

The Friends of Beverley Minster



80th ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016



FRIENDS OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

AGM WEEKEND 2016

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

ANNUAL DINNER

19.00 for 19.30 at Cerutti's, Station Square, Beverley

Speaker: **Patrick Wildgust** (*Shandy Hall Curator*)

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

BELL RINGING STUDY DAY

10.00 - 16.00

Speaker and Guide: **Mike Robson** (*Captain of the Tower and Keeper of the Steeple*)

Peter Harrison Room, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP (morning only).

The morning session will include a talk about the Minster bells and clock, bell ringing and how it has changed over the centuries, change ringing, and questions and answers. In the afternoon, a limited number of participants will have the opportunity to go up the Minster bell tower and not only watch a demonstration of bell ringing, but also try their skills afterwards! Finally, Mike will take the group to see Great John and the Prayer bell giving relevant details and commentary. Morning coffee will be provided. Lunch (12.30 – 14.15) is not included on this occasion. Cost per person: Full Day £12.50 (£10 for Friends); Morning only £6 (£5 for Friends)

Sensible shoes recommended

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the Parish Hall at **14.15**

ST JOHN LECTURE at **15.00** 'The Percy family and Beverley'

Speaker: **Professor Barbara English MBE**

Peter Harrison Room Followed by Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall.

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

CHORAL EVENSONG at **17.30**

FRIENDS' PROGRAMME FOR 2017

SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2017

EPIPHANY ORGAN RECITAL and Reception at **18.00**

Robert Poyser, Director of Music, plays 'Messiaen: *La Nativité du Seigneur*'

BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO:

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COVER: Vaulting under the Reredos

THIS PAGE: John Carter (detail) - see article on page 28

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Report of the Chairman of the Friends

Roger Lewis



One of our 'objects' (quaint term from our Constitution) is to 'promote public interest in the Minster, its history and its work'. This includes making sure that fresh knowledge of the building is made available as quickly and accessibly as possible. In this connection we published '*Beverley Minster: an illustrated history*' (in 2000) and '*Who built Beverley Minster?*' (in 2008). We seem to be falling into an eight-year cycle, so it is appropriate that we are publishing a further book in late 2016: *"Of a fair uniforme making": The building history of Beverley Minster 1188-1736*. This is the product of thousands of hours of research by John Phillips, in a different role also the Honorary Secretary of the Friends. John has literally crawled all over the building – initially to record masons' marks – and this research set him going on a more extended project, to establish the Minster's likely building history. This has led to important new findings notably, that the earliest part of the present church appears to date from immediately after the fire of 1188, which partially destroyed the Norman church which preceded it, rather than from (as established wisdom has it) to around 1220.

John has arrived at this conclusion by a number of routes – new research into the fabric of the building, comparisons with contemporary structures, 14th century sources (including accounts of early 13th century miracles), evidence from excavations, dendrochronology, and an analysis of 18th and 19th century commentators.

In the book John follows the development of the nave and west towers over the course of the 14th century, using as evidence the masons' marks, present in huge numbers throughout the building. The book concludes with the restorations and refittings of the building from the late 16th century onwards; there will be 320 pages, over 200 photographs, mostly in full colour, plus plans and charts.

The evolving findings have been tested by reference to dozens of cathedrals and churches in the north of England, including Jervaulx, Byland, Lincoln, Southwell, York, Hedon, Patrington and Whitby. John has sought to track down stylistic similarities with the Minster.

The result is a comprehensive updating of one of the finest Gothic buildings in Europe. This has been truly a 'labour of love' for John – not only in his enjoyment of the process but also in that all the profits from the book's sales will go to the building itself. The Friends are putting forward the upfront money to enable the book to be published. Income from sales will first go to paying off this

investment; thereafter to support the major redevelopment of the Minster planned over the next five to ten years.

I very much hope you will be able to support this venture by buying the book when it is available later this year, just in time for presents at Christmas! The book will sell at £25; if you want to order a copy, contact John by email on denscanis13@gmail.com

Roger Shaw

Roger – who has been a member of the Friends' Council for over 25 years and a great support – had a major heart operation in August this year. We wish him well for a speedy recovery and a return to Friends' activities and to his family (and golf!). Roger was instrumental in planning and overseeing the successful execution of the shop in the north transept, which was paid for by the Friends.

Membership Secretary

During the year a smooth transition was made to a new Friends' Membership Secretary – Liz Grove. We thank John Ramsdale not only for his hard work over the years, taking over from Terry Holmes, but also for the unfailing cheerfulness and generosity of spirit he showed in the role. John oversaw a major change to membership processes: the computerisation of the system, which has made it easier for all concerned.

The role of membership secretary has one obvious requirement: efficiency in maintaining an up-to-date and accurate list of members; but it also benefits from the qualities of warmth and friendliness in the post-holder;

helping members to feel valued as part of the Minster community.

We are grateful to John and Liz for managing such an effective handover, ensuring a seamless service to members. We thank Liz for taking on the role, confident that she will continue the tradition of 'friendly' membership secretaries. We wish John a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him, with Hazel, at Friends' events.

The Virgers

This year also saw a handover from 'old' to 'new' virgers. First, John Dell retired as head verger; then Neil Pickford left to run the Monks Walk pub – which seems already to have become a Minster 'watering hole'. John and Neil (and also Kevin, the continuing virger) have been unfailingly helpful to the Friends, accommodating our many requests over the years. We are glad that Neil remains a member of the Friends' Council. We welcome two new virgers – Robyn Cleveland (head virger), from St Paul's Cathedral, and George Oakes, who comes to us from Halifax Minster. We hope they will be very happy working in the Minster.

Supporting the Minster's music

We play a significant part in funding the Minster's music. Most recently we have paid the costs of the Assistant Organist for a three year period on the understanding that finance would be sought from elsewhere to continue to fund the post. Already this has borne fruit in the form of grants from the Friends of Cathedral Music and the Ouseley Trust. More is needed however to continue to support this post; if you wish to help then please

contact the Minster's honorary treasurer, John Bull, via the Parish Office or by emailing John at johnb47@johnb47.karoo.co.uk. John will advise you on the title of the fund relevant to the assistant organist post.

The Minster has started an additional scheme to secure our musical heritage. You can do this by sponsoring an individual chorister for £10 monthly – there are 15 boy choristers and 26 girl choristers, taking part in at least 120 services and concerts each year; or a month of music (at £500). The Friends are

sponsoring the music in October (when we celebrate our AGM weekend). You might wish to join us by sponsoring a month that is special to you – for example to celebrate an important family date or to remember a loved one. If you are in business you might see this as a way of supporting the community. For more information see the leaflet included in your mailing.

I hope you will consider helping the Minster's music in one of these ways.

Floodlighting the Minster

Elly Hoyes

For just £15.00 per night members of the public and local businesses are invited to sponsor a night on an annual basis or for one year only.

Sponsorship of lighting the Minster has proved very popular with both local people and those who have a connection with Beverley. As the years have gone by the Minster Lighting Fund has worked hard to improve the exterior lighting and the Minster is now fully lit all the way round the building.

The project began in 1991 when members of Beverley and District Civic Society recognized Beverley Minster as one of the town's much loved and favoured landmarks. Traditionally the imposing west towers were only lit up during the Christmas period, and so with the blessing of the vicar, the Rt Revd Peter Forster, the Civic Society's secretary, Mr Neil King, took the initiative to set up the Minster Lighting Fund to gain sponsorship to have the

towers of the Minster lit all year round. The sight of Beverley Minster fully lit is enjoyed from all vantage points, whether it is from close up in Beverley itself or from further afield. The impressive medieval gothic architecture is now a welcoming sight on the approach to the market town from either the flats of Holderness or driving down from the Wolds across the Westwood into Beverley.

