an important point of connection between earth and heaven, the visible material world and the invisible spiritual world, the eternal and the temporal. Prayers offered in the presence a saint's relics were as good as praying in the presence of God himself; and the efforts involved in making a pilgrimage to a saint's shrine (and the offerings made there) were thought to be a good way of gaining the saint's ear and their advocacy before God.

All of this reflects medieval Christianity's emphasis on the instrumentality of prayer (ie. prayer as a very practical way of getting certain things done) and on the physical nature of religion. Pilgrims believed that just as prayers were made more effective by the saint being close to God in heaven, so they were made even more powerful if the petitioner was close to the physical remains of the saint on earth.

The status of a saint was established by their success in gaining answers to prayers and the attendant miracles. The tomb of John of Beverley first became a destination for pilgrims in the 8th century because people reported that the prayers they offered at his tomb were being answered, usually prayers for healing. This practice would have begun because of John's reputation as a holy man with a ministry of healing, as we read in Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

Once pilgrims started coming, a shrine would develop a reputation. Different saints were thought to specialize in prayers for certain kinds of need. St John was associated with cases of hearing and speech impediment in particular. Religious communities would not be satisfied with the relics of only one saint, but would seek to build up collections of many relics to attract as broad a spectrum of pilgrims as possible. Since the Second Council of Nicaea in 787 it was a requirement that every altar should incorporate a relic from a saint, which strengthened the role of the altar as a place of prayer, and meant that the number of altars in churches increased.

Although Cathedrals, abbeys and collegiate foundations like Beverley Minster built up great collections of relics, the most attractive shrines in England were often the ones with relics of local saints rather than the more famous apostles in the Bible. The cult of saints originated in acts of commemoration at the tomb or site of martyrdom, and so a strong local connection counted for more than the saint's wider fame. It also made for a stronger provenance for the authenticity of the relics. At Beverley there were shrines not only to St John of Beverley but also St Berthun, St Winwald and St Polfrida, the first of whom was abbot of Beverley after St John.



Medieval reliquary

The most popular shrines tended also to be the wealthiest. Generous offerings were encouraged, both to attract the saint's

attention and by way of thanksgiving when prayers were answered. And the higher the footfall, the greater the income. In this way building projects could be financed even if there was no major aristocratic patron. The Minster is a product of the pilgrim trade, and the support of successive Archbishops of York who were ex officio part of the College.

A shrine is not quite the same as a tomb. In 1037 we know that Archbishop Aelfric arranged for John of Beverley's bones to be removed from its former elaborately carved wooden shrine and placed in a splendid new gold and silver shrine which was displayed near the High Altar. This tells us that John's bones had already been taken from the tomb much earlier, and that John had been recognised as a saint well before Aelfric's time.

The tomb also remained a focus for devotion. Pilgrims to the Minster probably aimed to pray not only at the shrine, but also at the tomb and the Standard of St John, which by the 12th century had acquired its own significance. A similar multiple focus developed in Canterbury Cathedral, where pilgrims would aim to visit the site of Thomas Becket's martyrdom in the North Transept (Becket was incidentally also Provost of Beverley Minster at the time of his martyrdom, amongst his other sinecures), his tomb in the crypt, and the shrine in the Trinity Chapel above the crypt behind the High Altar.

The fact that John's tomb was probably empty once his bones had been removed to the shrine did not make the tomb less worthy of veneration. Like St Thomas Becket's tomb in Canterbury there were parallels to be made with Jesus' empty tomb; it was a sign not of absence, but of resurrected presence. It was said that the saint's tomb sweated blood during the entire day of the battle of Agincourt! It seems likely that the tomb

provided more of a focus for uncontrolled popular devotion, while the shrine above the High Altar was under more direct control of the sacristan and the college authorities, and was the focus for more formal occasions of veneration.

In 1292 a new shrine for St John was commissioned from Roger of Faringdon, with an outer reliquary 5 ft 6 ins long and 1 ft 6 ins wide, made of gold and silver, 'of proportionate height, beautiful, and adorned with plates and columns of masons' work with figures of cunning and beautiful work... and canopies and pinnacles before and behind, and other proper ornaments such as belong to goldsmiths' work'. It was to be capable of being winched up to reveal the inner reliquary displaying the relics themselves.



The reredos containing medieval graffiti

The shrine was located on the reredos behind the High Altar. This location has the advantage of elevating the shrine to public view from a distance, whilst keeping it secure. Such was the value of a saint's relics that thefts were not unknown, justified on the grounds that the guardian community was not showing sufficient devotion to the saint, who therefore permitted its removal to a more reverential site!



Medieval graffiti on the east side of the reredos

The shrine also needed to be removable, because a reliquary didn't have to remain static but could be carried in procession. In Beverley there was an annual procession at Rogationtide leading up to Ascension Day when the shrine was paraded through the town and to the various chapels of ease over a period of several days.

The devotion shown for saints by pilgrims could be both absorbed and encouraged by the presence of multiple altars, each dedicated to a different saint and containing its own relic. At Beverley there were at least 16 altars, in addition to the High Altar. They would have been located in the side chapels of the transepts, in the lesser transepts, and against the pillars of the nave as well as in the Lady Chapel at the east end and the chapel of St Martin which was a separate building, the remains of which can be seen outside the south west corner of the nave.

The sense of an open, unified building which we see today would have been less evident before the Reformation, as the Minster would have been divided up by screens into separate spaces occupied by altars for chantries, Guilds and the devotions of parishioners from different pastoral areas of Beverley. The nave itself would have remained an open space,

allowing access to the tomb of St John and to the quire aisles. There would have been a concentration of altars in the eastern arm of the building, so that pilgrims approaching the shrine (who might possibly have had to queue as they did so) could venerate other saints at altars along the route past the lesser transepts and Lady Chapel.

One of the ways in which access to a shrine could be maximized was by the creation of a crypt where pilgrims could both access the tomb of the saint in the crypt below and see the shrine containing the bones on display above. It is somewhat surprising that there is no evidence of such an arrangement at Beverley Minster, presumably because the water table is too high to allow any structure below the floor. The ancient well by the High Altar would have been of interest to pilgrims, although it was located within the quire stalls used by the Canons. Water was probably drawn from the well and sold elsewhere on the site.

What we do see in the Minster is an arrangement of screens and stalls in the quire allowing the resident community of canons, vicars, clerks and chantry priests to conduct its regular round of daily worship without being disrupted by the pilgrims who were able to circulate around the north and south quire aisles, as tourists still do today, in order to access the underside of the shrine from the retrochoir. This was the Beverley equivalent of the holy of holies, the closest a pilgrim could get to the physical remains of St John himself. We still see the evidence of that veneration in the hundreds of graffiti left by grateful pilgrims on the wall of the shrine platform. These are not evidence of anti-social behaviour, as we might understand modern graffiti; but are rather the result of grateful pilgrims recording their thanks to God for answered prayers. The

continuing popularity of John's tomb in the nave may indicate that the shrine at the High Altar was not always accessible, and that the route around the quire aisles was only opened up on special occasions.

Some of the detailing in the Minster also reflects its status as a pilgrimage church. There are carvings, such as one in the nave showing a pilgrim entangled by a dragon, showing the danger of undertaking pilgrimage for the wrong reasons. There are royal heads wearing crowns in the south aisle which are thought to be representations of Edward II and his Queen Isabella, who visited Beverley as pilgrims several times.



Pilgrim struggling with dragons

In the upper levels of the Minster there is evidence of an eastern tower above the High Altar, which was probably the tower which collapsed in 1213. The original purpose of this tower is likely to have been to cast light onto the shrine and High Altar, literally highlighting the importance of the church's centrepiece.

Pilgrimage to medieval shrines effectively came to an end in 1538 when Thomas Cromwell drafted Royal Injunctions declaring that the



Crowned Letter B - John of Beverley - Replica Medieval Pilgrim Badge (Original in Museum of London collection).

faithful should not engage in 'wandering to pilgrimages, offering money, candles, or tapers to images or relics, or kissing or licking the same.' In 1548 the college at Beverley was suppressed, and presumably the tomb was destroyed, the shrine confiscated, the bones burned, and the costly reliquary melted down to help pay for new castles.

Form follows function. To some extent, Beverley Minster's form reflects that of any medieval church. It was designed for liturgical use, especially the celebration of the mass, but not in any narrow sense; it was also a representation of the kingdom of heaven on earth, and is full of imagery not just illustrating biblical scenes but also evoking the whole spectrum of life, with everything depicted as part of God's created world and under his sovereign rule. There is no false distinction between sacred and secular, which is an entirely modern separation. Our inner demons and the powers of sin and evil are given graphic representation, alongside our human follies. All the saints and angels of heaven are there along with foliage of every kind

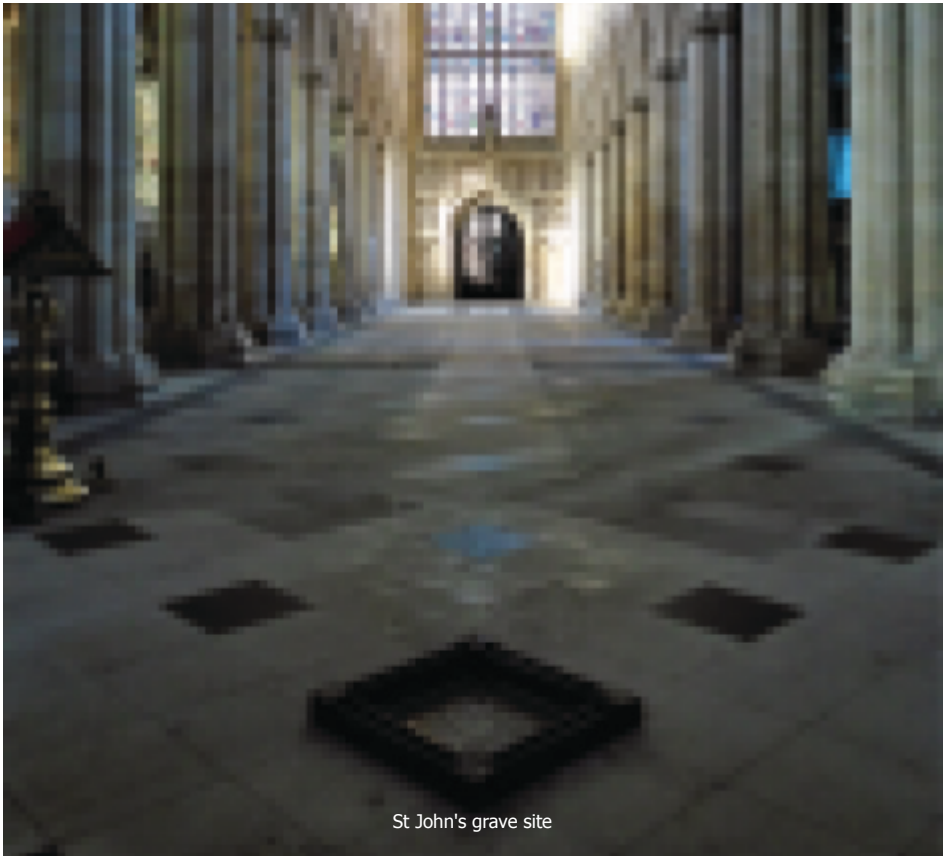
representing the natural world and particularly the vine, image of the Eucharist and of Jesus the True Vine.

The Minster was also designed to accommodate the needs of a resident community of priests following a demanding round of daily worship, whose needs had to be reconciled with those of thousands of pilgrims. These came through the doors in their thousands, needing to look, touch and pray at the places where they believed they could, for a while, become part of the company of heaven and have their prayers heard and their burdens relieved with the help of the saints, and especially St John of Beverley.

It is the original function of Beverley Minster as a pilgrimage church which reminds us that what we see today, beautiful and historic as it is, is only a shell. What the pilgrims came to see has gone.

We still wonder at the craftsmanship and vision which led to the creation of this amazing jewel casket. But from the point of view of the masons who constructed it, the priests who ran it, and the pilgrims who paid for it, visited it, and used it to draw near to God, the treasure this casket was made to contain is no longer there.

Jonathan Baker



St John's grave site

Auction of Surplus Goods and Materials

In July 2019 the Minster Architect, Andy Burrell, completed a Pinnacle Condition survey of the High Roofs, West Towers and Tympanum. This survey identified several pinnacles, which were in need of renewal, as a high priority.

Prior to this, a new charity entitled Two Churches One Town (2COT), had been set up to work with The Minster, St Mary's and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to raise funds to enable both The Minster and St Mary's to undertake the significant works required to maintain the fabric of both these significant buildings in Beverley.

The Minster was successful in obtaining an Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the project which included the renewal of the leadwork to the Lesser South Transept roof and associated stonework (The Sanctuary Project). To enable benefit to be gained from use of the scaffolding it was decided to replace the relevant pinnacles in this area. Subsequently we were also able to obtain a grant from the Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage: Major Works Fund for Cathedrals and Major Churches for the Nave Roof Replacement. Replacement pinnacles were also included in the project.

When these pinnacles were replaced, the existing pinnacles were stored in the yard of The Minster workshops area. Before I retired as Chairman of the Beverley Minster Old Fund, when I was talking with the Minster Surveyor, Simon Delaney, we said "what are we going to do with all this stuff stored in the yard". As well as the pinnacles it included wrought iron gates,



roof tiles, sarking board which had been used as lead bearing boards on the roofs, large pieces of 12th and 16th century oak beams and many other items. From that discussion the idea of an auction was born.

Over the next few months Caroline and John Hawley visited The Minster and enthused about the idea which then included many items stored in the roof space of The Minster and also items from St Mary's including 19th century oak pews designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. Caroline also suggested that we ask members of both congregations and the general public at large to attend Valuation Days to bring their own items and, if they wanted to donate them to 2COT, that would be an added benefit.

The Minster and St Mary's are collaborating to raise the necessary funds rather than competing in a difficult time for fundraisers.

As a result of all this an auction was held in The Minster on Saturday 8th July with over 200 lots. Many of these had been donated by members of the public. The auction was conducted by Caroline Hawley, our local Bargain Hunt celebrity.

Despite interest from across the globe who were bidding on two internet platforms, the historic items will remain in the UK as determined collectors outbid challenges from as far afield as China, the US, Mauritius, Sweden and Bulgaria.



Caroline (above) was behind the rostrum for over 3 hours in front of a large audience and online to over 350 registered online bidders.

Twenty Tadcaster stone pinnacles dating back to the 13th century, raised a total of £15,720 – including a top bid of £4,400. Other items from The Minster included brass light fittings that raised over £1700, two pairs of wrought iron gates £550 and £500, small pieces of oak beams raised £225 and the sarking boards £550, carved pieces of oak panels raised over £3000 and the handcart used to transport scaffolding and stone around The Minster raised £1000.

Items donated by the general public also raised large amounts of money. A 9ct gold hunter pocket watch raised £500. Various watches and clocks raised over £2000 a planished silver coffee pot raised £500, various silver mustard pots raised £475 and many pictures, painting and etchings and other general other items went under the hammer. The 19th century Sir Gilbert Scott designed oak pews from St Mary's raised over £3000.

In total the auction raised just under £39,000 and Caroline said "she was delighted with the outcome as it's very hard to predict what these types of lots would raise, especially rare ancient artifacts, but I must say the response was fantastic with some great results"

Caroline has also said that she is willing to accept items for her future auctions if people wish to continue contributing to 2COT and they should contact Hawleys Auctioneers. All funds raised go the 2COT and funds specifically from lots from The Minster and St Mary's and donations also so stated will have the money ring fenced for each particular church.

Claire and Jonathan Levy produced a documentary film for 2COT which can be found on the Two Churches One Town website.

Claire and Jonathan also undertook PR activity to promote the auction and press coverage included all the local/regional media including BBC Look North and ITV News/Calendar who featured items both before the auction and after the event. PR was also sent to a wide range of international media, although we haven't been able to monitor any overseas coverage, we hope it may have contributed to some of the international interest. This all achieved huge publicity for 2COT and raised the profile of the town of Beverley and the these two magnificent churches.

When Simon and I first broached this idea we had no idea that it would be such a success. We thank everyone who has so generously donated items for sale and hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

Martin Needler
Former Chairman, Beverley Minster Old Fund

Ave atque Vale

Back in 2008 when I was elected to the Friends Council, and became secretary almost without a pause for breath, our Annual Report for that year published an article by Pamela Hopkins, the retiring Secretary called '15 Years a Secretary'. I wouldn't steal Pamela's thunder by entitling this one '16 Years a Secretary.' That has feelings of 'déjà vu' so 'Ave atque Vale' will suffice.

In 2008 Pamela's article in the Annual Report gave details of her time as secretary of the Friends which started with her close involvement with the Pilgrim Window in the retrochoir and included other projects such as the publication of 'Beverley Minster, an illustrated history in 2000, and 'Who Built Beverley Minster' in 2009, as well as other projects within the Minster.

In many ways, the last 16 years has been about making Friends. I was almost a complete stranger when I took the job on, and over the intervening years friendships have developed within the Friends, particularly with Roger Lewis, with whom I have worked in a very rewarding partnership, through thick and thin, until his retirement at the end of last year. This is going to sound corny, but the Friends Council is a very friendly organisation. I cannot remember at any time where reasoned disagreements have developed into a more heated discussion. We have the advantage of being in a very healthy financial state, which creates its own pressure points, but I am happy that where we have used our opportunities to assist financially, we have spent wisely and well.

My time as secretary to the Friends council has seen continued support for 'Music in the Minster', a centre of excellence under Robert Poyser which continues to develop with support from the Friends and other funding bodies. We also underwrote the cost of the Steinway grand piano which was purchased in 2008. We have also assisted in the renewal of the roofs of the south east transept and the nave as well as other less spectacular projects. One project however which was spectacular was the re-gilding of the clock face on the north tower which generated a huge amount of interest.

Research into the history of the building, including extensive dendrochronology of the main roofs has been supported by the Friends over several years. The publication of my book in 2017 which gave the results of research up to that point will soon be augmented by a new and important article, 'The Date of Beverley Minster and its Role in the Development of Northern Gothic in the late-12th and early-13th Centuries', which will be published by the BAA later this year and will also be available online thanks to the generosity of the Friends. I am hugely grateful to the Friends in their unstinting support for my endeavours to unravel the history of our amazing building which resulted in me being elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2018.

To compliment the ongoing research, over my time as secretary, I have encouraged the contributions of articles by learned colleagues on aspects of the history of the Minster to the AR, as well as asking our St John lecture

speakers to give a résumé of their talks so that the information imparted can reach a wider audience. I hope this trend will continue.

And finally, I wish to extend my very sincere thanks for the help and support I have received from all past and present members of the Friends Council over the past 16 years. I couldn't have done it without you. And I wish Mary Mead, and my nominated successor (to be elected), Fiona Goel, and current and future members of the Council good fortune in their endeavours to conserve and preserve our fabulous piece of England's fabulous buildings heritage.

John Phillips

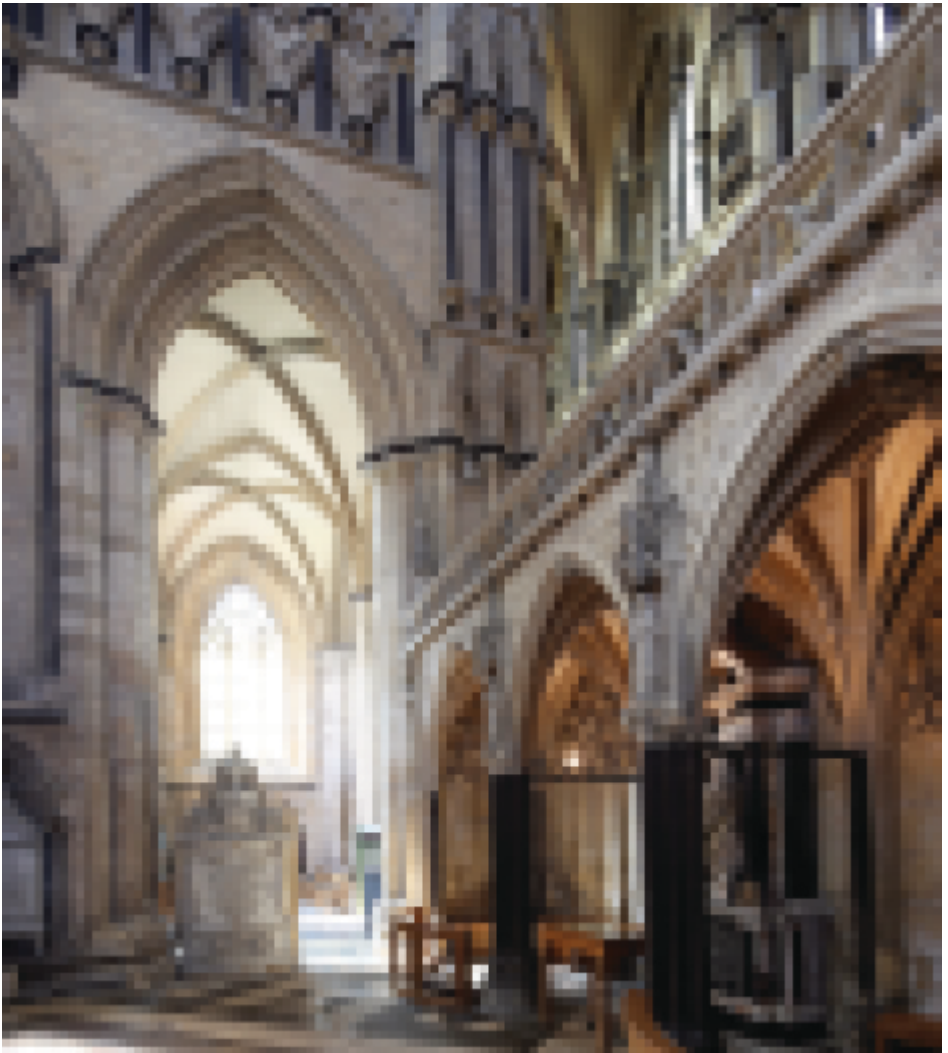


Photo: Stuart Harrison

Annual Accounts 2021 - 2022

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022

Statement of Financial Activities	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Income Accounts		
Trading Income		
Subscriptions	20,881	24,754
Donations and legacies	76,211	12,664
Recharged	2,768	2,924
		28,342
Activities for operating costs		
Trade/Donor Trusts	2,000	1,100
Reserves	400	88
		2,088
Investment Income		24,254
		30,430
Total Income/Reserves	£ 79,450	£ 78,008
Expenditure Expended		
Charitable activities		
Staff Expenses		87,000
Administrative/Charity Costs	1,400	1,700
Travel and Accommodation	611	2,000
		89,700
Activities for generating funds		
Trade/Donor Trusts	2,407	1,875
		1,407
Excess/Shortfall		
Printing and stationery	674	1,000
Insurance	184	274
Depreciation	181	70
		1,024
Total Expenditure/Expended	£ 1,024	£ 91,724
Net Income/Reserves	£ 78,426	£ - 13,716
Other Accounting Adjustments		
Reserves on Investments	- 24,254	24,254
Reserves/Investment Income	£ 54,172	£ - 13,716
Reserves brought forward	100,000	1,000,000
Totalised Capital Account	£ 154,172	£ 986,284

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

Fixed Assets	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Investments	890,290	885,294
Total Fixed Assets	890,290	885,294
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,740	2,929
CBF Deposit	88	88
Cash at Bank	88,497	81,189
Total Current Assets	91,265	85,292
Less Creditors	100	58
Net Current Assets	91,165	85,110
Net Assets	£ 981,455	£ 970,404
Funds of Charity		
Unrestricted Funds		
Brought Forward	930,386	1,954,007
Add Surplus for the year	71,069	= 243,852
£ 981,455	£ 981,455	£ 981,455

Independent Examiner's Report

In connection with my recent examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Sunman, Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA)

Financial Review

Summary of Results

Results for the year show a net positive movement of funds of £61,023 and at the end of March 2023 the net assets totalled £92,166. Further details of the financial position of the charity are set out in the accounts included in the report.

