

The Friends of Beverley Minster

82nd Annual Report

2017-2018



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Events Programme Oct 2018 - Jan 2019

FRI 12	19.00 for 19.30	ANNUAL DINNER Venue: Cerutti '2', Station Square, Beverley Cost per person: £31.00 to include a glass of wine or fruit juice Speaker: Revd. Canon Jonathan Baker (vicar)
SAT 13	10.15 – 16.30	STUDY DAY 'Christian Imagery in the English Parish Church' Speaker: Sophie Weston Venue: Peter Harrison Room, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP. Includes Morning & Afternoon refreshments and Lunch. Cost per person: £32 (*£27 for Friends*)
SUN 14	14.15 15.15	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Venue: Parish Hall, Minster Yard North, HU17 0DP ST JOHN LECTURE 'Nicholas Hawksmoor, pioneer of the Gothic Revival, and Beverley Minster' Speaker: Professor John Wilton-Ely Venue: Peter Harrison Room, 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

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.

JANUARY 2019

SAT 5	18.00	EPIPHANY ORGAN RECITAL Organ Recital by Robert Poyser (Director of Music, Beverley Minster) Messiaen: <i>La Nativite du Seigneur</i> Venue: Beverley Minster
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Epiphany Concert and Reception followed by refreshments (sponsored by the Friends).

The Object of the Friends

From around 1180, when work was begun, to the present day the building and maintenance of Beverley Minster has been the responsibility of those who love this church.

The 'Friends of Beverley Minster' is a registered charity (formed in 1936) with the objective of uniting into a common fellowship all those throughout the world who wish to be associated with the work and worship of the Minster and the maintenance and enrichment of its fabric and furnishings. The Friends seek to be a link between those in Beverley and far beyond whose love of the Minster inspires them to have a share in preserving it in all its beauty for future generations.

Money raised by contributions from members of the Friends has been used to clean and restore the interior of the Minster and introduce most of the twentieth century furnishings that are seen today, provide a new window and artwork in the retro-quire, and, in 2007, pay for the refurbishment of the Minster Shop together with a magnificent new shop screen.

Conservation and re-decoration are, however, on-going problems, and much work is still to be done.

Leaflets, incorporating an application form for membership, are available from the Friends' Display Table in the north aisle of Beverley Minster or from the Membership Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Friends are invited to set their own level of annual subscription. Payment by Standing Order helps to reduce the clerical work, saves postage and is recommended to both new and existing members. Forms will be sent by the Membership Secretary on request.

GIFT AID

Members who pay income tax and/or capital gains tax can significantly increase the value of their subscriptions by declaring that they wish to have them treated as a donation under the gift aid scheme introduced in the Finance Act 2000. It enables the Friends to recover tax equal to 25p (in the current tax year) for every £1 donated. New members should apply to the Membership Secretary for a form of declaration.

LEGACIES

We welcome legacies, however small. A suitable form of bequest will be sent on application to the Treasurer. Such gifts are free of duty.

If you wish to leave a legacy to the Friends of Beverley Minster the following clause should be included in your will: I bequeath the sum of £..... free of duty to 'The Friends of Beverley Minster' and I declare that the receipt of their treasurer for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge for the legacy.

Registered Charity No. 501302

Report of the Chairman of the Friends

Roger Lewis



Liz's membership report tells sadly of the deaths of people who were not only Friends but also key to the functioning of the Minster. Early in

2018 Michael Nicholson died suddenly during the early Communion service on Sunday morning – as reported in the last Newsletter. Arnold Bennett, who has just died at the time of writing (July 2018) dedicated 72 years of his life to singing in the Minster choir until he could no longer see well enough to read the music (though he knew much of it 'by heart'). John Lightowler, for many years active in the Old Fund, also died. We have also lost Jill Jones (active too in the Beverley Civic Society and other 'heritage' organisations); Pat Deans (a true 'Beverlonian' and a prolific photographer of the town and its people); and Terry Munro (a member of the clergy who I remember preached a splendid sermon at a Friends' festival Evensong). These staunch servants of the Minster community are greatly missed and will continue to be missed. One could write pages about each of them but I want to focus in this year's Report on another Minster stalwart, known to regular worshippers but also to tourists and in the locality more generally: Neil Pickford.

My purpose is not to write an obituary of Neil but to show how important the Minster as a building can be to an individual life – and how an individual life can express itself to the full in such an environment.

This is appropriate for an annual report as all readers are by definition 'Friends of the Minster' and aware of the beauty of the building and its power to influence emotion and behaviour.

In what follows I draw on an article Neil wrote for the parish magazine on his retirement as a virger and on the eulogy his sons gave at his funeral service.

Neil: a life

Neil became a Minster virger in 2006 and retired, after about 10 years, to run the Monks Walk (the pub just up Highgate, the road leading to the Minster). In a sense, it felt that he hadn't retired as he was still so visible in the area and, as he said in his retirement piece in the parish magazine, his role in the pub 'requires many of the same people-skills' he developed as a virger (with typical wry modesty he instances 'moving chairs, dusting things, cleaning the toilets').

Neil was born in Gloucestershire in 1955 and went up to Oxford in 1973. Not surprisingly (to those who knew his roof tours) he spent his summers as a guide at Berkeley Castle. His interests at university were student journalism and music ('he was able to pay for his beer at uni by DJ'ing' say his sons). On leaving Oxford and staying in the south west, he became editor of the Cotswold Post (at 25 the youngest editor in the country). His wedding to Gill in Bristol was conducted by the curate, James Jones (later Bishop of Hull and then of Liverpool).

Move to the Minster

A job at the Press Association in Howden brought Neil to the East Riding. There were job changes (and redundancies) as the newspaper industry changed (Neil saw this as 'a dilution of the industry he took such pride in'). After 'being made redundant from a well-paid job in publishing (for the fifth time)' Neil had 'no idea what to do next'. His wife Gill encouraged him to apply for the assistant virger job, seeing it advertised in the parish news sheet.

The Monks Walk

After his ten years at the Minster, Neil decided to combine two of his passions: history and beer. He had no particularly relevant experience to equip him for running a pub ('his only experience was that he had drunk in pubs') but 'he just had a feeling that it could be something special'. He brought to the task his knowledge of the media (and advertising) and above all his warmth, and ability to engage with people. The Monks Walk is a building of exceptional interest and Neil loved showing people round the building. His aim 'was 'to create a pub that he and Mum would want to go drinking in'. And of course he and Gill succeeded in this – The Monks Walk is distinctive, traditional, friendly, and 'old-fashioned' ('a chatter pub').

Neil threw himself into this new role ('it reignited a fire within him'). He turned the pub round, energetic even when he started to feel unwell. He continued also his active role on the Friends' Council and was due to represent the Minster at the two-yearly conference of Friends of cathedrals and churches at Ely in October 2017. To show the

disorientating speed of Neil's illness: we were expecting he would be able to come to Ely right up into the summer, when it dawned on us that we ought to have someone else 'lined up' in case Neil couldn't make it. None of us could quite believe how ill Neil was. In fact, he died just before the Ely conference, from an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer.

The Minster as a teacher

In his article in the parish magazine Neil wrote of his time as a Minster virger. His first responsibility was on Remembrance Sunday 2006 – leading in 'the second-highest cleric in the Anglican community of England' (the Archbishop of York). The job 'combined his love of history with his love of talking' (say his sons). He wrote a weekly column for the Beverley Advertiser about how life looked from his position as virger. These pieces were very popular and moved from 'the free paper' to the Hull Daily Mail and then on to BBC Radio Humberside, bringing the Minster to life to many people, including those who never entered its doors.

The building itself, its atmosphere, its place in the community, its purpose – all had a deep (and unanticipated) impact on Neil. The job became 'the most satisfying working period' in his life and he left it 'with a deep sense of fulfilment'. From the beginning 'to those final quiet moments in the vestry before I locked the door for the last time' Neil was aware 'that the daily demands on a virger in Beverley Minster required a completely different mindset to what I'd had before – and this mindset produces a much better way of living'.

Neil learned a new way of dealing with people, not giving out but responding to need - 'how to stand back and serve the needs of other people, from all backgrounds and with a wide range of concerns, required a degree of empathy I'd never had to call on before...Over the years I've sat down with tortured and grieving people of all ages...and met hundreds of bereaved families before and after funeral services'. These experiences taught Neil 'how to listen to people, to shut up and not lead a conversation; how to guide it when someone clearly still had more to say but didn't want to say it. I stood by and watched as one tortured individual had a moment of

epiphany in St Katherine's Chapel and I've seen enlightenment dawn on the faces of schoolchildren of all ages as they've suddenly understood how and why Beverley Minster was built in the first place'. After he 'retired, Neil continued to 'come into the Minster and enjoy it as a simple civilian...and the fellowship of the Minster continues outside the building as well as indoors'.

Learning from the building and from what happens within it is important for us all and would be endorsed by Michael, Arnold, John - and of course the many people working within the Minster community today.

Floodlighting the Minster



For just £15.00 per night members of the public and local businesses/organisations 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 recognised Beverley Minster as one of the town's much loved and favoured landmarks.

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 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.

Contact Elly on **07970 709575**
A list of sponsors and available nights is on the Minster website:
www.beverleyminster.org.uk

Friends of Beverley Minster Officers and Members of the Council

Professor Roger Lewis (Chairman)
29 Highgate,
Beverley, HU17 0DN
Tel. 01482 864082
Email: quigsy@hotmail.com

Mr James Moore (Hon. Treasurer)
3 The Orchard, Tickton,
Beverley HU17 9JE
Tel. 01964 544145
Email: jamesmoore@hotmail.co.uk

John Phillips (Hon. Secretary)
20 Fawcett Gardens,
Driffield, YO25 5NR
Tel: 01377 241082
Email: denscanis13@gmail.com

Miss Pamela J Martin (Hon. Social Secretary)
85 Ancaster Avenue
HULL HU5 4QR
Tel: 01482 442221
Email: pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk

Revd Canon Jonathan Baker (Vicar)
The Minster Vicarage,
Highgate,
Beverley HU17 0DN
Email: vicar@beverleyminster.org.uk

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

Mr Robert Poyser (Co-opted)
Email: beverleymusicdepartment@gmail.com

Mrs Elly Hoyes (Minster Lighting Fund
Administrator)
Email: elly_jane@hotmail.com

Mr Peter Mounstephen (Old Fund
Representative)
Email: mounstephen@gmail.com

Mr Tim Carlisle (PCC Representative)
Email: tjc.carlisle@gmail.com

Mr Steve George (PCC Representative)

Prof J Wilton-Ely

Ms Gail Cahill (Co-opted)

Ms Kathryn Knight

Mr Alfred Williams



John Fisher - Beverley's other saint

John Phillips

Beverley Minster has been associated with its own saint, John of Beverley, for more than 1300 years, and it is often forgotten that Beverley is associated with another saint of the English church, St John Fisher. The article, reprinted from Wikipedia under creative commons license, and acknowledged herewith, attempts to redress the balance.

