

# NEWSLETTER

## of the Friends of Beverley Minster

SPRING 2017



### THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

**Roger Lewis**

Since I was last in touch with you, we had news that Jeremy, Vicar of the Minster, would be leaving Beverley this March, to become Vicar of St John-at-Hampstead.

There will be a gap while the new vicar is appointed. During that time, the many organisations comprising the Minster will have to carry on business as usual – and this they will do.

This situation matters perhaps less to Friends than to others. We are a separate organisation from the Minster, an independent body with our own remit (from which I have often quoted in my contributions to newsletters and annual reports).

About ten years ago, David Bailey (the then Vicar) led the process to change our constitution to make it clear that the Vicar should no longer, by virtue of his office, also be Chair of the Friends, thus reinforcing (and making visible) the gap between 'church organisation' and 'friends' organisation'. This acknowledged the potential for a conflict of interest between the vicar as 'chief executive' of the church and the vicar as chair of the Friends – a conflict heightened should a friends' organisation have a healthy budget and the church be 'strapped for cash'.

In prompting this change, David was in the vanguard, as most Friends' organisations were at that time chaired by the vicar or (in the case of cathedrals) by the Dean of Chapter. Increasingly the change we undertook is becoming routine (for example York Minster has recently taken the decision); lay chairs of Friends' organisations are now the norm – though this is not universally the case (especially in cathedrals).

These are important matters of organisational formality but even more important is an excellent relationship between a church and its friends. In fact, 'good fences make good neighbours': clarity about boundaries can be helpful in establishing productive relationships. And of course the vicar of a church has a unique contribution to make to discussions of how a friends' organisation should operate and use its resources. This has proved to be the case both with David and with Jeremy.

We have enjoyed a positive relationship with Jeremy throughout his time here. Jeremy has prioritised regular attendance at the Friends' Council, where he has been active and generous in sharing his knowledge, making his views clear and listening to the views of others. The relationship is never without potential tension and there have been some differences in opinion – or, more accurately, different views on

what constitutes a priority for the Minster (or how the Friends might best respond to a variety of priorities). At the end of the day this is about how the Friends spends its money.

But these differences have never affected the quality of our working relationship. We have found acceptable compromises to the benefit of the Minster – as with the 'new' chairs, which have not only been more comfortable (and much easier for the virgers to move) but have also opened up the appearance of the nave (an aesthetic improvement of particular interest to the Friends).

Members of friends' organisations are by no means all drawn from the community of practising Christians; some are of other faiths, some are of no faith. (Not all friends' organisations acknowledge this in their literature.) But I think all Beverley Minster Friends will have some interest in how the building is used. It is not just an empty building – it is used every day in a remarkable variety of ways. Its main purpose has, however, always been the worship of God: that was the reason it was built and for 1000 years that has been its prime function. Given that, we all share a commitment to the way in which this core purpose is expressed – in word, music and movement – and the Minster has been exceptionally well-served by Jeremy, especially with his commitment to music and liturgy.

Jeremy was a chorister as a boy and (before he came to Beverley) Precentor at York Minster. His contributions to the music at Beverley have been many – most obviously, singing the services but also standing in the choir bass line when necessary and supporting Robert as Director of Music. In terms of liturgy, too, Jeremy is a leader – not only locally but also nationally. For eight years he was on the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England. From this perhaps stems his ability to 'hold a service together' and make worship coherent and satisfying.

Jeremy is very well-connected to many networks (digitally and through his other communication skills) and this has helped us find speakers for our events and preachers for Friends' services.

Finally, Jeremy has been able to move both the Minster and St Mary's significantly forward in a collaborative bid for Lottery funding. Much of course remains to be done but we now have at least a clear outline of priorities (for each of the churches), practical working arrangements, a timetable, and some resource in the form of a project manager for the £15m bid.

So for the Friends this has been a happy seven years period. We could well have wished for a few more years, but vicars move on and we wish Jeremy and Julia every happiness in what will be a very different life in Hampstead.