Reserves

The reserves at the date of the balance sheet totalled £981,469, all unrestricted. The funds are held in reserve for future expenditure on projects for which ongoing collaboration between the Friends and Minster PCC continues to identify suitable projects. It is anticipated that a number of the projects will require substantial levels of funding, consequently over the medium term the level of reserves is expected to reduce substantially.

Investments

The investments are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and a deposit account managed by the CCLA.

Bequests and donations

This year the Friends have benefitted from generous legacies from the estates of

Ella M Parsons

Marie Croasdale

Ian Norman Goldthorpe

Ian H Stewart

In addition, a donation was received in support of the work on the Minster roof which the Friends supported to the value of £373,000 in 2021- 2022.

James Moore

Annual General Meeting Agenda 2023

THE AGM OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER TO BE HELD IN THE PARISH HALL
ON SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2023
at 2.00 p.m

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on Monday 8th October 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Council Chair's Report Ms Mary Mead
5. Hon. Secretary's Report Mr John Phillips
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report Mr James Moore
7. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report Ms Liz Grove
8. Hon. Social Secretary's Report Miss Pamela Martin
9. Vicar's Report Revd Canon Jonathan Baker
10. The adoption of the reports proposed by the Mayor of Beverley, Cllr Tom Astell
11. Election of Officers

To be re-elected:

President	Mrs Pamela Hopkins
Vice Presidents	Mayor of Beverley, Prof Roger Lewis, Messrs Terry Holmes, Richard Kemp, and Peter Calvert
Hon Chair	Ms Mary Mead
Hon. Social Secretary	Miss Pamela Martin
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Fiona Goel (awaiting election)
Hon. Minutes Secretary	Dr Susan Neave
Hon. Treasurer	Mr James Moore
Hon. Membership Secretary	Ms Liz Grove

To be elected:

New members of the Council.

Dr Susan Neave
Mr Mike Robson
Mr James Palmer

12. Any Other Business

AGM Minutes 2022

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2022.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Friends, Ms Pamela Hopkins

Present: Stephen Deas, Pam Hopkins, Berna Moody, Pam Wilkinson, Alan Wilkinson, Gillian Fawcett, Bernard Vickers, Karla Vickers, Jane Payne, Margaret Bailey, Stan Bailey, Joyce Shaw, Penny & Jerry Booth, Susan Neave, David Neave, Mildred Hill, Rita Steadman, Mary Mead, Hamlyn Lloys, Jackie Odoni, Geoffrey Care, Mike Robson, Myfanwy Ryan, Geoffrey Stephenson, June Stephenson, A. Aveyard, John Askey, Jane Jarman, Martin Eldred, Mervyn King, Meg Choules, Patricia Brunt, David Brunt, Graham Johnson, Linda Johnson, (Mayor of Beverley,) Pamela Martin, Liz Grove, Roger Lewis, Jonathan Baker, James Moore, John Phillips.

Apologies for absence: Angela Chapman, Gail Cahill, Martin Needler, Val Coss, Peter and Pam Quigley, Michael Moss, Barbara Hyde, Mrs John Askey

The minutes of the AGM held on 16 October 2022 were passed – nem con. Proposed by John Askey, seconded by Jackie Odoni.

Matters arising – none

Outgoing Chairman's report 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 (Roger Lewis)

If all goes as planned today, this will be my last meeting as your chairman. In this year's published annual report I give a view on the effectiveness of the Friends as an organisation and say that I am leaving a discussion of one aspect until this AGM. That aspect is the

officers; in particular I want to give some background to the elections to be held later in this meeting.

Each year I say thank you - both personally and on behalf of members - to those who carry the weight of ongoing responsibility for the functioning of the Friends as an organisation. All officers work on a purely voluntary basis; they receive no payment of any kind and enjoy no benefits, other than the satisfaction of carrying out the work to help us meet our purposes as an independent organisation and thereby to benefit the Minster.

In our case, the officers are those of Chair; Treasurer; Secretary; Membership Secretary, and Programme Secretary. We also have the role of President and we have a number of vice-presidents (in most cases, individuals who, over a number of years, have served the Friends and the building selflessly and with distinction).

We are very fortunate to retain the services of James as Treasurer, John as Secretary, Liz as Membership Secretary and Pam as Programme Secretary. They know exactly what they are doing and they do it excellently, year after year. They work closely together. Their continuing in these roles (assuming you elect them later today) will also ensure stability as the organisation acquires a new President and a new Chair.

In addition to these officers, other members of the Friends have played active roles. Stephen Deas is always a source of wise advice, someone to talk to help think through issues and how to address them. Mervyn King has for

years handled all our publicity material and our annual reports and newsletters; he has also made sure we are prominent on the Minster's website. I'd also like to thank Mike Robson who has looked after our marketing, for example via the clock regilding (including appearances on television and radio) and our stall at the Christmas tree festival. Helena Anderson and Robert Poyser were very helpful in our response to the Archbishop of York's request for policies on a range of activities.

A word, then, about the changes we propose.

Long-term AGM attendees will be aware that this meeting is usually chaired by the Bishop of Hull in their role of President. We assumed this role belonged to the Bishop 'ex officio' but closer reading of our Constitution shows that this is not so. We can elect any suitable person as President and (as with all the other officers) we appoint the President on an annual basis. We discussed at the Council who would be suitable and all agreed that Pamela Hopkins would be ideal. Pam will be leaving her chair's seat for the duration of (what we hope will be) her election later this afternoon but we hope she will be quickly able to resume it! Many will know Pam as the author of many books and articles on Beverley and the Minster, for her work as a guide to the town and not least for her time as secretary to the Friends. She has retained her membership of the Friends and has helped us in many ways over the years.

I am standing down as Chair this year. The Council appointed a 'search group' to look for a successor. This was a rigorous process, using a job description for the role, agreed by the Council. I'm glad to say that a name was forthcoming - that of Mary Mead. Mary has had extensive and relevant experience within the Minster (for example, she has had three children in the choir and has organised several

choir tours, including this year's tour). Also, beyond the Minster - Mary has worked in industry, particularly in project management roles.

I also want to draw to your attention the proposal that we create a new post of Minutes Secretary. This will help John carry out all the other tasks he has as Secretary. We are fortunate that Dr Susan Neave - who also happens to be giving this year's St John Lecture - is prepared to take on this role. Many here will know of Susan's contributions to the history of Beverley but also beyond that to many other projects and publications that promote our town (and region) and increase the public's knowledge of the riches we have to offer. I also happen to know that she is an impeccable minutes secretary within another organisation.

As with the President, these posts are proposed and seconded - by individuals not by the Council, but your Council is in full support of all we are proposing this afternoon.

In commending these arrangements, I also want to use this as an opportunity to ask others to come forward, maybe next year, either to take on an officer role or to support current office holders. We always need new people!

We also need new people on the Friends' Council - not least to keep it dynamic and representative of the membership. Involvement on the Council is also a good way of moving into an officer role. We particularly need people with experience in the heritage world, in charity law and governance - and people who are younger than many of us. And anyone motivated by love of our splendid building. Please help us to find such people!

Finally I must once again thank all my colleagues on the Council. I have valued their hard work and expertise and willingness to put up with my demands and with my idiosyncrasies. I consider them to be good Friends (in both senses) and look forward to that continuing. I offer my warmest wishes and support to those taking on new roles and particularly to Mary assuming she is later elected as Chair. I am confident that the future of the organisation will be in good hands. And I finish with thanks to you all, for many years of conversations, fun and laughter, often over the excellent refreshments Pam always provides.

Secretary's Report – John Phillips

At all our meetings we discuss matters arising from the minutes of our previous meeting, our finances, our membership and our social programme. The following gives a résumé of the other business discussed at each of our meetings. At each meeting we also receive a report from the PCC, and on the progress of the Sanctuary project.

In November we discussed the position and role of President of the Friends which required definition and agreed to bring a draft role description to the February meeting.

Archbishop of York – patronage audit: New policy documents in line with the requirements of the audit had been circulated prior to the meeting. These included: Privacy Notice, a Safeguarding Policy, a Policy for Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults, A Policy for the use of Photographs, a Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Digital Communications Guidelines. The Chair asked for general endorsement of these documents - which was given. The documents would then be finalised in early December and

the template would be forwarded to the Archbishop's office, as required.

Proposed NHLF Bid: Following the special meeting on and following 20th October to consider support for a request for another match funding option for a new NHLF bid from 2COTS, the meeting was informed that 2COTS had not been invited by NHLF to enter a further stage of the bidding process. So further discussion was unnecessary. At that meeting it was decided to form a new group to discuss future bids for funding, consisting of delegates from 2COTS, the PCC, the Old Fund and the Friends. The Chair had asked Gail Cahill and John Phillips to represent the Friends.

In February a comparatively brief meeting discussed, apart from our usual items, the role of President, which we had returned to from the previous meeting, and the conclusion of the Archbishop's Patronage Audit. All papers had now been passed back to the Archbishop's office.

We also discussed the role of Trustees of the Friends. The Chair reported that Charity Commission guidance makes it clear that all members of the governing body of a charity act as its 'trustees'. This applies whether they are elected, co-opted, or are representatives of another organisation. It was agreed to discuss, with the Treasurer, the possibility of indemnity insurance, to cover trustee liability.

In May we discussed the Appointment of Officers and Matters of Governance of Friends' Council

Roger Lewis spoke to the paper previously circulated. He and the secretary had been discussing for some time the succession of officers, with particular reference to their own posts of chair and secretary. He also reminded

Council members that the office of president of the Friends is an annual one, by election at the AGM, as discussed at the previous meeting.

The paper proposed that a 'search committee' be set up to identify suitable people to fill the offices of President, Chair, and Hon. Secretary of the Friends. Jonathan Baker, Stephen Deas, Helena Anderson, and Susan Neave agreed to form this committee and Stephen Deas was asked to convene its first meeting.

John Phillips summarised the recent meeting of the TCOTS Beverley Minster Project Board. The meeting had two main items on the agenda, new toilets and lighting. Two possible schemes to provide new toilet accommodation had been discussed. The project board agreed to ask the Minster Architect to commission a report on the state of the wiring.

Student Finance The Friends' remit includes extending knowledge of the building and its history and one way to achieve this would be to support students on relevant advanced degrees (for example from York and Lincoln universities). A bursary, basically to cover transport costs, of £1,000 per student per year paid in instalments could help. In addition to the creation of new knowledge, another benefit to the Friends would be topics and speakers for the annual events programme. It was suggested that discussions should continue with Dr Kate Giles at York and begin (with Lincoln).

The Minister's external environment

Roger Lewis explained that recent disturbance laying gas pipes in Highgate and Minster Yard North had highlighted the need for a unified approach to this area. Both the Friends and the Civic Society had kept a watching brief on the works; neither were impressed by the

standard of reinstatement, especially for the setts in Highgate. This situation highlights a wider issue: consideration of the whole Minster environment, as a setting for a building of major European importance. Insufficient attention has been given to the Minster area as the core of the tourist 'offer' of the town. It was suggested that a complete reassessment of the area with a proposal for a pedestrianised precinct in Minster Yard North, and consideration of a redevelopment of the parish hall complex as part of longer term plans, including the involvement of ERYC.

In August We received a Report from the search group who had been seeking people to take on the roles of chair and secretary. They reported that Pamela Hopkins had been approached and had agreed to be nominated as president at the AGM. A candidate for chair of the Friends' Council had been found in the person of Mary Mead. It was agreed that an informal meeting between members of the Council and Mary Mead would be held before the AGM.

A replacement for the secretary had been impossible to find and various possible solutions were discussed. In the event I have decided to stay on for at least a further 12 months.

We also had further discussions updating the progress of the Student Finance scheme and the discussions on the Minster environment.

Treasurer's report. James Moore presented the Accounts from the Annual Report and answered questions.

Treasurer's report: James Moore gave an explanation of the Annual Accounts as published in the Annual Report and answered questions.

Membership Secretary's report: Liz Grove
Hon. Membership Secretary

Membership has remained steady over the last 12 months, our loss of long term members being more or less balanced by our new members. The number fluctuates within the 440-450 range on an annual basis which is cause for rejoicing the fact that the Friends continues to attract new members to help us conserve and preserve our fabulous building. I am especially delighted to welcome new Friends who have joined despite their intentions just to call in to the Minster for a concert or quick look around. At this point I would like to thank Mike Robson for his continued efforts helping us have a lively stand at the ever-popular Christmas Tree Festival. It has been a great opportunity to greet old Friends and welcome new ones. We hope that new members will feel that they are part of a thriving organisation and urge them to consider becoming members of the Friends Council.

We would encourage all members to pay by standing order if you can. It reduces administration for both you and us and ensures that regular payments don't get missed - standing in a long queue at Barclays is not my idea of fun!. It is hoped that in the near future becoming a member via the Minster website will become much easier and more efficient as we progress changes in our system.

I would also like to record my personal thanks to Roger on his departure as Chair of the Friends. His tremendous leadership and enthusiasm for the Friends has been a constant source of support and inspiration over the many years that he has guided us. And as

ever, thank you for being such good Friends of Beverley Minster.

Social Secretary's report: Pamela Martin

Study Day

On 27th April 17 people attended the series of lectures 'Architecture and the Arts in Churches and Cathedrals in the 20th Century', an excellent presentation delivered by Roger Willson.

Evenings in June

On 6th June 26 people attended John Phillips "New Discoveries at Beverley Minster – Trees and Stones." The visit to St Mary's Parish Church, Beverley on 16th June was poorly attended but 18 people attended Mike Robson's tour "Anecdotes and History" on the 20th June.

Coach Tour

On 29th July 37 people enjoyed the fascinating tour to the preceptory of the Knights Templar at Foulbridge followed by Gisborough Priory after lunch where the adjacent Parish church was opened for us to see the Brus Cenotaph and hear a talk on the church's history.

Planning these events requires consideration of a number of Important factors.

The event has to appeal to people from all walks in life, and finding a knowledgeable speaker with good delivery is essential, preferably someone who will attract a good audience.

Planning a coach tour entails additional factors like planning a route, (preferably without low bridges!) which requires one or more trial runs, contacting all speakers, guides and all providers and venues, and also arranging lunch and refreshment locations.

In addition, behind the scenes there is preparing publicity, checking proofs and taking bookings and payments to be done, as well as dealing with queries.

The Friends are grateful for the support of the members and also those who are not Friends, but also support these events.

Vicar's Report: - Jonathan Baker

In reviewing the life of Minster over last year it depends where you look – there have been many encouragements but there are also some darker corners which have been more challenging.

In general terms we have bounced back from the impact of the pandemic. Taken as a whole, numbers attending the Minster are now greater than they were before the pandemic, despite the fact that we are aware of some folk who haven't returned – which means quite a few new people have joined us, chiefly as a result of two new congregations being started: The Crossing began as an online community for families with young children and has now successfully established itself in real space in the hall, and attracts 30-40 people every week. The 9.15 service began in January and now attracts 40-50 people, including a number of folk who are new to the Minster.

The 11am service has settled down and is attended by most of the folk who previously came to the old 10.30, usually around 100. The choir is flourishing and enjoying the extra opportunities offered by the new format. Robert Poyser has done an excellent job leading the choir with reduced resources and it has been good to see a number of new members joining this year. The Friends' support

for the Choral Foundation has been an important factor in enabling this.

These changes are the most obvious visible fruit of the new Vision Strategy launched last autumn, where parts of the vision expressed an ambition to diversify our forms of service and to welcome and support families and young children.

Other parts of the vision strategy have seen a renewal of the pastoral care team and several new pastoral initiatives. The prayer team has similarly benefitted from fresh ideas and leadership. A different working group led by Bishop David James has this month been raising awareness of our environmental responsibility and we have recently learned that we have been awarded the EcoChurch Bronze Award. The Minster is also leading a partnership with Hope into Action and Churches Together in Beverley to provide supported housing for a family at risk of homelessness.

Volunteer Guides and Welcomers continue to engage with visitors to the Minster and the feedback on Tripadvisor shows what a good experience most visitors have.

The Friends have of course been supporting the Sanctuary Project which is now drawing to an end. There has been some excellent work done by Anna Knowles and Cathy Thornton (the Learning and Engagement officers) reaching out to groups and organisations in the wider community, including schools, refugee organisations and the Cherry Tree Centre. The heritage workshops which they organised were fully booked and may be something we wish to repeat.

After all the work done on the Minster roof last year, this year's capital works programme has

been relatively quiet, and the focus of fundraising by Two Churches One Town has been on the next phase of work at St Mary's. However, we are all grateful to the Friends for their generosity in funding work on the clock and the bells.

The joint working group from the Friends, PCC, 2COT and BMOF is working to identify which of the various capital projects on the 2COT programme of works can be undertaken next.

There are still many challenges, the most obvious of which is financial. With a new team taking over the running of the Minsters finances it has been clear that the professional support we had been relying on over the last couple of years has not been adequate. Sorting out the tangle has been a major exercise and is not over yet.

What is emerging is that the Minster is running at a deficit and has been for years. This has so far been covered by reserves and legacies, but is not sustainable. It appears that some of the balances in restricted funds shown in the annual accounts have not been written down as money was spent, giving a misleading idea of our true position.

We aim to balance the books if possible by growing income. Part of this will be by deriving income from the car park, but that is proving to be a less straightforward procedure than had been hoped. We also need to increase the number of outside events using the Minster, and the Enterprise Committee which oversees such events is now more focussed on that goal.

Paying for heating this winter is a further challenge. It is likely that there will be reduced heating and if you are planning on coming to

any services or events my advice is to wrap up warm.

We are currently without a curate, with Tim Kelly having moved on in May. We hope to get a new curate next summer.

So while the picture is mixed there is much that is good and encouraging as we emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic and move forward. I am grateful to God for all that has been done, especially when I compare notes with other clergy, when it becomes clear that many other churches find themselves in much more challenging situations than we do. The changes we face here are replicated all around us, in the Deanery and at Diocesan levels. And I am so grateful for the hard work put in by so many people; members of staff, church officers, members of the congregations, volunteers, and the generosity of the Friends, as well as BMOF, and 2COT.

Adoption of the reports. Proposed by the Mayor of Beverley, Mrs Linda Johnson, seconded by Mike Robson

Carried, nem con.

Adoption of the new Financial Policy

Roger Lewis summarised the new Financial Policy and explained the reasons why it had become necessary to have a Financial Policy at this time.

Adoption was proposed by Rita Steadman, seconded by Stephen Deas.

The proposal was approved by a clear majority with one contra.

Election of Officers

President: Pamela Hopkins, proposed by John Askey, seconded by David Neave

Vice President: Roger Lewis, proposed Patricia Brunt, seconded Susan Neave

Chair: Mary Mead, proposed by Bernard Vickers, seconded by Berna Moody

Minutes secretary: Susan Neave, proposed by Annegret Aveyard, seconded by Mervyn King

Election of Honorary Vice president: Roger Lewis. Proposed by Patricia Brunt, seconded by Susan Neave

The remaining officers, Secretary, Programme secretary, Membership secretary and Treasurer were re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Roger Lewis, seconded by Karla Vickers

All elections were carried, nem con.

Election of New Members of the Council.
No nominations had been received.

Any other business.

There was no further business.



Members of the Council 2022-2023

Ms Mary Mead (Chair)
Email: beverleyminsterfriendschair@gmail.com

Mr James Moore (Hon. Treasurer)
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Tel. 01964 544145
Email: jamesfmoore@hotmail.co.uk

Mr John Phillips (Acting Hon. Secretary)
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Tel: 01377 241082
Email: denscanis@yahoo.co.uk

Ms Liz Grove (Hon. Membership Secretary)
5 Long Lane
Beverley HU17 0NH
Email: Friends@beverleyminster.org.uk

Miss Pamela J Martin (Hon Social Secretary)
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HULL HU5 4QR
Tel: 01482 442221
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Revd. Canon Jonathan Baker
(Vicar of Beverley Minster)
The Minster Vicarage
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Ms Meg Choules (PCC Representative)
Rt Rev David James (PCC nominee)
Mr Martin Needler (Old Fund Representative)
Mr Robert Poyser (Co-opted)
Dr Susan Neave (Co-opted)
Mr James Palmer (Co-opted)
Mr Mike Robson (Co-opted)
Miss Lucy Duckworth (Co-opted)
Mr Stephen Deas (Retires 2023)
Mrs Helena Anderson (Retires 2023)
Ms Gail Cahill (Retires 2023)
Mrs Karla Vickers (Retires 2024)

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER



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THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

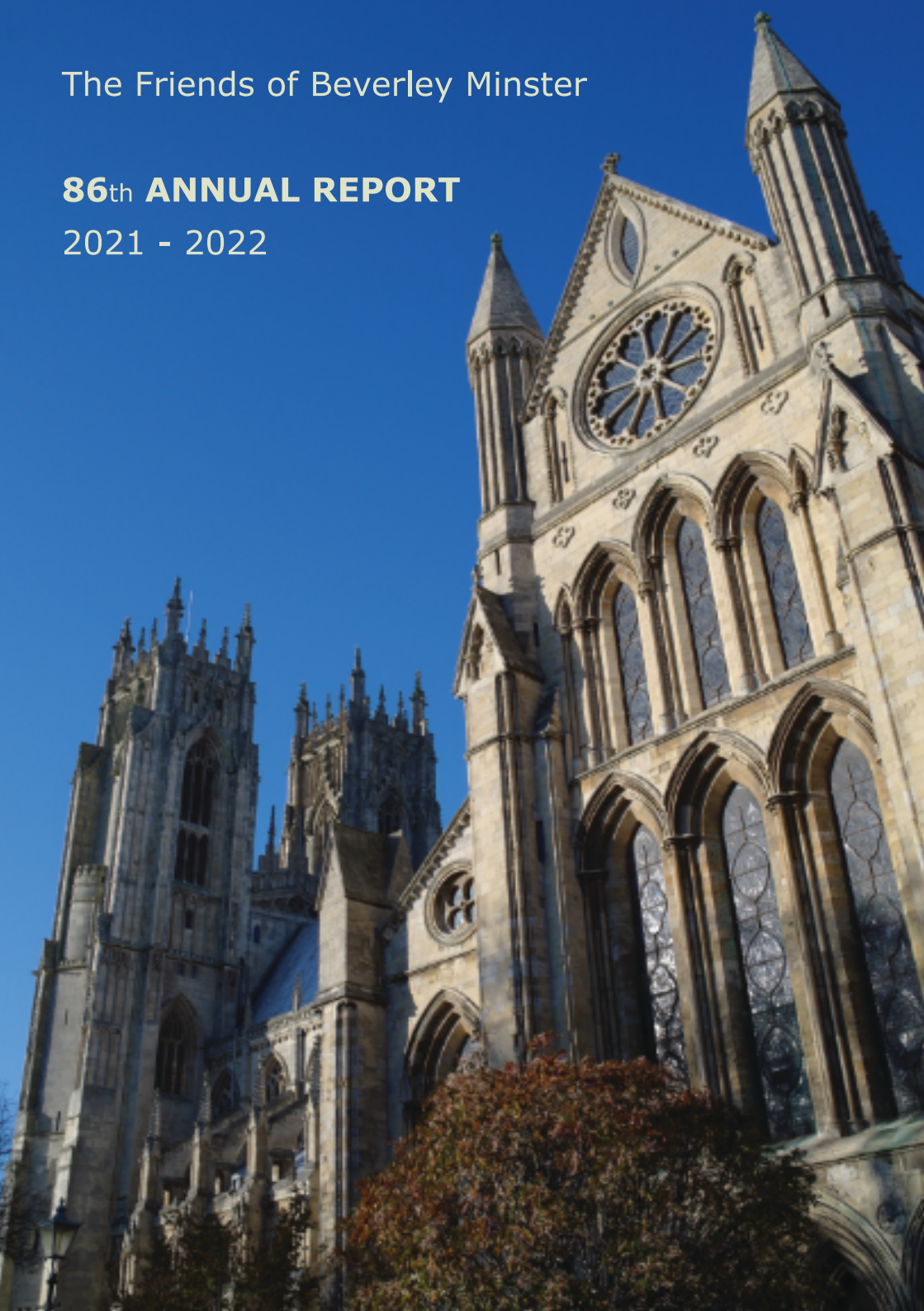
England & Wales - Charity number 501302

Accounts

The Friends of Beverley Minster

86th ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



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Friends' visit to Coverham in September 2021

Chairman's Report

As I am standing down this year, this is a good opportunity to take stock of the Friends as an organisation. To do this, I suggest the following criteria for a healthy charitable organisation: a purpose that continues to be relevant; sufficient members, including those who are active within the organisation; sufficient resources; and efficient operating arrangements, including capable officers. I argue that we meet these criteria - though as always we face challenges!