John Fisher (c. 19 October 1469 – 22 June 1535), is now venerated by Roman Catholics as Saint John Fisher, and was an English Catholic bishop, cardinal, and theologian. Fisher was also an academic, and eventually served as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

Fisher was executed by order of Henry VIII during the English Reformation for refusing to accept the King as Supreme Head of the Church of England and for upholding the Catholic Church's doctrine of papal primacy. He was named a cardinal shortly before his death. He is honoured as a martyr and saint by the Catholic Church. He shares his feast day with St Thomas More on 22 June in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints and on 6 July in that of the Church of England.

Early life

John Fisher was born in Beverley, Yorkshire in 1469, the eldest son of Robert Fisher, a modestly prosperous merchant of Beverley, and Agnes, his wife. He was one of four children. His father died when John was eight. His mother remarried and had five more children by her second husband, William White. Fisher seems to have had close contacts with his extended family all his life. Fisher's early education was probably received in the school attached to

the collegiate church in his home town. He attended Beverley Grammar School, an old foundation claiming to date from the year 700. In the present day, one of the houses at the school is named in Fisher's honour. Fisher studied at the University of Cambridge from 1484, where at Michaelhouse he came under the influence of William Melton, a pastorally-minded theologian open to the new current of reform in studies arising from the Renaissance. Fisher earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1487 and in 1491, proceeded to a Master of Arts degree. Also in 1491 Fisher received a papal dispensation to enter the priesthood despite being under canonical age. Fisher was ordained into the Catholic priesthood on 17 December 1491 - the same year that he was elected a fellow of his college. He was also made Vicar of Northallerton, Yorkshire. In 1494 he resigned his benefice to become proctor of the university and three years later was appointed master debator, about which date he also became chaplain and confessor to Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby, mother of King Henry VII. On 5 July 1501, he became a doctor of sacred theology and 10 days later was elected Vice-Chancellor of the University. Under Fisher's guidance, his patroness Lady Margaret founded St John's and Christ's Colleges at Cambridge, and a Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity at each of the two universities at Oxford and Cambridge, Fisher himself becoming the first occupant of the Cambridge chair. From 1505 to 1508 he was also the President of Queens' College. At the end of July 1516, he was at Cambridge for the opening of St John's College and consecrated the chapel. Fisher's strategy was to assemble funds

and attract to Cambridge leading scholars from Europe, promoting the study not only of Classical Latin and Greek authors, but of Hebrew. He placed great weight upon pastoral commitment, above all popular preaching by the endowed staff. Fisher's foundations were also dedicated to prayer for the dead, especially through chantry foundations. Fisher had a vision to which he dedicated all his personal resources and energies. A scholar and a priest, humble and conscientious, he managed despite occasional opposition to administer a whole university, one of only two in England. He conceived and saw through long-term projects.

A stern and austere man, Fisher was known to place a human skull on the altar during Mass and on the table during meals. Erasmus said of John Fisher: "He is the one man at this time who is incomparable for uprightness of life, for learning and for greatness of soul."

Bishop

By Papal Bull dated 14 October 1504, Fisher was appointed the Bishop of Rochester at the personal insistence of Henry VII.[7] Rochester was then the poorest diocese in England and usually seen as a first step on an ecclesiastical career. Nonetheless, Fisher stayed there, presumably by his own choice, for the remaining 31 years of his life. At the same time, like any English bishop of his day, Fisher had certain state duties. In particular he maintained a passionate interest in the University of Cambridge. In 1504 he was elected the university's chancellor. Re-elected annually for 10 years, Fisher ultimately received a lifetime appointment. At this date he is also said to have acted as tutor to Prince Henry, afterwards King Henry VIII. As a preacher his reputation was so great that Fisher was appointed to preach the funeral oration for King Henry VII and the Lady Margaret, both of whom died in 1509, the texts being extant. Besides his share in the Lady Margaret's foundations, Fisher

gave further proof of his zeal for learning by inducing Erasmus to visit Cambridge. The latter attributes it ("Epistulae" 6:2) to Fisher's protection that the study of Greek was allowed to proceed at Cambridge without the active molestation that it encountered at Oxford. Despite his fame and eloquence, it was not long before Fisher came into conflict with the new King, his former pupil. The dispute arose over funds left by the Lady Margaret, the King's grandmother, for financing foundations at Cambridge.

In 1512 Fisher was nominated as one of the English representatives at the Fifth Council of the Lateran, then sitting, but his journey to Rome was postponed, and finally abandoned.

Fisher has also been named, though without any real proof, as the true author of the royal treatise against Martin Luther entitled "Assertio septem sacramentorum" (Defence of the Seven Sacraments), published in 1521, which won for King Henry VIII the title "Fidei Defensor" (Defender of the Faith). Prior to this date Fisher had denounced various abuses in the church, urging the need for disciplinary reforms. On about 11 February 1526, at the King's command, he preached a famous sermon against Luther at St Paul's Cross, the open-air pulpit outside St Paul's Cathedral in London. This was in the wake of numerous other controversial writings; the battle against heterodox teachings increasingly occupied Fisher's later years. In 1529 Fisher ordered the arrest of Thomas Hitton, a follower of William Tyndale, and subsequently interrogated him. Hitton was tortured and executed at the stake for heresy.

Defence of Catherine of Aragon

When Henry tried to divorce Queen Catherine of Aragon, Fisher became the Queen's chief supporter. As such, he appeared on the Queen's behalf in the legates' court, where he startled the audience by the directness of his language and by declaring that, like St John the Baptist, he was ready to

die on behalf of the indissolubility of marriage. Henry VIII, upon hearing this, grew so enraged by it that he composed a long Latin address to the legates in answer to the bishop's speech. Fisher's copy of this still exists, with his manuscript annotations in the margin which show how little he feared the royal anger. The removal of the cause to Rome brought Fisher's personal involvement to an end, but the King never forgave him for what he had done.

Henry's attack on the Church

In November 1529, the "Long Parliament" of Henry's reign began encroaching on the Catholic Church's prerogatives. Fisher, as a member of the upper house, the House of Lords, at once warned Parliament that such acts could only end in the utter destruction of the Catholic Church in England. The Commons, through their speaker, complained to the King that Fisher had disparaged Parliament, presumably with Henry prompting them behind the scenes. The opportunity was not lost. Henry summoned Fisher before him, demanding an explanation. This being given, Henry declared himself satisfied, leaving it to the Commons to declare that the explanation was inadequate, so that he appeared as a magnanimous sovereign, instead of Fisher's enemy.

This yere was a coke boylyd in a cauderne in Smythfeld for he wolde a powsyned the bishop of Rochester Fycher with dyvers of hys servanttes, and he was lockyd in a chayne and pullyd up and downe with a gybbyt at dyvers tymes tyll he was dede.

Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London, 1531

A year later, in 1530, the continued encroachments on the Church moved Fisher, as Bishop of Rochester, along with the Bishops of Bath and Ely, to appeal to the Holy See. This gave the King his opportunity and an edict forbidding such appeals was immediately issued, and the three bishops were arrested. Their imprisonment, however,

must have lasted only a few months for in February 1531, Convocation met, and Fisher was present. This was the occasion when the clergy were forced, at a cost of 100,000 pounds, to purchase the King's pardon for having recognized Cardinal Wolsey's authority as legate of the pope; and at the same time to acknowledge Henry as Supreme Head of the Church in England, to which phrase the addition of the clause "so far as God's law permits" was made through Fisher's efforts. A few days later, several of Fisher's servants were taken ill after eating some porridge served to the household and two died. A cook, Richard Roose, was executed by boiling alive for attempted poisoning.

Intrigues with the Holy Roman Emperor

Fisher also engaged in secret activities to overthrow Henry. As early as 1531 he began secretly communicating with foreign diplomats. In September 1533 communicating secretly through the imperial ambassador Eustace Chapuys he encouraged Holy Roman Emperor Charles V to invade England and depose Henry in combination with a domestic uprising.

"The King's Great Matter"



Left: John Fisher by Gerard Valck, after Adriaen van der Werff, 1697.

Matters now moved rapidly. In May 1532, Sir Thomas More resigned the chancellorship and, in June, Fisher preached publicly against the divorce.

In August, William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, died and Thomas Cranmer was at once proposed by Henry to the Pope as his successor. In January of the next year, Henry secretly went through a form of marriage

with Anne Boleyn. Cranmer's consecration as a bishop took place in March 1533, and, a week later, Fisher was arrested. It seems that the purpose of this arrest was to prevent him from opposing the sentence of divorce which Cranmer pronounced in May, or the coronation of Anne Boleyn which followed on 1 June, for Fisher was set at liberty again within a fortnight of the latter event, no charge being made against him. In the autumn of 1533, various arrests were made in connection with the so-called revelations of the Holy Maid of Kent, Elizabeth Barton, but as Fisher was taken seriously ill in December, proceedings against him were postponed for a time. However, in March 1534, a special Bill of Attainder against Fisher and others for complicity in the matter of the Maid of Kent was introduced in Parliament and passed. By this, Fisher was condemned to forfeit all his personal estate and to be imprisoned during the King's pleasure. Subsequently a pardon was granted him on payment of a fine of 300 pounds.

The same session of Parliament passed the First Succession Act, by which all who should be called upon to do so were compelled to take an oath of succession, acknowledging the issue of Henry and Anne as legitimate heirs to the throne, under pain of being guilty of misprision of treason. Fisher refused the oath and was imprisoned in the Tower of London on 26 April 1534. Several efforts were made to induce him to submit, but without effect, and in November he was attained of misprision of treason a second time, his goods being forfeited as from the previous 1 March, and the See of Rochester being declared vacant as of 2 June following. He was to remain in the Tower for over a year, and while he was allowed food and drink sent by friends, and a servant, he was not allowed a priest, even to the very end. A long letter exists, written from the Tower by Fisher to Thomas Cromwell, speaking of the severity of his conditions of imprisonment.