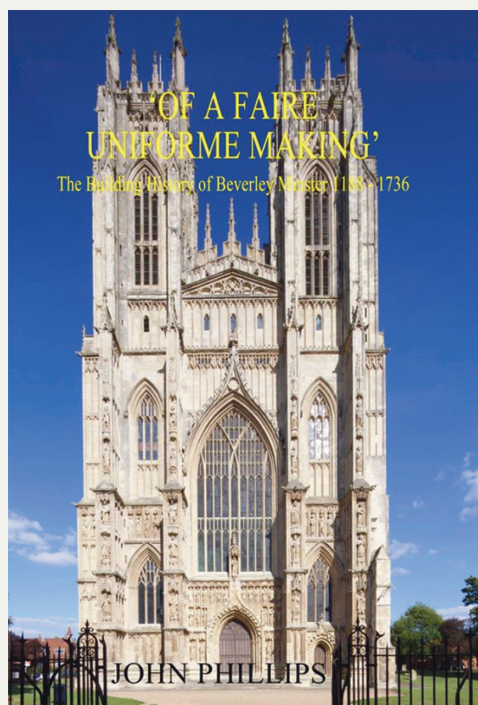
## FROM THE SECRETARY

### John Phillips

I make no apologies for indulging in some unashamed self-publicity. My book, 'Of a Fair Uniforme Making – the Building History of Beverley Minster 1188-1736,' was published just before Christmas, just too late for it to be bought as Christmas presents unfortunately, but it is now 'on the shelves' in the Minster shop for those of you who live close enough, or on Amazon and ebay for those who live further away and would like it posted to them. (Just search 'Beverley Minster' in the books sections and you will find it.) It comes from me anyway, but it can be paid for by Paypal or credit card which makes it much easier than sending cheques. If, however that is how you would prefer to order it, there is an order form included with this newsletter.

The book suggests a radical re-dating of the building of the present church after a fire which destroyed most of Beverley in 1188, taking the building back some 30 years earlier than previously thought. Using masons' marks, and architectural comparisons with other buildings, such as Hedon church, and Fountains, Meaux and Jervaulx abbeys, the earliest eastern part of Beverley Minster has emerged as the only standing example of a number of churches designed by the same man, or group of men in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Long compared with Lincoln Cathedral, it is now clear that Beverley and the north of England had their own clearly defined style of architecture.

The book also uses the masons' marks to explain the development of the nave of the building which was interrupted by the black death in



1348, and explores the later restorations of the building in the 18th and 19th centuries. Profusely illustrated, (some of the illustrations such as the contemporary drawing of the tomb of the 5th Earl of Northumberland who died in 1527 are published for the first time) and with detailed plans, the new book is a comprehensive history of one of the finest Gothic churches in Britain.

The cost of production of the book has been underwritten by the Friends. All the proceeds will be directed to match funding for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid due to be submitted in November for the "Two Churches, One Town campaign." In order to achieve that we need to sell 1,000 books so we need your support, please!

## INTRODUCING...

### Liz Grove



Hi, my name is Liz Grove and I've taken over from the wonderful John Ramsdale as **Membership Secretary** of the Friends of Beverley Minster. A hard act to follow, but John has made the job much easier than it might have been by handing over really well organised files. Thank you, John for all your work over the past nine years and your tolerance and help towards someone much less well organised. I promise to do my

best, but there will be differences – and no doubt some errors, which I'll do my best to fix eventually!

I've been on the Council of the Friends for several years now and have been looking for some way to get more involved with something which I support with wholehearted enthusiasm. Being one of those really odd people who enjoys spreadsheets – and the Minster in its glory – this seemed like something I might be able to help with, especially as one of my major enthusiasms is music, and the Friends support lots of "extras" in the Minster, including our amazing musical heritage.

And me? I was born in the East Riding, went to school in Bridlington, and on leaving to go to college vowed never to return. As my favourite saying goes If you want to make God laugh, tell him your 5 year plan. Well, in my case it took nearer 45 years before I found myself back here, having lived all over the place, including Stirling, Devon (Dartington), London, Washington DC and New South Wales, and, like almost everywhere I've lived, this is currently my favourite ever home. I have no children but lots and lots of lovely friends, both here and around the world: one of my delights about living in Beverley is how many people smile and say Hello as I go around. If you see me (and often my colourful hat /coat) please do the same – I'm good at smiles and like to think that a shared smile makes the day brighter.



And if you have friends who are not yet thinking of becoming Friends of Beverley Minster, bring them along to one of our events and I'd love to meet them – and offer them a membership form.

# SOCIAL PROGRAMME 2017

## FRIDAY 5 MAY

09.15 (for 09.30 start – 17.00 approx.)