Purpose

Most would agree that our purpose as an organisation remains relevant. Three partners have responsibility for the Minster - the PCC, the Old Fund and ourselves. Each has distinctive areas of activity. One objective marks us out clearly from the other two: we 'promote public interest in the Minster, its history and its work'.

Our 'promote public interest' remit shows itself in our support for publications (such as the books by Jonathan Foyle and John Phillips) and in our annual programme, designed by Pamela Martin. We also fund research and investigations, to uncover and then disseminate, new knowledge of the Minster and its history (involving, for example, dendrochronology of the roof timbers).

Our members are supporting a building. Recently we have committed major sums to ensure the Minster remains in sound structural condition. We partnered with the Old Fund to carry out substantial work on the nave and lesser south transept roofs. In this connection it is interesting that those who wrote our constitution (back in the 1930s) stated that, should the Friends be dissolved, its assets would be 'transferred to the Trustees of Queen Elizabeth's Church Endowment (otherwise known as Minster Old Fund)...for the repair and maintenance of Beverley Minster'. We are far from this situation happening but the statement (by which we are still bound) shows that the clear priority is the Minster as a physical object within a particular location. We are enjoined, by our Constitution, to carry out all our activities 'to seek to bind together in a common fellowship all those who love Beverley Minster' - again, the building is the focus.

Members

So, a tick for purpose: our purpose remains valid and important. The next criterion relates to numbers of members - do we have sufficient members paying their membership fee and, within this group, are enough of them active within the organisation? In terms of the first of these, our Membership Secretary reports that our numbers have increased over the year from 432 to 445. In the current climate, this is a real achievement and we must thank Liz for her energy in converting interested 'outsiders' into paying members. Membership of comparable Friends'

organisations has been dropping so we are bucking the trend. Over 400 is a healthy number - Ripon Cathedral, for example, recently reported 280 members. Recruitment remains a priority and we know we could do more - all those new houses south of the Minster, for example, are potential sources of members. We know we need to do more 'marketing'.

We also need a subset of members who are active and participate - who come to the Annual General Meeting, to talks and day schools and on coach trips; who are prepared to help with our activities - from serving tea and coffee to taking on responsibilities as 'officers' (I come to that later). Our Programme Secretary's report shows that we attract people to take part in our events - which in addition act as a recruiting ground for new members. We have also been fortunate to have members prepared to take responsibility for projects in which they are particularly interested, such as the shop (Joyce and Roger Shaw) and gilding the clock face (Mike Robson). Another member - Mervyn King - helps us unflinchingly every year with the design of our reports, newsletters and leaflets and maintains our website presence. So another 'tick' for membership though (again) we mustn't be complacent.

Resources

An organisation such as the Friends needs to have sufficient resources to carry out its purpose. A definite tick here, as the statement of accounts in this annual report shows. Members' subscriptions provide all we need for day-to-day operation of the organisation (production of this report, postage etc.), leaving a surplus which we use for our core projects. Many Friends' organisations hold

smaller surpluses than we do and use these for relatively minor 'adornment' projects. Indeed, this was the territory in which we used to operate.

For, in addition to subscriptions, we are blessed by significant donations and (especially) bequests. I like to think that one reason for this is that our members know that we will make careful use of their money - this flows back to the section above on our purpose; those leaving us money do this because they love the Minster as a building. We have achieved our surplus through careful management of our resources, waiting for suitable projects in which to invest. We have a financial policy that explains what we are trying to do and how we operate. Last year we were able to invest in excess of £500k in major structural projects. Our balance is still healthy and we have identified three priority areas: restoration of the east and west windows; opening up the two quire aisles; and lighting the heritage aspects of the building (such as the misericords). We collaborate with other partners to identify and scope projects. We work on the principle of matching funding - in this connection, the Director of Music shows, elsewhere in this report, how this ideally works. The Friends provided funding for instrumental tuition for choristers on a 'pump prime' basis and Robert has now attracted £30k from the Deflog charitable foundation - which enables this work to continue. This is a good use of Friends' money to draw in complementary funding from outside.

Operating arrangements.

This criterion means, in our context, that we must have an effective 'governing body' (our Council) and officers to 'do the work'. We must be sure to follow good practice as a charity,

attending to advice from the Charity Commission.

We have worked hard over the years to expand and widen the Council. In particular we have recruited younger members ('younger' for us means younger than say 60, age is a relative concept) Gregory Becker, Edward Lock and Amy Albudri come to mind (none of them anywhere near 60!). Young people have many responsibilities and they tend to leave the area (as happened with Edward) either to go to university or for employment but we are glad to have the benefit of their fresh perspectives for as long as they are in Beverley.

Most people who join the Council comment positively on their experience - they can contribute and their ideas are listened to; there is active debate, no one is more 'important' than anyone else. And it is fun - more dynamic (we are told) than other committees or groups.

The minutes of Council meetings reflect these qualities - and they show how we consider matters with care and justify the decisions we take. We have to thank John Phillips for many things - taking such full minutes is but one of these.

I'll address the question of 'officers' at this year's AGM. Suffice it to say that recruiting people for key jobs is a challenge for all societies such as ours. We fill these positions annually but we do need new people to come forward.

Conclusion

To look every so often at the above criteria, and see how well the organisation measures against them, helps us decide where to place our energies in a world that is constantly changing.

Roger Lewis



Friends' outing to Gisborough Priory in July 2022

Programme Secretary's Report

The first event of 2022, following the successful Epiphany Organ Recital reported in the last Newsletter, was the April Study Day, entitled 'Architecture and the Arts in Churches and Cathedrals in the 20th Century', which was created and presented by Roger Willson. Roger has delivered several excellent Study Days for the Friends in the past and this latest one was no exception. Twenty-eight delegates were treated to four lectures which approached the subject in a most engaging and informative manner. Roger's relaxed and yet meticulous style led us on an amazing journey...Part one examined the Architectural Setting: church and cathedral buildings of the 20th century but seen against the background of previous styles; Part two looked at the Arts and Crafts Movement in church buildings and furnishings from the late Victorian period to well into the 20th century. After a buffet lunch, the subject matter focussed on the Arts in our Churches in the post-1945 decades and the final session reflected on Recent Decades and the Contemporary scene. The day ended with a meditative presentation set to music. The Study Day as a whole was inspiring, not least for the incredible range of architectural styles and buildings of all denominations covered in Roger's visual interpretation.

The Evenings in June guided tours comprised two held in Beverley Minster and one in St Mary's Parish Church. John Phillips, through his meticulous research, established concrete evidence of the earlier dating of the Minster than had previously been assumed. His talk and tour, entitled 'New Discoveries at Beverley Minster – Trees and Stones', focussed on the findings that he and Dr Stuart Harrison had

made in recent years. Using dendrochronology to assess and date the roof timbers and by examining the masons' marks in the building, the earlier date of 1188 was achieved with greater accuracy. Twenty six people attended the event. The visit to St Mary's Parish Church attracted a smaller gathering and our guide was Dr Jennie England, Heritage Learning Officer for St Mary's. We enjoyed a most informative evening re-visiting the church from new perspectives and examining the recent restoration which was almost completed. Such was the interest of participants that time ran out... Finally, Mike Robson, the Captain of the Tower and Keeper of the Steeple at the Minster provided an evening of 'Anecdotes and History' for a group of some eighteen people. The first part of the evening was devoted to bells and bell ringing at the Minster, covering the history and some of the present day problems encountered in replacing and recasting bells, including the materials used for clappers and the tuning process. A tour of the building followed highlighting some of Mike's favourite, but lesser seen gems in the Minster, drawing on over fifty years' experience of working there and delivered in his own inimitable style. One such 'find' was a tiny gargoyle hidden under a small tile in the west nave floor, which added a touch of humour to the evening. Overall, the attendances of the June Tours attracted not only members of The Friends, but church welcomers, parishioners and people from the wider community and social media helped in this respect.

The annual Coach Tour this year focussed on two locations in North Yorkshire, firstly the Knights Templar Preceptory at Foulbridge Farm

near Snainton discovered in the later 20th century followed by the remains of Gisborough Priory. We were fortunate to have a mild day with plenty of sunshine after rather a dull start. Morning coffee was taken at the Old Lodge in Malton (complete with homemade biscuits) and we were joined by our guide for the day, Dr Stuart Harrison, at Foulbridge. Mr Andrew Nutt, after welcoming the group of thirty five, explained how his mother had first discovered the building, which was contained within two adjoining farm houses and is now a grade one listed building. Dr Harrison gave additional background information about the Knights Templar movement in general and its place in European history. We were then invited to look more closely at the structure and architecture of this 'hidden gem' and family photographs relating to the building were available to browse through. Some also enjoyed a short time in the garden. Back on the coach, we headed for Hutton-le-Hole and our lunchtime stop at the Barn Guesthouse. A warm welcome awaited us and a delicious spread of savouries and cakes were devoured with relish. A journey over the Moors to Guisborough followed via the historic parish of Danby. Gisborough Priory was our first port of call where Dr Stuart Harrison gave a very informative talk about the site and remaining structures, placing it within the historic background of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. A short walkabout of the site followed when explanation was given about some of the stone relics scattered on the ground. The last half hour was devoted to visiting the nearby parish church of St Nicholas, which contains the De Brus Cenotaph, a memorial to the medieval De Brus family. A most interesting talk was given by

local historian and church member Roger Darnton, placing the history of the church in context with that of the town and area. The De Brus Cenotaph was highlighted as well as other features such as the architecture and the stained glass. We were particularly grateful to the church warden and Mr Darnton for their willingness to keep the church open after closing time in order to accommodate our visit. The final stop was for tea/coffee and cake at the nearby Gisborough Hall Hotel served in the large conservatory annex. Our evening sun-drenched return journey took the coastal route, passing Whitby on the left, with the North York Moors to the right and cutting across to Pickering, Malton and thence to Beverley – a perfect finish to a memorable day.

Details of the October weekend (Saturday 8th October and Sunday 9th October 2022) appear after this report. Both lectures will be delivered by experts in their field - Dr Susan Neave and Dr Kate Giles, respectively. It is hoped that a musical interlude will follow the AGM before the St John of Beverley Lecture. Evensong in the Minster will follow the Sunday events commencing at 17.30. Unfortunately, we were not able to arrange the Annual Dinner on the Friday evening of the weekend, due to a prior booking having been made at Cerutti 2. We will try to make sure that this event is re-instated next year.

Thank you to all members who have attended our Events Programme in the last year, your support has been invaluable and much appreciated

October Weekend Programme

Friday 7th October – Sunday 9th October 2022

Saturday 8th October

2.00pm Annual General Meeting

3.15pm St John of Beverley Annual Lecture

'The Minster Precinct from the Middle Ages to the mid-18th century' Speaker: Dr Susan Neave

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: Free for Friends; £6 per person for non-Friends attending the lecture and buffet

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Sunday 9th October

2.00pm 'The Medieval Wall Paintings of Pickering: Discovery, Restoration and Meaning'

Speaker: Dr Kate Giles

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: £5 per person for Friends; £6 per person for non-Friends attending

For further details see the Minster website. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

5.30pm Choral Evensong in Beverley Minster

Saturday 7th January 2023

6.00pm EPIPHANY ORGAN RECITAL by Robert Poyser (Director of Music, Beverley Minster) followed by refreshments (sponsored by the Friends).

'Messiaen: La Nativité du Seigneur'

BOOKING ENQUIRIES:

The Programme Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster, 85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

E-mail: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk Telephone 01482 442221

Please use the enclosed form to apply for places OR use our website to make enquiries.

Vicar's Report

In some ways the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic now seem to belong to the distant past. We are back in the Minster, running a full programme of services and events, and seem to be as busy as ever. The Flower Festival earlier this summer was a magnificent effort and created a real buzz in the community as well as generating funds for the Minster. Other events around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were well supported and showed the town and county that we are very much still in business.

Nevertheless, things are not quite as they were in 2019; some of the changes made because of the pandemic have not yet been reversed, such as holding Choral Evensong in the nave rather than in the Quire. This isn't purely because of caution about rates of infection in enclosed spaces, but is also to do with the complexities of streaming services online. This has become a standard expectation, and is easier to do well in the nave than in the Quire because of the way the equipment is set up.

At Communion services we are not yet sharing the common cup, and are keeping this under review. In all sorts of other small ways the changes made over the last two years or so are still with us, and this has contributed to a sense of continuing disruption, perhaps exacerbated because the reason for it is no longer at the front of our minds.

The sense of continuous and disorientating change is also heightened by the Vision Strategy, which was outlined in last year's Vicar's Report. As we have emerged from the restrictions, so a range of new initiatives has been getting under way. The most obvious of

these has been the introduction of a new pattern of services.

The Minster now runs five services every Sunday, up from the three we used to offer before the pandemic. The new services include a very informal activity-based service in the Parish Hall on Sunday afternoons aimed at families with young children. It normally attracts 30 or so people, most of whom were not previously weekly worshippers.

The other new arrival is a contemporary-style service at 9.15am which is aimed at adults but is more interactive and visual than the more traditional services. There is still an element of trial and error around this service, and through the summer of 2022 we are experimenting with a regular 'Café Church' format allowing folk to discuss the Bible and contemporary issues around tables.

Meanwhile the old 10.30 service has moved to 11am and has been streamlined to give a slightly enhanced role to the choir. The Director of Music's Report will highlight the many ways in which the choir is developing and enriching the life and worship of the Minster. The new pattern of services is under review and there will be further reflection on how it is working. All of the services have healthy, viable congregations and it is clear that the increased diversity of style has attracted new people even though some existing members have not returned since the pandemic.

The Vision Strategy has also led to a new group looking at how the church engages with environmental concerns, which will be running a programme of events through September

and October. A new Pastoral Team is planning several initiatives this autumn to support people who are bereaved, alone or housebound and it is encouraging to see fresh energy being released to serve in this area.

Outreach into the wider community has increased, for example with a weekly offering of Collective Worship in each of our three Church schools. Relationships with the schools has always been good, but the frequency and depth of engagement has now changed gear. We have also recently entered a formal agreement with Hope Into Action, a national charity working with churches to support people at risk of homelessness. This is a project shared with Churches Together in Beverley but in which the Minster will play a key role. We hope to report more about this next year but it is an exciting venture which should make a significant difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our town.

An array of other initiatives is waiting in the wings and will get going as time and capacity permit. Suffice it to say that there is an air of confidence and new life in many parts of the Minster community. The purpose of the Vision Strategy is to create a stronger sense of shared purpose by growing the church, deepening Christian discipleship and reaching out into the wider community, and these initiatives should all be understood in that light.

Less positively, one area which was badly affected by the pandemic and has not yet recovered is the opportunity for social activity, and we hope to see this revive over the next year. Even more seriously, the financial

concerns mentioned in last year's Vicar's Report have not gone away. Indeed, progress in addressing them has been limited by problems related to staff turnover and accountancy outsourcing, with some unsatisfactory results. A new finance team is working to clarify the scale of the problem faced by the PCC in balancing its books, but there is no doubt that the pandemic has led to the erosion of reserves and a much more challenging outlook. Last year's Report outlined some possible responses to this situation, but until we can achieve clarity about the current position it would be unwise to make strategic decisions which might later be regretted.

Meanwhile visitor numbers have been increasing, coach tours are returning, and the shop has reported record-breaking turnover. A growing number of outside organisations are asking to use the Minster for concerts and events, and we are trying, with our limited staff capacity, to develop more professional ways of meeting the expectations of the wider world.

We are indebted to our hard-pressed staff and many committed volunteers (of whom many are members of the Friends) for all that they have been doing to help the Minster recover from the pandemic as well as it has, and who give such cause for hope as we develop new pathways of growth. We are also indebted to the Friends for their support with the major works on the Minster roof which were such a feature of last year, and anticipate further opportunities for partnership in the coming months.

Jonathan Baker

Membership Secretary's Report

Liz Grove, Hon. Membership Secretary

Isn't it great to be able to properly Friend-ly again. It has been great to catch up with people and revel in our glorious Minster. Recitals have been particularly welcome: it's lovely to hear the building breathe again. Perhaps I should apologise to those new Friends who got nabbed by me at these events but you were such pleasant people and we're delighted to welcome you as new Friends.

This year we're celebrating an exciting report – we have gained more new Friends than sadly lost some. This is the first time this has happened in the 7 years that I've been doing this job and is really pleasing. Last year we had 432 Friends, this year 445 (28.8.22)

I am asked, particularly by new Friends, why you don't hear from us more often. There are several reasons for this.

Firstly, every Council official is a volunteer and, while keen and enthusiastic, under everyday pressures to keep up with life. Our two annual communications, the Spring Newsletter and the Autumn Annual Report, are our established contacts and we work hard to ensure that they keep you as up to date as possible. But these take time and money, even if you receive the information electronically. Time and money we gladly offer, but increasingly we are using social media (Facebook) to advertise what is going on. See Friends of Beverley Minster page.

Secondly, our role is to support the structure and enhancement of the Minster. That is the

primary role of the Friends, and while we're delighted that people want to be involved, our first duty is to use our efforts and money to fulfil these obligations.

Thirdly, while local support is wonderful, we also have Friends all over the world, equally keen to support us. Events for locals are great but we keep our priorities focused on the Minster. We remain delighted that people want to be a Friend of the Minster and hope that you appreciate what we try to do to fulfil our role – and be Friends!

New members since September 2021:

Mr S Bailey, of Beverley
Miss A. Bedlington, of Beverley
Mrs E Burt, of Beverley
Mr R Care, of Filey
Miss A Chapman, of Beverley
Mr G Cox, of Beverley
Mr P Edwards, of Eclépens, Switzerland
Mr M Eldred, of Hull
Mr & Mrs Fatkin, of Beverley
Dr G Fawcett, of Lockington
Ms K Fraser, of Beverley
Revd & Mrs Hawkes, of Beverley
Dr L Hawkins, of Hull
Rt Revd & Mrs James, retired Bishop of Bradford, of Beverley
Mr & Mrs Johnson, Lady Mayor of Beverley
Dr Joan Kemp, of Cherry Burton
Mr & Mrs Kirby, of Beverley
Mr & Mrs MacLachan, of Beverley
Ms Mary Mead, of North Newbald, near Beverley – our new Chair elect!
Mrs Berna Moody, local historian, of Beverley
Mrs L Robinson, of Beverley

Mrs J Stewart, of Lewes
Mr G Wilkinson, of Purley-on-Thames
Mr J Young, of Rothwell, Leeds

All most welcome!

Deaths

Mrs C Burley, of Bushey
Mrs J Gibson, of Leven
Mr Stephen Hird, of Beverley

Mrs Lorna Jones, a stalwart of the Minster and leading figure in the work of the Friends.

She was a genuinely Christian Friend, also past Social Secretary and Hon. Vice President
Mr Ian Goldthorpe, artist, of Grassington, author of a book on the Victorian architecture of Hull and regular participant in Friends' events.

Mr & Mrs N Parkinson, of Selby

All remembered with thankfulness for their Friendship.

Please let me know if there is someone who should know about, be the news happy or sad.



Report by the Director of Music

Flexibility has been the watchword for the past few years in the music department as rules have changed, covid has waxed and waned and new services introduced. The 11am Eucharist, as introduced in January, has provided the choir with an excellent opportunity to learn a variety of new Mass Settings. We hope you are enjoying the newfound variety of music we can offer at this service – there are plenty more to come!

It was good to restart the Junior Choir in the summer of 2021 under the expert direction of Rachel Dent. It has attracted a number of new families and young people to the Minster and the children are singing with great enthusiasm and energy. The Junior Choir is a great way to start off singing at the Minster and we hope that, as in the past, as its members become older, they join the Boys' and Girls' choirs.

The Minster Choir is around 33% new since we restarted regular singing in the Summer of 2020 and its current membership sits at around 68, 46 of whom are under 18. It has been lovely to welcome new people to the ranks, both adults and children, as we rebuild in the not quite post-pandemic world. Look out for our latest recruitment initiatives coming up later this year, and, as ever, do spread the word about our choir and encourage people, especially boys (!) to come forward and join. Being in a choir was a fabulous experience for me as a child and encouraging others to share in this unique opportunity is a really great thing.

The choir have been really busy since we returned to a near-normal timetable in

September 2021. Our regular three choral services a week have been supplemented by concerts, both Christmassy and otherwise. It was particularly good to perform a concert (in the midst of 70 mph winds) in February in memory of Susan Dent. Susan had done so much for the choir, in particular making all of our surplices (the white bits) and helping with so many other things. The concert raised money both for the choir and also MacMillan Cancer Support. In the Summer term we enjoyed getting back to Harpham for the annual evensong and procession to the well. It was good to get back to events that had been traditional pre-covid. Likewise, our end of term concert was a great way to mark the end of a successful year and to publicly thank Tom Moore who has played the organ for us so splendidly this past year. We wish Tom all the best as he takes up a new post as Director of Music at St Matthew's Church Northampton from September 2022.

We have been without an Assistant Organist, a University Organ Scholar and a Junior Organ Scholar for the majority of the past year which has proved somewhat challenging. I have been indebted to the support of Sue Wheeldon and Rachel Dent in leading when no organist is available (especially whilst I was off with covid over Easter) and also to Nick Wise and Ronald and Liz Hawkes, Luca Myers and Mervyn King who have played the organ for a myriad of services so expertly.

We are in full swing planning for a choir tour to Essex in the Autumn. We will sing a concert in Colchester, the days services at Chelmsford Cathedral and evensong in Lincoln Cathedral

on the way home. Choir tours are a great team-building enterprise and previous experiences show that the choir always sings even better after it has been away together!

The organ is mostly in fine shape although we carried out some remedial work on 130-year-old pneumatic drawstop machines in the Summer which delayed the start of our Summer Concert Series by a week. As they failed, certain sounds of the organ were becoming intermittent and then unavailable so it is good to have this work completed with the new electric solenoids modernising this aspect of the organ and adding to its reliability. David Wood (of Wood of Huddersfield) continues his expert care of the instrument which is proving reliable even in the somewhat chilly environs of the Minster! This is very much the first phase of similar work which we will progress in stages over the next few years. Nearly 30 years has elapsed since the last major rebuild so it is vital to keep on top of maintenance to keep such a major project well into the future. We were delighted to receive a generous donation to enable us to replace our rather temperamental keyboard with a splendid Johannus One in the Autumn. This has proved really useful as, along with being a very decent piano sound, it also works as a chamber organ allowing me to direct from the keyboard.