Like Thomas More, Bishop Fisher believed that because the statute condemned only those speaking maliciously against the King's new title, there was safety in silence. However, on 7 May he fell into a trap laid for him by Richard Rich, who was to perjure himself to obtain Thomas More's conviction. Rich told Fisher that for his own conscience's sake the King wished to know, in strict secrecy, Fisher's real opinion. Fisher, once again, declared that the King was not Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Cardinalate and execution

Memorial space at the Tower Hill public execution site



In May 1535, the newly elected Pope Paul III created Fisher Cardinal Priest of San Vitale, apparently in the hope of inducing Henry to ease Fisher's treatment. The effect was precisely the reverse: Henry forbade the cardinal's hat to be brought into England, declaring that he would send the head to Rome instead. In June a special commission for Fisher's trial was issued, and on Thursday, 17 June, he was arraigned in Westminster Hall before a court of seventeen, including Thomas Cromwell, Anne Boleyn's father, and ten justices. The charge was treason, in that he denied that the King was the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Since he had been deprived of his position of Bishop of Rochester by the Act of Attainder, he was treated as a commoner, and tried by jury. The

only testimony was that of Richard Rich. John Fisher was found guilty and condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn.

However, a public outcry was brewing among the London populace who saw a sinister irony in the parallels between the conviction of Fisher and that of his patronal namesake, Saint John the Baptist, who was executed by King Herod Antipas for challenging the validity of Herod's marriage to his brother's divorcée Herodias. For fear of John Fisher's living through his patronal feast day, that of the Nativity of St John the Baptist on 24 June, and of attracting too much public sympathy, King Henry commuted the sentence to that of beheading, to be accomplished before 23 June, the Vigil of the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist. He was executed on Tower Hill on 22 June 1535. The execution had the opposite effect from that which King Henry VIII intended as it created yet another parallel with that of the martyrdom of St John the Baptist who was also beheaded; his death also happened on the feast day of Saint Alban, the first martyr of Britain.

Fisher's last moments were in keeping with his life. He met death with a calm dignified courage which profoundly impressed those present. His body was treated with particular rancour, apparently on Henry's orders, being stripped and left on the scaffold until the evening, when it was taken on pikes and thrown naked into a rough grave in the churchyard of All Hallows' Barking, also known as All Hallows-by-the-Tower. There was no funeral prayer. A fortnight later, his body was laid beside that of Sir Thomas More in the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula within the Tower of London. Fisher's head was stuck upon a pole on London Bridge but its ruddy and lifelike appearance excited so much attention that, after a fortnight, it was thrown into the Thames, its place being taken by that of Sir Thomas More, whose execution, also at Tower Hill, occurred on 6 July.

Fisher was a figure universally esteemed throughout Europe and notwithstanding the subsequent efforts of the English government, was to remain so. In the Decree of Beatification issued on 29 December 1886 by Pope Leo XIII, when 54 English martyrs were beatified, the greatest place was given to Fisher. He was later canonised, on 19 May 1935, by Pope Pius XI along with Thomas More, after the presentation of a petition by English Catholics.

Canonisation



Above: Portrait of Fisher, c. 1760

Fisher was beatified by Pope Leo XIII with Thomas More and 52 other English Martyrs on 29 December 1886 and canonised, with Thomas More, on 19 May 1935 by Pope Pius XI. His feast day, for celebration jointly with St Thomas More, is on 22 June (the date of Fisher's execution). In 1980, despite being an opponent of the English Reformation, Fisher was added to the Church of England's calendar of Saints and Heroes of the Christian Church, jointly with Thomas More, to be commemorated every 6 July (the date of More's execution) as "Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535".

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The Vicar's Report

Revd Canon Jonathan Baker

People, Pilgrims and Sanctuary

Six months in is a good time to take stock of a new ministry. So far I've been impressed by the warmth of the welcome, the variety of activity in the life of the Minster and its associated churches, and by the commitment of many people over many years to make the place what it is today, not least the commitment and energy of the Friends of Beverley Minster.

Looking ahead, it seems to me that there are several natural focal points for our future ministry. In the first place, the appointment of Rev. Wendy Wale as Associate Vicar carries with it a brief from the diocese to reach people in their 20 – 40s who currently have no church connection. This presents a clear mandate to think about how we develop our work in that area. At the same time I am conscious that in Beverley there are many older people, and that loneliness is an increasing issue in the wider community. So these two areas invite our attention.

And then there is the Minster building itself, which is a 'given' we can never ignore.

It is a great privilege to be able to minister in the setting of one of the great Gothic buildings of Europe. I'm convinced that the Church of England should be thinking of historic buildings such as Beverley Minster as assets in our mission; they were designed to make it easier for people to encounter God, offering as they do space for reflection and worship, inspiring beauty, and a profound narrative of faith.

Here at Beverley Minster there are at least

two distinctive themes arising naturally from the unique history of the building, which can help to interpret the Christian message. These are the themes of pilgrimage and sanctuary.

The Minster is a pilgrimage church. Its scale and beauty is the direct result of the popularity of St John of Beverley whose appeal in the Middle Ages was one of the most enduring of all saints. Whilst St John himself might be largely forgotten outside the East Riding, the concept of pilgrimage is very much alive, and is attractive beyond the ranks of regular churchgoers.

A brief trawl through our TripAdvisor reviews shows that our visitors are spiritually open, in the sense that they frequently respond to the Minster with awe and wonder and with sensitivity to its beauty and spaciousness.

Those of us who live and work here offer a ministry of hospitality and welcome which invites visitors to experience the Minster as more than just a historic building. Recent visitor surveys at other Cathedrals and Greater Churches suggest that it might be a mistake to assume too rigid a distinction between tourists and pilgrims. Many visitors are somewhere between the two, or else come as tourists who are open to the possibility of spiritual experience.

We would do well to reflect on this and consider how we can encourage visitors to interpret their experience of the Minster as a doorway to Christian spirituality.

The other theme is that of sanctuary. Members of the Friends will be aware that

the PCC recently obtained a Round One pass in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for over £400K. This money is being matched by the Friends and the Old Fund to support a £700K project to renew the roof of the lesser south transept and to interpret the theme of sanctuary. We must still get through Round Two before the grant is secured, but we have made a good start and money has been released by HLF to support the development of the Round Two application.

Beverley was perhaps the greatest of all medieval centres of sanctuary, a privilege jealously guarded by the Minster canons. It was a place where refuge could be sought from the more rough and ready forms of medieval justice, and fascinating records survive of some of those who found sanctuary here, where they came from and what crimes they had committed.

The concept of sanctuary resonates today at many levels. There is the original idea of a

place where mercy prevails over vengeance, as set out in Deuteronomy 19. There is the sense of a holy place, as in the sanctuary around an altar. A sanctuary is a place of safety, a place of peace and a place of worship. An asylum seeker is literally one who seeks sanctuary, and a number of cities (including Hull) have designated themselves as Cities of Sanctuary where refugees are welcome.

Beverley Minster has a wonderful opportunity through the interpretation element of this project to reclaim the concept of sanctuary and reapply it for the 21st century.

So the Minster building not only offers visitors a unique piece of heritage to enjoy; it also offers a way into an understanding of the Christian faith, through these twin themes of pilgrimage and sanctuary. I am greatly looking forward to exploring these themes further with the Friends (and others) to find ways of opening up the very special spiritual riches of this place.



Friends' Coach Tour

David Brunt

The morning of 15 August started grey but promising as some 40 members gathered in Eastgate for the drive to Byland Abbey and Newburgh Priory. Our hard-working Secretary Pam counted us all in (she thought we were one short but then remembered to count herself) and we set off initially for morning coffee at The Old Lodge in Malton. Next stop was Byland Abbey where we were met by our guide Stuart Harrison who proved to be both entertaining and knowledgeable. Occasional drizzle was followed by sunshine and blue sky which enhanced the beauty and grandeur of the west front of the church and revealed the full extent of what must have been a very busy site in its heyday.

After a buffet lunch at Byland, we continued the short distance to Newburgh Priory. Newburgh seems to have basked in obscurity from its foundation in 1145 until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, but Henry VIII sold the estate to the Bellasis family in 1546 whose descendants (now the Wombwell family) still occupy the house. We were treated to a comprehensive tour by a lady guide who was very well informed and who firmly kept in order those of our members who were tempted to stray from the proper route through a house which was full of contrasting and interesting rooms. We were shown fascinating articles and portraits, including many of family members who met untimely ends, such as Sir Henry Bellasis who was killed in a duel by his best friend in 1667.

One room contains the bones of Oliver Cromwell (according to pious tradition) except for his skull. There is also the Cursed Room which is cold, empty and unfinished and will always be left this way because of a curse placed on it in 1758. There are of course many much more pleasant rooms with wonderful decoration and contents, and it is not surprising that the house is a very popular venue for weddings. The gardens and grounds are also very pleasing, as was the afternoon tea which we received.

Altogether this was a most enjoyable day, and thanks are once again due to Pam for arranging it all for us.

Visit of Lichfield Friends

Liz Grove

A hot day in July saw a visit from the Friends of Lichfield Cathedral, which caused much excitement as they particularly wanted not only to see the Minster but also to meet some Friends of Beverley Minster.

They arrived in Beverley at 11am and spent the time until their tour at 2pm discovering the town. Some arrived at the Minster early, in time to catch the end of the lunchtime jazz concert, which gave them an idea of the amount of exciting sound that can be bounced off our mighty walls.

Our "new" Vicar, Jonathan Baker, gave them a generous and warm welcome, then they split into two groups and had excellent tours of the interior by Phil Deller and Sue Robson, with the help of Ian Champion. They had allowed just over an hour for the tour, then 45 minutes for tea and Friend-ly chats. Of course the hour talks whisked past and there was still at least ten years' worth of things to see, but there was also a rather nice tea arranged at the Monks Walk, so by 3.30pm the Lichfield Friends and some Beverley Friends were gathered over tea and sandwiches, sharing many smiles.