### **EAST YORKSHIRE CHURCHES STUDY DAY**

Guide: Richard Clarke

COACH TOUR to include Harpham, St John's; Lowthorpe, St Martin's; Kilham, All Saints'; and Nafferton, All Saints' Parish Churches.

Morning coffee and lunch included in price plus donations to churches

Cost per person: £40 (£35 for Friends\*)

Meet on Eastgate near the junction with Minster Yard North

NB the nearby Minster car park will be open

Max. No. 30 people

## MIDSUMMER PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY 2 JUNE

19.15

### **'WHY 1188? REASONS FOR RE-DATING THE MINSTER'**

Guide: John Phillips

Venue: Meet inside Highgate Entrance.

Cost per person: £6 (£5 for Friends\*)

Max. No. 25 people

## FRIDAY 16 JUNE

19.15

### **'LAURENCE STERNE – AUTHOR AND PREACHER'**

Talk by Patrick Wildgust, Curator of Shandy Hall

Venue: Peter Harrison Room, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP

Cost per person: £6 (£5 for Friends\*)

Max. No. 40 people

## MONDAY 26 JUNE

19.15

### **GUIDED TOUR OF ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, BEVERLEY**

Guide: Pamela Hopkins

Cost per person: £6 (£5 for Friends\*)

Meet at the South Door.

Max No. 25 people

\*\*includes light refreshments at the end of the tour; please wear suitable shoes

## TUESDAY 15 AUGUST

### **COACH TOUR TO BYLAND ABBEY and NEWBURGH PRIORY**

Abbey Guide: Stuart Harrison

The itinerary includes morning coffee in Malton, a guided tour of Byland Abbey, lunch at the Byland Abbey Tearoom, a guided tour of Newburgh Priory and afternoon tea to follow (home about 19.00).

Entry fees, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea included in price.

Cost per person: £51 (£46 for Friends\*); £46.25 (£41.25) for English Heritage members with card

Meet on Eastgate near the junction with Minster Yard North at 8.30am for 8.45am start

NB the nearby Minster car park will be open

Max. no. 49 people

## FRIDAY 6 - SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

### **AGM WEEKEND 2017**

## FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

19.00 for 19.30

Venue: Cerutti 2, Station Square, Beverley

Further details to follow in the Annual Report and on the website.

Speaker: John Phillips (Hon. Secretary of Friends of Beverley Minster)

## SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

10.15 – 16.00 approx.

### **STUDY DAY**

#### **'BEVERLEY: TWO CHURCHES AND A TOWN'**

Speaker: Professor Barbara English, MBE

Venue: Peter Harrison Room, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP.

Further details to follow in the Annual Report and on the website.

## SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

14.15

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Venue: Parish Hall, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP

15.15

### **ST JOHN LECTURE**

'New thoughts on an old Chronology: Meaux Abbey, East Riding of Yorkshire, in a new light'

Speakers: Dr Glyn Coppack & Stuart Harrison

Venue: Peter Harrison Room, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP

Followed by Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall

St John Lecture – Cost per person: £5 (no charge for Friends\*)

17.30

### **CHORAL EVENSONG**

#### 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 where there is a charge.

NB Friends\* should be interpreted as current 'Friends of Beverley Minster'. Current members of the Friends of St Mary's are also able to buy tickets at the reduced Friends' prices listed.



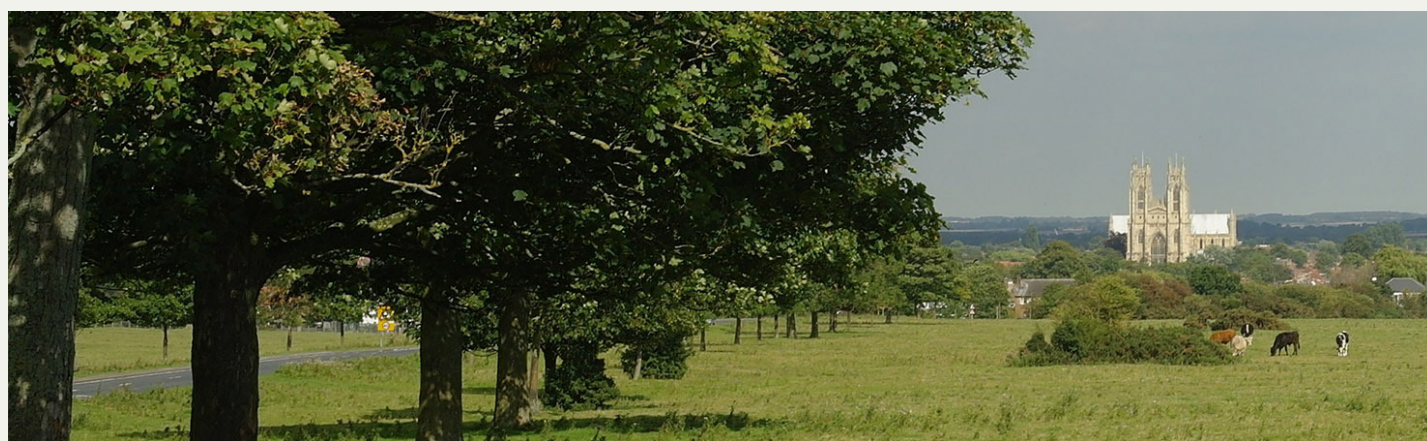
The Friends of Beverley Minster unite in common fellowship all those throughout the world who wish to be associated with this outstanding medieval building. They are a link between those in Beverley and far beyond, whose love of the Minster inspires them to share in preserving it, in all its beauty, for future generations.