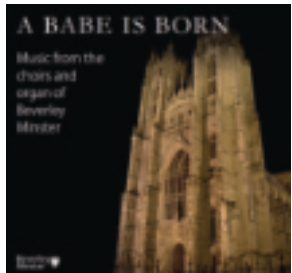
Our choral foundation scheme has also been the recipient of a grant of £30,000 from the Deflog Foundation. This scheme, which allows our choristers to learn an instrument has proved a success since it was set up with the support of the Friends of the Minster in 2017. The Deflog foundation will provide us with three instalments of £10,000 over three years which will help safeguard this vital part of our music ministry for years to come. It is wonderful to see that an initiative, funded by

the Friends has been judged a success and has attracted significant further funding. Thank you so much for backing this and for all of your support of the Music at the Minster.

I have also been busy plotting concerts. Our Friday lunchtime series is back up and running and proving as popular as ever. Do look out for the Autumn series starting in September. We also have a full organ recital series in the Summer with a particular highlight being David Briggs, an inspirational organist, currently residing at St John the Divine in New York. I was David's organ scholar at Gloucester Cathedral when I was at school and his playing is truly stunning!

There are significant challenges ahead, but it has been good to have a near normal year of music after the challenges of the recent past. The choir have bounced back remarkably well and we look forward to welcoming the Cathedral Music Trust to visit us on the 5th November to hear our choir and find out more about the music life of Beverley Minster.

Robert Poyser, Director of Music



Our latest CD featuring choral and organ music for Christmas is available to buy online from the Minster Shop. Visit our website for our latest books, CDs and gifts.
www.beverleyminster.org.uk

Report by the Minster Surveyor

Since my last report there have been some changes to the Beverley Minster Old Fund maintenance team as we start a process of change within the team that will shape the way we maintain the Minster in years to come. Our search for a replacement for Steve Rial our Plumber Glazier who will retire after 33 years' service in October didn't quite produce the results we were looking for as no suitable candidates applied for the role. We did, however, have a successful application from Rob Dodson a stone mason who had worked as an apprentice under Dennis Massey (mason) in a previous job. He was at the time working in the caravan industry and we were able to offer him a way back into masonry where he had done his training. He went into his dad's garage to dig out his mason's tools and joined us in November. Since joining us Dennis has taken him under his wing and he has become a key member of our small and effective maintenance team.

Since the completion of the larger funded roof project (lesser south transept and nave) the BMOF team have got back to 'normal' over the last 12 months. There has been some work to complete off the back of these projects which we have picked up and have either completed or are in the process of doing so. With this in mind the team will start the final sections of low level stone on the lesser south transept left by the NHLF funded project. The final section of work will be completed in August 2022 when we install the final stones into the gable elevation. With Dennis busy carving pinnacles, the new stones on this elevation, as they were on the eastern elevation will be Rob Dodson's first stones going into the Minster

fabric after his return to his mason's tools. He still has to perfect his mason mark, but a future John Phillips will be able to identify his work in the centuries to come.

Our new two man mason team has never been busier or more productive. Whilst Rob has carved the lesser south stones Dennis has been busy carving replacement pinnacles that went up on the lesser north transept roof during July. We replaced the two pinnacles highlighted by the Minster Architect and fitted a new finial to a third. We did intend to replace the eroded finial with one we had stored, but this cracked when we tried to install it. After reported trip issues we have also replaced the bottom step to the north transept that over the years had turned slightly on its very limited foundation. The team carved and placed the lower step in four sections of stone weighing over 250kgs using a special lifting rig. They also replaced a number of paving stones on the top landing to complete the job prior to the Jubilee Flower (and Gin) festivals. Several other paving stone and floor slabs have been swapped out within the building where they have cracked or worn over time.

Steve Rial with his glazing hat on has restored two windows in the lesser south transept running alongside the lower level stone mentioned above to help us maximise the cost of the scaffold. Recently he also completed window in the north transept which will be his last big window before he retires in October. He has also fabricated a window at the request of the tower captain to go in the northwest tower where jackdaws have broken through

the protective mesh on a window and nested in the opening. This will be installed in the coming weeks. With his heavier lead hat on, he has been supporting the masons and undertaking roofing and gutter repairs around the areas that we have had scaffolded.

Whilst doing these planned works, the team have been also undertaking the cyclical maintenance works such as ensuring the rainwater comes to ground via the downpipes by keeping the gutters/pipes and gullies clear, monitoring the movement in the roof and treating invasive plants growing on the building.

During 2022 BMOF funded the working at height training for our team and the virger team. This was followed on by the rescue from height training which was expanded to include the roof tour guides and include an exercise to show how to evacuate a casualty from the central tower through the central boss. This is something that will now be an annual part of the teams' training programme to ensure that if an incident happens in the roof we can safely get someone down to the ground. Joint training going forward will also include firefighting/warden training as it has included first aid training in the past. All designed to make the working/using and visiting experience a safe one.

Steve has gathered the craftsmen's marks/ graffiti taken from the lesser south transept and nave roofs and mounted these on a board which is now position in the north transept roof void for roof tour visitors to enjoy. It would be good in the future to be able to share these and the roof tour experience with the less mobile/partially mobile who are unable to climb the steps up to the roof.

You may be aware that we have, for the first time, had nesting peregrines on the Southwest tower. Previously, they had only been visitors coming in from their nesting site in Walkington to teach the fledglings to hunt off the southwest tower. This seems to be as a result of a meeting with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on the tower roof and the team relocating the nest box onto the South side of the tower. We had two fledglings who have been making a lot of noise and mess around the Minster and have brought new interest to the building. Discussions will be held very soon as to how we can capture next (and future) years fledglings. We have gathered together the costings for the installation of cameras so that we can have a live feed on websites as well as having the same live feed somewhere in the church. We need to ascertain if there is interest to move this project forward.

After COVID delays, the Minster architect (Andy Burrell) has now issued the Quinquennial Inspection survey report. Andy has spoken to a number of people at the Minster to gather information and ensure that he has included as much data as possible in this report which will be the cornerstone in planning the next five years workload at the Minster.

The roof alarm was fitted using funding from Ecclesiastical Insurances All Churches Trust topped up by BMOF. This alarm covers the low roof over the accessible entrance, virgers office, toilets, shop store and boiler house, which is the only real roof accessible for potential lead theft. These areas and the Highgate entrance are also covered by the BMOF funded CCTV system fixed to the Hall and linked to the Beverley Town Council system.

In June a Beverley Civic Society event was held in the west end of the Minster. This is something which had been discussed for a number of years and part of the Civic Society Day where they visited us in the morning and St Mary's after lunch. The topic of the seminar was based around the Great West window and its issues, historical significance and possible restoration. Dr Sarah Brown from York Glaziers' Trust who carried out the last inspection of all the Minster glass presented to approximately 50 attendees at no cost. The presentation was well received and has raised a lot of interest in how we can move the restoration of the Great West window forward from the 2028 date currently set provisionally in the Two Churches One Two plan. During the event a small number of interested parties were taken up close to the window so that they could take a look at the condition of the glass and the test panel that was carried out three years ago by the Old Fund. The Sanctuary Project Learning and Engagement Officers Cathy and Anna (pictured below), played a supporting role during the morning and enthralled attendees with some of the activities they have been undertaking which the local schools. In all it was a good event,



well supported and possibly a good first step to starting the restoration of this important window.

A future funding committee has been formed pulling together BMOF, friends, PCC and Two Churches One Town. Although in its early days initial meetings have been positive, bringing the parties together to discuss funding and priorities for the building.

Away from public eyes the Old Fund have undertaken some improvements to the masons' building in the yard replacing the roof and main entrance door/window to increase access and the light into Dennis's carving room. We have ordered some more effective dust extraction units which we hope will be installed in the very near future as we start to think about 2023's planned works and the increased output of the masons. Cutting lists will be prepared in the next four to six weeks so we can start carving for replacement pinnacles which will be going in various locations around the high roofs over the next two to three years.

Simon Delaney



From top left: North Transept steps before and after
 New pinnacles on the lesser North Transept.
 Window N17 before and after
 Sarah Brown presenting
 Rob placing his first pieces of stone in the Lesser south transept

Farewell to Steve Rial, Beverley Minster's Plumber and Glazier



On October 7th Steve Rial, plumber-glazier to the Minster for 33 years retires. The Friends would like to express our profound thanks to Steve for all his work over those years, amongst many other tasks, keeping the building watertight by repairing leaks in the leads, and also for his skill in making and replacing a large number of the leaded lights in the Minster. His other skills have included removing leaves from the roof drainage system, and countless other day to day tasks to keep our magnificent building sound for future generations. His skills are proving impossible to replace.

We wish Steve a long and happy retirement, success with his new book on the Manx TT races, and many pleasurable hours on his motorbike.



Saint John of Beverley - Fact and Fiction

Some 'facts' related in previous centuries

Sometimes stories about the life of St John of Beverley are difficult to unravel – what is fact, what is fiction and what is tradition.

During the lifetime of St John, the Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria stretched from the Humber up to the Ayrshire coast. The northern part of the kingdom was known as Bernicia and the southern part Deira. The period from the beginning of the 7th to the end of the 8th century AD is often called the 'Golden Age of Northumbria' when art, culture and learning flourished under a succession of Northumbrian kings.

The exact date and place of John of Beverley's birth is as yet unknown. For many years there has been a tradition that he was born in the village of Harpham (nine miles north of Beverley) which has a church dedicated to his name. Today, however historians suspect (but as yet have no proof) that his birthplace was Bernicia.

Almost all information about the life of John comes from the writings of St Bede, a monk, who from the age of seven, lived in a monastery at Jarrow-Monkwearmouth. Bede wrote many books about the Christian faith. His most famous book 'The Ecclesiastical History of the English People' records the history of the English up to the time of his death in 735AD and describes the growth of the Christian church in Northumbria. He devotes five chapters to tell the story of the life, miracles and death of John. Bede had a great respect for John and portrays him as a



1

Christ-like figure, a man of peace who 'liked to walk in the countryside with his companions, preaching and healing'.

He recalls that John began his priestly training at Whitby Abbey and that in 687AD, when the bishop of Hexham resigned, John, 'a man of great holiness and humility', became bishop. Bede knew John personally for on at least two occasions, Bishop John visited Jarrow first to confirm Bede as deacon and later as a priest.

In 705AD, after eighteen years as Bishop of Hexham, John was appointed Bishop of York

where he remained for 13 years. When, 'owing to advancing years', Bishop John decided to retire, he went to a monastery he had founded, 'where he ended his days in a way of life honouring to God'. Bede records five stories about occasions when Bishop John appears to have brought about miraculous healing. Several stories about the miracles of Bishop John were told to Bede by Berthun, abbot of the monastery at 'Inderawuuda', meaning 'in the wood of the men of Deira'. Today, archaeological excavation confirms the existence of a Saxon monastic settlement on the site where the present Beverley Minster is situated.

On 7th May 721AD Bishop John died and Bede tells us that his remains were buried in the church attached to that monastery. It seems likely that soon after the death of Bishop John pilgrims came to visit the place where this man with a reputation of holiness had both lived and died. The fact that he had performed

miracles during his lifetime showed that he was favoured by God.

There are no records of what happened to that early church; the monastic buildings may well have been destroyed during Viking raids. The next reliable information we have is that by 934AD there was a church at Breveli (first use of that name) centred round the tomb of Bishop John and that his Feast Day was celebrated in the North of England, in France and in Italy.

King Athelstan visits Beverley?

In 937AD Athelstan, first king of all England, travelled north with his army to fight the Scots. After his success at the battle of Brunanburh he gave certain rights and privileges to the town and the church which housed the remains of John of Beverley – rights such as:
a. The right to be a Collegiate Church, thus called a Minster, a church run by canons



2



b. The right of sanctuary – a right which covered the whole town of Beverley

c. The right of thraves (tithes) to be paid on lands in East Yorkshire belonging to the canons

d. The right for the town to be exempt from paying the king's tax

150 years after the event William Kettle, an official at Beverley Minster, told the story of John of Beverley which included a tale of how King Athelstan, left his army to come to Beverley in order to ask for the support of John of Beverley in battle. We are told that 'he visited the tomb and poured out hearty prayers and drenched the pavement with his tears'. This story, maybe written to demonstrate the importance of Beverley and its saint, has been repeated over the years but recently historians making further investigations have concluded that Athelstan would not have left his army to come to Beverley. The story promoted the town of Beverley and made known the rights and privileges which had already been given by to the church and town. In the Minster today are many statues and images showing St John and King Athelstan together. In medieval times many believed that while St John of Beverley was the founder of the Saxon monastery, King Athelstan was the founder of the collegiate church.

Bishop John is canonised

300 years after his death, John of Beverley was canonised and became known as St John of Beverley.

1066 was the year of the Norman invasion. A year later the Archbishop of York, Eldred (who was Lord of the Manor of Beverley) invited a monk named, Folcard to write the story of St

John. In his account Folcard lists the miracles which occurred at St. John's tomb and concludes by saying 'through the merits of the saint cripples were cured, demons were banished, the blind were made to see, the deaf were made to hear, the mute were made to speak, the lame were made to walk and all kinds of ailments were put to flight; and our sins were wiped out through his intervention'. No doubt Eldred's intention in commissioning Folcard to write the story of St John was to make the new Norman rulers aware of the power of Beverley's saint. Spreading knowledge about the miraculous healings would encourage pilgrims from far and wide to come to the church where the remains of the saint were believed to lie.

3



The Chapter Act Book of the Collegiate Church of St John of Beverley (1286-1347) reports some of the miracles which occurred at the Minster at Beverley. An entry for 22nd July 1318 reads that 'Miracles wrought through the prayer of the Confessor John of Beverley should be known that God's glory in St John's church might be exalted by its being more frequented'.

Three accounts of miraculous healing then follow. One story was of 'John, son of William of North Ferriby, aged ten became dumb; marked with a cross in the Priory of Ferriby, a vow to visit Beverley being made, his speech was restored. Next day he became blind. They brought him to St John's tomb and after a short stay he received his sight'. As was usual



he was examined by an official at the Minster before a miracle was declared.

All publicity would be for a purpose – when news of the power of the saint was spread it would encourage pilgrims to visit the church and money and gifts received from pilgrims contributed towards the cost of building. A devotee of St John was Julian of Norwich (1342-1416), a mystic who wrote about her religious experiences. She declared that John of Beverley was an example of someone who having sinned in his youth, had shown humility and contrition during his life and was thus raised by God to a state of grace.

By early 16th century Protestants had begun to actively reject Catholic images. A Dutch folktale, *Historie van Jan van Beverley*, first printed in Brussels in 1512, tells the story of John, a hermit, who is tricked by the devil into choosing between drunkenness, unchastity or murder. He chose the first and ended up by committing the other two by raping and murdering his sister; thus, proving the mercy of God in giving forgiveness however bad the sin.

The True Facts

For 800 years after the death of St Bede, until the mid-16th century pilgrims came in great number to pray before the tomb of St John of Beverley. These pilgrims brought wealth to the town and to the magnificent church which, it was believed, housed the remains of its saint.

The town of Beverley grew and developed as a result of the rights and privileges given to the church and town firstly by King Athelstan and later by many of the medieval kings of England who respected Beverley's saint. Most of them

visited his tomb and gave further rights and privileges to the town. Several asked to take the banner of St John of Beverley with them as they went north to fight the Scots.

4



the canons, became redundant, the right of thaves no longer went to the church. The freedom from paying the king's tax had long ago disappeared.

Today, pilgrims continue to come to the

The Church in England (under the authority of the Pope) becomes the Church of England (with the monarch as Supreme Governor)

Nicholas Orme (Emeritus Professor of History at Exeter University) in his book 'Going to church in Medieval England' (2021), states that in 1536 Henry VIII, 'ordered clergy to educate their congregations about the right use of images and relics. Such objects should not be treated superstitiously with incense, kneeling and offerings but worship should be done only to God. Saints could be prayed to but without belief that they were patrons of particular causes or that prayer to them was more effective than it was to Christ'.

In 1540 the Right of Sanctuary at the Collegiate Church in Beverley, was abolished.

On Easter Day, 1548 the order came that images that attracted pilgrimage or offerings were to be taken down. The Collegiate Church of St John the Evangelist at Beverley lost its collegiate status and became a parish church. The 74 officials at the Minster, which included

Minster church at Beverley, built in honour of St John, only today we call them tourists. Once again, the church offers sanctuary to people in need.

Whatever the facts, or the fiction or the truths as yet undiscovered, this supreme example of gothic architecture stands as a lasting memorial to St John of Beverley.

On 24th October 2021 a Catholic High Mass was celebrated in Beverley Minster (with permission of the Revd. Canon Jonathan Baker, vicar of the Minster) - believed to be the first since the Reformation. The ceremony was conducted by Bishop Terry, bishop of Middlesbrough. The church was filled with members of the Roman Catholic community who had come to celebrate the feast day of St John of Beverley.

1301 years after the death of our saint, this great building is still used for the same purpose as that 8th century monastery - 'a place for honouring God'.

Pamela Hopkins



1. Picture of stained glass window in north-west corner of nave. 1919 designed by Hardman and Co. The left-hand side shows Bishop John of Hexham ordaining the Venerable Bede.
2. In 1416 a new east window was placed Beverley Minster. As pilgrims approached the church from Flemingate they would see the two stone figures at the top of the window: on the right St John of Beverley (note the beaver at his feet) and on the left King Athelstan (holding the copy of the king's charter for Beverley and its minster).
3. 1781 somewhat romanticised lead statues of St John and King Athelstan - originally placed at the entrance to the chancel as part of Hawksmoor's screen.
4. A post reformation, possibly early 17th century picture of King Athelstan holding a copy of the charter while St John of Beverley points to the king - whom he never met for they lived 300 years apart.

Above. In 1308 a new gold and silver shrine was placed, probably behind the altar in Beverley Minster. In 1312 Queen Margaret, widow of Edward 1st after hearing mass in the Minster fixed a gold ornament on the shrine. In 1318 Lady Isabella of France, consort of Edward II presented a precious jewel to the shrine. The reredos at the Minster has, above the door to the concealed staircase, a carving showing St John of Beverley, founder of that 8th century monastery, and King Athelstan carrying his charter.

Beverley Minster - the Timeline

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, since 2012 a programme of dendrochronological sampling of the roof timbers in the Minster has progressed to the point when in March 2022 the final session of tests was completed by sampling in the choir roof. This was the final piece in a very large jigsaw of some 180 samples and completed the survey of all the main roofs of the Minster. Together with the use of other disciplines such as documentation, studies of stone and brickwork, as well as a return to the original research on masons' marks, the dendrochronology has enabled the assembly of a comprehensive timeline for the building of Beverley Minster which is outlined below. Readers are advised that this is an article, not a report, so it isn't referenced in the text. A full report by the authors is scheduled to appear in a journal and online in 2023 which will, as an archaeological report, be much more detailed and fully referenced.

On 21st September 1188, a chronicler tells us that 'Beverley and all its churches' was burned. The church in existence at that time was the Norman predecessor of the present building which stood on the same footprint. We know this because excavations in 2003 outside the nave walls found the foundations and lower courses of the Norman nave in the same positions as those of the present building. In the event only part of the Norman church seems to have been severely damaged, and this is likely to have been the east, and most important part of the building, the canons' church. The nave survived and was used until after the second decade of the 14th century as we shall see. The canons decided to take the opportunity to build a brand new church in the

new pointed style and must have begun almost immediately, because the first fact that the dendrochronology gives us is that the eastern part of the building was roofed by 1206, and in use. A remarkably short time of about 17 years. The south transept followed by 1218 and the north a little later.

The Minster, in effect, functioned as two buildings throughout the medieval period. The canons' church, the powerhouse of the building housing the liturgy of the regular services, the high altar dedicated to St John the Evangelist, and the shrine of St John, functioned as a separate building east of the present organ screen. It was in effect a separate church consisting of a choir, central tower with transepts and a retrochoir. This was the 'private' space devoted to the college with a chapter house attached to the north, which was of two storeys, with a sacristy and probably a treasury in the undercroft, and the octagonal chapter house itself, approached by the beautiful stairs which still remain in the north choir aisle and a vestibule, on the first floor. The chapter house, dating to the late 12th century, was one of the earliest polygonal chapter houses in the country. The main transepts, which were joined, by two new bays, to the Norman nave, and the rest of the building, functioned as public space, and contained the tomb of St John in the second bay of the nave and this is where later miracles occurred. Also added at the time was the wall of the south nave aisle which extended as far as the present south porch and included a block of reused Norman ashlar.



Romanesque chevron detail



Romanesque chevron behind triforium

The scale of the new build was such that it proceeded apace and was not hampered by demolition of the remains of the Norman church. The present building was planned around the east end of the Norman church, which is why building was able to start very quickly. The builders lost no time in demolishing the Norman building and indeed much of the ashlar was recycled, most of it probably in the foundations of the present building where some can still be seen, recognisable by its diagonal surface striations made with an axe in the lower courses of the walls. There is also a row of Norman corbels in the base of the rose window in the north transept, and reused Romanesque chevron on

voussoirs in the relieving arches behind two bays of the nave triforium.

Some time after the completion of the main building the canons decided that the lantern tower over the crossing of their church would be further embellished by a superstructure above the level of the roofs. Opinions differ as to whether this was a tower or perhaps a spire, the miracle account which details its destruction isn't clear, but what is clear is that the builders were not paying attention to the load bearing capabilities of the design. They were trying to heighten the tower and they inserted the new works "elegantly, rather than firmly, into the old building works" and in spite of visible cracking of the stonework, and apparently using marble columns in a load bearing situation they continued to build "a huge structure of such a remarkably lofty height" that the structure was seen to be in danger of collapse. The miracle story which gives this account tells how the canons were holding their night office in the choir when stones were heard falling off the new work. They retreated to the nave to finish their service, and went home to bed, at which moment a huge crash was heard as the tower fell to the ground bringing down the adjoining parts of the church, (the transepts and retrochoir). This is known to have occurred sometime after 1214, in the month of October. Interestingly, the four main piers of the tower survived as each still contains the staircase used to access upper levels from the clerestory. The canons choir had to be moved into the nave. The shrine and the high altar were set up around the tomb.

It is difficult to be certain how much damage the tower fall did or exactly when it occurred. We do know that the builders salvaged large quantities of roof timbers which they stored



East tower base south side



East tower base north side

the Barons' revolt in 1215-17, the rebuilding apparently took another 30 years which is highly unlikely. The more likely scenario is that the extension to the tower was not actually contemplated and carried out until the 1230s, some 15 -20 years after completion of the main structure. This would possibly explain why the rebuilding was apparently taking place, according to the dendrochronology, in the 1230s and 1240s. The high altar was dedicated in 1261, presumably to mark the completion of the repairs.



Purbeck marble moulding on ruined west side of eastern crossing north side



North side of crossing from above

Perhaps the canons were short of money. An indulgence was granted by Archbishop Walter de Grey in 1232 for those who supported the

funding of the fabric which was "miserabili ruina.... enormiter deformata", and Henry III gave 40 oaks from Sherwood Forest for the fabric in 1245 and again in 1252, presumably for the replacement roof. These oaks were used in the roofs of the two eastern transepts, the roof which replaced the tower, and the roof over the retrochoir and are dated to 1234-59 by dendrochronology and can be identified as sourced from Sherwood Forest, a source of timber which was also being utilised at about the same time by Lincoln cathedral.