The scheme is still as popular today as work continues to take place to improve the lighting of the Minster; and consideration is now being given to how the interior can be improved to enhance the details of the architecture for the benefit of the many visitors and the local community.

For a list of sponsors and available nights go the Minster website: www.beverleyminster.org.uk and search for 'floodlighting'.

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Jean II Le Meingre, dit Boucicaut (1366-1421)

Following his St John Lecture on Agincourt in 2015, Craig Taylor has sent this article which forms a postscript to the battle itself.

Amongst the most prominent French prisoners captured at the battle of Agincourt was Jean II Le Meingre, known as Boucicaut. He had been a Marshal of France since 1391 and therefore on the eve of the great battle, was one of the French captains who shadowed the English army as it approached the Somme. In the week before the battle of Agincourt, Boucicaut, Alençon and Richemont drew up a plan for how to tackle the English army in the field, perhaps intending to fight at or near Blanchetaque. In practice, events took a very different course and battle was joined at Agincourt, perhaps against the advice of Boucicaut and the more experienced commanders if subsequent French accounts are to be believed. Following the defeat, Boucicaut was taken to England as a prisoner in November 1415 alongside other leading commanders such as the constable Charles d'Artois and Arthur de Richemont. Negotiations over Boucicaut's ransom proved intractable, despite the attempted intervention of papal ambassadors, not least because of the inevitable English desire to hold on to such an important and experienced French commander while the war still raged in Normandy. As a result, Boucicaut remained in custody, moving from Fotheringhay to Methley in Yorkshire where he probably died on 25 June 1421 at the age of 56. His body was returned to France and

was buried at Tours, alongside his father.

Boucicaut had enjoyed a long and impressive career, following in the footsteps of his father, Jean I Le Meingre, a successful soldier and diplomat whose enduring fame would be secured long after his death when he featured as a character in the great romance *Le Petit Jehan de Saintré*, written by Antoine de La Sale in 1456. As a young man, Jean II Le Meingre served in the company of Louis de Bourbon and Louis de Sancerre, Marshal of France, fighting against both the English and rebels like Charles de Navarre and Philip van Artevelde. Indeed, Boucicaut was knighted at the age of sixteen on even of the battle of Roosebeke on 27 November 1382, where Artevelde was killed and his Flemish army defeated. Following the advice of chivalric writers, Boucicaut also sought martial experience and fame in far flung lands, taking advantage of lulls in the Anglo-French wars to join in the *Reise* fought in Prussia by the Teutonic Order against the pagan Lithuanians as well as Louis de Bourbon's expedition to Castile in 1386 to fight against John of Gaunt and the English. From 1387 to 1389, Boucicaut travelled to Hungary, Constantinople, the Ottoman court of the Sultan Murad I and the Holy Land, and rushed to the aid of Philippe d'Artois, count of Eu, who had been arrested by the Mamluk Sultan of Egypt while on pilgrimage. While Boucicaut was taking part in his third expedition to Prussia in the winter of 1390 to 1391, one of the two marshals of France, Jean

IV de Mauquenchy, died. Charles VI appointed Boucicaut, aged just 26, to this prominent office that his father had held before him.

Sustained peace with the English allowed Boucicaut to continue to participate in wars against the enemies of Christendom. In 1396, he was one of the most prominent French commanders on the ill-fated Nicopolis Crusade, led by the twenty-eight year old Jean de Nevers, son of Philippe duke of Burgundy. The Emperor Sigismund persuaded the French forces to aid him in defending Hungary against the Ottoman Turks. On 12 September, the Christian army laid siege to the city of Nicopolis but suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the Ottoman Sultan Bajazet just two weeks later. Many prominent French noblemen died in the battle, including the admiral Jean de Vienne, Philippe de Bar and Jean de Roye. Worse, the Sultan took revenge for earlier atrocities committed by Boucicaut and other crusaders against his men by killing almost all of his three thousand Christian prisoners. The exceptions were those aged under twenty who were sold as slaves, and the very rich nobles such as Jean de Nevers, Philippe d'Artois comte de Marche, Henri de Bar, Enguerrand de Coucy, Guy de la Trémoille and other knights. Boucicaut was almost killed but Jean de Nevers recognised him and successfully pleaded for his life. A few years later, Boucicaut founded the knightly order dedicated to the protection of women widowed and orphaned following this great disaster. The order of the Emprise de L'Escu vert à la Dame Blanche ('Enterprise of the Green Shield of the White Lady') was established on 11 April 1400, and its thirteen members promised to fight in the lists in

order to aid and to protect the honour and property of those women widowed or orphaned as a result of the disaster at Nicopolis and by the plague.

In 1398, Boucicaut was given his first command as marshal, leading an expedition to punish the count of Périgord for his rebellion against Charles VI. The following year, he was commissioned by the French king to break the Turkish blockade on Constantinople, and to aid the emperor Manuel II Paleologos against his nephew Jean VII, supported by the Ottoman Sultan Bajazet. Boucicaut's forces raided the coastline of Asia Minor, and finally broke the blockade of Constantinople, saving the people in the short term at least from famine.

In 1401, King Charles VI appointed Boucicaut as governor of Genoa. Over the following years, Boucicaut led an expedition that raided the Anatolian and Syrian coasts and sacked Beirut in August 1403, planned an attack upon Alexandria in 1407 and fought a brief naval skirmish against Moors from North Africa off the coast of Provence in September 1408. Yet his period in control of the city of Genoa was ill-fated, culminating in a rebellion against French control while Boucicaut was absent.



Jean II Le Meingre, from "Heures du maréchal de Boucicaut" c1405-1408, fo 26 (detail.)

During the course of his adventures, Boucicaut also earned a name for himself by his success in a series of celebrated chivalric combats, such as his defeat of the great Gascon champion Sicart de la Barde at Chaluset in 1385. Most famous of all were the great chivalric combats outside of the abbey of Saint-Inglevert near to Calais in 1390, where Boucicaut and two other French knights fought thirty-nine jousts against a

range of challengers including a number of prominent Englishmen. In June 1404, Boucicaut even challenged a Venetian captain, Carlo Zeno, to a judicial duel, in order to continue his personal quarrel with the Venetians after his king, Charles VI, had ordered him to make peace with them.