It was a truly wonderful way to celebrate the Friends of Cathedrals, Abbeys and Greater Churches movement, of which we're part. There was a real spirit of friendliness and commonality of many joys and a few problems. Our Lichfield Friends were hugely complementary about their visit and have invited us back to visit them. One lady is even thinking of moving to Beverley – nice to know she'll be sure of a Friendly welcome.

Programme Secretary's Report

Following my Report of events in the Spring Newsletter, the first Study Day of 2018 (Saturday 5 May), entitled 'A Thousand Years of History: Beverley Minster and the English Medieval Cathedrals as Time Machines', proved to be excellent in concept and content. Revd. Canon, John Cannon kept the attention of 24 members and friends during all four lectures delivered that day with his own inimitable style. The first lecture covered 'An introduction to the era and its religious culture, moving on to the pre-Conquest history'. This was followed by 'The Norman Conquest period'. The afternoon sessions included 'The story from about 1100 to about 1300' and finally, 'The period up to the Reformation'.

It was a pity that more delegates had not been present, but several other conflicting events were taking place that day, plus the delay in getting the publicity out earlier due to various factors. We certainly had positive feedback from those attending and a lively question time concluded the event. The June Evening Walkabouts comprised probably the most successful series we have held, so far. The visit to Beverley Friary attracted 26 people – some just turning up on the night, which on this occasion was not a problem. Four new members were generated as a direct result of this event, which pleased our Membership Secretary, Liz Grove. Chris Dawson was an excellent guide, drawing on his personal recollections of the restoration years of the Friary as well as giving a detailed account of its earlier history.

Pamela Hopkin's 'Round and About Beverley' proved to be so popular that a

waiting list ensued. In total, eleven Friends and others had to be refused and still people turned up on the night without booking. The group of 25 participants walked around the Minster on the outside looking at and discussing the five main roads leading to the Church and the buildings which would have comprised the Close area in former times. The tour generated a lot of interest and discussion as it progressed.

Finally, Richard Mann had clearly undertaken a lot of research before delivering his guided tour of 'Eastgate – Flemingate' – the immediate areas surrounding the east end of the Minster and part of Beverley's industrial past. There was much interest shown by participants, resulting in discussion taking place during the walk; all bookings and latecomers were accommodated that evening – a total of 22 people.

The annual Coach Tour (Friday 10th August 2018) this year visited Rievaulx Abbey and Mount Grace Priory, both located in North Yorkshire. Planning was initially delayed by the heavy snow encountered in parts of that area at the beginning of the year, plus the fact of finding a suitable lunch venue which proved to be a challenge! In total, 32 members and friends supported the event. We set off in sunshine on the appointed morning and travelled to the Old Lodge, Malton for morning coffee and homemade biscuits, where a warm welcome awaited. We then continued to Rievaulx Abbey and were met by our guide, Dr Stuart Harrison.

continued on page 21

Music in the Minster

Robert Poyser, Director of Music

This past year has been a busy one for all aspects of the Minster's music – full of highlights and great music-making. It has also been a year of new opportunities and developments which promise to be of great benefit to our future.

Organ

Last year, I wrote that we approached the conclusion of major work on the organ as set out in the appropriate faculty. This year, I begin by saying that we have reached the conclusion of that work. The final piece of the jigsaw, the re-winding of the choir division has been successfully installed. I am always happy to show people around the workings of the organ so if you want to see what we have been doing in conjunction with our organ builders, Wood of Huddersfield and P and S Organ Supplies please get in touch.

In June of last year, we had the organ's humidifiers inspected and the report suggested the complete replacement of the failing system with a new one. The humidifiers supply the organ with humidified air to stop the woodwork drying out at times of low humidity. The new components were installed in October and have proved a huge success. Whilst other organs of a similar size have been failing due to the freezing temperatures and low humidity, ours has remained fully operational and reliable. This, coupled to the work carried out to the pedal underaction and the great soundboards has greatly increased the reliability and consistency of the Minster organ.

Choirs

Our Junior choir have now been part of our musical setup for a year and are flourishing

under the direction of Rachel Jerome. Choir membership is settling at around 15 and it has been good to see many of these from the Minster Primary School.

The Minster Choir has had busy year. Our tour to Coventry in October 2017 was the culmination of a year of planning and fundraising and was a very enjoyable trip. Not least in popularity was the visit to Alton Towers after a weekend's singing at the Cathedral. Coventry Cathedral is a great place to visit and we were warmly welcomed by clergy and staff and the choir thrived in the fabulous acoustics of the building. A huge thank you to Mary Mead who, as tour manager, ensured all things went smoothly and were so well planned. We are currently hard at work planning a German tour to Stendal, Havelburg and Schoenhausen for October 2018 and have a tour party of over 40 signed up and raring to go.

In September, 17 of our trebles entered Chorister exams. All passed, many with Distinctions and Merits and were delighted to be presented with their certificates and medals at a special service at Bridlington Priory later in the month. You can identify which award a chorister has taken by the colour of their ribbon. Green ones denote a Dean's Chorister Award and purple for the Archbishop's Award. We have another crop of choristers doing exams this Summer – their presentation ceremony will be in Durham Cathedral.

Choir numbers are healthy at the moment. We have 62 in the combined choir, 42 of which are under 18. Combined with our new junior choir and music group we have around

80 people of all ages involved with music at the Minster on a weekly basis. To break the choir down into its constituent parts, we have 13 boys, 26 girls, 2 sopranos, 5 altos, 6 tenors and 10 basses.

Recruitment continues, especially for the boys' choir with many schools visited and others to visit. The Minster Choir is accredited with the East Riding Voluntary Action Services which unlocks a number of schools as potential recruiting grounds. Last year, we put together a joint short film between Swinemoor Primary School and the Friends of the Minster which demonstrates the life of a chorister which I am now using at assemblies, presentations and on the Minster's website as an aid to recruitment. A huge thank you to the Friends of Beverley Minster for supporting this project.

One of the most exciting developments was the launch in September 2017 of an instrumental bursary scheme for choristers. This scheme offers free instrumental tuition to choristers aged between 8 and 14. This exciting plan will be funded for three years by the Friends using a similar model to that which worked so well for the Assistant Organist post which is now an integral part of our music department. So far, this scheme has proved a great success with a number of choristers able to learn instruments when previously they were unable to. It has also drawn new people to the choir so it is proving its worth both in giving increased musical training to our choristers and also in recruitment. The next challenge is to source funding to enable the scheme to continue after the trial period.

As ever, I am inspired by the dedication, commitment and musical qualities of our choir members and look forward with enthusiasm to learning new music over the coming year.

Music Group

The Music Group continues to explore new music and contemporary repertoire for All Age and Worship teaching and Ministry services. We have gained new members but are always on the lookout for new instrumentalists! Many thanks to Pippa Milner who helps to organise and choose music for the group and is so dedicated in assisting Ian and me.

Staffing

As ever, I am fortunate to work with so many talented and dedicated musicians. Ian Seddon, our Assistant Organist is playing as stylishly as ever. Dominic Joyce has completed his second year as Organ Scholar and is making a useful contribution to the music department and is heading into his final year with us.

The Minster is fortunate to be part of a training scheme for young organists. The Young Organ Scholars Trust (YOST) was set up to train young people into the useful church musicians of the future. Harry and Luca are gaining valuable experience and will be seen and heard playing the organ and conducting the choir ever more as they develop. Harry was appointed as Junior Organ Scholar in September 2017 and has been playing and conducting both at the Minster and once a month at St Peter's Woodmansey.

A further development has been the inauguration of a Friday lunchtime concert series which we started in June 2018. A short lunchtime concert with a variety of performers and ensembles was preceded by the opportunity to come for a simple lunch. These have been success and future series are planned for the Autumn.

I look forward to the challenges ahead with enthusiasm and always with a sense of the immense privilege of working in the Minster, and also of the huge support the Friends of Beverley Minster bring to music-making here.

Membership Secretary's Report

Liz Grove, Hon. Membership Secretary

As in previous years, the number of Friends has declined slightly, from 508 to 490, but we are delighted to welcome 20 new members, several of whom are already making significant contributions to the Friends committee (*)

Mrs H Anderson
Mr P Arnold
Rev Canon J Baker *
Ms V Ballinger
Mrs M Bone
Mrs G Cahill *
Dr G R Clarke
Miss C Crews
Ms S Edwards
Mr J Geekie
Mr & Mrs S George *
Mrs I Hitchin
Miss K Knight *
Mrs M Lloyd
Dr I Long
Mrs M Ryan
Ms R Steadman
Mr & Mrs Stephens
Mrs S M Strickland
Mr A E Williams *

With sorrow we record the known deaths of the following Friends who we remember with gratitude. All will be missed from the Friends family.

Mr Arnold Bennett
Miss Patricia Deans
Mrs Jill Jones
Mr John Lightowler
Miss Barbara Little
Mr Cliff Morgan

Rev Canon Terry Munro
Mr Michael Nicholson
Mr Neil Pickford
Mrs Hazel Ramsdale

This has been a sad year for our Membership because of the loss of Friends, several of whom have made particularly significant contributions to Beverley Minster and Friends.

We particularly remember Neil Pickford, who died during last year's Friends AGM weekend (you may remember we held a minute's silence in his memory). Neil was a virger in the Minster and a member of the Friends committee, an excellent communicator. When he stopped virging he continued to participate in FBM committee work as well as revitalising the Monks Walk pub just up the road. His death from cancer has left a big gap in life in and around the Minster.

Michael Nicholson died as he lived – singing in the Minster, having continued his Olympic torch-bearing fast walks to his final service and leaving a definite Mike-shaped hole in lots that we do. He too was a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of the Friends.



Another key Minster figure for years was the wonderful Bass songman, Arnold Bennett, who died aged 92. He joined the Minster



choir in 1933, aged 8, and retired in 2005, still in excellent voice but with failing eyesight. He served the Minster enthusiastically as Treasurer, churchwarden, and Friend, for most of

his life. The choir photo below, taken in the 1980s, shows Alan Spedding back left, then Arnold Bennett next to him.



Revd Canon Terry Munro was also a long-standing Friend as well as a regular and invaluable member of the Minster clergy. His health, never very good, failed significantly after the death of his wife Elizabeth, but we will still remember them for their friendship, ministry and love of the Minster.



They all leave a gap in our lives, but we are so grateful that we still have a thriving group of Friends and a magnificent Minster to celebrate.

Programme Secretary's report continued.....