In 1292 the canons issued a contract to Roger of Faringdon, a London Goldsmith for the making of a new splendid and elaborate gold and silver shrine for St John. The work was not completed until 1308 when the balance of the money in the shrine fund was transferred to the fabric fund for the building of a new nave, and it is assumed that work began soon afterwards. The Archbishops of York issued indulgences for the Fabric in 1302 and again in 1308, and Elias de Lumby was appointed collector for the fabric by Chapter in the dioceses of York, Durham, Carlisle and Lincoln.

The builders' first task was to update the wall of the south aisle of the nave. The parish of St Martin had an altar in the nave of the Romanesque church which would have to be moved so that the parish services could continue to function while the rebuilding continued. The new church of St Martin was built on the first floor above the charnel house situated outside the south west corner of the Romanesque nave. The altar of St Martin was moved into it in 1324. Work was probably spasmodic for the first few years and then interrupted by the Great Famine of 1315-1317 which must have stopped building completely. 25-30% of the population died during these years, of malnutrition and other causes, up to

80% of farm animals died of diseases, and the recovery lasted until 1322 and beyond, and some scholars think that the after effects were still being felt when the Black Death struck in 1349.

Another possible cause of delays may have been the incursions of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland and his troops, after their defeat of Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314, who terrorised the north of England for years, and in 1316 raided Yorkshire, burning Northallerton and only sparing Ripon on the payment of 1,000 marks (£333.33). Fearful for their own safety the Canons petitioned Robert the Bruce in October 1322 asking him to take them and all their possessions under his protection 'that they may receive no damage from your men.' The Scots were noted for destroying crops, and the Canons depended on their tax of sheaves of corn from every ploughland in the East Riding for the income to build their church.

Sometime after 1319 William Canon of Corfe on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset supplied a pair of Purbeck marble shafts and bases for the new reredos behind the high altar. These are identical to four shafts supplied by Canon in 1319 to Exeter Cathedral for their new pulpitum, and the details of the purchase are in the Fabric Rolls at Exeter. Perhaps Exeter ordered six of these shafts, but in the event only used four of them. Whatever the circumstances were, the supply of the shafts to Beverley dates the reredos to after 1319. Masons' marks on the reredos are identical to masons' marks on the north aisle of the nave ogee arches carrying the sculptures of the musicians which makes them contemporary. The reredos must have been finished before work started to assemble the Percy Canopy, built to commemorate Lady Eleanor Percy wife

and then used almost one hundred years later to roof the first bays of the nave which covered St John's tomb after the completion of the clerestories, and then to cover the newly reconstructed nave as far as the porches. They are dated before 1202 so that is the only place they could have been reused from.

How the stone structure was affected is also difficult to ascertain. There is a very clear building break in the stonework on the west wall of the south eastern transept, so perhaps all the higher levels were destroyed. According to current thinking, guided by the chronology of the Miracle accounts which are said to have taken place 5 years after the lifting of the Papal Interdict against King John in 1214 and

of the 1st Baron Percy who had predeceased her in 1315. She died in July 1328 at Seamer near Scarborough. The canopy contains the arms of England quartering France which were adopted by Edward III when he claimed the throne of France in 1340, thus giving an approximated date for the construction of the canopy between 1328 and 1340.



Exeter cathedral pulpitum showing the four Purbeck marble piers supplied by William Canon of Corfe in 1319



The reredos at Beverley showing the two identical piers supplied by William Canon of Corfe in Dorset after 1319

Progress on the nave was halted by the Black Death which reached Beverley before June 1349. A partition must have been erected in the bay just to the west of St John's tomb to

separate it from the east part of the building. Stone for the nave piers was brought in as finished articles from the quarry at Tadcaster, a journey of over 60 miles by water which took about two months. All the complex work on the aisles, the ogee arches and the carvings of musicians was done on site in the masons' yard. This is confirmed by the two different sets of masons' marks used on the different sections of the work.

The original intention seems to have been to complete the building. Building St Martins over the charnel to the south west had probably involved demolition of an assumed south west tower of the Romanesque building, sited near the position of the south porch of the nave, in order to join St Martins on to the alignment of the eastern part of the church. The lower courses of the north wall, beyond the future site of the Highgate porch, was also carried on as far as the north west corner and then south as far south as the west doorway.

How far up the building work had gone before the plague struck is difficult to ascertain. There is a series of beam slots on the south clerestory which may indicate that a temporary roof had to be put in place to cover the building site until work could be resumed some time in the future. None of these beam slots exist on the north side perhaps indicating that work had not progressed quite as far as on the south side. Masons' marks show that the walls on the south side had got as far as the base courses of the windows up to the cills and also on the short piers of the screen in front of the windows which would support the vault. Marks on the north side are less advanced.

This period also saw the addition of the clerestories, to a design which is still

essentially Decorated with its complex tracery, but which anticipates the change to Perpendicular. It was done in two sections, the first of which was the bays from the central tower to the east side of the bay containing the porches. The roof frames stored from the east end collapse were taken out of storage, reconstructed, then put on to the nave. The builders removed the lower pitch roof from the first three bays and replaced it with 19 trusses reconstructed from the old timbers, followed by the remainder of the nave as far as the porches. There is a clear building break in the stonework on the exterior at this point, and a marked change in the size of the ashlar used between the east and west spandrels of the main arcade in the bay containing the porches. One or both of the towers of the old Norman west work may still have been standing at this time.



Nave roof transition above porches indicated by the brick infill of a timber beam slot

Work on the final phase of the building, allowing for a period of recovery after the Black Death, must have started circa 1360-

1375. We have a number of different ways to date this period of building. The first is the 'tricking' of the heraldry of the original west window glass by Sir William Dugdale, Garter King of Arms, in 1641. His drawings are preserved in the British Library and show the arms of various people connected to the Minster including the then Archbishop of York, Thomas Arundel, and Richard II king of England. This dates the design of the glass in the window from 1388 when Arundel became Archbishop to 1399 when Richard was deposed by Henry Bolingbroke who later became Henry IV.

Archbishop Richard Neville who had preceded Arundel was accused of treason in February 1388 and fled to France. All his assets, both personal and those of the Archbishopric were frozen. Soon after, the canons petitioned the crown for the release of oaks from South Burton Wood given to them by the Archbishop 'and were cut down before the judgement of forfeiture rendered against him.' Dendrochronology of that section of the roof dates the timbers to no later than 1392 which probably indicates that these were the timbers from South Burton Wood. The roof would have needed to be complete and watertight before the builders contemplated inserting the vaulting.

In 1394 the Governors of the town granted a licence to the canons for the movement of stone from the Beck to the Minster by sledge 'for the repair of the vault beyond St John's tomb,' which clearly indicates the nave vaulting. Masons' marks on the vault ribs indicate that they are contemporary with the structure of the western part of the building including stairs and windows and together with the brickwork which comprises the filling of the webs between the ribs also put the date of this

part of the building towards the end of the 14th century. Logically the vaulting would follow the roofing of the building which needed to be watertight before the vaulting could be built.

The bricks themselves, or 'walltiles' – 'tegulas' as they are referred to – the word brick didn't come into common use until the early 1400s, – can also be fairly accurately placed in the timeline. The bricks used are a unique size, 10.50 x 5.25 x 2 inches, which was peculiar to the Hull area during the 14th century and early part of the 15th. Very similar sized bricks were used for the walls of Hull earlier in the century from a brickyard owned by the De la Pole family which ceased production as soon as the walls were finished. Bricks of a similar size were also used to build parts of Holy Trinity

church at Hull around 1340, and also the gatehouse at Thornton abbey in north Lincolnshire after 1382, where the bricks are recorded as coming from Hull. In 1391 citizens of Beverley were granted a license to produce 3,000 'walltiles' at Grovehill, which may have been the bricks for the Minster vault. Bricks of the same size were used at the Friary, possibly at Watton Priory, and at the North Bar of Beverley which dates to 1409. After that they seem to go out of use in favour of more standard sized bricks. During building works parts of the Minster had to be partitioned off. There was clearly a partition which separated the east end of the building from the nave, just west of St John's tomb. It was probably a wooden wall keyed into the main fabric. There is evidence for its removal in the spandrels of the second and third bays of the nave where

new ashlar was inserted into the walls. This may also have been at the same time as the final demolition of the Norman west façade because Romanesque chevron voussoirs from an arch, which may have been the west portal of the Norman church, were used as relieving arches in the back of the triforium in this area. This time may also have indicated the final joining up of the three sections of the building and the unveiling for the first time of the completed church, and may coincide with the licence to move stone for the 'repair of the vault beyond St John's tomb' quoted above, in 1394.

Work to finish the western towers of the Minster probably continued into the 15th century. Unfortunately dendrochronology of the roof beam in the south western tower to

give a possible end date for the building was not possible, but the masons' marks continue in an unbroken sequence to the tops of the towers so one can assume that the building was a continuous process. By 1419 money for a new tomb for St John to stand in the nave was left to the church by Provost Robert Manfield if it had not been completed in his lifetime, and in 1421 King Henry V visited St John to give thanks for his victory at Agincourt in 1415. It is tempting to imagine that he would have seen the fabric of the building as a more colourful version of the building we see today.

Dr Stuart Harrison FSA, John Phillips FSA

Below: Choir vault. View looking west under the walkway showing the extent of the eastern crossing



Sanctuary Project Update

In 2019 we began a long journey to access funding to begin the process of restoration to the Minster's fabric which our architect had prioritised in his five yearly survey. First on the list was the south lesser transept roof - lead, stone and wood repairs were urgent.

We applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and on our second attempt were successful. As the NLHF is an organisation with responsibility for distributing public money the process was not without its challenges. In order to justify the repair of buildings of national significance, not only do organisations need to match fund any grant given, but about 20% of any grant has to interest and engage with new and diverse groups in society. This prompted us to propose telling our Sanctuary story.

Updates have been given in publications to Friends and we now have an end in sight.

Originally our grant expired in June this year, but given the restrictions experienced during the pandemic we were given an extension to the end of November 2022 to complete all the elements of the project.

This collection of photographs will be a reminder of the various aspects of the project that have been undertaken.

The Friends, in particular, were responsible for match funding the elements of the sanctuary story.

Have a look at our website including a blog by Anna and Cathy about their work.
www.beverleyminster.org.uk

Mervyn King



A concert given by Cecil Jones, a manager at the Open Doors refugee centre, gave a concert attracting a diverse audience.



The south door in the nave has been re-opened to allow access into the churchyard - a place of sanctuary.



The lesser transept south roof was the first restoration project to be completed in May 2021.



The churchyard has 3 new benches, 3 Corten steel planters for herbs and an area of wild flowers.



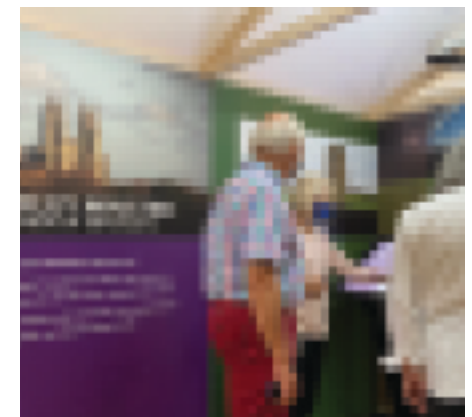
Cathy and Anna are our Learning and Engagement Officers who organise sanctuary themed events. Read their website blog!



Dr Louise Hampson, Revd Canon Jonathan Baker and Mayor of Beverley, Cllr. Linda Johnson, open the sanctuary exhibition.



Our roof and ground floor tours are increasingly popular and have a sanctuary or heritage theme.



Visitors interact with one of our touch screens to find out more about historic and contemporary sanctuary.

Annual Accounts 2020 - 2021

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022

Statement of Financial Activities	2021/22		2020/21
	£	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary Income			
Subscriptions	14,716		12,587
Donations and Bequests	12,616		102,053
Tax Accountant	2,923		2,520
		30,255	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days/Trips	1,500		
Book sales	885		353
		2,385	
Investment Income		25,406	33,395
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>55,046</u>	£ <u>150,629</u>
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities			
Choir Bussets	-		17,500
Reordering of the nave - Architects Fees	-		1,245
Books	-		28,817
Roof Repairs	373,000		152,000
Sanctuary Project	-		42,730
Dendrochronology Study	3,700		2,400
Towerdock Repairs	10,950		
		387,650	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days/Trips/Events	1,873		412
		1,873	
Governance Costs			
Printing and stationery	1,402		1,300
Insurance	259		235
Sundries	732		124
		2,393	
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>391,916</u>	£ <u>246,823</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>- 332,870</u>	£ <u>- 95,994</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses			
Gain/Loss on investments		89,219	199,132
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>- 243,651</u>	£ <u>103,138</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		1,164,037	1,060,899
Total Fund Carried Forward	£	<u>920,386</u>	£ <u>1,164,037</u>

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

Fixed Assets	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Investments	885,234	1,129,015
Total Fixed Assets	885,234	1,129,015
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,923	2,459
CRF Deposit	90	90
Cash at Bank	32,189	32,573
Total Current Assets	35,202	35,122
less Creditors	50	100
Net Current Assets	35,152	35,022
Net Assets	£ <u>920,386</u>	£ <u>1,164,037</u>
Funds of Charity		
Unrestricted funds		
Brought forward	1,164,037	1,060,899
Add Surplus for the year	- 243,651	103,138
	£ <u>920,386</u>	£ <u>1,164,037</u>

James Moore, Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

In connection with my recent examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Sunman, Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA)



Annual General Meeting Agenda 2022

THE AGM OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER
TO BE HELD IN THE PARISH HALL
ON SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2022
at 2.00 p.m

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on Monday 16th October 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Council Chairman's Report – Prof. Roger Lewis
5. Hon. Secretary's Report - Mr John Phillips
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report – Mr James Moore
7. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report – Ms Liz Grove
8. Hon. Social Secretary's Report – Miss Pamela Martin
9. Vicar's Report – Rev. Canon Jonathan Baker
10. The adoption of the reports proposed by the Mayor of Beverley, Cllr Linda Johnson
11. Election of Officers

To be re-elected:

Vice Presidents – Mayor of Beverley, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, Messrs Terry Holmes,
Richard Kemp, John Ramsdale, and Peter Calvert
Hon. Social Secretary – Miss Pamela Martin
Hon. Secretary – Mr John Phillips
Hon. Treasurer – Mr James Moore
Hon. Membership Secretary – Ms Liz Grove

To be elected:

New members of the Council.

President	Mrs Pamela Hopkins
Chair	Ms Mary Mead
Minutes Secretary	Dr Susan Neave

12. Any Other Business

AGM Minutes 2021

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2021.

The meeting was chaired by the Ret Reverend Alison White, Bishop of Hull

Present: Barbara English, John and Irma Askey, Martin Needler, Joyce Shaw, Mervyn King, Jane Paine, Berna Moody, David and Patricia Brunt, Rita Steadman, Annegret Aveyard, Bernard Vickers, Stephen Deas, Gail Cahill, John Phillips, Roger Lewis, James Moore, Liz Grove, Pamela Martin, Jonathan Baker, Gillian Fawcett, John Wilton-Eley, Valerie Hobson, Robert Poyser, Pamela Hopkins, Marilyn Lloyd, Mr & Mrs P Quigley, Michael J Moss, David James, Meg Choules, Susan Nicholson, Milly Hill, Pamela Davies, Jackie Odini.

1. Apologies for absence: Sylvia Broady, Karla Vickers, G & I Wallace, Mike Robson, Helena Anderson, Dr Amy Albudri, Val Sutton, Bob Aveyard.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 19 April 2021 were passed – nem con

3. Matters arising – none

4. Chairman's report AGM for year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 (Roger Lewis)

I should like to welcome Bishop Alison and say how much we appreciate her chairing our AGM; and to welcome Linda, Mayor of Beverley and to thank her for her interest in the work we do.

We are all somewhat confused over dates given the dislocation to routine brought about by Covid. We caught up on the year 19-20 by a Zoom AGM held outside our usual schedule; today we are covering the year from the first of April 2020, though we are not following that too literally, for example later there will be coverage of the re-gilding of the clock face, carried out after this period.

I also need to announce a change in today's programme. Our speaker for the St John of Beverley lecture was to have been Edward Everett; unfortunately, however, we heard late last night that his car has broken down and he is marooned in France. We have been very fortunate at this late notice in Professor Barbara English stepping in. On the 1300th anniversary of St John's death this is particularly appropriate given Barbara's key role in the Beverley 1300 festival taking place next weekend. There is no one more fitting to speak today than Barbara (one of our members) given her role not only in that celebration but also in achieving so much on behalf of the town.

Whilst on today's programme I am glad to say that at the end of this AGM and before Barbara's talk we will enjoy a concert given by some of the choristers the Friends are sponsoring. They are benefiting from instrument lessons in return for commitments to the choir. Robert Poyser – the Minster's Director of Music – will introduce them. This is an appropriate moment to thank Robert for all he has done to keep the choir together in the very difficult circumstances since March 2020.

And, of course, our usual afternoon tea – for which we will all be more than ready – will be served after Barbara's talk.

The Treasurer will report on finances later in this meeting. You will note that, of our income, subscriptions form a relatively minor component (comfortably covering our regular outgoings); donations and bequests form the basis of our assets and it is largely from these that we fund our work for the Minster. It is reassuring that Friends (and others in the community) trust us with this money, confident that we will spend it carefully and thoughtfully.

You will note a significant increase in expenditure this year, £152k for the roof and £42k for the sanctuary project. This reflects our growing spending commitments - though, with offsetting income during the year, our balance of £96k is £18k up on the previous year and our net assets are up by £100k at just over £1million – though spending to which we are committed will eat into that.

We are at a new stage of Friends' funding characterised by (i) work on the fabric of the building, (ii) collaborating with the Old Fund and (iii) using our funding to attract funding from external sources. Later in the agenda, we will ask for your approval of a funding policy to underpin this strategy.

A summary of the work on the roofs shows this in action.

Phase one: approximately £50k from the Friends (along with £196k of Old Fund money) released £500k from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. This enabled full repair of the lesser south transept roof and the multiple benefits of the associated sanctuary project.

Phase two: summer 2020, £150k from the Friends, £42k from the Old Fund, £42k from the PCC and £38k from the Two Churches One Town charity released approximately £600k from the government's Culture Recovery Fund to renew the eastern half of the nave roof.

Phase three: £476k from the Friends with a matching amount from the Old Fund (no contribution from the PCC or Two Churches) meant that the western half of the nave roof could be completed, taking advantage of the scaffolding already on site.

(Projected) phase four: a proposal to a further phase of the Culture Recovery Fund, to renew the retro-quire roof. We committed approximately £75k with the same sum from the Old Fund to release £600k government money (no contributions from PCC or Two Churches). Unfortunately this proposal was unsuccessful.

Your Friends' Council agreed to this expenditure confident that what unites our members is a commitment to the Minster as a building.

The Minster is in demand, used for a variety of purposes. It remains a place of Christian worship (its users here are congregation members). It is a building of outstanding medieval significance (users in this context are tourists and visitors). It is a place to hire for a variety of purposes, some 'cultural' (concerts, exhibitions); others rather less easy to define (recently, gin, wedding and retro fairs - some Friends have been upset at some of these uses). And fourthly it is a building for the community (users here are people living in Beverley). All these groups need a building that is structurally sound and we have been happy to contribute to that objective.

We also committed funding during the year to re-gilding the clock face (the work was carried out in the subsequent year) and to continuing the music scholarship scheme. The quality of music at the Minster is recognised not just by our funding but also by external trusts who have contributed money specifically for this purpose, including the Friends of Cathedral Music and the Ouseley Trust.

As a society we have weathered the pandemic well, finding new ways to communicate with our members (including use of the website and Zoom lectures). We resumed more traditional activity with a very successful coach trip in September and we look forward to seeing much more of you in the coming year.

5. Secretary's Report – John Phillips

This has been a very active, different, and in lots of ways, exciting year for the Friends. Due to Covid-19 restrictions our meetings have been held for the greater part by email which has been an interesting and, in many ways, different way of conducting our business and I am delighted to say that despite lockdown and other problems we have managed to continue to operate to our normal schedule, and I must express my thanks to all members of the Council for their adapting to a new way of working with such commitment and enthusiasm. It made the secretary's job much easier.

In all our meetings we review, as a matter of course, our finances, membership, our social programme, and projects such as the Sanctuary project, publications, reports from the PCC and the like, so this report details only specific additional agenda items.

As you will see from this chronological resumé

of the deliberations for the May 2020-February 2021 period, we have been called upon to support the long-term safety of the Minster which has involved us committing considerable chunks of money to major projects involving the re-leading of the nave roof. In addition to these major outlays, we have also put in place a Financial Policy to guide our future expenditure; you will be asked to ratify this later in this meeting

In **May 2020** we received for consideration a report from the Friends Working Group on Priorities. These were listed as:

- Targeted help with restoration of the east and west windows

- Aspects of a lighting scheme (including lighting the Percy Canopy, the misericords and other aspects of the building's heritage).

- Opening up the south quire aisle, including views of the organ pipes, together with appropriate interpretation.

The report was accepted by a clear majority of the Council, with reservations from our Vicar and PCC representative. Although these have been identified as priorities for a while, we always have stressed that this does not preclude requests for funding for other projects as you will see.

In **June 2020** we circulated the proposed new Financial Policy, which was finally agreed by the Council in August, for ratification at this meeting.

In **August 2020** we received a request for funding to publish a new book, a Guide to the Minster's Stained Glass; we were happy to support this.

The Friends were approached in **September 2020** for urgent support for a proposal to be submitted for use of Historic England money to repair the eastern half of the Minster's nave roof. The work was scheduled at that time as costing £750k (plus VAT). 20% match funding was required totalling £150k. Two Churches One Town were prepared to provide £40k of this; the Friends of the Minster Council was approached to contribute the remaining £110k. The deadline was extremely tight – both to complete the bid for funding and subsequently, if successful, to complete the actual roof work. Accordingly, the Friends held an extraordinary meeting by email **23-29 September 2020**. Within 24 hours, the proposal to match fund to a total of £110k for this specific funding application was agreed unanimously by all who responded. The application was successful and the award was for £600,724.

Recalculations however, subsequently revealed an increase in costs, which now stood at £875,016 (an increase of £125k). Deducting from this sum the grant (£601k) and the matched funding from the Friends and Two Churches One Town (£150k) left a shortfall of £124k. The chair of the bidding team (Tim Carlisle) contacted the chairs of the Friends, the PCC and the Old Fund asking whether, in principle, each organisation would provide one third of the shortfall (£42k each) to enable the project to go ahead.

The chair consulted the secretary and the treasurer and – whilst we regretted the unexpected increase in costs - we agreed that we should ask the Council to endorse this proposal, given the importance of work on the nave roof proceeding and the opportunity to use significant external funding that might not again be available in these difficult times.

The Council was thus asked formally to agree to the release of a further £42k for the purpose of the roof repairs, making a total of £152k as the Friends' contribution to this project, subject to equal contributions (£42k each) from the Old Fund and the PCC. This was formally agreed at the November Council meeting.

This set of circumstances raised significant questions from Council members about how a discrepancy of this magnitude could occur in a properly costed proposal. We indicated to the proposers that this would not be acceptable in future projects.

In **November 2020** having received their list of priorities from the PCC, we returned to our consideration of the two sets of priorities. After due consideration we concluded that we would retain £100k for support of the Minster's music; £500k to support the projects we have identified as priorities; the remainder to be available for other projects that may be brought to us. We also agreed that the sub-groups of Friends and PCC should continue to liaise.

We received an update from TCOTS about the grant bid, and the Sanctuary project which is part funded by the Friends as part of the NHLF funding for the re-leading of the roof of the lesser south transept.