Of course, there was more to Boucicaut than mere soldiering. During his extended trip to the Orient between 1387 and 1389, he and three other noblemen, Jean de Saint-Pierre seneschal of the count of Eu, Philippe d'Artois count of Eu, and Jean de Crésecque composed the Cent ballades. This was a long poetic debate about love and loyalty that was probably presented before King Charles VI and his court in October 1389. Yet it would be wrong to accept at face value the chivalric celebration of Boucicaut's great

career presented by one of his supporters in the Livre des fais du bon messire Jehan Le Maingre, completed by 9 April 1409. Michel Pintouin, a monk of Saint-Denis who wrote an important chronicle known as the Chronique du Religieux de Saint-Denis, regarded Boucicaut as an irascible, impetuous and hot-headed man, perhaps explaining the emphasis placed in the biography upon the discipline that Boucicaut imposed upon his soldiers. But the author did admit that during the Nicopolis Crusade, Boucicaut and other French knights rode through the night ahead of the army, plunging straight into the fray at Rahowa. For the author of the biography, this demonstrated Boucicaut's audacity and courage rather than revealing his lack of discipline. Other critics characterized him and his father, Jean I Le Meingre (d. 1368), as courtiers who had used flattery to exploit the favour of the prince. In Le songe du vergier, written in 1378, Jean Le Fèvre had famously denounced the unscrupulous desire for profit at the royal court displayed by Jean I Le Meingre. Le Fèvre claimed that Jean I and his company had a saying that there was no fishing except in the sea, a play upon the fact that the name Boucicaut, first given to Jean I at the court of King Philippe VI, derived from the French word for a fishing basket. This pun was echoed in 1389, when Philippe de Mézières denounced knights who flattered their lords in order to win reward, again citing a supposed proverb of Jean I Le Meingre that just as one could only fish in the sea, so one could only receive a reward from the king. It is hardly surprising that the biographer of Jean II Le Meingre went to such great lengths to highlight his extraordinary selflessness and knightly virtue.

The Vicar's Report

Jeremy Fletcher

I'm a member of a group overseeing a report on 'Major' Parish Churches. Though it's pretty clear what a cathedral is, and though cathedrals have their own organising group, there isn't such a definition for churches like Beverley Minster.

That becomes an issue when government and other heritage funding is up for grabs. There have been two funds set up for cathedrals in the last few years, and they have made good use of them. But the other 12,000 listed churches in the country have had to make do with half the grant money on offer to the 42 cathedrals. And the Friends of the Minster will know that Beverley Minster is bigger than many cathedrals and is as significant as any of them.

One organisation which tries to help churches like ours is the Greater Churches Network. The Minster has been a member since the start, and I'm currently the chairman. We've expanded the membership to 57 churches (including Scotland and Wales). A 'Greater' church is defined through its size and architectural significance, being open every day, having a significant number of visitors, having an enhanced 'civic' role, and having to employ a number of staff to maintain that role.

It's as chairman of the GCN that I'm on the Major Parish Churches report group. It's fascinating. We've got an overall list of 300

churches, and have done in depth work on 80 of them. All the English GCN churches are there somewhere, and there are many more who would fit some of the GCN criteria. We've looked at churches all over the country, in every diocese and up to the twentieth century too (have a look at St Paul's Bow Common).

The report will be launched in October 2016, but it's already clear that most churches like ours don't see their buildings as an impediment but an opportunity. Most value their listed status as a sign that others value them too. Most understand that the complexities of making any changes are there so that future generations will receive a good inheritance. And just about all of us wish there was an easier way of accessing funds for maintenance and repair. I hope that one day there might be a fund, similar to the ones which cathedrals can bid for, for churches which are 'major' and beyond the normal challenges of a parish church.

It's not just about repairing buildings for their own sake. Church after church, like the Minster, wants to use their building and history and presence to make a real difference. The Friends of the Minster will need no convincing of the value of this, as one of our aims is to enable people to know and understand our heritage better. I know you will support the work of the group which is aiming to apply for grant funding for

development and repair of St Mary's Beverley and the Minster together: 'Two Churches, One Town Story'. And I know that you will continue to support the Council of the

Friends as we play our part in enhancing this amazing place, to the glory of God and the benefit of all.



Social Secretary's Report

Pamela Martin

Support of our events this year has been generated not only from members of the Friends but also from the wider members of the public. This has been due to more effective publicity through posters and handouts, better take-up by the media and also through word of mouth based on last year's experiences of events. For example, this year we had increased numbers on the coach tour with the addition of quite a few new faces.

In contrast, more of our members who live in different parts of the country have attended our events from as far away as Cornwall, Lymington, London as well as from Leeds, and the Dales. This is particularly pleasing and provides an opportunity meet and spend time with them.

My last annual report concluded with a pending guided tour of the stained glass in Beverley Minster conducted by Phil Thomas (Church Buildings Officer for the Diocese of York). Approximately 20 people were given a most informative talk about the variety of stained glass windows contained within the walls of the Minster, including design, age, quality of glass and the names of some of the companies and artists involved.

The guided tour of North Yorkshire churches, which took place at the end of July, was blessed with a sunny warm day. Twenty eight Friends and visitors travelled to Malton for morning coffee at the Old Lodge, which had much to recommend it, and met our guide, Sophie Weston (an expert in medieval church architecture) who was waiting for

us. We visited two quite remote churches en route to our lunch stop, firstly Salton, St John of Beverley and then St Gregory's Minster in Kirkdale, an Anglo Saxon hidden gem. An appetising buffet lunch was enjoyed at the Barn Hotel Tearooms in Hutton le Hole followed by a short journey over the Moors to Lastingham, St Mary's church. Our final stop was at Pickering, St Peter & St Paul church, which is famous for the medieval wall paintings within the nave. In all, a very informative excursion.

The October 2015 AGM weekend was given a 'flying start' with the first class evening meal we have come to expect, held at Cerutti's restaurant in Beverley on the Friday evening. We were not disappointed with the excellent choice of menu. Our after-dinner speaker, The Bishop of Hull, the Rt Revd Alison White entertained some forty members by giving a fascinating account of her experiences leading to her appointment as Bishop. We are grateful to John Phillips, Secretary of the Friends, for organising yet another successful evening.

The Saturday comprised a visit to Cottingham, one of the largest villages in England and some five miles from Beverley. A small group of Friends and visitors were given a most a most interesting and informative tour of Cottingham, St Mary's church by local church historian and parishioner, the late Geoff Bell. Sadly, Geoff passed away, some weeks later, but he was determined he would not let us down on that occasion, even though he was clearly not well. Tribute must be paid to Geoff for imparting his knowledge so willingly on this and on so many other occasions. After a very wholesome lunch taken at the Rectory Tearooms, we were accompanied by local historian, Pat Elliott, on a guided walkabout of Cottingham in the area where the wealthy merchants of Hull had resided. Her well-researched commentary covered properties which are still in evidence today and those which have disappeared over time. Afternoon tea and delicious cakes were enjoyed at the Parish rooms before we dispersed.

The AGM St John of Beverley Lecture on the Sunday was delivered by Dr Craig Taylor, Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York. The subject, celebrating the 600 anniversary of 'Henry V and Agincourt', attracted over forty Friends and visitors to a very well prepared and delivered

presentation, which highlighted the links between Henry V and Beverley Minster, and produced lively discussion afterwards. Afternoon tea followed with appetising pastries from TC Patisserie in Beverley and the weekend closed with Evensong in the Minster with an address by the Revd Becky Lumley (Vicar of St Mary's Church, Beverley). Several of the members who attended the weekend as a whole had travelled some distance to be with us.

Another excellent Epiphany organ recital was performed by the Musical Director of the Minster, Robert Poyser in January 2016. This was followed by refreshments hosted by the Friends. The attendance was very high this year, leaving no opportunity for the choir members to indulge in the 'leftovers'.

The Church Iconography Study Day in April 2016 had an attendance of almost 40 delegates. Roger Willson, who is an expert on the subject, delivered four individual lectures covering a span of twelve hundred years. He discussed the signs and symbols which have been a part of everyday church life over the centuries and the changes 'in fashion' which have taken place. Roger examined in depth, such details as the images created from passages in the Bible, carvings on fonts, the saints represented on rood screens and in other parts of the church, the carvings/symbols on misericords, and he interpreted the moralistic stories told in wall paintings. A comprehensive booklet was provided for each delegate to take away and study. The day as a whole was extremely informative and enjoyable and was undoubtedly a success story.