In spite of a rain shower, which lasted about half an hour, members and friends defied the elements to learn in particular about life in the Cistercian monastery through its buildings, and about the communal and social aspects of the order. Dr Harrison emphasised the importance of Rievaulx Abbey as a large and powerful medieval institution. The session finished in sunshine after which we travelled on to Byland Abbey Tearooms for an excellent buffet lunch. From then onwards the weather improved for our tour of Mount Grace Priory led by Dr Glyn Coppack. Mount Grace Priory is one of the best preserved Carthusian Priors in England. As well as explaining the layout of the remains of the medieval monastery, we visited an example of one of the cells with Dr Coppack, where a monk would live in solitary confinement. The cell comprised generous accommodation of a reading room/study, a bedroom, a room for prayer, and an upstairs workshop. Food would be provided daily via a small swing door in the wall to ensure that no contact was made with the outside world. Dr Coppack also showed us the water supply and system utilised in those days. Friends then explored the Priory building, the newly refurbished gardens and also the delights of the new café which opened earlier this year. Finally, our journey home was trouble-free thanks to the excellent driving skills of Jon, our usual driver from Acklams Coaches Ltd. A good day was had by all!

Last but not least, I would like to thank those Friends and friends of the Friends for their continued support of our Events Programme. The Programme would not have grown from strength to strength had it not been for their loyalty.

The Friends of Beverley Minster Annual Accounts 2017 - 2018

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018

Statement of Financial Activities	2017/18 £	£	2016/17 £
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary Income			
Subscriptions	11,803		13,235
Donations and Bequests	2,461		7,586
Tax Recovered	3,898		2,435
		18,162	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days/ Trips	4,655		3,780
Book sales	2,667		1,879
Annual dinner			826
		7,322	
Investment Income		26,862	25,176
Total Incoming Resources	£	<u>52,346</u>	£ <u>54,917</u>
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities			
Restoration of Font cover	-		4,464
Assistant Organist	-		2,000
Promotion	2,320		1,150
Book Production	-		10,700
Choir Sponsorship	-		500
Memorial	-		500
Dendrochronology Study	-		500
Web Page	960		
Friends Conference	648		
Choir Bursaries	10,000		
Matched funding Lotttery Bid	4,874		
		18,802	
Activities for Generating Funds			
Study Days /Trips	3,751		2,849
Annual Dinner	1,231		1,003
		4,982	
Governance Costs			
Printing and stationery	1,040		1,790
Insurance	196		191
Sundries	50		60
		1,286	
Total Resources Expended	£	<u>25,070</u>	£ <u>25,707</u>
Net Incoming Resources	£	<u>27,276</u>	£ <u>29,210</u>
Other Recognised gains/losses			
Gain/Loss on investments		16,137	100,541
Net Movement in funds	£	<u>43,413</u>	£ <u>129,751</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		858,473	729,874
Total fund Carried Forward	£	<u>901,886</u>	£ <u>859,625</u>

The Friends of Beverley Minster

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018

Fixed Assets	2017/18 £	2016/17 £
Investments	807,994	756,857
Total Fixed Assets	807,994	756,857
Current Assets		
Debtors	3,894	2,435
CBF Deposit	77,090	77,090
Cash at Bank	14,111	23,243
less		
Creditors	50	-
Net Current Assets	95,045	102,768
Net Assets	£ <u>903,039</u>	£ <u>859,625</u>
Funds of Charity		
Unrestricted funds		
Brought forward	859,626	729,875
Add Surplus for the year	43,413	129,751
	£ <u>903,039</u>	£ <u>859,626</u>

James Moore, Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

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

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

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

Beverley Minster Shop Limited

Jane Myers, Shop Manager

The shop and its stock continue to attract many 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 many 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 40, we have a full rota at the moment but are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team. 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 Bury St Edmunds this year; this is a wonderful opportunity to network with the other Managers to increase our sales expertise.

Socially, we have been to the College restaurant in Flemingate again for lunch, and also afternoon tea which were both very enjoyable. We 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 in 2017 and realise the financial benefits of both the City of Culture and the Petrus Alamire

exhibition had on our sales. 2018 figures are not so high; however, we have welcomed many visitors who have all been very generous with their spending.

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

Our Christmas card designs this year will have an aerial image of Beverley with the Minster taking centre stage. The image has kindly been donated for this purpose by Jamie Mewson-Smith of FlightSight Ltd. Once again, I will retain the price at £4.50 for 5 cards, with all the profits obviously 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.

Report from the Minster Surveyor

Simon Delaney, Building Surveyor to the Beverley Minster Old Fund

It has now been 18 months since I took over the role from John English as the Building Surveyor for the Old Fund. In this time, myself and the maintenance team have been very busy working on and around the Minster.

The maintenance team Steve (Rial) and Paul (Hawkins) are a pleasure to work with as they share a love for the building, what it stands for and what is needed to keep it in good condition. Together they have become very active on social media Facebook *Beverley Minster Old Fund* and Twitter *@bevminster2*. On these sites they have been actively sharing the work they have been doing around the Minster. So, if you can't get up to the roof you can see video examples of lead repairs taking place to the roof or the gutters, or views from the Minster overlooking Beverley. They are keen for people to understand the hard work that takes place behind the scenes on the building and find this media has gained them and the Minster international as well as local followers.

Beyond the day to day wind and water tight works, what has been going on since I last reported? The maintenance team will soon be completing the refurbishment of the plain glazing on window n16 adjacent to the shop within the North Transept. We are looking potentially to undertake two plain glazed windows in the coming year highlighted in the recent report from the York Glaziers Trust.

The stonemasons have also been busy and have just raised two replacement pinnacles into the roof space and these will go onto the West side of the South Transept in the next few weeks replacing the eroded pinnacles. The old ones are now on a pallet in the yard and at some point, we will look to possibly auction these off to raise funds towards future works. The masons together with Andy Burrell (Minster Architect) and myself paid a visit to the quarry that provides us with the stone for the work we are doing together with an alternative quarry. It was a very interesting day comparing the different quarries and their methods.

We recently made an application for the removal of the big copper beech on Highgate. Although the tree is causing us some significant Health and Safety issues getting safe access onto the roof adjacent to the tree on the North Transept and Nave roofs (North face) we were unsuccessful in this process. I continue to monitor the situation as the team access the area to clear the leaves and nesting material from the rainwater good in the area.

I reported last time that I had started the process to look at a continuation plan for the maintenance team by looking for an apprentice glazier/plumber to come in under Steve's wing ready to continue the good work. No progress has been made with this since I last reported.

Following the commissioning of a new report on the glazing in the Minster by York Glaziers Trust we have been able to look at planning future works. As a result of this we will be looking at the Great West Window this year. As a start York Glaziers Trust will be coming back to the Minster in September to remove a sample area of the window to take back to their base in York. From this sampling exercise we will be looking at putting together a specification and tender for future refurbishment to this window.

As a team we have been supporting the Heritage Lottery Fund bidding process and were delighted when we got through stage I for the replacement of the roof to the Lesser South transept roof as part of the Sanctuary Project. Although this year we have had to do a number of patch repairs to this roof, it would be good to replace our worst roof as highlighted in the last Quinquennial Inspection.

With Peter Mounstephen (*churchwarden*) I have been working with the Minster Architect to push along the works to repair the vehicle damage to the church yard wall. Hopefully once the faculty is in place the works will be completed by the contractor working for ERYC who are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the wall.

I look forward to another busy year with the team keeping up the good work done by many others over many years.



Friends of Beverley Minster: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

When you apply to join the Friends we ask you to provide your name and contact address (together with – if you wish - telephone number and email address).

We need these details to administer your membership – especially to send you our annual newsletter and annual report (which includes details of our AGM); and, if necessary, to contact you additionally, with details of events and activities of the Friends. You are able to change these contact details at any time, by contacting the Membership Secretary (whose address is given below).

We use your personal information to:

- Administer your membership subscription or donation
- Administer Gift Aid and Gift Aid declaration forms (we have a legal obligation to disclose information to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to claim the Gift Aid)
- Print address labels for posting documents that are essential for us to carry out our purposes as a charity and to contact you (if and when necessary) on some aspect of your membership
- Send our annual newsletter and report (and other information as necessary to inform you of our events and activities)

We use your personal information only in accordance with the law.

We do not share or sell your name and contact details to any other charity, organisation or individual for marketing purposes or pass the details to any third party (other than those mentioned above).

We are required, under data protection law, to keep the personal information we collect accurate and up-to-date. We do this:

- By giving you the opportunity at any time to contact us, at the address given below, to correct, add to or change your information

- By checking for any changes when subscriptions are renewed

- When we receive notification of undelivered mail or email.

If you tell us that you wish to end your membership we will remove you from our database as soon as we can. (Note that in the case of Gift Aid donations we have a legal obligation to keep your personal information for six years following the tax year in which the donation was made.)

If you do not renew your membership, we will normally keep your name and contact details for up to two years to enable newsletters, reports, renewal reminders etc to be sent (in case your failure to renew is just an oversight).

If you wish to have a copy of the personal information we hold about you, please contact the Membership Secretary (at the address given below).

We take seriously our obligation to keep your personal data safe and secure. Only the Membership Secretary has access to the database and can modify it. You will be informed as soon as possible if we are aware of any breach in data security involving your personal information.

If you are happy for the Friends to retain your data and continue to send you newsletters, reports and other information about our activities then you need to do nothing. If you wish to check or amend your details, remove them from our contact list or opt out of receiving certain communications, please let us know by post or email (to the address given below).

Thank you for all the support you have given and continue to give and we hope you will continue to enjoy your membership of the Friends.

Address for correspondence:

Ms E J Grove
 Friends of Beverley Minster
 Beverley Minster Parish Centre
 38 Highgate
 Beverley
 HU17 0DP
 E: friends@beverleyminster.org.uk

Update to the Constitution

This paper proposes additions and modifications to the Constitution of the Friends of the Minster. The Constitution itself remains the core document and ultimate source. The proposed changes ('standing orders') are based on 'custom and practice' adopted by the Friends and as carried out since the last amendment to the Constitution (25th September 2005). They do not change the essence of the organisation (or its purposes); they adapt our procedures better to fit current good practice in governance so the Friends' Council may continue to carry out its responsibilities in fulfilling the remit of the organisation. The proposals in this paper have been discussed in detail by the Friends' Council – which is recommending to members that they be accepted. Members are asked to approve the proposals set out in this paper at the AGM 14 October 2018.