In **February 2021** we arranged for our postponed 2020 AGM to be held by Zoom in April.

We received a proposal for the re-leading of the western half of the nave roof which required the Friends and the Old Fund to each provide a maximum of £476k. There were compelling reasons why this should go ahead,

not least of which was the considerable logistical saving to be had by retaining the equipment and services of the Messenger group, who were completing the eastern half of the nave at the time.

The Council agreed to the funding proposal unanimously after a thorough debate by email.

We discussed the role of music in the Minster and the Friends' long-term support of it. Members warmly commended the work of the Director of Music but raised concerns about the likely future of this important work given the straitened circumstances indicated by the PCC. The concerns fell into two categories: the use of the Friends' financial contributions, and those of the other external agencies who have contributed funding specifically for the Minster's music and earmarked for specific purposes; and the process in place to review the future of music in the Minster. On the second point, we questioned whether a review was in place and, if so, what were its terms of reference and were these public? We also asked whether there was to be a consultation with external stakeholders, the date for reporting the results of the review, and who would be considering the outcome?

6. Treasurer's report: James Moore presented the Accounts from the Annual Report and answered questions.

7. Membership Secretary's report:
Liz Grove

Membership on 25th August was 432. Inevitably this is down from last year, and some further losses have sadly been noted. Membership has risen since then, mostly thanks to the online facilities now available and the wonderful publicity generated by the

spectacular re-gilding of the clock which was organised by Mike Robson and financed by the Friends, and the numbers now stand at 438.

I have to thank especially, for support during the year, Dr Amy Albudri, and Mr & Mrs Mike Redhead. Mike has designed our database of members, and thanks to him it is now even more efficient and secure.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to my colleagues on the Friends' Council. We have needed to make a lot of big decisions over the past year, but thanks to Roger and John we have been kept well informed and given help and guidance. Thanks too, to Mervyn King whose skills and cheerful efficiency have helped immeasurably making our online presence much more obvious and useful.

8. Social Secretary's report: Pamela Martin

On 3rd September 28 Friends enjoyed a coach trip to Jervaulx Abbey and Coverham Abbey - commencing with morning coffee at the Old Lodge, Malton. After a circuitous journey to Jervaulx, we enjoyed a most interesting guided tour delivered by Dr Stuart Harrison. Lunch was taken at the Cover Bridge Inn - a wonderful buffet spread. We then progressed to Coverham Abbey, some three miles down the road, where a warm welcome awaited from Mrs Harriet Corner. Dr Harrison led a tour of the box - hedged garden set within the ruins of the Abbey and we were invited into the medieval hall - the icing on the cake. Tea and biscuits were served in the new refectory.

AGM 16th October

36 Friends attended the AGM. This was followed by Professor Barbara English's replacement talk on Sanctuary which was a

great success, especially as it was delivered at very short notice following the last minute cancellation by the advertised speaker, who was still detained in France with motor vehicle problems.

A musical interlude bridged the gap between AGM and St John's Lecture - performances by four instrumental students from the scheme supported by the Friends and organised by Robert Poyser, Director of Music at the Minster. Without doubt, this part of the proceedings enhanced the afternoon. An appetising buffet tea followed bringing the event to a satisfying close.

The following paragraph was written subsequent to the AGM but is included here to give a full account of the day.

The Programme Secretary briefly outlined hopes for the coming year in terms of a more comprehensive programme. Mention was made of Robert Poyser's Epiphany Organ Recital in January 2022, which would be supported by the Friends in the form of a buffet reception after the event.

9. Vicar's Report: Jonathan Baker

Jonathan Baker began by referring to the financial challenges facing the Minster mentioned in the Vicar's Report. There was a deficit which had led to two staff redundancies, and there was a need for funds to repair the hall roof quite apart from the existing needs of the Minster itself. These needs included the replacement of the remaining unrepaired sections of the roof, the lighting, toilets, boilers, windows etc.

Against this background the PCC had launched a new 'Vision Strategy' for the next 3-5 years,

recognising that the best way to secure the future of the Minster building is for it to continue to be the home for a vibrant and growing worshipping community which is outward facing. The strategy is for growth, recognising that the best way to join up what we already do is for there to be a shared vision.

The vision includes sections on the following:

- a better quality of community life with attention to welcoming visitors and worshippers, pastoral care, and social events.
- broadening the appeal of worship to different audiences, 'not just Radio 3, but also including Radio 1 and 2,' with a view to connecting with younger people.
- Prayer and Teaching, to raise awareness of different ways of praying and to relate the Christian faith to everyday experience.
- interpreting the building to tell a story which includes its purpose and the people who use it.
- infrastructure and communications, including lighting, heating, toilets and access - not least online access.
- financial sustainability with better transparency and controls.
- supporting staff and volunteers.
- closer collaboration between the Minster, the Friends, the Old Fund, and Two Churches, One Town.

The Vicar noted that the lack of face to face meetings during the pandemic had made communication between the PCC and Friends more difficult, and that matters had not been made easier by the very tight deadlines imposed by the Culture Recovery Fund for decisions about pledging match funding for a grant bid. He concluded by saying that coming out of lockdown was a good opportunity for reassessment of how all the stakeholders in

the future of the building could work together and reflect on how we can address some of the various pressing needs currently facing Beverley Minster.

10. Adoption of the reports. The Mayor of Beverley, Councillor Linda Johnson proposed the adoption of the reports, seconded by Pamela Hopkins

Carried, nem con.

11. Adoption of the new Financial Policy

Roger Lewis summarised the new Financial Policy and explained the reasons why it had become necessary to have a Financial Policy at this time.

Adoption was proposed by Rita Steadman, seconded by Stephen Deas.

The proposal was approved by a clear majority with one contra.

12. Election of Officers

It was decided to re-elect all officers of the Council en bloc, proposed by Patricia Brunt, seconded by Annegret Aveyard. Carried nem con.

Election of New Members of the Council.

Nominations for new Council members were Karla Vickers and Jane Payne, proposed by Stephen Deas and seconded by Gail Cahill. Carried nem con.

13. Any other business.

There was no further business.

Members of the Council 2021-2022

Professor Roger Lewis (Chair)
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Email: quigsy@hotmail.com

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Revd. Canon Jonathan Baker
(Vicar of Beverley Minster)
The Minster Vicarage
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Email: vicar@beverleyminster.org.uk

Ms Meg Choules (PCC Representative)

Rt Revd David James (PCC Nominee)

Mr Martin Needler (Old Fund Representative)

Mr Mervyn King (Co-opted)

Mr Robert Poyser (Co-opted)

Dr Susan Neave (Co-opted)

Elected members :

Mr Mike Robson (Retires 2022)

Mr Stephen Deas (Retires 2023)

Mrs Helena Anderson (Retires 2023)

Ms Gail Cahill (Retires 2023)

Mrs Karla Vickers (Retires 2024)

Ms Jane Payne (Retires 2024)



Friends visit Gisborough Priory in July 2022



Friends admiring the 14th century hall of the Knights Templar preceptory at Foulbridge, near Malton.

THE FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

England & Wales - Charity number 501302

Accounts

The Friends of Beverley Minster

85th Annual Report

2020-2021



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Restoration of the roof on the lesser south transept complete

Crucial work to restore part of Beverley Minster's crumbling fabric has been completed thanks to a grant of £406,700 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is part of a project to tell its remarkable story of Sanctuary.

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on the Minster's Lesser South Transept. The works have involved re-leading the roof, repairing the roof timbers, conserving crumbling stonework and improving the lead gutters. The previous lead is thought to have been over 200 years old and was leaking, thereby causing, amongst other things, decay to the roof structure. The timbers have been repaired and strengthened where necessary, the gutters renewed and the roof recovered, all under the cover of a temporary roof to protect the Minster's precious interior. The building restoration work has been carried out by Messenger Construction.



Marking the completion of the renovation work are, from left, Pete Ashcroft, project manager for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Roger Lewis, chair of the Friends of Beverley Minster, Andy Burrell, architect from Carden & Godfrey, Tim Carlisle, the project director for Beverley Minster, and Martin Needler, the chair of Beverley Minster Old Fund.

Report of the Chairman of the Friends

Roger Lewis

As you will see when reading this annual report, the year has been dominated by the external event of Covid. As far as the Friends are concerned this has meant postponement of the 2019 social programme – firstly to 2020, only picking up again late in 2021 (with the AGM and annual St John Lecture). We adapted (to some extent) to the constraints imposed by Covid by regular contributions to the Friends' section of the Minster website and by running series of Zoom lectures (see the Programme Secretary's report).

We also had to respond to several requests for significant funding, especially for work on the roofs (initially the south quire transept roof, then the nave). Traditionally, such work has been looked after by the Old Fund but given the extent of the challenge, other organisations have had to play a part. This means the Old Fund and the Friends (given the inability the PCC to provide support, see the Vicar's report). Our funding, together with that of the Old Fund, has released government funding to help with the roofs.

This has been a departure for us. In the past major building activity has been an Old Fund responsibility, and maintenance has been the territory of the PCC. We had to check our founding document to make sure we were acting within our remit as a charity in funding fabric work. New circumstances require new approaches and we are sure members will agree that keeping the Minster in good condition (and attracting major government funding to achieve this)

represents a priority for us all.

We have also agreed to help match fund a further bid for government funding. The bid has been led by Two Churches One Town, a new charity whose purpose is to raise funding for Beverley's two major churches. A consequence of the success of the bids for funding has been that – on the outside of the building at least – there has been much activity at the Minster during Covid times.

It has been a delight to see the purposeful work of masons, carpenters, and scaffolders, returning the scene to one that would be recognizable to anyone returning from the Middle Ages. The essentials of building work remain unchanged through the centuries.

Another external activity attracting much press and public attention has been the cleaning and re-gilding of the clock face (see later in this annual report). Again, this has brought pleasure to passers-by at such a difficult time. It was the subject of one of our Zoom talks. The Friends funded the entirety of the work and we must thank Mike Robson (Captain of the Tower and Keeper of the Steeple) for conceiving the project and managing all aspects of the Friends' involvement, including liaison with the Cumbria Clock Company, Minster staff, and the media.

All this, together with the publication of Beverley Minster: History, Architecture and Meaning have meant that Covid times have in fact been very busy and productive for the Friends.

Two Churches One Town

Tim Carlisle

We are very pleased to report that Two Churches One Town charity has so far raised some £4.6m towards the £20m restoration of The Minster and St Mary's church in Beverley.

The project to re-lead the roof to the Minster Lesser South Transept, which completed in March 2021, was funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Beverley Minster Old Fund. The Friends kindly donated the sum of £49,000 as match funding for interpretation of the Minster's renovation work.

The risk we faced with the nave roof was long term damage caused to the highly significant medieval roof structure through continuous water ingress and damage to the vaulted ceiling with potential for plaster to fall onto the floor of the Minster in the event of another major leak.

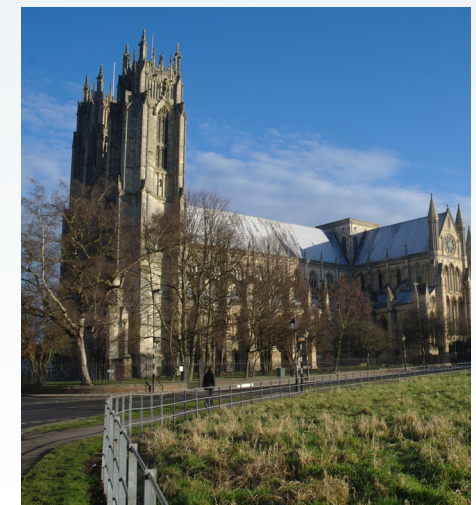
In October 2020 Two Churches One Town secured a grant from the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund for some £601,000 towards the £1,100,000 cost of Phase 1 of the nave roof. This project involved urgent work on the east end of the nave roof and included replacement of failed leadwork and gutters, replacing sarking boards and structural repairs to roof. This was supported with a generous donation from The Friends of £152,000 and was completed at the end of March 2021.

We seized the opportunity of saving significant cost by continuing restoration of the remaining half of the nave roof (Phase 2) and this will be completed in November

this year. In this case the project cost is some £972,000. The Friends agreed to underwrite 50% of the cost of the phase 2 nave roof project (western part) to a maximum of £476,000, with an equal financial commitment from the Old Fund. This sum will be reduced as VAT is recoverable and we have a donation from other sources. Any savings will be shared equally between the Friends of the Minster and the Old Fund.

We have just made another bid for external funding and the Friends have also agreed to support this too if we are successful. We will learn the outcome in September.

We are very grateful to The Friends for their financial support. Without the generous help of The Friends, we are in serious danger of losing what we all have and the unique skyline that Beverley has given to generations for nearly 1,000 years could change forever.



Programme Secretary's Report

Pamela J Martin

The main focus in the last few months has been arranging four Zoom lectures for members, free of charge, in order to fill the Spring/early Summer period when events would normally have taken place in the form of a Study Day and early Summer Guided Tours of the Minster. It would have been impossible to stage these given the current Covid 19 situation at that time.

The Zoom Lectures commenced in April and continued, one per month on Monday evenings until July 2021. Each talk commenced at 7.00pm and was approximately one hour in length with questions at the end. The first was delivered by John Phillips on the subject of 'Sculptures, Screens and Misericords' (Monday 12th April). This was well supported and received. The next, presented by Sally George, was entitled 'Minute Book Musings from the Friends' Archive', when Sally shared the results of her research on Monday 10th May, generating a number of questions and discussion afterwards. Sally and Steve George's daughter, Alexa Stephens spoke about her recent achievement as 'Young Church Architect of the Year' on Monday 7th June, describing her work with enthusiasm and commitment. Finally, Mike Robson (Captain of the Tower and Keeper of the Steeple) shared his experiences of 'Changing Times' on Monday 5th July 2021. Mike has fulfilled this role for fifty years and had many stories to relate, finishing with the gilding of the clock face this summer, a project

with which he had much involvement. Thanks should be given to several people for making these Zoom Lectures possible. Firstly to Steve George for sharing his technical expertise so generously, also to John Phillips for his contribution to technical aspects, to our Chairman, Roger Lewis, for introducing each event and dealing with the ensuing questions and last but not least to all speakers for giving of their time and expertise.

The Programme for the remaining part of 2021 has been cautiously planned and as a result comprises two events:- Firstly, the intention to resurrect the ill-fated coach tour of 2020 to Jervaulx and Coverham Abbeys on Friday 3rd September 2021. Our guide for the day will be Dr Stuart Harrison, who is an expert on both Abbey locations, having conducted much research over a number of years.

Secondly, a one day event in October – Saturday 16th October 2021 – which will replace the October weekend we are accustomed to. This will comprise the AGM for 2021 followed by a lecture (St John of Beverley Lecture) on Sanctuary by Edward Everett finishing with afternoon tea. The lecture is intended to further develop the recent Minster project of Sanctuary with its current exhibition.

We look forward to meeting all those Friends who are able to attend these events.

Events Programme September– October 2021

COACH TOUR

Friday 3 September 2021 8.15 (for 8.30 start)

Visit to Jervaulx Abbey and Coverham Abbey Gardens (privileged private visit – not open to the public).

Guide: Dr Stuart Harrison

Guided tours of both venues.

Cost per person: £56 (£51 for Friends)

Includes Morning Coffee, Buffet Lunch (East Witton) and Afternoon Refreshments (Coverham Abbey), entrance fees, etc.

Meet on Eastgate near the junction with Minster Yard North

Return home approximately 19.15

(Parking available in Beverley Minster Car Park opposite the Highgate Entrance)

Further details on the Minster website

Saturday 16 October 2021

AGM & St John of Beverley Lecture

Minster Parish Hall

14.00 AGM

15.15

St John of Beverley Lecture

Speaker: Edward Everett

'Sanctuary'

Afternoon Tea

No cost to Friends for lecture and tea; £5 for non-Friends

Booking Enquiries to:

The Programme Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster

85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

E-mail: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk

Telephone: 01482 442221

Please use the enclosed form to apply for places

The Vicar's Report

Revd Canon Jonathan Baker

The good news is that by the time you read this, Beverley Minster will be much more open and active than it was a few months ago.

Through much of the last year the Minster has been closed to visitors and only opened for private prayer and worship in a very limited way. It has felt like hard work simply to stand still, as we have tried to adapt to each successive change in Government Covid 19 regulations.

At the same time the outward appearance of the Minster building has communicated a contrarian message, with three successive phases of the roof repairs being either completed or got under way (all of them with crucial match funding provided by the Friends), and with the clock being re-gilded, again thanks to the Friends. Local residents might be forgiven for thinking that everything was carrying on as normal, without any difficulty.

Observers might also be forgiven for thinking that the Minster must be very wealthy if it could afford such extensive work on the fabric in the middle of a pandemic. The truth is that the Parochial Church Council, which normally takes responsibility for running costs rather than fabric repairs, has had a difficult year financially. Loss of income from the shop and from visitors, concerts and events, from fees for weddings and hiring out the hall and rooms, has exacerbated what was already a challenging situation before the pandemic.

In response to this, two posts have had to be made redundant, placing extra pressure on remaining staff. Contactless giving points have been introduced and are being well used by visitors in the Minster. A decision has been made in principle to hand over the car park to a commercial organisation so that it can generate an income. It is possible that the Parish Centre on Highgate may have to be rented out commercially as well, although the associated costs of this may prove prohibitive. Discussions are under way about creating separate funds for music and youth work so that these areas can be supported in ways that relieve the strain on PCC commitments.

Everyone agrees that the long term solution is to generate growth, but this is easier said than done. What is clear is that doing nothing is not an option. Over the last decade the Minster has not only seen increasing pressure on its finances, but it has also suffered declining congregations; the two problems are of course connected, as fewer worshippers mean fewer committed givers.

The PCC has therefore been preparing for life after lockdown by developing a fresh vision strategy. The aim of this is to clarify what we think our purpose and priorities are, making it easier for staff, volunteers, congregations and related organisations like the Friends, Old Fund and Two Churches One Town to understand the direction of travel and, we hope, promote it. The practical aim is to see the Minster community grow. The Church

of England nationally and in the Diocese of York is doing something similar, and in response to similar issues.

The vision strategy begins with four headings, from which arise a number of actions. The focus is on reminding ourselves why people might embrace the Christian faith at all. Our vision states that the church exists to help people become more like Christ, by offering a life changing message of transformation. It exists to reach those we currently don't, and not merely serve those who already belong. We recognise that as the church aims to do these things, it will become a church of missionary disciples, adapting its attention outwards and reflecting more the diverse concerns and culture of those it is seeking to serve. And the PCC acknowledges that for this to happen there must be a willingness to reshape our structures and finances so that they support the vision goals more directly.

This report probably isn't the best place to unpack that in detail. Suffice it to say that behind these broad headings are dozens of action points which are intended to sharpen the Minster's mission and ministry, and help it to grow. Some are already being implemented (such as the restructuring of staff responsibilities), many require only modest improvements (such as creating clearer pathways so that people who come to us for baptisms, weddings and funerals have the opportunity to get involved in other ways). Some are more radical (such as the ambition to set up a weekly service of more informal contemporary worship, which is nearly always a hallmark of a growing church), while others are risky (such as developing one or two social outreach projects addressing areas of need in the

wider community). Some are obvious (such as consolidating all we have learned over the past year about promoting ourselves online), others will be deeply challenging (such as developing a coherent and realistic communications strategy to let everyone know what is going on).

The scope of the vision strategy is ambitious, but it doesn't all have to be done at once. It will set the agenda for the next few years, and much will depend upon our ability to identify lay people willing to drive the changes in specific areas.

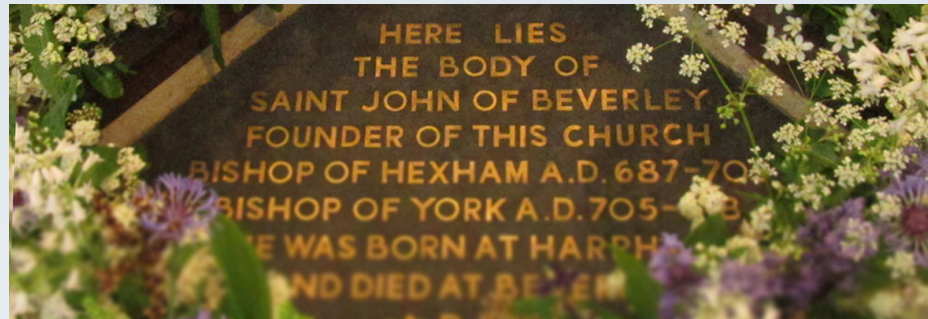
Whilst not all of this will be of central interest to the Friends as an organisation, it may help to be aware that it is going on and that the PCC is being proactive about seeking to grow the Minster. It also provides a context for discussing with the Friends whether they might wish to work with the PCC in improving some of the Minster's infrastructure, such as the unreliable lighting system. The very process of working up such a strategy and offering it can help people to feel energised and hopeful about the future.

One of the features of this strategy is that it is an open process, and can evolve. I am therefore looking forward to discussing with the Friends Council whether this is something which they would like to engage with so that they can offer their own insights. One of the action points is about seeking wherever possible to work in partnership.

All of this means that as Covid 19 restrictions recede the daily life of the Minster is likely to pick up fast. The coming year will be busy but full of hope, as we seek to adjust to a continually changing world.

Translation

A talk given by Barbara English at the virtual AGM on Monday 19 April 2021



Let us start with a quotation from the 20th century floor slab in the nave:

"Here lies the body of Saint John of Beverley".

My question isdoes it really?



Battle of Agincourt

In 2021 it is 1300 years since John's death, and 600 years since the visit of King Henry V to Beverley, to give thanks to St John for his help at the battle of Agincourt in 1415 (yes it did take Henry a long time to get here, but after Agincourt he was hardly ever in England, trying to hold on to France meant perpetual war).

St John died on 7 May 721, and Henry visited on 8/9 April 1421. But the date that ties the two anniversaries together, is actually 25 October, the day on which Agincourt was fought, and the day of the year on which the container of St John's remains were 'translated' for the last time to lie inside the new and glorious casket, made by the London goldsmith Richard of Faringdon. In Shakespeare's play, King Henry on the eve of battle, says 'This day is called the feast of Crispian.' I always regret that Shakespeare did not say, 'This day is called the feast of the Translation of St John of Beverley' but you do see it is hard to get all that into the majestic roll of the pentameters of that amazing speech – and even after omitting St John, Shakespeare had to play around with two



St Taurin reliquary c.1240

names, Crispin and Crispian, saints, martyrs, shoemakers and apparently twins, who died on 25 October, centuries before John was translated.

Translation is the moving of the body of a saintly person out of the ground and into a special place.

In Catholic Europe, if miracles began to occur at a grave, people thought it was inappropriate to leave the saint's body in the ground along with everyone else, and saints were usually, nearly always, dug up and moved upwards and usually eastwards. There were then two holy places, the empty tomb, and the shrine (there are various Latin words for these places, I am going to use tomb and shrine). John was originally buried at the east end of the Minster, east of the high altar. He was recognised as a saint locally, and his sanctity was confirmed by the archbishop in 1037 (by the 12th century only the pope could do this). Leland in the early 16th century recorded in his Collectanea, that the saint's bones were translated, that is, moved, 316 years after

his death, and another source (Dugdale, Visitation 1665) suggests he was moved to the high altar. In the grave says Leland (Beverley Chapter Act Book II p.350), at the Translation of 1037 they found a ring and a fragment of the Gospels; Dugdale mentions beads and nails. It was probably in 1037 that the first reliquary was made for John, separate from his tomb.