A series of three guided tours of Beverley Minster was held in June on Monday evenings. Professor John Wilton Ely commenced the programme with a tour entitled 'Decoding the past; the monuments of Beverley Minster' providing background history details of the Minster before looking at individual examples. John Phillips led the second tour, 'The exterior of the Minster; re-dating the building' and expanded on his theory that the Minster building is in fact earlier than we have been led to believe. His new and well researched publication on the subject will be coming out in the autumn. Finally the Revd Jeremy Fletcher examined the stained glass windows in the nave of the Minster and interpreted

the stories told in them, an interesting departure from looking at the history of stained glass. All three tours were well attended by approximately 18-20 people on each occasion and the guides conveyed their expertise in a most engaging manner.

The coach tour, which took place in August, visited Hovingham, All Saints' Church, Ampleforth Abbey, Shandy Hall and Coxwold, St Michael's Church. After morning coffee was enjoyed in Malton at the Old Lodge Hotel, a brief visit was made to Hovingham Church on the way to Ampleforth Abbey, where the Father Prior Terence delivered a very interesting tour of and talk about the Abbey, its function, the life of the monks and the wider remit of the College and surrounding parishes. After a satisfying lunch of soup and sandwiches, members were invited to attend prayers at 1.00pm before we departed to Shandy Hall in Coxwold, former home of Laurence Sterne, vicar of Coxwold Church in the 18th century and author of 'Tristram Shandy'. Patrick Wildgust, the curator gave a lively commentary as two separate parties progressed through the house. At the same time, there was the opportunity to view the garden, exhibition and shop. Finally, our church guide and expert, Sophie Weston, provided a comprehensive tour of St Michael's Church in Coxwold before we set off for a delicious afternoon tea and cream scone at the Worsley Arms in Hovingham. Forty-one Friends and visitors were present on the tour, approximately a fifty percent increase on last year's numbers. In all a very successful day out!



Report from the Minster Surveyor

John M English, Surveyor to the Beverley Minster Old Fund

This is my last annual report to the Friends of Beverley because on 31 December 2016 my role as Surveyor to Beverley Minster Old Fund officially terminates. Earlier this year I took the decision to resign from this post due partly to increased work load but also because now seemed the appropriate time to hand over the reins to a younger person as I head towards retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Minster Surveyor which began at the beginning of 2006 and time has passed so quickly. I would like to place on record my thanks to so many people who have helped me over this time and in particular the Old Fund Chairman and all the trustees. I have also had a good working relationship with the Revd Jeremy Fletcher, the virgers, other members of the PCC and the Friends of Beverley Minster. Seeing the improvement works to the Minster completed by Old Fund staff and external contractors over the last 11 years has been very rewarding and I will continue to take great interest in all restoration works which will be carried out in the future to this magnificent building.

The newly appointed Old Fund surveyor is Simon Delaney who is 46 years old and lives with his family in Beverley. He is a building surveyor in private practice at Kingfisher Court Plaxton Bridge Road, Beverley. Simon has good experience in construction having worked in the private sector, including Smith and Nephew Medical Ltd., and the public sector including the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Simon is a member of Hull Civic Society and has been shadowing the work which I carry out on the Minster over the last nine months. I am confident he will prove to be a great asset to the Old Fund.

Since last reporting to the Friends in 2015 the restoration work on the font cover has finally been completed with financial assistance from the Friends which is much appreciated. It looks stunning and glides up and down exactly as intended.

The largest project which started this year and is now close to completion is the installation of a new fire alarm system in the Minster. WYG, an independent firm of consulting engineers based in Leeds, was instructed to look at the whole issue of fire protection at the Minster. The recommended system is part hard-wired and part wireless and incorporates aspiration smoke detection units.

These units are important in that they are designed to prevent false alarms caused by dust etc. which has been a constant problem over recent years. Five firms were invited to tender for this work and the firm which was selected by the trustees is "Dante", a national company based in Tyne and Wear. This company will also take over the maintenance of the system from ADT on a five year contract starting in September 2017.

Another large project, which it is hoped will be started very shortly, is the demolition and rebuilding of the sub-standard workshop in the Minster Yard. Steve Rial, our in-house plumber/glazier, will be working in this new building when it is completed. A small extension is being added which will also be used by the stonemasons. Andrew Gomersall has now been working as a private contractor, working mainly for the Minster, since February 2013 and this arrangement has worked very well for both parties. As part of

the planned redevelopment of this site the workshop where Andrew currently works is being extended into the adjoining store to increase the workspace.

This will enable us to employ the services of another mason to assist Andrew starting at the beginning of 2017. I very much hope that this redevelopment will be completed before I hand over to Simon. Improved facilities are overdue and it will be wonderful to see a small "cottage industry" involving glazing restoration and masonry work once again operating from this yard close to the Minster.

Restoration work has recently been completed to stained glazed window (n29) at the west end of the Minster. Martin Johnson & Co based in York carried out the work and it looks really good as I am sure you will agree. This on-going programme of restoring stained glazing will continue in the future with this specialist work undertaken by experienced external contractors.

Steve Rial recently completed restoration work on plain glazed window (n24) on the north side of the nave. Work has just commenced on restoring the plain glazed window (s26) close to the font on the south side of the nave. We are very fortunate in having a tradesman with his considerable skills working on the Minster and in recent years he has received valuable assistance from Paul Hawkins.

Over the years Steve and his colleagues have done so much to improve the fabric of Beverley Minster which is what the "Old Fund" is all about.

Looking to the future a joint restoration appeal for funding is in progress, in conjunction with St Mary's Church in Beverley. From the point of view of the Old Fund this is vitally important to hopefully secure the necessary funding to replace the perished lead coverings to the high roof areas of the Minster and also restore the delightful stained glazing to the great west and great east windows. There are numerous exciting projects included within this appeal but preventing rainwater from damaging the internal fabric of this great building will always be the Old Fund priority.

I wish the Friends all the best in the future and will be seeing you in the town where I have lived for most of my working life.



Membership Secretary's Report

John K Ramsdale, Hon. Membership Secretary

Over the past year the membership has decreased from 579 to 516.

We are welcoming fifteen new members

Ms R Adamson Clarck

Mr & Mrs J Booth

Mrs E Carter

Mr G & Mrs C E Coggin

Mr R Dunn

Mrs R M Fletcher

M & Mrs D Green

Mr D R Jefferson

Mr. S. Delaney.

Mrs R G A Major

Mrs J Payne

Mr G D Ribbans

Ms S Strawbridge

Mr J Warren

Mr R Willson

With sorrow we report the known deaths of the following Friends whom we remember with gratitude.

Mr R Booth

Mr & Mrs D Chandler

Mr A Clark

Mrs U Coates

Mr R Elvidge

Mr. D Gue

Mrs W Hallas

Mrs G Harriott

Mr. & Mrs. D Jack

Miss P A Raine

Mrs M Redmond

Mr & Mrs S Roberts

Mr D Simpson

Mr A Stainton

Miss H E Tetley

Miss A Thompson

Miss H Wigham

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Membership Secretary would very much appreciate notification when members change their address.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The cost of servicing the Friends membership - postage, printing, the Annual Report, newsletters etc. - has risen inexorably over the past few years in common with everything else, and the cost now stands at around £20 per membership. Friends may like to consider this when renewing their subscription in order to ensure that their subscriptions continue to reflect their support for the projects that the Friends undertake on their behalf.