1. Membership of the Council

There are five categories of attendee at the Friends' Council:
- Six members of the association elected by the members at the AGM; these retire in rotation, usually two are elected at each AGM; the term is three years; retiring members shall not be eligible for re-election until the year following their retirement

- 'Ex officio' members: the vicar and the officers (the latter elected annually at the AGM)

- 'Nominees': (i) two nominees of the PCC ('such persons to be subscribing members of the Association') and (ii) one person ('nominated by the Trustees of the Minster Old Fund, such person to be a subscribing member of the Association')

- Co-opted members ('co-opted' by the above three categories together with any existing co-opted members on the Council); these members may be co-opted either because of their role in the Minster (e.g. virger or Director of Music) or because they have specialist expertise relevant at the time. Their length of service is at the discretion of the Council. In some circumstances they may be co-opted prior to election at a forthcoming AGM; if elected they then become one of the six members mentioned in the first category above

- People in occasional attendance as 'observers', often responsible for activities of interest to the Friends (such as grant applications or building works at the Minster); such observers might speak to a particular item on the agenda.

2. Conflict of interest

There is nothing specifically about 'conflict of interest' in the Constitution so Friends need to follow good practice - which is that people with an 'interest' in the outcome of a discussion at the Council should declare that interest, preferably before discussion begins. This 'interest' may stem from a number of factors including financial (e.g. they, or a member of their family, may directly or indirectly benefit financially from a particular decision); commercial (e.g. they or a member of their family may own or work for a company that stands to benefit from a decision) or personal (e.g. they may be in a relationship with someone who may be affected by a decision).

Conflict of interest can also apply when a member of the Friends' Council also sits on the executive body of another group which stands to gain or lose from a decision the committee might take. Friends' have on their Council 'nominees' of the PCC and the Old Fund. Such individuals need not be members of the nominating organisation (so, for example, a PCC nominee need not actually sit on the PCC). In governance terms, they are in a different position from a nominee who is also a member of the PCC. In the latter case they become an 'interested party' in the outcomes of certain agenda items. Declaring an interest need not prevent a person taking part in a discussion but it may affect whether or not they should vote on a proposal arising from the discussion. Within these guidelines, it is left to the discretion of the individuals to decide whether they should declare an interest and/or whether they should vote on a particular proposal.

3. Voting procedure at the Council

The Council normally votes on proposals only if they are contentious. The great majority of decisions are arrived at informally, through discussion leading to a clear consensus. Where a vote is needed, good practice (based on what happens, for example, in Parliament and local government) suggests the following:

- after a topic is introduced and some preliminary discussion has taken place, a motion is proposed
- the proposer of the motion 'speaks to it' (i.e. gives reason why it should be accepted)

- a 'seconder' of the motion also speaks (if they wish)
- there may then be further discussion during which the Chair encourages all points of view to emerge
- the motion may then be put to the vote and carried or rejected or an amendment may be proposed (and seconded)
- if there is an amendment then it is the amendment that is voted on first
- if the amendment is carried then that is the end of it
- if the amendment is rejected then either a further amendment (or further amendments) may be proposed (and seconded) and voted on, or the meeting reverts to the original proposal and votes on it
- the Chair has a 'casting vote' (i.e. votes only if there is a 'tie', with those accepting and those rejecting being equal in number).

4. Decisions between meetings

At a Council meeting held on 24 July 2015, Friends agreed a process to be followed when financial decisions are needed between meetings. The minute was as follows:
Exceptional Expenditure. In view of a recent event it was felt that in order to facilitate the possibility of a future urgent need for expenditure without recourse to a full meeting of the Friends' Council, that the following protocol should be approved and in place. Expenditure on a single item not to exceed £1,000; agreement by at least 3 members of the Council, including Chair, Secretary and one other Trustee. Vicar and Churchwarden(s) to be consulted, and advice on other factors affecting the expenditure (including whether a faculty is needed) will be sought.

5. Chair's powers

It is possible for the Chair to ask for 'plenary powers' (also called 'Chair's action') when a matter has to be taken forward between Council meetings. These powers would need to be agreed by those present at the meeting. Actions taken would need to be reported to a future meeting and the Chair would take responsibility for his or her actions.

6. Voting at the AGM

Proposers (and seconders) for new members of the Friends' Council and for Friends' officers (who have to be elected annually) should be made to the Secretary at least one week in advance of the AGM. The agreement of the person being proposed should be obtained before their name is put forward. An appropriate way to invite such proposals is via the annual report, which also includes details of the forthcoming AGM for that year. The Secretary is then in a position at the AGM to read out the names of all those proposed and seconded (both for membership and as officers) and a vote can be taken on each. If appropriate (e.g. with the officers) the election can be 'en bloc'.

7. Meeting arrangements

Our Constitution sets the 'quorum' at Council meetings at five members. It does not specify the number of Council meetings that should be held each year; in practice meetings have been held quarterly. Our Constitution states that an AGM shall be held; it also sets out the process to follow for a 'Special general meeting'.

8. Financial year

The Constitution states that our financial year should end on 31 May in each year; in practice this has been 31 March and will continue as such until further notice.

9. Reserves

No specific sum is to be retained for reserves. The Council will regularly review its ongoing financial commitments as a membership organisation (including printing, postage and events) and also the projects it has authorised and when payment will be due for these.

Roger Lewis,
Chairman of the Friends, on behalf of the Council of the Friends, July 2018

Meaux Abbey Reconsidered

Dr Glyn Coppack, FSA and Dr Stuart Harrison, FSA

The best documented Cistercian monastery in England is undoubtedly Meaux Abbey in Holderness, established from Fountains Abbey in 1151, and the last of her seven English daughter-houses. The sequence of building, from foundation through at least two phases of temporary timber buildings, the construction of a permanent stone church and cloister ranges, and a larger rebuilt church appear to follow what was becoming the norm in Cistercian monasteries, both in England and further afield. The evidence comes from Abbot Thomas Burton's *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, written in the closing years of the fourteenth century and continued into the early fifteenth century by an unknown writer, both using earlier sources. While Thomas Burton's *Chronicle* is not history in the modern sense, it is a careful analysis of the abbey's muniments by someone brought up in the Cistercian tradition, and it has been quoted extensively (though not necessarily accurately) in Cistercian studies as the clearest evidence we have of how an abbey was set up and developed.

Thomas de Burton established a chronology for the building of the abbey, from 'a great house, that is, of worthless form', usually interpreted as a building of wattle-and-daub, but probably of mud-and-stud provided by William of Aumale the founder in 1150, to the completion of their final permanent church begun in 1207 and completed in 1253. The story is a complicated one of financial disasters and changes in Cistercian planning. The temporary building of 1150 survived until 1173 when it was replaced by another temporary structure, with a dormitory on the ground floor and a chapel above, on a new site, because permanent buildings were

being planned and quarries had been acquired by the second abbot, Philip. He then began the construction of a church and cloister buildings, and had completed the east range and monks' latrine by 1182 when he was buried in the new chapter house.

His successor, Abbot Thomas, who had been Philip's prior, continued the construction of the south range of the cloister, with the refectory financed by William of Rouley, and began the construction of the lay-brothers' west range. By 1189, however, a new church was planned, because the incomplete church begun by Philip was ill arranged', that is it was distinctly old fashioned compared with the churches currently being built by the order in the north of England. How much was taken down and rebuilt is unknown, but the house suffered a financial crisis in 1193 and Abbot Thomas resigned in 1197.

Alexander of Ford was elected to replace Thomas and he restarted work on the west cloister range, completing the ground floor and starting the lay-brothers' dormitory above. He completed their latrine, and began the construction of the monks' cloister. In 1207 'he tore down the interior' of his predecessors' church and laid the foundation stone of a 'new church'. In the past it was assumed he had begun a totally new structure, but it would appear he only adapted the existing structure by rebuilding or adapting the eastern arm, following the latest developments of Cistercian church building in the north of England. He cannot have done very much, however, for in 1210 he stood up to King John's forced loan and was forced to resign. The community was dispersed temporarily to other houses and building work would have stopped.

Alexander's prior Hugh was appointed in his place and restarted work on the cloister ranges, completing the west range and the monks' cloister before his death in 1220. No mention is made of continuing work on the new church between 1210 and 1220. However his successor, Richard of Ottringham (1221-1235), began the construction of the monks' infirmary, 'but because of the work of the church which was then in hand only a small amount was undertaken'. Perhaps more significantly, 'the ditch to the abbey which served the latrines was made in many places', and the lavers and water conduit were first begun.' The first stone cloister ranges were thus finally completed after approximately 50 years.

The election of Michael de Brun as abbot in 1235 saw further work. The smithy and the tannery were transferred from the North Grange to the abbey precinct and to Wawne Grange, a new stone wool-house was built at Myton, and a new precinct mill was built 'at the fishpond'. Before his death in 1248, 'our church was completed and covered with lead and the monks' stalls and all the altars in it decently set in order, and through all our places, animal enclosures and other buildings of divers necessary uses were built of incorruptible oak'. This statement is not entirely true, because under his successor William of Driffild between 1249 and 1269, 'our new bell tower was made and covered with lead and a great bell called Benedict, and all of the church was ceiled with boards above and covered with tiles below.' These are the mosaic tile floors recorded by Kenneth Beulah, made in the tile kiln at North Grange; construction of the tilerly must have been the reason why Michael de Brun moved the smithy and tannery from this area. The amount of time needed for this work can be recovered from the fact that the high altar was not consecrated until 1253.

The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and the abbot and monks pensioned off. We next

hear of it when Henry VIII visited Hull in October 1541 to inspect works on his new artillery blockhouses which were then being constructed. A letter dated February 1542 later reported how large numbers of men including plumbers, masons and labourers were actively at the abbey stripping the leads from the roofs and demolishing buildings to provide stone for the blockhouses. This suggests that the abbey stood largely intact and even complete with its roofs for some years before the demolition work began. It states:

75. Works at Hull

"An estimate of wages for workmen and labourers at the King's Majesty's works at his town of Hull," made 1 Feb 33 Hen.VIII.