Reliquaries are a fairly standard shape, little houses with pitched roofs – they became more and more decorated, looking more like little churches, and may have been designed by architects and constructed by goldsmiths.

The goldsmith's contract for John's last shrine of 1292 specified it was to be 'adorned with plates and columns in architectural style with figures everywhere of size and number as the Chapter determine, and canopies and pinnacles before and behind, and other proper ornaments.'

We have the dimensions of the outer casing, it was to be 5 ft long, 1.5ft wide and of proportionate height: the inner chest must of course have been smaller and was not large enough for a skeleton, but would hold bones and maybe some other relics, a seal, a ring, clothes, holy books. All this gold, silver and jewels was taken in 1548 by the Protestant government of Edward VI, and there is no record of what happened to the contents. Are we to accept that the relics went back under the nave floor?

It is important to realise that for many saints, the Translation was regarded as equally or more significant than the date of death. It marked the full achievement of recognised sainthood. Translations were the occasions of great church festivals which

could last for days, and the offerings of the people on the annual Translation feast of, for instance, Thomas Becket, were much greater than on the day of his death. Major saints could be translated many times. This was partly for religious reasons, to honour the saint with a better place, but also because the church was constantly being rebuilt, extended, altered. Cuthbert of Durham, whose post mortem wanderings were legendary, was translated 4 times, as was Swithin of Winchester; William of York 3 times. At translations it was common practice to remove pieces of the saint to give to 'important people' – some archbishops expected an arm for presiding over a translation, and sometimes, says Ben Nilson in a great book on shrines, the cost could be 'an arm and a leg'.

There are descriptions of an exhumation for a translation, and it was an elaborate religious ceremony – the tomb was opened at dead of night, the remains carefully washed, wrapped and placed in a new chest. John's bones, first separated from his grave in 1037, were translated again in the 1060s, possibly after the fire of 1188. Horrox thinks the bones were put back into the grave after the tower fell around 1213, but probably moved out again in the mid 13th century.

John was translated yet again in 1307 on 25 October, when the relic chest (the feretrum) was put into the very elaborate gold, silver, enamel, jewelled casket made by Roger of Faringdon, an outer casing (the capsula) that could be raised on pulleys to reveal the interior chest. It is the date of this 1307 move that became the established feast day, the Translation of St John of Beverley. The inner chest or perhaps both inner and outer golden boxes were carried around Beverley for 4-5 days in the summer before the annual

Cross Fair, and 25 October, the date of the 1307 move, that is the one that chimes with Agincourt.

It seems to have been about 1200 when the grave was relocated to the nave, where a marker was put in place in 1726 and again in the 20th century. Can any of St John really be there in the nave? Certainly not his body. None of the evidence is easy to interpret, much depends on later accounts of miracles, or what historians recorded as tradition in the 15th century (Leland) or 17th century (Dugdale). John Phillips' book (*Of a Fair Uniforme Making*) is particularly helpful in linking the miracles to the fabric.

You will remember that St Swithin at Winchester disapproved of being moved, as he made it rain until he got his own way. St John's relics on the other hand was processed around the outside of the Minster around 1100 to break a long Yorkshire drought, and while crossing the east end, the heavens opened and the clergy got very wet. It was a miracle.

So – can we still say with confidence 'Here lies the body of Saint John of Beverley'?

A red herring for you to think about - a 19th century anonymous writer (*Sketches of Beverley and the Neighbourhood*) says the stairs in the north choir aisle to the two storey chapter house were for the Shrine of St John. Is there any chance that this is right? There is one miracle story that says the tomb cover had polished marble shafts, and of course the stairs do have polished 'marble' shafts, but then so do many other parts of the Minster. Two-storey chapter houses are rare in England (only 7, although they include Westminster, Wells and Rievaulx) To



my surprise, Lichfield claims its own 'Chapter House is the only two-storey Chapter House in the UK', in a press release for a restoration grant which they got – a careless application, with an error easily detected.

As an old historian myself, the Minster stairs would be a challenge as they are at Wells. Would the canons of Beverley who also had old knees, want to climb up daily and perhaps more than once a day? To have a sacristy and treasury underneath? Should we revisit this interpretation of those wonderful stairs?



Henry V, anon 16th C

Finally

On 25 October we will at Beverley celebrate the Translation of St John, and Henry V's visit because of that Translation. We will not forget it, nor I hope will those that come after us.

I'd like to end with 4 lines from that famous speech:

***And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;***

Not that the Friends are few – for they are many. But remember we should.



Representation of St John of Beverley, reredos carving 1826

Beverley Minster: Recent and Ongoing Archaeological Study of the Nave and North Transept Roof Timbers

Dr Stuart Harrison FSA Cathedral Archaeologist, York Minster

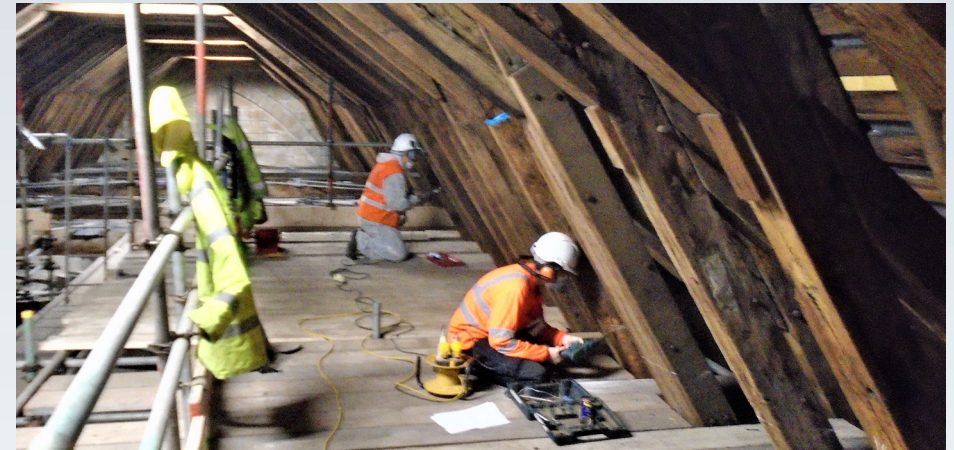
John Phillips FSA Secretary, Friends of Beverley Minster

The recent work re-leading the nave roof of the minster gave us an opportunity to examine the medieval roof trusses that was too good to miss. *Fig 1 below.* The scaffolding gave access

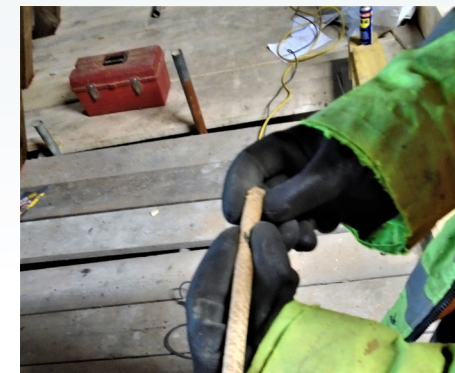


to virtually all areas of the roof which is a rare occurrence. *Fig 2 below.*

Earlier studies by Paul Barnwell, Alison Armstrong and David Cant in 2009 for 'Who Built Beverley Minster?' had recorded some of the roof's main features including some of the carpenters' marks. Dendrochronological sampling on a small scale by Ian Tyers in 2012 had given some indications of dates including some of the main tie beams which were introduced or replaced in the 18th century and other reused timbers of the late 12th to possibly early 13th century.



Having done a substantial amount of work on the reused timbers throughout the main roofs of the minster, including the choir, and particularly the south east transept when it was scaffolded out in 2020, we were keen to do more when the whole eastern half of the nave roof was scaffolded for the re-leading and also some timber replacement and repair of the trusses. John Phillips secured some



funding from the Friends to pay for more dendrochronology sampling and Alison Arnold and Robert Howard from Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory took various samples from the nave timbers we had previously marked with blue tape. *Fig 3 above, Fig 4 left.* Dendrochronology, or 'tree ring dating' as it is often known, can provide an invaluable insight into the history of a building by revealing the year in which the timbers used in its construction were felled.

This was mainly targeted at the reused timbers in order to try and obtain felling dates which might give an indication of the age of the earlier roof they represented. In that respect dates of between 1177 and 1202 were obtained which suggests an early 13th century felling for the timbers as a whole. This was interesting because, as the building was possibly started shortly after the fire of September 1188, it represents a very short building campaign of twelve to fourteen years for the possible completion of the choir, transepts and chapter house. This may also account for the large number (in excess of 270) masons cutting stone

for the building, accounted for by the masons' marks catalogued by John during his initial investigations from 2005-2015.

The roof construction falls into two or three phases which relate to the construction of the clerestory of the nave in stages starting at the east end. The first phase and a substantial part of the second one contains reused timbers from an earlier roof. *Fig 5 below.*



That roof design was first reconstructed by Stefan King in the late 1990s when he was an MA student at York University. Subsequent work by Stuart Harrison and John Phillips suggested that the earlier roof he had identified was of steeper pitch than King had supposed and actually originated in the eastern transepts of the minster. This was published together with other roof frame reconstructions from the choir and transepts in John's book.**

Careful examination of surviving joints showed up an error in our earlier analysis and indicated that Stefan King had been right in his reconstruction of the earlier roof frame. It transpired that the mortice joints we had previously examined had been systematically over cut by the carpenter which gave a false angle of pitch for the main rafters. We

obviously didn't or were unable to reach and measure the joints with the correct angle that Stefan must have measured. That, combined with the intersection angles of the solaces and inner rafters had completely misled us. It was a salutary warning of how things can be misinterpreted.

We have now revised the reconstruction and rather than fitting over the relatively narrow span of the eastern transepts the roof frames fitted over a span similar to that of the present nave as King had originally suggested. Some aspects need more examination and work, but the type of frame design is becoming clearer.

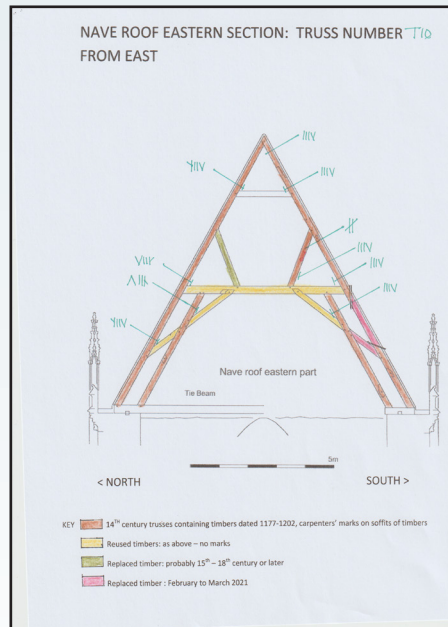


Fig 6 Roof truss record

The western half of the nave roof is now scaffolded out and we have been recording the reused timbers, their

joints, their locations, the amount of replaced timber in each truss, the carpenters' marks and the design of the trusses and their joints.



Fig 7 Carpenter's mark and reused timber

This is all adding to our overall knowledge of the nave roof structure in considerable detail.

These samples provide a complementary study to other work that we are doing which involves investigating the brick vaults of the nave.



Fig 8 'Long' brick. Reused example from rebuilt wall in Friars Lane

These are built with an unusual sized brick, longer than the standard size, and these bricks were produced in the Hull area from about 1320, at that stage only for the walls of Hull, and from a brickyard which closed as soon as that

work was completed. However, similar sized bricks appear in the choir at Holy Trinity, Hull, after about 1340, and later at Thornton Abbey gatehouse which was licensed in 1382 and used bricks from Hull.



Fig 9 Thornton Abbey gatehouse

The latest occurrence found so far is in the North Bar at Beverley dating from 1409-10, and for which we have building accounts. More than twenty brick makers were used, all within the local area. The bricks in the vault at the Minster are the same general dimensions and most likely of local manufacture, so point to a date in the late 14th to early 15th century. This information, coupled with the dates of the heraldry in the original west window of the nave recorded by Sir William Dugdale in 1641 at 1386-1399, is narrowing the timeframe for the completion of the nave and the construction of the vault, which would have been built after the completion of the roof, to keep the new work dry in construction.

Some more dendrochronology in the west end of the nave sampling will also target key timbers to try and establish

if their felling dates coincide with documentary evidence for the acquisition of timbers for the roof construction in the 1380s from the estate of the disgraced Archbishop Neville who gave oaks from his estate at North Burton and 'Skaholme' to both the Minster and St Peter at York, and these oaks are recorded as already felled by 1387-8.

Tied into this study is another one on the roof of the north transept.



Fig 10 Medieval timber reused as rafters and the 18th century truss supporting the roof

This roof is a key construction because it was the first one taken down and rebuilt in the 18th century. That rebuilding was caused by the works to stabilise and jack the north transept elevation back upright. Parts of the clerestory and the high vault were taken down, so the roof had to come off first. It was rebuilt in a new design which incorporated a lot of reused timbers as common rafters and purlins.



Fig 11 Medieval rafter reused as a purlin in the 1718 - 1721 reconstruction

We have also been studying these and have been able to reconstruct some medieval truss designs from them. Yet there are also some open and puzzling questions of where some timbers fitted and their origin. In theory the roof should only have reused timbers from either the central tower which was also taken down or the north transept roof itself.

In an effort to date the reused timbers we have selected a series of them for dendrochronology sampling and marked them with blue tape again, so that Alison Arnold and Robert Howard know which ones to sample. This speeds up the sampling process considerably and targets the timbers more carefully. It will be interesting to see what dates they produce and if they are a homogenous group or a disparate one. This might actually be a key study in dating the construction of the minster overall.

We are very grateful to the Friends for their support in funding this important campaign of dendrochronological sampling which we hope will give us considerably more insight into the dating of the building. We both do the work in our own time and at our own expense, out of interest in the history of the Minster, both in its own right, and in comparison with similar structures. No-one else seems equipped or prepared to take advantage of scaffolding and other unique and unrepeatable opportunities to record the history of this exceptional and beautiful building.



**** Of a Fair Uniforme Making**
by John Phillips is available on Amazon and from the Minster Shop/online

www.beverleyminster.org.uk/store

Membership Secretary's Report

Liz Grove, Hon. Membership Secretary

Despite the continued limitation on the Friends' activities imposed by Covid this year, we have been very busy using your generous contributions to support the Minster, and as ever we are very grateful for your support.

This has been the year of electronic communication and fundraising in the Minster, and the Friends are benefitting from partial access to this facility. Several people have now joined online, and we are able to offer communications electronically to those who desire this. Sending the Newsletter and / or the Annual Report by email saves on both printing and postage costs, but some people (like me!) prefer hard copy, especially for the annual report. The choice is yours – just let me know your preference, at friends@beverleyminster.org.uk

New members:

Dr A Albudri, of Beverley, leading soprano in the Minster choir, and medieval historian
Mr & Mrs E Davies, of South Brent, Devon *
Mrs A Mulford, of Beverley
Mrs L Pearson, of Brough
Mr & Mrs M Redhead, of Willerby, our invaluable database designer
Ms N Rowland, of Beverley
Mr & Mrs T Russ, of Edinburgh
J A Scott
Mr G Stephenson, of Beverley *
Mrs I Stocks, of Pocklington
Ms L Stothard-Chew, of Nafferton *
Ms F Stride, of Alston *

Mr M Stuart
Mr & Mrs C Waddington, of Dunston, Northampton *
Mr & Mrs A Wilkinson, of Beverley *
*Joined online
All are most welcome

Deaths:

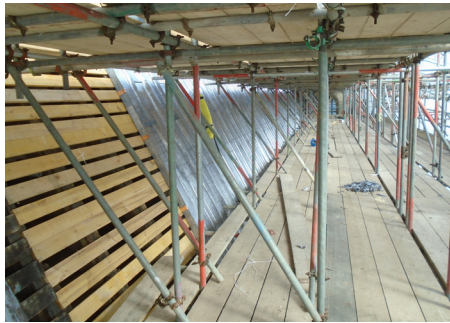
Mr Robert and Mrs June Bracken, of Beverley
Mr Phil Deller, long-standing Friend and Welcomer in the Minster
Mrs Mary Everett, of Beverley
Mrs Hazel Harrison, of Pocklington, widow of former Vicar of the Minster, Peter Harrison
Mrs Doreen Shaw, of Beverley
Mrs Barbara Theakston, of Beverley
Mr Peter Ward, of Beverley, who kindly left us a generous donation in his Will
Mr Don Wright, of Cherry Burton, another long-standing Minster friend.

I am so sorry if you know of a Friend who has died but who has not been mentioned. Please let me know, and accept our sympathy.

Current membership: 432 (25.8.21), down from 453 last year. Sadly there may be more deaths to record, and recruitment has been hampered by the Minster being closed for a large part of the year. But we continue to be delighted to welcome new Friends, especially those christening our online service. We are also very grateful for those kind enough to remember us in their Will.



The Friends match-funded the cost of renovating the nave roof



Restoration of the Minster's Clock Dial



Music in the Minster

Robert Poyser, Director of Music

This past year has been a standard year with the usual round of services, concerts, events, tours and social activities...or not. In line with every other aspect of people's lives, the music at the Minster has had to respond to unprecedented challenges in order just to survive and maintain some semblance of what we do. We have had to flex with the rule changes, some unexpected, others telegraphed in advance and try to keep going under most unusual and trying circumstances. The choir has coped marvellously with things. We have had zoom choir rehearsals during the Autumn and early 2021 lockdowns, zoom quizzes in abundance and more appearances of pets at choir than ever before. When we have sung in person we have done so in small teams with social distancing in place and have managed to explore some different repertoire to keep us on our toes. We are currently emerging from operating 7 separate choirs (junior choir, boys, junior girls, youth choir and three adult teams of 6) to cover the service patterns and it will be interesting to see what choral forces we assign to the weekly services from September.

Our choir numbers peaked at 80 (57 under 18) this year with a number of new boys and girls joining us. I think this has made us the largest church choir in the diocese. All is not straightforward next term as we lose a large number over the summer to university and moving away. A term of rebuilding in imaginative ways awaits, as I fear it does for most cathedral and major church choirs in the country.

Along the way, we have managed some amazing things. Our Carol Service recorded and then aired on Christmas Eve was an extraordinary effort for

all concerned. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the music at Beverley Minster to the wider world. Huge thanks to our recording engineer, David Rose, Revd Tim Kelly for many many hours editing and to Luca Myers, our Junior Organ Scholar for playing so superbly. Luca is off to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge in September as their organ scholar. Another of our choir, Maddy Bellotti has won a choral scholarship to Exeter College Oxford. We congratulate them both on their achievements and wish them every success for their future which will undoubtedly be glittering! Our choristers have been busy doing zoom and in person exams too. We have 4 Gold Awards, 5 Archbishop's Awards, 1 Silver, 4 Dean's and a Bronze Award. So many medals!

One of the great things that has helped maintain a bond between the choir and the Minster in the darkest days of lockdown has been the Choral Foundation. Lessons have been maintained throughout the year in most cases and for this I am hugely grateful to the teachers involved. The Friends' support of this scheme has been invaluable during the past year and has made a vital difference in our encouragement of the many young people involved in it. Thank you.

Going forward, there are challenges ahead. It will be interesting to see how the Minster's developing Vision Strategy goes from the planning and consultation stage and in to action; also, to see what place Music has in it. As a department we are greatly diminished from where we were pre pandemic.



We have no organ scholars, both junior and University based, no Assistant Organist and one fewer Associate Organist. What we do have is a lot of dedicated choir members of all ages raring to go and contribute to the Minster and help us through. Going from crisis management to a long-term sustainable footing seems a way off at the moment but something we can hopefully reach in 2022.

Report of the Minster Building Surveyor

Simon Delaney

As you will be aware from recent press articles the work to the lesser south transept roof has been completed using funds from NHLF (matched by Old Fund and Friends of the Minster). Using funding from the Headley Trust we also replaced four pinnacles. All is complete with the exception of the low level stonework. We have the stone in the masons' yard and Dennis Massey (our stonemason) with the help of Steve Rial will undertake this in conjunction with other maintenance work such as the lesser south transept windows.

With the money from the COVID Recovery fund (helped again by the Old Fund and the Friends of the Minster) the east end of the nave roof lead was replaced along with some decayed sections of structural oak and a percentage of the sarking boards. Markings on the lead suggest that the current lead covering was laid in the 1740s, so we have had several lifetimes from that roof with all the patching Steve and his predecessors have done over more than two centuries. The replacement of the nave roof should be completed by early November. The nave project has also picked up on some high-level stone repairs required, capitalising on the scaffolding in place. To overcome issues with delayed supply from the Tadcaster quarry we have supplied stone from our yard to complete these items and Messenger have reordered replacement stones that will go into the lesser south transept.

It was noted that one of the north side pinnacles was a medium priority for replacement. As this would require a scaffold tied through the roof sheet it was decided that, using stone we had in stock, Dennis would carve this pinnacle and replace it earlier than expected to avoid putting holes into, and patching, our new roof within its first few years with us. The base sections are now in place and the grotesques will be up soon. The new pinnacle will be looking over the Highgate entrance; once it's up see if you can recognise anyone carved into the stone. We have also taken the opportunity to renew the safety lines on the roof, which are essential to us maintaining the high areas of the Minster.

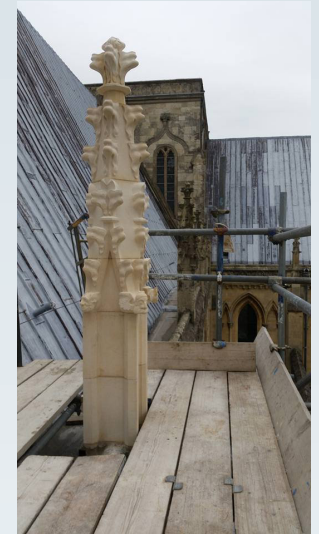
During the preparation for the replacement roofs Steve and Dennis have preceded the contractor stripping the craftsmen's marks/graffiti. We have a collection of markings saved within the roof showing dates, names and even engravings of balloons. We need a plan to save and display these.

As you can imagine the Old Fund team have been as always having a busy summer, but this is the second summer with a large project on site and they have been drawn into the projects with their experience to add expertise to the contract team whilst also doing all the work they have to, to maintain our fantastic building. Carving stones, creating new lead downpipes, undertaking temporary repairs to a



damaged stained glass window broken by the scaffolders, or giving background information to the project team have all pulled the team away from their day to day workload, but not stopped them from doing their usual great job.

With this in mind they have undertaken repairs on the retro quire and south west tower roofs and in the gutters generally, and continue to keep the gutters and downpipes as clear of nesting material as they can. With the peregrines' returning with three fledglings this year they have been getting some help, as the pigeons start getting a little nervous. With the help of Andrew Gibson from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust we relocated the nesting box on the south west tower which had been in its last location for five to six years, with no interest from these raptors. Moving it to face south was felt to be a better location to encourage its use.



With all the talk of which project comes next and what support it will need from the maintenance team planning, has been a little up in the air. We have plenty to do as always but the order for items like pinnacle and window replacement can be heavily influenced by the nature of major projects and the access they make available.

The Minster architect (Andy Burrell) has recently undertaken the quinquennial inspection (QI) survey with our support. A year late (blame that COVID thing), but we have great expectations for this latest of many QIs. Andy made time to speak to as many people with building knowledge as he could, not just the Old Fund team but people with knowledge such as the Tower Captain Mike Robson. We hope to get the report later in the year and this will help us plan work and will form the basis for funding bids.

We have been successful in getting 50% funding for a roof alarm for the low roofs over the virgers' office/boiler house/shop store and toilets. The security of these roofs is important to minimise the risk of lead theft; we will soon have this covered by a monitored alarm system.