Music in the Minster

Robert Poyser, Director of Music

The last year has been a busy one for all aspects of music at Beverley Minster although we have some specific challenges ahead.

The music group has developed over the year and leads the music at our All Age and Worship, Teaching and Ministry services. The group is gradually increasing its repertoire and is expertly managed by Pippa Milner who has been a great help in attending planning meetings and organising us.

The planned works on the organ have been evolving at a rate that that can at times be described as decidedly stately. In an ideal world all the scheduled works would have been completed before now but we hope to conclude in the Autumn. We have had several new ranks of pipes added that have given the organ greater presence in the building and more depth and richness to the sound. On the swell division, a double trumpet has replaced the contra fagotto and on the great division we have added a magnificent bombarde and a new four rank mixture replacing one that was not one of the organ's most successful features. This new mixture has allowed us to unplug the top rank of the sharp mixture thus giving a really bright and clear sound – the likes of which haven't been heard from the organ in many years.

The choir division has also gained a beautiful Cremona, replacing a stop that the organ had until 1962 when it was removed. A large

proportion of the outstanding work is to do with repair and making the organ more reliable. Whilst the schedule may have slipped, the quality of the work carried out so far is of an exceptionally high standard which will be of benefit to the organ for many years to come. I will be recording a disc of organ music in November on the Priory label to celebrate the completion of the project.

The choir is thriving. We currently have 14 boys, 24 girls, 2 sopranos, 5 altos, 7 tenors and 9 basses. Many of our choristers received medals at this year's Diocesan Choral Festival which was held in the Minster – a testament to their achievements and dedication. Our plans for our next choir tour to Lemgo in October 2016 are progressing well both in terms of its organisation and also its funding.

In addition to our usual requirements at the Minster we have taken part in two filming sessions for 'Victoria', sung for a harvest festival evensong in Molescroft and entertained a railtour with a Christmas carol concert. We also took 15 of the 40 parts in the Tudor masterpiece, *Spem in Alium* by Thomas Tallis. This collaborative project drew choirs from across the region to the Minster (they were the other 25 parts!) in a fundraising concert for the Minster's music. In a reciprocal arrangement, we sang with St Mary's in a Haydn-filled concert in February.

This year has also marked the launch of

a 'Sponsor a Chorister' scheme and this, coupled with generous grants totalling £20,000 means we are well on the way to safeguarding the music provision at the Minster.

I am indebted to the choir members and their families for their continued support and dedication. This has enabled us to achieve great things over the past year and sing some glorious music. Hopefully there will be much more to come.

I would particularly like to thank Mervyn King and Ian Seddon. Mervyn has been a member of the choir and assistant director of music for 46 years and retired on Easter Day this year. Ian has returned to us after heart surgery and has been in fine form.

We welcome a third organist to the team in September. Dominic Joyce joins us as organ scholar whilst he studies music at the University of Hull and we look forward to three successful years with us.



The Choir in attendance at the filming of 'Victoria' for ITV

The Object of the Friends

From around 1200, 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 of Beverley Minster or from the Membership Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Friends are invited to set their own level of annual subscription. Payment by Banker's 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 28p (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

The Friends of Beverley Minster Annual Accounts 2015 - 2016

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016

Statement of Financial Activities	2015/16		2014/15
	£	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary Income			
Subscriptions	14,446		15,130
Donations and Bequests	6,488		16,703
Tax Recovered	2,014		2,008
		22,948	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days	2,264		1,151
Book sales	112		80
Georgian Day	-		720
Annual dinner	1,115		948
		3,491	
Investment Income		20,484	23,138
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>46,922</u>	£ <u>59,878</u>
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities			
Furnishings	612		
Print Restoration	843		
Drawing Restoration	70		
Assistant Organist	4,000		4,000
Promotion	968		1,000
Responsive Web Site	-		2,112
Piano for Choir Room	-		3,500
Minster Chairs	-		47,609
		6,493	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Day/Lecture Fees	2,528		843
Georgian Day	-		720
Annual Dinner	1,169		998
		3,697	
Governance Costs			
Printing and stationery	1,297		1,498
Insurance	186		159
Sundries	186		24
		1,668	
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>11,857</u>	£ <u>62,463</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>35,065</u>	£ <u>2,585</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses			
Loss / Gain on investments	-	26,642	57,599
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>8,423</u>	£ <u>55,014</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		721,452	
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>729,875</u>	£ <u>55,014</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016

Fixed Assets	2015/16	2014/15
	£	£
Investments	626,316	632,958
Total Fixed Assets	626,316	632,958
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,014	3,004
CBF Deposit	77,090	77,090
Cash at Bank	25,455	8,400
less		
Creditors	1,000	-
Net Current Assets	103,559	88,494
Net Assets	£ <u>729,875</u>	£ <u>721,452</u>
Funds of Charity		
Unrestricted funds		
Brought forward	721,452	721,452
Add Surplus for the year	8,423	
	£ <u>729,875</u>	£ <u>721,452</u>

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 Council of the Friends of Beverley Minster is aware of the significant size of the balance of its funds. The Council is a partner, along with the PCC of the Minster and the Old Fund, in the Minster's part of the 'Two Churches, One Town Story Project'. A Joint Board is making plans to submit a major application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the development and restoration of St Mary's and the Minster. Initial proposals for the Minster are very much in the area which the Friends traditionally have funded. The bid to Heritage Lottery (and other funders) will require significant 'match' funding. Although there are no concrete proposals or costings as yet, the Council is holding its funds back until such time as the detail becomes clear and approved amounts from the Council's funds can be offered as match funding to projects which meet the Friends' aims.

Beverley Minster Shop Limited

Jane Myers, Shop Manager

I cannot believe another year has flown by! We have had a better start to the year with the weather being kinder to us.

The shop and its stock continues to attract positive comments, which is very pleasing. All the fixtures and fittings still look their best and we do continually take good care of them. It is now nearly twelve years since the shop refit and I am very pleased with the longevity of both the design and the fittings.

Our team of volunteers now stands at 45, we have a full rota at the moment but are always looking for new volunteers to assist over the holiday season. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our team for their continual support and efforts. We very much acknowledge that the shop could not function without their dedication and time.

I have been involved a great deal with the Church and Cathedral Shops Association this year. In my role of treasurer for the Association and also a member on the advisory board I have been very busy. The annual AGM is in Coventry this year; this is a wonderful opportunity to network with

the other managers to increase our sales knowledge.

Socially, we have been to the new College restaurant in Flemingate for lunch and also had our annual meeting to discuss the audited accounts and to take the opportunity to discuss day to day activities in the shop. We had an exceptional year last year and this is an excellent occasion to appreciate our successes.

Once again I have visited various nursing homes in the area before Christmas and Easter, to engage with the residents and also assist with their present buying. This is always much appreciated by the staff.

Our Christmas card designs this year will an image of the Minster exterior and once again I will retain the price at £4.50 for 5 cards, with all the profits going to the Minster.

We really appreciate your support and good wishes. Please continue to use us as your first stop for cards and presents, our range is very extensive and I am sure you will find a gift that is that little bit different.



Virgers' Report

Robyn Cleveland, Head Virger

The Virgers' Department has undergone some major changes in the past few months with two new full time virgers (out of a team of two and a half!) I joined in May 2016 as the new Head Virger after serving for over two years as a virger in St Paul's Cathedral in London. My training and experience there helped to prepare me well for the new challenges I am finding at Beverley Minster.