Registered Charity No. 501302

Beverley Minster Parish Centre, 38 Highgate, Beverley HU17 0DN

T: 01482 868540 E: [minster@beverleyminster.org.uk](mailto:minster@beverleyminster.org.uk) W: [www.beverleyminster.org.uk](http://www.beverleyminster.org.uk)

## PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT Pamela Martin



### Events Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Friends who have supported our events over the last year. Without your support and interest, our programme would not have been such a success. Furthermore, numbers attending events are definitely on the increase.

The creation of a new Events Programme involves achieving a fine balance between building on ideas which have been successful and constantly being on the look-out for new approaches and concepts. Our AGM weekend in early October 2016 reflected this statement in its entirety.

The evening meal held at *Cerutti 2* in Beverley attracted between thirty and forty members and, once again, we were treated to a great selection of culinary delights on the menu. Our thanks go to John Phillips for organising yet another successful start to the weekend. Patrick Wildgust, Curator of Shandy Hall (former home of the author Laurence Sterne), gave a rousing After-Dinner presentation comprising a selection of four different readings from Sterne's works and alerted the attention of even the most drowsy of our company.

The Saturday event explored a subject which is so much part of everyday church-life, but at the same time is often forgotten – that of Bell-ringing. Mike Robson, Captain of the Minster Tower and Keeper of the Steeple shared his knowledge and long experience in the form of a Study Day, which was not to be missed. A small group attended the morning session, when Mike gave a talk about the Minster bells and clock, the history of bell-ringing and invited questions and gave answers. Eight brave souls climbed the tower in the afternoon to watch the bell-ringing team at work and try their skills afterwards, if they so wished! The Mayor of Beverley and his Lady enthusiastically participated in this activity and the rest of the weekend. Finally, more steps were climbed to

look at the Great John Bell and the Prayer Bell accompanied by relevant commentary. This was a Study Day which will be long remembered by those taking part. Whenever I hear the bells pealing, I now try to remember / work out the order in which they are rung! Without doubt the event was a resounding success!

After the AGM on the Sunday, Professor Barbara English, M.B.E. delivered an excellent and well researched St John of Beverley Lecture on the subject of *'The Percy Family and Beverley'*. The exquisite Percy tomb in Beverley Minster reflects one of many links and influences that the family had in this area. Such was her popularity, that more chairs had to be brought into the Peter Harrison Room to provide sufficient seating to house AGM members joining waiting non-members.

The weekend came to a close with a delicious buffet afternoon tea provided by *TC Patisserie* of Beverley and a special Festal Evensong followed with a sermon delivered by Revd Richard Walker of St Nicholas Parish Church, Beverley.

Finally, the Epiphany Concert, an organ recital performed by the Director of Music at Beverley Minster, Robert Poyser, entitled *'La Nativite du Seigneur'* by Messiaen, attracted more interest than ever. A record audience of approximately sixty people enjoyed Robert's interpretation of this work – a steady increase over several years. The Friends hosted the refreshments afterwards, once more from *TC Patisserie*, and not a morsel was left – the sign of a concert enjoyed and good food appreciated!

I would like to thank two people for their continued support of and help at events, Roger Lewis, our Chairman and John Phillips, Honorary Secretary. Both give much of their time and expertise, one way or another, to ensure the programme is a success.