We made our first attempt to recruit a replacement to the team with Steve Rial due to retire in October 2022. This was not a success and we will be going out again to look to find someone who get fill Steve's experienced boots. Please spread the word as we would ideally like someone as early as we can to sit alongside Steve and Dennis before we lose Steve.

A welcome by product of all the roofing works that have taken place are materials to upcycle to raise funds for the up keep of the Minster. Although the biggest quantity of

material being taken off the roof is the lead, this has been sent back to the lead providers and smelted down and recycled. Lead aside we have had sections of oak (some dating back to the 12th Century) and a lot of 18th century sarking boards as well as a quantity of handmade nails. A partnership has been made between Jane the shop manager and Beverley Men in Sheds to up cycle what they can and share any profits between the Minster/Old fund and the Men in Sheds (who are doing the donkey work). This has proved a good partnership with funds starting to trickle in from sales of sections of oak as well as a number of products made using the oak that are on sale via the shop. Even the nails are making £1 each. We will have a large number of the pine sarking boards remaining as due to warping and the amount of iron nails embedded in them uses are limited. Any ideas welcome as our initial idea of benches isn't a possibility.



Steve and Dennis from the Old Fund Maintenance Team

Sanctuary Project Report

Mervyn King

In the Friends' Spring Newsletter I was able to report good progress on the Sanctuary Project in 2020 despite the pandemic. In particular:

- The appointment of a Learning and Engagement Officer
- A new sanctuary section on our website
- The re-publication of Martyn Kirby's book 'Sanctuary. Beverley – a town of refuge'
- The appointment of The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture (CSCC) at York University to design and create aspects of a display and exhibition

You'll remember that the project is part-funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). There are two aspects of the project that have been funded - the capital works on the lesser transept roof (assisted by funding from the Old Fund) and a number of activities (assisted by funding from the Friends) to engage a larger and more diverse audience with a heritage theme - we chose 'place of sanctuary'.

The work on the roof (and subsequently other roofs with different grants) is covered elsewhere. However the NLHF will only support projects that have an interesting story with which to interest the general public.

We chose sanctuary because of the Minster's tradition that the reputation of St John of Beverley had influenced King Athelstan sufficiently to have prompted him to give Beverley certain privileges, including the right of sanctuary in 938. The NLHF were attracted to our proposal to link medieval sanctuary with present day sanctuary seekers, and so our grant was approved.

We continue to make progress and carefully monitor our activity against the plan approved by the NLHF.

In 2021 we have:

- Appointed two Learning and Engagement Officers (a job share) to work with us on the second year of our project
- Completed the sanctuary exhibition and associated digital technology - 3 touch screens, projected video loop and image rich display boards
- Commissioned a film company to make videos, for our website and the exhibition, of stories based on medieval sanctuary seekers
- Revised our online self guided tour on the Minster website
- Revised what we tell visitors on our guided tours at floor and roof level
- Added the facility on our website to book and pay in advance for tours
- Provided training by Prof John Lennon and Dr Louise Hampson for our volunteers
- Published a guide leaflet to sell to visitors
- Provided a feedback survey on our website for visitors to complete
- Purchased a complete digitisation of the Minster's Sanctuary record book (from 1478) held in the British Library

As Covid restrictions are lifted we expect to strengthen our links with the wider community and schools.

All our news about the project is contained in our e-newsletter and on our website. To sign up for news, go to:

beverleyminster.org.uk/newsletter-sign-up/

As visitors return to the Minster after restrictions are lifted, they are greeted by our volunteer welcoming and directed to our sanctuary exhibition and touch screens.



The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts 2019 - 2020

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021

Statement of Financial Activities	2020/21		2019/20
	£	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary Income			
Subscriptions	12,587		13,404
Donations and Bequests	102,053		55,540
Tax Recovered	2,520		2,779
		117,160	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days/ Trips	-		3,837
Book sales	353		920
Annual Dinner	-		1,040
		353	
Investment Income		33,316	29,504
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>150,829</u>	£ <u>107,024</u>
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities			
Choir Burseries	17,500		10,000
Reordering of the nave - Architects Fees	1,245		2,882
Books	28,817		8,260
Repairs to Friends Display Cabinet			85
Roof Repaires	152,000		
Sanctuary Project	42,730		
Dendrochronology Study	2,400		
Repairs to Friends Display Cabinet			
		244,692	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days /Trips	412		4,309
Annual Dinner			1,090
		412	
Governance Costs			
Printing and stationery	1,360		1,945
Insurance	235		215
Sundries	124		77
		1,719	
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>246,823</u>	£ <u>28,863</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>- 95,994</u>	£ <u>78,161</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses			
Gain/Loss on investments		199,132	- 17,760
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>103,138</u>	£ <u>60,401</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		1,060,899	1,000,498

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

Fixed Assets	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Investments	1,129,015	959,883
Total Fixed Assets	1,129,015	959,883
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,459	2,779
CBF Deposit	90	77,090
Cash at Bank	32,573	21,197
Total Current Assets	35,122	101,066
less Creditors	100	50
Net Current Assets	35,022	101,016
Net Assets	£ <u>1,164,037</u>	£ <u>1,060,899</u>
Funds of Charity		
Unrestricted funds		
Brought forward	1,060,899	1,000,498
Add Surplus for the year	103,138	60,401
	£ <u>1,164,037</u>	£ <u>1,060,899</u>

James Moore, Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not being met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Sunman, Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA)

The Restoration of the Minster's Clock Dial

Mike Robson



This year we have been able to carry out the restoration of the Minster's clock dial, put on hold last year because of Covid. On Monday 7 June a specialist team from The Cumbria Clock Company arrived on site to prepare to abseil from the top of the tower to remove the hands from the clock face. The last time the hands were removed was in the early 1990s when the original bearings had collapsed in the spindle they attach to, causing the clock to stop at 6.30 every time the hands passed the VI numeral.

When the men had removed the hands and they were brought down safely, they were taken into the tower and placed in the lower ringing chamber ready for cleaning, repainting and finishing with gold leaf. With the hands removed, the fixings and stonework could be inspected to make sure everything was secure and in good order. The team could then begin cleaning and rubbing down the dial.

When everything was prepared the dial was given a coat of rust inhibitor and primer before the first coat of black paint. After several days the dial was ready for the 23-carat gold leaf to be applied to the numerals and minutes in an operation that took six and a half hours to complete.

With the dial finished, work could begin on restoring the hands; the spindle they attach to was stripped down and checked. When everything was completed, the hands were wrapped in plastic and carried up the staircase to the roof. Both men went over the parapet of the tower, each with a clock hand attached, and abseiled down into position at the clockface ready to refit the hands. Once fitted, the hands were spun to check they ran freely and that nothing was catching anywhere, and then the plastic was removed.

The crowd that had gathered in the street below applauded as the men descended. All that was left was to reattach the hands' connecting rod to the main clock mechanism and set the hands to the correct time.

The work to fully restore the clock dial to its original condition had taken eight days. The dial now looks as it would have done when it was put up in 1884.

This work has revealed that the dial was made in sections and bolted together,



each minute and numeral individually cast and bolted into place. Another interesting fact we learnt was that the dial had been painted in 1960 with a gold paint, and the workman who painted it left his initials and the date on the wall behind the numeral nine. We also found the original gold leaf under the paint.

The use of abseiling meant the general public could watch the operation, with

some people coming every day to check progress. Throughout this work we have had the press, TV and radio on site covering the story, giving us an ideal opportunity to promote the work of The Friends of Beverley Minster.

The story and photos have been in various papers for eight weeks and have brought people from far and wide to visit this unique building.

The Object of the Friends

From around 1180, when work was begun, to the present day the building and maintenance of Beverley Minster has been the responsibility of those who love this church.

The 'Friends of Beverley Minster' is a registered charity (formed in 1936) with the objective of uniting into a common fellowship all those throughout the world who wish to be associated with the work and worship of the Minster and the maintenance and enrichment of its fabric and furnishings. The Friends seek to be a link between those in Beverley and far beyond whose love of the Minster inspires them to have a share in preserving it in all its beauty for future generations.

Money raised by contributions from members of the Friends has been used to clean and restore the interior of the Minster and introduce most of the twentieth century furnishings that are seen today, provide a new window and artwork in the retro-quire, and, in 2007, pay for the refurbishment of the Minster Shop together with a magnificent new shop screen.

Conservation and re-decoration are, however, on-going problems, and much work is still to be done.

Leaflets, incorporating an application form for membership, are available from the Friends' Display Table in the north aisle or from the Membership Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Friends are invited to set their own level of annual subscription from a minimum of £20. Payment by Standing Order helps to reduce the clerical work, saves postage and is recommended to both new and existing members. Forms will be sent by the Membership Secretary on request.

GIFT AID

Members who pay income tax and/or capital gains tax can significantly increase the value of their subscriptions by declaring that they wish to have them treated as a donation under the gift aid scheme introduced in the Finance Act 2000. It enables the Friends to recover tax equal to 25p (in the current tax year) for every £1 donated. New members should apply to the Membership Secretary for a form of declaration.

LEGACIES

We welcome legacies, however small. A suitable form of bequest will be sent on application to the Treasurer. Such gifts are free of duty.

If you wish to leave a legacy to the Friends of Beverley Minster the following clause should be included in your will: I bequeath the sum of £..... free of duty to 'The Friends of Beverley Minster' and I declare that the receipt of their treasurer for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge for the legacy.

Registered Charity No. 501302

Friends of Beverley Minster Officers and Members of the Council

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Tel: 01482 442221
Email: friendsbooking@beverleyminster.org.uk

Revd Canon Jonathan Baker (Vicar)
The Minster Vicarage,
Highgate,
Beverley HU17 0DN

Mr Martin Needler (Old Fund Representative)
Mr Steve George (PCC Representative)
Ms Meg Choules (PCC Representative)
Mr Mervyn King (Co-opted)
Mr Robert Poyser (Co-opted)
Mr Ian Champion (Co-opted)

Elected members

Mr Mike Robson (Retires 2022)
Mr Stephen Deas (Retires 2023)
Mrs Helena Anderson (Retires 2023)
Ms Gail Cahill (Retires 2023)

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Friends of Beverley Minster holds on computer the names and addresses of members. This information is used solely to print address labels to mail the annual report, newsletters and other information, and for membership records.

The AGM of the Friends of Beverley Minster

to be held in the parish hall on **Saturday 16 October 2021** at 14.00

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM held on Monday 19th April 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Council Chairman's Report – Prof. Roger Lewis
5. Hon. Secretary's Report - Mr John Phillips
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report – Mr James Moore
7. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report – Ms Liz Grove
8. Hon. Social Secretary's Report – Miss Pamela Martin
9. Vicar's Report – Rev. Jonathan Baker
10. The adoption of the reports proposed by the Mayor of Beverley
11. Adoption of the new Financial Policy
12. Election of Officers

To be re-elected:

- a. Vice Presidents – Mayor of Beverley, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, Mrs Lorna Jones, and Messrs Terry Holmes, Richard Kemp, John Ramsdale, and Peter Calvert
- b. Chairman – Professor Roger Lewis
- c. Hon. Social Secretary – Miss Pamela Martin
- d. Hon. Secretary – Mr John Phillips
- e. Hon. Treasurer – Mr James Moore
- f. Hon. Membership Secretary – Ms Liz Grove

To be elected: New members of the Council.

NB. Those wishing to stand for election, or to propose a member for election should contact the secretary before the meeting.

13. Any Other Business

The AGM of the Friends of Beverley Minster

held by Zoom on **Monday 19 April 2021** at 19.00

This meeting replaces the AGM due to be held in October 2020 and covers the events between March 2019 and March 2020. All matters from March 2020 until March 2021 will be covered in the AGM in October 2021, and circulated in this year's Annual Report, due to be published in August.

Please note: you will need your copy of the Annual Report for 2019-20, in which you will find the minutes of the previous AGM, the officers' reports, the vicar's report, and the annual accounts'.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 13th October 2019
3. Matters arising
4. Council Chairman's Report – Prof. Roger Lewis
5. Hon. Secretary's Report - Mr John Phillips
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report – Mr James Moore
7. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report – Ms Liz Grove
8. Hon. Social Secretary's Report – Miss Pamela Martin
9. Vicar's Report – Rev. Jonathan Baker
10. The adoption of the reports
11. Election of Officers

To be re-elected en bloc

- a. Vice Presidents – Mayor of Beverley, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, Mrs Lorna Jones and Messrs Terry Holmes, Richard Kemp, John Ramsdale, and Peter Calvert
- b. Chairman – Professor Roger Lewis
- c. Hon. Social Secretary – Miss Pamela Martin
- d. Hon. Secretary – Mr John Phillips
- e. Hon. Treasurer – Mr James Moore
- f. Hon. Membership Secretary – Ms Liz Grove

To be elected: New members of the Council.

NB. Those wishing to stand for election as members of the Council, or to propose a member for election should contact the secretary before the meeting. There will be further elections of two more members next October to bring the number of elected members to 6.

12. Any Other Business

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Beverley Minster held by Zoom on Monday 19 April 2021

This meeting was due to be held in October 2020 but was postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The business of the meeting therefore refers to the year ending March 2020

The meeting was chaired by Professor Barbara English.

Present: Helena Anderson, Pamela Martin, John Phillips, Steve George, Martin Needler, Alan Coates, Edward Openshaw, John Askey, Meg Choules, James Moore, Jonathan Baker, Stephen Deas, Mervyn Kind, Gail Cahill, Shirley and David Learoyd, Roger Lewis, Bernard and Carla Vickers, Jane Payne, Barbara Harcourt, Jacqui Oadini, Robert Poyser, Geoff and June Stephenson.

1. Apologies for absence: The Bishop of Hull, Mike Robson. Pamela Hopkins, Ian Champion, Liz Grove.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on October 2019 were passed – nem con.

3. Matters arising – none

4. Chairman's report, AGM for year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020

Roger Lewis
We're all a bit confused by Covid and our delayed AGM. I need to remind myself that we are reporting on the year as above – though the subsequent year to that has just been completed!

I'll cast my mind back and try to pick up from where we had got to at the last AGM (i.e. the one we held in October of 2019). The Secretary's report (following this) will give you the detail of what we discussed and what we did.

You will note that the end of the year on

which we are reporting coincided almost exactly with the first lockdown – when life seemed to change totally (and, as it felt, forever).

The year 2019-20 was a busy one for the Lottery Project which, as you will recall, has two components – roof repair, interpretation of the sanctuary theme. Lockdown made little difference to progress on the lesser south transept roof. It continued more or less to plan – with literally miles of scaffolding climbing up to the sky and workmen's cheerful shouts filling the otherwise Covid-quiet atmosphere all around. It was good to see the activity.

I explained the financial situation in my previous AGM report; how Friends' approximately £50k released in total £774k, the bulk of which went to re-leading the roof. Whilst the scaffolding was up, additional stonework repairs were also carried out – spot the joins!

The interpretation project also got underway. We recruited a project worker who drew up plans which were inevitably thwarted by Covid; alternative plans were drafted but that takes us beyond the year on which I am reporting.

When we released our £50k for the NHLF project little did we know that a great deal more of our money would be needed for further roofing. We were soon to review our founding document to check that it is appropriate to contribute to such structural work. But this again is outside the year on which I am reporting.

We were able to run a full social programme in 2019-20 (not so, of course, for the subsequent year). The Programme Secretary will be reporting later in this AGM. This is

a good point at which to thank Pam for that successful year (and for coping so well with the difficulties that followed – which included her own hospitalization though fortunately not associated with society's current health problems and I'm glad to say that Pam is recovering from her operation).

I also want to thank the other officers:

Liz Grove (who is such an excellent membership secretary, always friendly, interested in members and who manages the maintenance and development of the database, and the mailings); John Phillips (the year under report would have been his first year back had he actually left!) and James Moore who always quietly and competently looks after our financial affairs). Thanks, too, to the members of the committee who are much engaged with what we do and in the future of our activities.

2019-20 saw us conclude the contract for the new Minster book with Scala (the publisher). The writing and illustrating, design and editing mostly took place in the following year, with the book becoming available just at the end of that year, in February 2021. I must thank Mervyn King for his inestimable help with all stages of the publication of this book.

The proposal to re-gild the clock face (mentioned in 2018-19) was given the go-ahead. The work was to have been carried out in spring/early summer of 2020 but for obvious reasons this was delayed; we are hoping the re-gilding will be undertaken this summer, pandemic permitting.

5. Hon Secretary's Report. John Phillips
2019-2020 was a very busy year. In what follows I give only a summary of what has been discussed at the four meetings of our Friends' Council.

MAY 2019

£65,000 within the bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (due to be submitted at the end of the month) was earmarked

for the theme of Sanctuary. Scheduled to begin in March 2020 this would include the development of tours (ground and roof), a display, a revised version of the book on sanctuary, events, work with schools and the development of the churchyard as an open space.

The Council agreed to fund the Minster architect's costs for developing the scheme to re-order the nave; the costs were projected at approximately £3,300 (plus VAT and expenses).

The Minster Lighting Fund informed the meeting that the decision had been taken to raise the cost of nights from May 2020.

A contract for the Scala book on the Minster had been signed.

AUGUST 2019

It was noted that the current Trustees of the Friends of Beverley Minster are Professor Roger Lewis, Mr John Phillips, Mr James Moore, Ms Liz Grove and Miss Pamela Martin. Membership matters were discussed, including methods of payment and the cost of fulfilling membership. It was agreed to revise and reprint the membership leaflet and to discontinue the membership of people who fail to pay their subscriptions after reminders.

'Two churches one town' had been set up initially as a 'plc' in July with the intention of applying for charitable status. Its purpose was to raise money for both the Minster (£9m needed for repairs to roof and windows and improvements to access, lighting and toilets) and St Mary's (repairs to stonework and other improvements).

The Vicar reported on the proposal to re-order the nave. Concerns were expressed over approaching only one company for the furniture. Questions were raised about the dais and the permanence of the scheme. The estimated costs (£150,000 - £200,000) were noted as significantly higher than previous estimates, which had in themselves been a cause of concern. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a range of

options for the scheme. The Council would await a more detailed proposal from the PCC, confirming that the only financial commitment to date was to fund the architect's design costs (as agreed in May). Subscribers to the Lighting Fund had been informed that, to cover increased costs, lighting the Minster will increase to £25 per night from May 2020. The Council was reminded that the Lighting Fund is an independent body, although members of the Friends Council are its Trustees. The Lighting Fund will no longer be a permanent agenda item at Friends' Council meetings; relevant issues will be discussed as required.

NOVEMBER 2019

There was further discussion of the project to re-order the nave. The Vicar sought to address concerns voiced at the previous meeting, including the proposed use of only one architect and only one furniture design company. He pointed out that the Diocesan Advisory Committee recommends a 'relationship of trust' with a single architect, whose role includes advice on any major project, and that the use of one furniture designer would avoid delays occasioned by tender requirements. In discussion it was pointed out that the successful Minster shop project began with an architects' competition and that the PCC's own good practice in procurement required three tenders. The question was raised as to the priority of this re-ordering proposal with the PCC; a meeting with the architect later in the week should, clarify this. The PCC was not expecting to contribute to the costs of the project. Further design issues remain, including the dais and the positioning of the altar and frith stool. The Council confirmed its position as stated in August: to await a full proposal from the PCC.

Liz Grove reported that new Friends' leaflets are available. She also confirmed that it is now proposed to send only two reminders to non-payers before terminating membership.

Mervyn King confirmed that Martin Kirby's book on sanctuary would be available by Christmas 2020. He was thanked for his work on this. He also informed the meeting that the post of Sanctuary Learning Officer would be advertised in January 2020 and that work on the roof repairs to the lesser south transept was scheduled for March to October 2020.

Progress on restoring the clock face was reported. Mike Robson said a site meeting before Christmas would explore health and safety issues raised by the Surveyor. The Council confirmed its agreement to fund to the sum given in the Cumbria Clock Company quotation.

The Chairman suggested that drafts of the text for the Scala publication should be reviewed by Mr Deas, Mr Phillips, Prof. Wilton Ely and possibly other experts.

Mike Robson enquired whether it would be possible to display the Percy funerary helmets previously on the brackets outside the chapel. There are also several 18th century funerary hatchments stored in the north-west tower which could be displayed.

FEBRUARY 2020

An update on the progress of the Scala Publications book confirmed that the schedule had slipped due to the delay in receiving the author's first draft. Steve George (PCC representative) reported that a PCC working group to prioritise capital projects had been set up. It was decided to form a Friends' working group to review/reconfirm the Friends' own priorities and consider these alongside the priorities emerging from the PCC. Mr Deas, Prof. Lewis, Mrs Anderson and Ms Cahill agreed to serve on this group.

John Phillips brought the meeting's attention to a watercolour of the crossing in the Minster painted by William Gaunt (1900-1980) and presented to the Friends by Mrs Erica Symes. She had asked Friends to dispose of this as they wished. Mr Phillips suggested that the value was somewhere

between £80 and £120 based on auction records. Mr Robson offered to pay £120 and this was accepted by the Council.

6. Treasurer's report. James Moore presented the Accounts from the Annual Report and answered questions.

7. Membership Secretary's report (given by Roger Lewis on Liz Groves' behalf.) Membership stood at 451 at the end of 2020. Work is in progress to update computer systems to allow and encourage members, new and existing, to pay subscriptions online, and by Standing Order. The following members have passed away since the last report. Phil and Chris Dellar, Alan Bartlett, Peter Beynon, Rosemary Lewis, Bill Pugh, Alice Scott, Evelyn Wise.

8. Social Secretary's report. Pamela Martin In May 2019 34 people attended the Study Day given by Roger Willson, a day school of four lectures on the appreciation of stained glass.

In August 2019 there were four well attended tours. The first, given by Mike Robson – a tour and guide to the bells of the Minster which included some intrepid members trying to ring a bell, and access to the roofs between the two western towers. Peter Calvert gave a tour of the interior of the Minster which was a tour de force of anecdotes and little known facts about the details of the building. Jonathan Baker gave a fascinating tour of the interior entitled "Pews, Pulpits and Pilgrims." The coach tour in July to Ripon and Markenfield Hall was well attended and very successful. The AGM weekend began with the customary Dinner at Cerutti's with the after dinner speech given by Canon Peter Wadsworth. The coach tour on Saturday was to Piece Hall, Halifax. On Sunday The St John Lecture was given by John Phillips, followed by tea and evensong in the Minster. 60 people attended the Epiphany organ recital

in January 2020 which was sponsored by the Friends.

Following Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 the planned social programme, Study Day in April, and a coach trip to Coverham and Jervaulx abbeys in the summer had to be cancelled. together with the AGM weekend and the Epiphany recital in January. It is hoped to reinstate these when restrictions permit.

9. Vicar's Report.

Jonathan Baker spoke to the report as published in the Annual Report and answered questions.

10. Adoption of the reports.

A proposal to adopt the reports was proposed by Stephen Deas and seconded by Jayne Payne, and passed – nem con.

11. Elections.

Election of Officers.

It was decided to re-elect all Officers of the Council en bloc, proposed by Edward Openshaw, seconded by Gail Cahill, and approved unanimously.

Election of New Members of the Council.

Three members were proposed to be added to the Council: Helena Anderson, Gail Cahill and Stephen Deas. These were proposed by John Phillips, seconded by Mervyn King, and elected nem con.

12. Any other business.

None

Thanks were expressed by Roger Lewis to Steve George for organising the Zoom meeting.

The meeting was followed by a talk by Professor Barbara English on the Translation of St John. A transcript is included on page 10.



The Friends' Annual Report is compiled by John Phillips, designed by Mervyn King and printed by Daltonspire Ltd.



Funded by the Friends, the Minster clock face is re-gilded.