Prior to that I was the Personal Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Church Urban Fund, the Church of England's Poverty Charity. This introduction into the Church of England, as well as my personal experience as a member of the choir for many years at St Peter's Church in Harrogate, gave me the interest to continue my career in the Church.

My first week here in Beverley included services with the Archdeacon, Bishop Alison of Hull, the St John of Beverley Patronal Festival, and concerts (oh! the stage-building!)

from the Yorkshire County Choir, and Aled Jones.

The new Assistant Virger, George Oakes, began in July. He came to us with some great work experience, having spent a year at Halifax Minster participating in their Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme. Before that he spent a year in Walsingham's Year for God (Yr4God), which focused on youth ministry and the practicalities of running a church. His practical, hands-on background and

personable nature have helped him settle in well to parish life here in Beverley.

Together with Kevin Hara, our part-time Assistant Virger and Flower Coordinator, we are embarking on a series of practical and administrative updates to the department, to help facilitate the smooth flowing of services and events here in our beautiful surroundings. We look forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons, onward to Easter, and continuing to get to know the parishioners, volunteers, and visitors, and the lovely town of Beverley.

Where are they now?

John Phillips

Over the centuries since the Reformation bits of the Minster have disappeared and been destroyed, or buried. In one instance early in the 20th century part of the Minster resurfaced briefly, was recorded on camera, and, otherwise apparently unrecorded, disappeared again. In this article I shall illustrate some of these lost parts of the Minster and pose the question, 'Where are they now?'

The first significant disappearance was the shrine of St John. The precious parts of the shrine, the gold, silver and jewels must have found their way into the clutches of the king's commissioners some time after 1536, but what happened to the remains of St John? Were they spirited away and reburied, hidden in the hope that the 'old religion' would return, or simply destroyed? When John Leland visited the Minster in 1541, he described a number of monuments in the church, but made no mention of a shrine.

"3. tumbes most notable on the north side of the quier : yn one of them with a chapul archid over it is buried Percy Erl of Northumberland, and his sun father to the last erle.

In another is buried Eleanor, wife to one of the Lord Percys. And yn another of white alabaster Idonea Lady Percy, wife to one of the Lord Percys. Under Eleanor's tumb is buried one of the Percys a preste." [Note 1](#)

The first one still stands, though not in the position that Leland found it, having been moved into the centre of the chapel in 1734, when its canopy, which was drawn by Dugdale in 1641, was removed. Parts of the canopy lay on the floor of the chapel for some time

afterwards, but have been thrown out since. No record of it seems to exist after Leland saw it, and there is no record of how it was removed from the church. It is also recorded as having "been built into a wall", but there the trail ends.

Idonea's tomb of white alabaster has also disappeared. If it had been in the Minster when Dugdale came to look at the church for his "Book of Monuments" in 1641 he would no doubt have drawn it as he did the Percy Canopy, Huggate's tomb, and all the heraldry in the windows. By the time James Torr visited the Minster in the early 18th century, and drew and described all the tombs and ledger stones in the church, her monument of alabaster had already been removed. He was very thorough and made small sketches of all the ledger stones in the Minster floors as well as the Percy Canopy and the tomb in the Percy chapel so if it had still been in existence either he, or Dugdale would have drawn it. We have no idea what it looked like because no illustrations exist. [Note 2](#)

The tomb of Eleanor Fitzalan, the Percy Canopy as it is known, still stands, but again, not in the state that Leland found it. Until the early 19th century there was a tomb chest within the canopy, as illustrated in John Coney's print of 1817, [\[Fig 1.\]](#) and on



Fig 1



Fig 2

top of the chest was a ledger stone with the indent of a brass. Both the tomb and the stone with the brass indent were also drawn by Dugdale. Dugdale's drawing shows only the indent of a figure, whereas, by the time it was illustrated in the early 19th century the indent of the brass was much more detailed. The stone was obviously cracked by the time the print was published, but after the dismantling of the tomb chest during the Fowlers re-ordering of the east end in the 1820s, there is no record of what happened to it. [\[Fig 2.\]](#) Another print, from Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments", also shows the Georgian altar piece which is just visible behind the Canopy. [\[Fig 3. detail\]](#) This is the only illustration we have. This altar piece was removed during the general re-ordering of the east end in 1826, and sold. [\[Fig 4.\]](#)



Fig 3

Other parts of the Minster were also taken



Fig 4

out at the same time. The galleries which stood in the nave during the 18th century were also removed and sold. Two of the Doric columns found their way into the Guildhall



Fig 5

[\[Fig 5.\]](#) and others to houses in the town and beyond.

During the Georgian restoration a screen designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor was placed at the entrance to the choir. [\[Fig 6.\]](#) This was



Fig 6

removed in 1875. The statues from it are still in the Minster inside the south door of the



Fig 7 Photo: Mike Pounder, North East Lines Archaeological and Local History Society.

nave, but the screen itself was taken away, and parts of it, together with architectural details from other, so far unidentified, sources are to be found in a garden in North Lincolnshire. [Fig 7.]

Occasionally unexpected and intriguing relics turn up. I have been collecting stereoscopic and glass slides of the Minster for some time to try and build up an archive of the appearance of the Minster after photography started to be used, and one form of entertainment became the lantern slide show. A recent purchase included 2 slides dated 1907 which showed the remains of what



Fig 8

turned out to be a pillar piscina, probably late 12th century in date, which had been dug up. [Fig 8.] The slide is labelled "Beverley Piscina dug up 1907." I trawled through the copies of the Beverley newspapers for 1907 and found nothing. Where was it found, and what happened to it afterwards?

William Comins carved a new set of stone altar rails for the sanctuary in the 1820s which lasted until Scott's re-ordering of the sanctuary in the 1860s and 1870s, when they were replaced by the present altar rails. The stone altar rails found their way into a Beverley garden where they surfaced in 2007 and were sold at auction. [Fig 9.]



Fig 9

just a few of the more noticeable ones.

Many other things have been removed from the Minster over the centuries and these are

Note 1 From *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the years 1535-1543 Parts I-III* Edited by Lucy Toulmin Smith. London. G Bell & Sons 1910

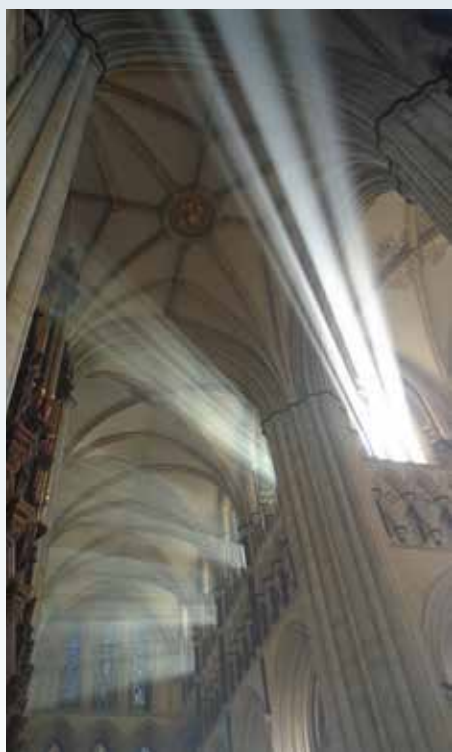
Note 2 Both Dugdale's and Torr's drawings are in the British Library in London in a folder reference Lansdowne 896. This was a collection of items put together by John Warburton for a *History of Yorkshire* in the early 18th century. Warburton (1682-1759,) was an antiquarian, cartographer, and Somerset Herald of Arms.