Giving the amount for one month of wages of men whom "we esteem to be there." Or who "must be there at our coming." Viz., 20 masons, some at the Mewsse to see it taken down, and some to hew at Hull, 20 carpenters felling and squaring timbers and making store and work houses; 60 bricklayers upon the bulwark next the Humber by the "jeotte" (jetty), as fast as the foundation can be digged, 10 plumbers to take down and roll the lead at Mewsse, 30 lime burners, 30 brickmakers, 60 wood-fellers felling wood to make bricks and alders for scaffolding, 300 labourers taking down stone and brick at the Mewsse, digging foundations, unloading catches, keels and coalships, digging chalk, &c. Total (the labourers being at 4d., the wood-fellers at 5d., and the rest at 6d. a day), £252.

Exclusive of wages of master mason, master gunner, wardens of other artificers, clerks, storekeepers, or other officers which the King has appointed; about £10.

Also exclusive of carriage and emptions which commonly exceeds the rate of the wages; about £300.

In 2002 an excavation in Citadel Way at the BMW Paragon garage site unearthed a vault rib on what is known to have been the location of the blockhouses and confirmed the information conveyed in the letter. It can be matched to two others now at Meaux Abbey Farm and incorporated into the fabric of a garden feature known as the monument. This is a tall stack of moulded stones of various types gathered together from the abbey site. The site itself is reduced to earthworks and more reused monastic stone can be seen in a semi-ruined post Dissolution building on the western edge of the site.

Ken Beulah excavated on the site with William Foot-Walker between 1928 and 1940 producing a plan of the church and claustral ranges. The plan he produced shows a church with a three bay aisled presbytery with transepts that have two chapels in each arm and a long aisled nave (Fig. 1).

Essentially it is the same plan used earlier at Jervaulx Abbey in Wensleydale except there the presbytery had four bays. A similar plan was also used at Revesby in Lincolnshire

and in the mid 13th century at Netley in Hampshire.

Some of the sections of pier shafts he found are now at Abbey Farm and can be used to reconstruct the piers used in the church. The collection of stone at Abbey Farm is small but very informative. There are voussoirs from the arches of the 13th-century cloister and combined with a drawing of a capital excavated by Ken Beulah enable a reconstruction drawing to be made (Fig. 2).

It had the usual twin shafts and open arches standing on a base wall. Other sections of arches decorated with dogtooth and a capital show details of the abbey church and can be related to similar arches in Beverley Minster. It seems clear that Meaux followed a similar design and was a very handsome building taking not only its plan but also its elevation design from that of Jervaulx. Other details include sections of a central pier forming a vault springing from one of the monastic ranges which copies those supporting the vaults in the west range at Fountains Abbey (Fig. 3).

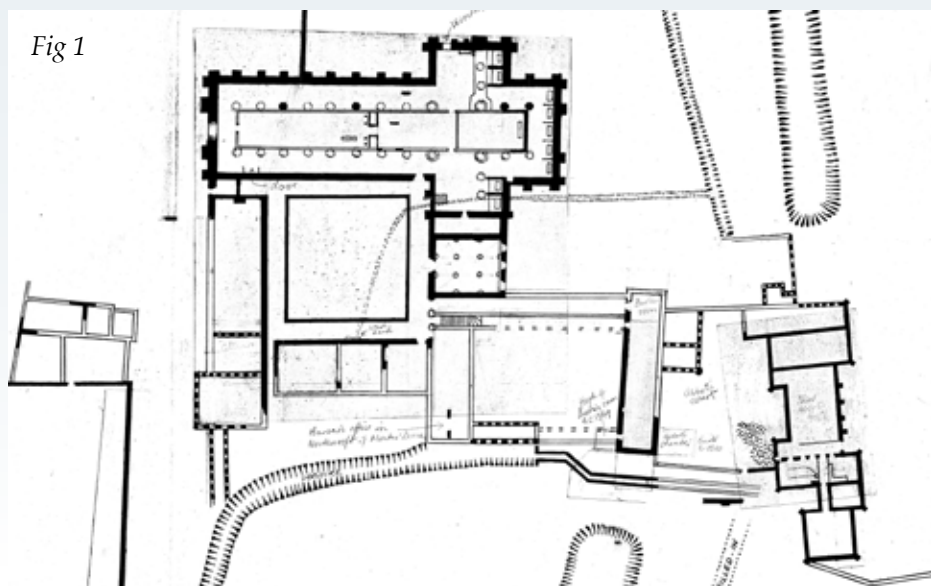


Fig 1

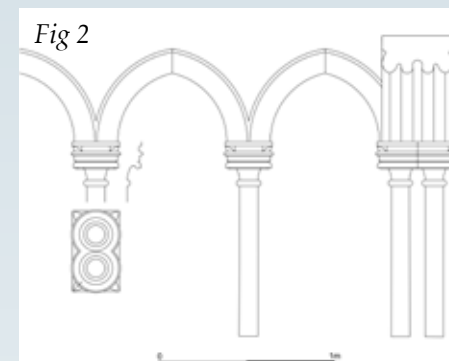


Fig 2

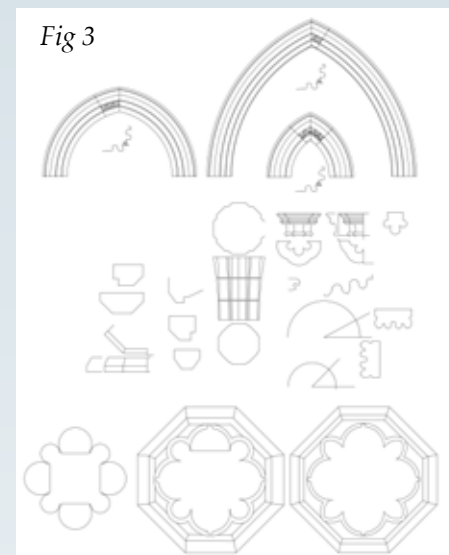


Fig 3

Fig 1.
Ken Beulah's plan of the abbey.

Fig 2.
Reconstruction of cloister arcade.

Fig 3.
Architectural details from Meaux abbey. The springer is in the centre of the drawing.

Fig 4.
Pillar in Andrew Beulah's garden made from architectural fragments of the abbey buildings. These fragments allow reconstructions to be made of the abbey buildings.



Fig 4

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Beverley Minster

To be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday 14 October 2018 at 14.15

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on Sunday 8 October 2017
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Council Chairman's Report** – Prof. Roger Lewis
5. **Hon. Secretary's Report** - Mr John Phillips
6. **Hon. Treasurer's Report** – Mr James Moore
7. **Hon. Membership Secretary's Report** – Ms Liz Grove
8. **Hon. Social Secretary's Report** - Miss Pamela Martin
9. **The Vicar's Report** - Revd Canon Jonathan Baker
10. **GDPR** - Implications for the Friends
11. **The Friends' Constitution** - paper and discussion
12. **The adoption of the reports**
proposed by the Mayor of Beverley, Councillor Bryan Pearson
13. **Election of Officers**

To be re-elected:

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

New members of the Council wishing to stand for election or to propose a member for election please contact the secretary before the meeting.

14. **Any Other Business**

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

Held on Sunday 8 October 2017

Present: The Right Reverend Alison White, Bishop of Hull, Mrs J. Oadini, Mr R. Moreton, Ms L. Grove, Prof R. Lewis, Deputy Mayor of Beverley, Mr P Dodsworth, Miss P. Martin, Prof & Mrs J. Wilton-Ely, Prof B. English, Ms S. Jackson, Mr & Mrs B. Seymour, Miss J. Jones, Ms V. Sutton, Ms J. Payne, Ms R. Major, Mr & Mrs E. Openshaw, Ms P. Bingley, Mr A. Patton, Mrs J. Shaw, Miss E. M. Wise, Mrs L. Jones, Ms C. Walton, Mrs A. Aveyard, Mrs A. Scott, Mr A. Williams, Mr R. Poyser, Mr J. Phillips, Mr J. Moore, Mr J. Askey, Mr & Mrs David Brunt
The Right Reverend Alison White, Bishop of Hull chaired the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Apologies for Absence: Mrs P. Hopkins, Mr T. Carlisle, Ms S. Nicholson, Mr & Mrs J.K. Ramsdale, Cllr Ann Willis, Mayor of Beverley.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 9th October 2016 were read and passed, nem con.

3. Matters arising: None

4. Chairman's address: Prof Roger Lewis

For some time we have been reporting progress on bids to the Lottery Fund – mainly on a proposal for a multi-million pound grant to support work at both the Minster and St Mary's. This year's annual report carries an article on an application to the Grants for Places of Worship sub-set of the Lottery Fund – seeking £250k for work costing over £650k on the lesser south transept roof together with visitor interpretation material on the theme of sanctuary. This application

is important for its main thrust – which is to deal with a roof with over 60 leaks costing over £600k to repair, a sum that, given other commitments, neither the Old Fund nor the PCC can afford.

The other important aspect of the proposal for our purposes here today is the role proposed for (and agreed by) the Friends – and that is to fund the interpretative work to help visitors and pilgrims appreciate more fully the Minster's architectural, spiritual and historical heritage. This kind of balancing – Friends pay for 'heritage and interpretation'; Old Fund pays for stonework and roofing – has been a rule of thumb, a division of responsibility, we have followed for some time.

The role in which the bid cast us fits perfectly into the remit of the Friends – 'to promote public interest in the Minster, its history and its work'.

Despite the quality of the proposal, we found out in September that the Minster was unsuccessful in its bid. And though work on the larger proposal – covering Beverley's two churches and the town – continues, we have to be cautious about the likelihood of success. The HLF has suffered from reduced Lottery ticket sales and bidding for Lottery funding is highly competitive.

One can speculate about the reasons for the Minster's slow and uncertain progress in getting help for these urgent repairs. Should we have started much earlier on the Lottery route? Certainly. Should we have made more rapid progress – yes, very probably. Another question must be about leadership: who should lead such a bid? Such an enterprise has in this case spanned vicars. In a church, leadership perhaps too often falls to the vicar so what does one do when there is no vicar? Whilst parishes are resourceful in maintaining

worship arrangements in such circumstances they are less good at continuing work on special projects and major applications for funding. Perhaps we need to be creative about this question of leadership.

We also have to face the possibility of the Lottery route proving a cul-de-sac. What do we do then? What alternative plans should we have? Do we need a professional fund-raiser? There are more questions than answers – and all the time the state of the roof and the great east and west windows, worsens.

