



The Friends of York Minster

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

The work on The Penitencer's Window in the North Nave Aisle, which has been our major project in the last two years, is now complete, but we are waiting for the boarding to be removed so that we can see the result of all the hard work by the Glaziers Trust in cleaning and protecting the window.

The Wednesday Coffee mornings in the Minster last year and at the beginning of this year proved to be very successful but unfortunately due to the work going on in the Minster they have had to stop. We have however decided to have one in the Minster School Hall during October half term. So, on **Wednesday, 24 October join us for Coffee and Cakes (10:00 – 12:00)** to enjoy a good chat as well as homemade cake. The famous cheese scones will be there too! Everyone is welcome so bring friends along with them.

(Please note that there is no parking in the School Yard)

Our 2018 Christmas card is a view of the Minster from Dean's Park and an order form is included with this mailing. The cards, with diaries, notelets and bags, will be for sale at the Coffee morning, the lecture in November, from the Friends Office in Church House and by returning the order form. I hope that you will support us by buying some cards. Please remember that in past years our Christmas cards have sold out quickly.



Detail of a processional banner on one of our assorted packs of notelets.
Available from the office and events.



Dear Friends,

It was wonderful that so many of you joined us to celebrate our 90th Anniversary in June. We enjoyed an excellent Buffet Supper in the Chapter House on Friday evening when the Dean spoke of the support the Friends had given to the Minster and Lord Halifax, our Vice-President replied on our behalf. The evening concluded with a moving musical performance by singer Eleanor Audet, accompanied by our organ scholar, Jeremy Lloyd.

After the AGM on Saturday afternoon, Sarah Brown, Director of York Glaziers Trust, told us how her interest in stained glass had developed and of projects she had been involved in. Tea in the Chapter House was excellent as usual and at Evensong the choir sang the anthem 'O quam gloriosum' by Philip Moore; music which had been commissioned by the Friends in 1986.

On Sunday we had been invited by George Smith to visit his garden at The Manor House, in Heslington, in aid of Friends funds. It was a perfect afternoon. Friends strolled around the gardens in the sunshine chatting to each other, admiring the plants and then enjoyed a delicious tea. Everyone said what a wonderful afternoon and weekend they had had. It was lovely to see members from all over the country renewing acquaintances and forming new friendships. We were especially pleased to welcome a lady of 92 who had come from Wigton for the weekend. Several new members said how friendly and welcoming everyone was, so thank you to everyone who helped to make the Weekend such a tremendous success.



At the AGM Trevor Julian and Helen Gregory retired from the Council. They will, however, remain very actively involved. Trevor will continue as editor of the Annual Report and Helen, who is on the Activities committee, will still be organising outings and holidays as well as baking for coffee mornings. Lyn Cowles also left the Council, having been co-opted on for an extra year to do a Survey of our Membership. This proved a very useful exercise which has led to further developments.

At the AGM our Chairman, Graeme Robertson, announced his intention to retire at the end of the year. Graeme is the first lay Chairman of the Friends, the post having been held by the dean, until 2014. Graeme has been editor of the Annual

Report as well as Chairman so has given a great deal of time to the Friends. We are extremely grateful for his advice, strong leadership and support which has helped the Friends develop. Graeme will, I am sure remain a strong supporter and active member.

We elected 3 new members to Council.

- Catherine Champness moved to York in 2004 and started to worship regularly at the Minster. She then became a steward and joined the Friends. Catherine has participated in outings, theatre visits and residential holidays with the Friends.
- John Morley has been part on the Minster worshipping community since 1961 whilst also maintaining a parish connection within the city of York. Over the years John's involvement became greater in various roles: Minster guide, server and steward. Since 2009 John has been Head Steward and has served one term on the Friends Council.
- Sue Wood welcomes the opportunity to serve on the Friends Council for another term. She is an active member of the Activities group and organises many outings and holidays for the Friends.

Our Dean, the Reverend Vivienne Faull, is to become Bishop of Bristol and so will be leaving the Minster this month. We wish her all the best in her new role.

The work done by Lyn Cowles on our membership numbers showed that there had been a decline in the last few years. The Council held several strategy meetings to discuss our organisation and recruitment and it was decided to send a questionnaire to members. At the AGM we gave out the first draft for members attending to fill in. This was a trial run and having analysed the results, we will be circulating the improved version to more members over the next few months. We are keen to find out what aspects of our organisation you appreciate, why you joined and how you feel we could improve. Your answers from the questionnaire will help us determine how we should proceed in the years ahead. We are grateful to David Miers and Gillian Morrow for undertaking the task of analysing the results. In the meantime please try to increase our membership by talking about us and asking your acquaintances to join.