Views of Beverley Minster from Inaccessible Places

John Phillips

Over the course of the last 12 years I have been privileged with unfettered access to all parts of the Minster, and have always had a camera with me. This has allowed me to see views of this great building which are impossible for the majority to see. Over the same 12 years I have taken over 20,000 photos of the Minster as part of research into the building's history, so here are a few photos which I hope will help to give an impression of the 'other' Minster, the parts which are generally impossible to reach.



1. During the filming of 'Victoria' for ITV the minster was filled with smoke which gave some very atmospheric pictures.



2. Victoria's wedding taken from the top of the reredos. The show will air in August 2016.



3. A minstrel from the north side of the nave. The head above may be a portrait, and it's tempting to think that it might be the master mason of the late 14th century. There are two similar heads on the two bays beyond the porch.



4. The figure of Christ from the north transept window. This was taken when the window was covered in scaffolding.



5. A view across the nave. This was another scaffolding shot.



6. The view across the lesser transepts taken from the clerestory looking south.



7. Another clerestory shot, this time of the nave from the first bay, south side.



8. The inscription above St John's tomb taken from a similar place to the last one.



9. The dragon boss from the north east transept vault.



10. A detail of the carving on the triforium in the east end. This has been in place for at least 750 years and is as crisp as the day it was put in place. Note the different label stops. There are lots of different ones all adding to the beauty of the interior, but seldom noticed.



11. The remains of the eastern lantern still in situ above the vault over the high altar. The original intention to build a lantern tower in this area was abandoned when it fell off in the early 13th century.



12. The staircase in the south transept – looking up.



13. The clerestory walkway on the south side of the nave. I'm often asked how wide it is so I have included this one to show that it's not as bad as it looks!



14. The Percy canopy is justifiably one of the crowning glories of the Minster. This photo, taken from the top of the reredos shows God receiving the soul of Lady Eleanor, held in a shroud by two angels. The gestures of the hands are beautiful.

Puzzle Corner

All sorts of questions end up in my inbox. One of the recent ones came from Texas with a photo of a cartoon for a Clayton and Bell window which the sender is sure is in the Minster. I have searched for it, and also looked in St Mary's to see if it is there, but cannot find it. If anyone can tell me where this window is I would be more than grateful, (and so would the folk in Texas!)



The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Beverley Minster

To be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday 9 October 2016

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on Sunday 13 October 2015
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** – Mr John Ramsdale
8. **Hon. Social Secretary's Report** - Miss Pamela Martin
9. **The Vicar's Report** - Revd Jeremy Fletcher
10. **The adoption of the reports**
proposed by Cllr. Rob Begnett, Mayor of Beverley.
11. **Election of Officers**

To be re-elected:

- a. Vice Presidents – Mayor of Beverley, Mrs Pamela Hopkins,
Mr Terry Holmes and Mr Richard Kemp
- b. Chairman – Professor Roger Lewis
- c. Hon. Social Secretary – Miss Pamela Martin
- d. Hon. Secretary – Mr John Phillips
- e. Hon. Treasurer – Mr James Moore

To be elected:

Vice President – Mr John K Ramsdale
Hon. Membership Secretary – Ms Liz Grove

New members of the Council

12. **Any Other Business**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Beverley Minster

Held on Sunday 11 October 2015

1. Apologies: Terry Holmes, Deputy Mayor; Councillor Peter Astell, Jane Petrusiak, Jill Jones. Bernard and Carla Vickers, June Stephenson, James Moore (Hon. Treasurer.) Present: The Right Reverend Alison White, Bishop of Hull, (Patron of the Friends,) Prof Roger Lewis (Chairman,) John Phillips, (Hon. Sec.) John Ramsdale (Hon. Membership Secretary and Mrs Ramsdale, Miss Pamela Martin (Hon. Programme Secretary,) Pat Deans, Pamela Hopkins, Edward Lock, Alice Scott, Liz Grove, Prof & Mrs John Wilton-Ely, David and Shirley Learoyd, Rev. Jeremy Fletcher, Sam Calvert, Annegret Aveyard, Robert Poyser, Chris Mead, Robert Morten, Mrs Odoni, G. Moss, Ms Sarah Jackson, Geoffrey Campion.

The meeting was chaired by Bishop Alison White.

2. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were passed. Proposed by Chris Mead, seconded, Pat Deans.

3. Matters Arising

Annegret Aveyard said that the Friends should publicise their activities to the congregation of the church. R Morten suggested more publicity for Friends in the local newspapers. Pat Deans suggested that visitors think that the government routinely funds church buildings which is incorrect.

4. Chairman's Report

Last weekend I attended the National Conference of Associations of Friends of Cathedrals and Greater Churches. The event is held every two years, this year at

Southwark Cathedral – in the continuing glorious early autumn sunshine. The conference is a valuable opportunity to find out what other friends' organisations are doing; we always bring back useful learning for Beverley.

Friends' organisations face common issues including recruiting new members, keeping the members we recruit, developing a social programme to bring members together and (perhaps above all) using our money appropriately.

We were welcomed on Friday afternoon by the Dean of Southwark who had some interesting things to say about the cathedral's relationships with its neighbours – on one side, the Sun newspaper and, across the river, St Paul's. He then led us in a crocodile – distinguished or eccentric depending on your viewpoint – to Evensong at St Paul's. Half way through the Lord's Prayer the fire alarm went off (for the second time in two days) and we all trooped out again! Compline – later, in Southwark – did proceed to a calm conclusion.

Saturday was a full working day. The session on recruiting and retaining members was led by two staff from Shakespeare's Globe: the chief executive and the head of fund-raising. Their systems and processes were, not surprisingly, much more sophisticated than those of church friends' groups but the talk made us think about how we might improve our own practices.

There followed three sessions: on investing friends' money; on insurance for friends' events; and on the range of possible charitable structures open to friends' organisations.

These may not sound especially exciting, but they covered important topics and prompted much discussion relevant to us here in Beverley.

Several friends' organisations have recently redrafted their constitutions or changed the basis of their charitable foundations, for example to achieve greater independence from the clergy (whether cathedral chapter or PCC) and/or to limit their trustees' liability.

What friends do with the money donated to or left to them is obviously critical. We learned that on occasion it can be right to hold or invest money rather than to spend it; and quite proper (in charity law) to build substantial reserves – provided this is part of a coherent strategy to achieve one's charitable objectives. In these circumstances, it may be appropriate to put a proportion of funds into long-term investments rather than leaving it in the bank at little or no interest. We do, at least, owe it to our members to manage their money proactively and productively.

Declining numbers in friends' organisations is a concern to some. We are holding our own at between 500 and 600 members. The best-known cathedrals have 1500-2500 on their books; others have fewer than we have. We would all, of course, like more members. In our case, the decline in numbers comes at least partly from an active approach to pruning our membership list, as we cannot justify the costs of sending literature to people who don't pay a subscription.

Underlying all these discussions is a key issue: who should pay for our heritage religious buildings? This is clearly a collaborative venture between different users and interest groups – as we know it to be here in Beverley. Southwark – where the conference was held – has free entry to its cathedral

(though it costs 50p to use the lavatories). Over the river at St Paul's you pay something approaching £20 to get into the building. Attendees at services go free everywhere – but they are expected to pay their share via the collection or parish contribution. Non-worshipping communities expect their major church buildings to be available whenever needed (which means every day) and to be kept in good repair – but they don't necessarily contribute to the funding of this, perhaps assuming that they are paying already through government or local taxes. One free-entry cathedral, where donations are requested, found that, over a given period, the average visitor contribution was 1.5p.