And – something over which we have more control - what should the Friends' role be? We have not been leading the bid development; we have tried to support as best we can. In the new circumstances do we need to look at our own priorities afresh and consider more direct help in addressing the problems with the building; and if we do this, will we be in danger of straying from our constitution? These are questions we must discuss at our Council.

This year our most significant commitment has been to fund a choral foundation scheme to strengthen the Minster's music, in particular by recruiting young people aged 8-14. The music is a distinctive feature of the Minster as is recognised by the PCC, for example in appointing a full-time Director of Music. We feel that supporting the choir is maintaining and developing a key part of the heritage and tradition of the church and is thus part of the Friends' remit.

It is important to note that our funding for the musical tuition is for three years, we do not commit beyond that. It is a pilot – testing the worth of such an initiative – and its viability. In that period, the Director of Music will seek continuation funding from other sources. This model has worked well in the post of Assistant Organist: we funded that for three years and the post has now been consolidated - funding from other sources has been raised. We hope for a similar outcome with the choir tuition scheme. If there is difficulty in securing continuation funding we

expect that to be raised with us in time to avoid disappointment for those benefiting from tuition.

We want to work closely with the PCC to ensure that we are as supportive as possible in the current financial circumstances; but we also have to remember that we are a charity independent of the PCC and we have to meet our own charitable objectives. Thus we seek to support projects that are (a) needed by the Minster (b) welcomed by the PCC and (c) within our remit. To further better understanding with the PCC, the Friends' Council has two PCC elected representatives (and also a representative from the Old Fund).

We currently have good financial reserves – we have been very prudent in using the money you subscribe to us. We have been holding these reserves in the expectation of a proportion being used as 'match' for other funding. So we come back to the start of my report. If other funding (such as that from the HLF) seems unlikely to become available, we might need to reconsider our position. Whatever happens, we will maintain an adequate level of reserves to enable us to be flexible. This is partly why we have tied our support to the music department to specific limited time periods.

We remain very conscious of the support you, the members, give to the Friends and to the Minster. We do our best to use your donations wisely. Not all members will agree with everything we do; we welcome your feedback and your input to our decision-making.

The Friends' organisation is also about more than financial support. The final part of our 'Objects' section of the constitution reads that we seek 'to bind together in a common fellowship all those who love Beverley Minster'. This underlies all we do and it implies a very special relationship between individual Friends themselves and between the Friends and the building. The most tangible signs of this 'fellowship' are our social

and communal events such as those reported on by Pamela Martin, our social secretary and which include the activities we have enjoyed this weekend. 'Fellowship' does not mean that we will always agree; true fellowship includes constructive debate and even disagreement but it should not and need not mean 'falling out'; keeping our eyes on our greater, common purpose should bind us together.

5. Secretary's report: John Phillips
My annual resumé of the matters discussed at the Friends' council meetings
November 2016

This was a comparatively uneventful meeting. We touched on continuing discussions on a memorial for Leslie Froomes, and progress on the publication of my new book on the Minster which was due out in December, and then moved on to an update of progress on the Project Development for the HLF bid, and approved a new advert for 2017 to go into Elmtree Press 'Bedroom Browser'. It was themed around the new ITV drama 'Victoria' which was filmed in part in the Minster. We doubled for Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. The second series, scenes for which were also filmed in the Minster is being shown at the moment.

February 2017
In February we went through the arrangements for the social programme for the year.
We were presented, finally, with costings and proposals for the proposed Froomes memorial. We discussed this at length and decided that we did not want to pursue the matter further.
We noted that the accounts for the Minster Lighting Fund were available and proposed to call a meeting of the Trustees to discuss them. We were informed that the Tourist Information Centre were interested in selling Pamela Hopkins book 'Discovering Beverley Minster' which was published by the Friends and approved that this should go ahead.

We were told that the new statue of St John of Beverley given by Ann Spedding would be installed in the Percy Chapel in May.
We were also asked to consider a proposal to provide purpose built screens to disguise scaffolding while it was in use in the Minster. We asked for the Minster Surveyor, to come to the next meeting with a proposal.

May 2017
We were informed of the cost implications to the PCC of the Council's rejection of the proposed memorial to the late Leslie Froomes. After detailed discussion we decided that the Friends bore no responsibility or liability for the costs incurred and referred the matter back to the PCC.
We discussed at length the Grant for Places of Worship application. This involved the Friends in an expenditure of £58k to be used on 'interpretation', an aspect of the bid which would cover such items as a static display centring on the frith stool in the sanctuary, with additional lighting; production of a new guide book; a touch screen display and development of a new section of the Minster website; outreach via (for example) open days, concerts and art exhibitions; work with schools; additional support and training of Minster Welcomers and guides. Our contribution would be approximately 10% of the bid total of £564k. The result of the first stage of the bid would be known in September. The Council approved the contribution to the bid which had been put together at short notice.
The Council confirmed unanimously that further decisions (between Council meetings), and in these sort of exceptional circumstances, can be made as necessary on behalf of the Friends' Council by a sub-committee consisting of five named individuals. A minimum of three would be required for any meeting/consultation.
We then agreed a shortlist of projects within any future HLF or other bids which would fit the Friends' remit. The Council needed to be

clear on which projects we will be prepared to support which would enable planning and bid-writing to continue; detailed proposals with costings would have to be received and approved for any funding to be released. The Director of Music circulated a proposal for a three year pilot scheme to offer free music tuition to choristers as an aid to recruitment and to developing the professionalism of the choir. The paper contained detailed costings together with a full explanation of the scheme. The three year plan allows time to set up, evaluate and then look to securing future funding possibilities. The scheme is based on similar initiatives in cathedrals and major churches which have proved successful. The cost would be approximately £47,500 over the three years. This was approved.

We discussed briefly a possible request from the Minster surveyor to consider providing screens to disguise scaffolding within the Minster. It was decided that there was no pressing requirement for these screens. No further action was necessary.

National Conference of Friends of Cathedrals, Abbeys, and Greater Churches. This will take place at Ely on 27-29 October. The Council agreed to support the cost of conference, accommodation and travel for three Friends.

August 2017

We were informed that the 'Two Churches, One Town Story', HLF bid was unlikely to be submitted in November 2017 as planned. The likelihood of success with a single bid in excess of £10m is remote so the new plan is to submit a series of bids of around £2m. It was also recommended that the bid should become multi-faceted and widened by approaching a number of fund holders, rather than the single source of HLF.

The theme for the wider bid is likely to focus on music in Beverley, both historically and architecturally, but also in the wider contemporary context of Beverley's potential development as a music venue.

We returned to the PCC's request for help

defraying costs to Barley Studio. We were reminded of the decision made at the previous meeting - that we were in no way liable for these costs - and should consider whether any new information had been suggested to change that decision. After a full resume of the situation by the representative of the PCC, we were reminded that in order to make a final and binding decision, a formal vote should take place on whether the Friends funds should be used to assist the PCC.

The first proposal was that the full amount of £6,270 should be met. A second proposal amending the first was that the Friends would provide £3,500 as a gesture of goodwill, was rejected by a vote. We then returned to the original proposal which was rejected.

We were informed that the GPOW bid was among 11 proposals submitted by the May deadline, and that we should hear whether we have been successful on 7th September. At each of these meetings we also have regular reports on our membership, our finances, and our social programme.

6. Treasurer's report.

Mr James Moore spoke to the accounts as published in the annual report and answered questions.

7. Membership Secretary's report

Welcome to all Friends: it's always good to be in a Friend-ly environment, and this set of Friends is particularly good (if not always warm,) about this. I find it somewhat embarrassing that, after writing a summary for the Annual Report, the number of members promptly falls. Being the eternal optimist, I assume it hasn't got anything to do with said Annual Report, more that a bulk mailing of our hundreds of members inevitably brings some changes of address, circumstances, or sadly even, losses. And today we particularly remember Neil Pickford. So while we had 508 members in July, we now have 495 – but I have my eye on several people and have some forms available

for anyone who loiters!

Our struggles with the online environment continue, but we're still keen to encourage people to join, not only for themselves, but, with gift membership, for friends. Come on, there's always someone who has everything but lives somewhere not as lovely as near Beverley Minster. And we even pay the postage to let them know of your thoughtfulness.

As ever, my thanks to you all – friends for being friends, committee members for their enthusiasm and support, and the greatest thanks ever to my predecessor, John Ramsdale.

May our next year continue to be good for all of us.

8. Social Secretary's report.

Miss Martin summarised the year's social events. It been a very successful year because the social programme has been given wider publicity particularly through the 'What's On' leaflet distributed by the church. The 2016 AGM weekend had begun with dinner at Cerutti 2, with Patrick Wildgust of Shandy Hall as guest speaker.

On Saturday the study day theme was 'A Bell Ringing Study Day,' led by Mike Robson, Beverley tower captain, and included a visit to the bells and a chance to try ringing.

On Sunday, following the AGM, the St John Lecture, given by Prof. Barbara English was 'The Percy Family and Beverley', followed by tea and Choral evensong in the Minster.

On Saturday 7 2017 the Epiphany performance of Messaien's La Nativité du Seigneur, followed by a reception supported by the Friends, was well-attended.

5 May - East Yorkshire Churches study day with Richard Clarke

2 June – 'Why 1188?' - Reasons for re-dating the minster with John Phillips

16 June - Laurence Sterne – Author and preacher; a talk by Patrick Wildgust

26 June – Guided tour of St Mary's parish church with Pamela Hopkins

15 August – Coach Tour to Byland Abbey And Newburgh Priory, guided by Stuart Harrison at Byland and Stephen Wombwell and house guide at Newburgh.

10. Adoption of Reports.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor P Dodsworth, proposed adoption of the reports, seconded by Ms Liz Grove, and passed unanimously.

11. Election of Officers.

They having expressed a willingness to be re-elected, it was proposed by Mr J Askey, seconded by Mrs L. Jones, to elect the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Social Secretary to serve for a further year, en bloc. This was carried.

New Members of the Council:

Ms Kathryn Knight : proposed by Ms L. Grove, seconded by Mr David Brunt and duly elected.

Prof. J Wilton-Ely: proposed by Rev. S Deas, seconded by Mr Nigel de Lee and Duly elected

Mr Alfred Williams: proposed by Mr R. Poyser, seconded by Ms L. Grove and duly elected

12. Any Other Business.

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





The Friends Annual Report is compiled by John Phillips,
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