So, as always, much to bring home to think about in Beverley

5. Hon. Secretary's Report

As is now becoming customary (I am making sure it is!) I will give you a summary of the business carried out on your behalf by the Friends' Council since the last AGM. I feel that it is of interest to Friends to see that we deliberate – sometimes at considerable length – about how we can best use the funds at our disposal, which includes how best to spend them within our remit on matters which are properly our concern.

In November 2014 we proposed to restore the two prints in the north transept which show the reinstatement of the north wall of the transept by William Thornton in 1718. These have been completed but not yet put back on display – which is causing some concern to Welcomers who like to show them to visitors as visual aids. We hope the prints will soon re-appear.

We discussed the cost of cleaning and re-polishing the font cover – part of the re-hanging process which also involves engineering work resourced by the Old Fund. We agreed (at our February meeting) to pay

the costs of restoration subject to further details. Sometime later (in July) we received the estimate –£2814 (which we agreed), with a further £1000 for re-gilding, which we also agreed to consider. Running as a thread through our meetings this year has been the progress of the development group exploring ways of funding the needs and priorities on the Minster's buildings wish list, in turn part of the bid for external funding for the restoration of the two medieval churches in Beverley. We agreed items which we would consider funding from the wish list, including lighting important historical and architectural features, re-opening the east choir aisle and better displaying important artefacts (perhaps as part of a reconfiguration of the chapter house site). The Minster appointed a new architect during the year; he will be carrying out a detailed inspection of the fabric and this will inform discussion of priorities.

We considered ideas for marking the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, a notable date for the Minster as it was fought on the date of the celebration of the translation of the relics of St John of Beverley (25th October). This date conveniently falls on a Sunday and a special Evensong is scheduled for that date. In addition, we decided that the St John lecture this year should be on the Agincourt theme; it follows this AGM.

Financing new nave chairs was another important topic this year. The original proposal was for 1000 chairs at a cost of £171,864. After vigorous discussion, it was agreed that the Friends would contribute 50% of the cost of a reduced number of chairs (which arrived in February).

The Lighting Fund has been a continuing topic. We pressed for a meeting to view an audited set of accounts and to put into place new governance procedures. The meeting

was held in August; Friends now form the full trustee body responsible for this fund.

We spent some time considering how we should commemorate the generosity of Lesley Froomes in leaving a substantial legacy and also in meeting the costs of the art work in the retro-quire. We decided that a memorial in the retro-quire would be appropriate. Barley Studios (who executed that art work) were approached and we are in discussion with them over their designs. We also took forward proposals for a memorial to Alan Spedding, to be placed in the north quire aisle; we made arrangements to receive an estimate for the work and to obtain the necessary Faculty.

We agreed to fund promotional activity to make the Minster more visible, including an advertisement in the 2015 edition of the Go Yorkshire publication for hotels, guest houses and B&Bs and the provision of a new oak board denoting 'Beverley Minster' to be placed in a prominent position on the approach from Highgate. We also explored updating the Friends' display cabinet in the north quire aisle, to highlight our more recent projects.

In May we had a lengthy and stimulating discussion of how we might increase the membership of the Friends, with the emphasis on what the Friends could offer as a 'package' for new members. At the same meeting we considered when it would be appropriate to authorise exceptional expenditure between meetings.

I hope you have found this résumé interesting. Each meeting also routinely covers the state of our finances, membership numbers, and the social programme – as well as keeping tabs on the projects such as those described above.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Prof. Lewis

gave a résumé of the state of the Friends' finances. He emphasised that although the Friends had a large amount of money in investments, this was awaiting opportunities for match funding which would be required as a result of the intended application the Heritage Lottery Fund due to be submitted in November 2017.

Chris Mead raised the subject of Insurance for Friends' events, and was assured that this would be looked into as a matter of urgency. Terms and conditions would be checked at a future Friends' Council meeting to ensure that these events are adequately covered.

Rev. Fletcher said that the presence of representatives of both the PCC and Old Fund ensured that the 'paper trail' was complete and scrutinised regularly. Robert Morten suggested that new developments in the town should be targeted for new members of the Friends.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

John Ramsdale reported that membership in August stood at 579. Following circulation of the Annual Report in August with reminders about subscriptions, 21 members have been lost for a variety of reasons, and membership currently stands at 558.

8. Social Secretary's Report

Pamela Martin detailed Friends' events which have taken place since October 2014, starting with the AGM weekend in October which included the AGM dinner at Cerutti's, and the AGM lecture by Adrian Barlow on Victorian Stained Glass. On Saturday members enjoyed a Victorian study day covering various aspects of the Victorian church. Master mason Matthias Garn gave a talk on 'Church Restoration', Chris Scaife followed on "Mouseman" Robert Thompson. After lunch, the late Geoff Bell talked on 'Sykes' Churches', and Mervyn King concluded the day with a lecture on 'Religious Art in the Victorian Period'.

January 2015 saw the performance of Messaien's *La Nativité du Seigneur* in the Minster, followed by a reception sponsored by the Friends.

A very successful study day on the 'The Establishment of Christianity North of the Humber' followed in April, four lectures on different aspects of the subject by Joyce Hill.

During June there were four well attended evening tours of the Minster; 'Discovering the Georgian Minster' with John Wilton Ely, 'Aspects of Beverley Minster' with Geoff Bell, 'Woodcarvings and Masons' Marks, and 'Tours in the Roof,' with John Phillips and Neil Pickford, and 'Let There be Light! – looking at the stained glass of the Minster,' with Phil Thomas.

On 31 July, led by Sophie Weston members enjoyed a coach trip to four churches in North Yorkshire at Salton, Kirkdale, Lastingham and Pickering.

Liz Grove proposed a vote of thanks to Pamela Martin for a full and interesting programme.

9. The Vicar's Report

Jeremy Fletcher informed the meeting of Andy Burrell's appointment as Minster architect to succeed Ian Stewart who has retired after an association with the Minster, for his company Carden and Godfrey, lasting 50 years. Andy's Quinquennial Inspection Report has highlighted a number of problems, significantly that when it rains there are over 400 leaks in the leads of the nave. The ridges are being patched at the moment. Remedial work is also needed for the great east and west windows.

All this is part of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which is being formulated in conjunction with St Mary's as a joint bid. Four representatives have visited HLF who are happy with the direction that the bid is

taking. A formal bid as a matter of urgency is essential. We are also in talks with other bodies such as the Greater Churches Council and Historic England, as well as HLF. Friends will be involved in the preparation of the joint bid.

We are officially the largest parish church in the country by floor area. St Mary's is 29th. Norwich has 2 greater churches as well as its cathedral.

He thanked the Friends for their support in the purchase of the new chairs, and for their support of music in the Minster. He also mentioned support for the Minster from the Flemingate Development and the Beverley Chamber of Trade.

10. Adoption of the Reports.

In the absence of the Deputy Mayor the adoption of the reports was proposed by Pam Hopkins and seconded by Liz Grove. Thanks was also expressed to Mervyn King for his design and computer skills in producing reports and newsletters. A motion to this effect was proposed by Annegret Aveyard and seconded by Liz Grove.

11. Election of Officers

Officers were re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Pat Deans, seconded by Stephen Deas. Carried unanimously.

12. Any other business

There being no further business the Bishop declared the meeting closed.





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