



YORK MINSTER FUND

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the York Minster website for further details and to reconfirm timings: www.yorkminster.org

Christmas Tree Festival:
Grounds of the Old Minster School
until 6th January 2022

Exhibition in the Minster:
Light, Glass & Stone, Conserving the St Cuthbert Window
until 1st January 2024

Exhibition in the Minster:
Grinling Gibbons: Monuments to Glory
until 31st July 2022

YORK MINSTER FUND PATRONS



Have you considered becoming a York Minster Fund patron? For as little as £10 a month, you could join a growing group of supporters who receive, among other benefits, annual free entrance to the Minster, priority booking for Minster-run events and an invitation to a Minster by Evening talk. There are three levels of support to choose from:

St William's Patron, at £10 per month
St Hilda's Patron, at £20 a month
St Peter's Patron, at £50 a month

For an application form and further details of the benefits attached to each of the schemes, please go to: yorkminster.org/get-involved/donate/ or contact the Fund Office: yymf@yorkminster.org



MINSTER STORIES

From Wendy Garforth

When we married in November 1980 we came to York for our honeymoon and visited the Minster. At the time they were promoting "Buy a Minute" upkeep time for £5, so Robert paid for a minute in my new name. It was the first time that I used it. We were then issued with a scroll with all the details on. For our 40th anniversary, we were planning to revisit the hotel we'd stayed at, and also come back to the Minster to make a similar donation. However, Robert was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April 2020 and became poorly very quickly, so we had to cancel our plans. I promised him that I would return to York to do what we planned. He passed away in August 2020. Yesterday was the first opportunity (what with Covid restrictions, the weather etc.) that I had felt ready to honour that promise.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Sam and her colleague who were very helpful when I first arrived and burst into tears at the entrance. Also for Sam's help contacting several other colleagues to find a solution to my request to make a similar donation. I visited the gift shop on my way out and came across the Adopt a Pipe packs and thought that this would be more fitting, as Robert was a keen member of a Male Voice Choir, both here in Huddersfield and Castlecomer, County Kilkenny in Ireland when we lived there.

Once again, thank you all so much for your care, attention and support.



YORK MINSTER FUND

York Minster Fund Christmas Newsletter

Christmas Issue 2021



Centre of Excellence – Heritage Quad Workshop



Centre of Excellence – New Technology Hub

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

I find it hard to believe that we are now approaching Christmas again. I don't know if I am the only person who feels that they have lost a year and struggles to place when, in recent times, things actually happened!

With the Minster reopened since May, it has been wonderful to welcome visitors again and return to something like the normal cycle of things. We will have congregations again for our Christmas services, a new Christmas Tree Festival (see later), and the famous YMF Carol Concerts are back, albeit with restricted numbers. This year's concerts will hold a certain poignancy though - for the first time they will not be scripted by our good friend and colleague Dr Richard Shephard, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Despite all the machinations of the pandemic, the Minster has continued to move forward with the work of restoration and preservation. The early part of the year saw the completion of the organ project, as well as the restoration of the floor of the Chapter House which was made possible by a generous grant from the Friends of York Minster. In addition, YMF has been able to fund the

continuing work on the stone and glass and especially the St Cuthbert Window project. Earlier this year, we were delighted to open a new exhibition in the South Quire Aisle, highlighting this work. The launch was supported by talks from Dr Katie Harrison and Prof. Sarah Brown - more about this later in the newsletter.

Throughout the Covid crisis we have maintained our programme of training and apprenticeships - we say hello to some of the apprentices later in this edition.

Next year, Chapter and the Fund embark on one of the most ambitious projects yet as we launch the new Centre of Excellence. More of this in future editions.

As Christmas approaches, we also look forward to the dawn of a new year. In 2022, we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty. A new statue of the Queen has been commissioned for the west end of the Minster and will be carved by one of our own stonemasons. A gala dinner will be held in celebration, details later.

York Minster Fund continues to work tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the many generations before us who have cared for and sustained this magnificent

building. None of this would be possible without your most generous ongoing support...so thank you and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2022.



Neil Sanderson
NEIL SANDERSON
Director of York Minster Fund

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES



From left to right:
Nick Lane Fox, Tiggy Clifford,
Adam Horsley, Susanna Beckett



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St Cuthbert Window

STAINED GLASS EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

In July and September, Dr Katie Harrison and Professor Sarah Brown rounded off YMF's Summer Lecture Series with twin talks on the St Cuthbert Window, its history and its conservation.

Hundreds attended in person and online to find out more about this spectacular window and its inclusion as one of the jewels of York Minster. St Cuthbert, often depicted carrying the head of King Oswald, was a religious and royal figurehead across the North in the medieval period. Associated with an ascetic lifestyle, dozens of miracles, and often portrayed with animals, St Cuthbert is a fascinating character from our nation's past.

The conservation project, which you help support, is the next major step in the Minster's 20-year plan. The 105 historic panels are being removed, conserved and returned over the next four years by York Glaziers Trust, alongside an extensive scheme of repair to the stonework in the window. "Without the stone, the glass would simply collapse," said Danny Knight, YMF's Fundraising Manager, "and without the glass the stone would crumble. The two work together to create something that lasts generations."

The talks are available to view of York Minster's Youtube Channel, and you can find out more about the St Cuthbert Window by visiting: stainedglass-navigator.yorkglazierstrust.org.

PLATINUM AND LIGHT DINNER

20th May 2022

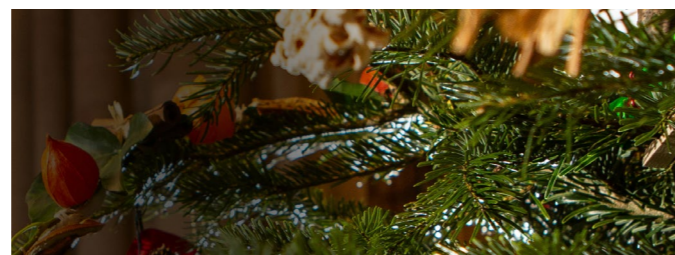
On Friday, 20th May 2022, a major dinner for 750 guests will be held in the Nave of York Minster, four years since the extremely successful and spectacular Northern Lights Dinner.

The dinner will not only raise funds for York Minster Fund but will also provide an outstanding opportunity to celebrate the first ever Platinum Jubilee of a reigning monarch in the long history of our nation and church.

Celebrating royalty has been part of both the life and fabric of York Minster throughout the centuries, most visibly exemplified in the Kings' Screen at the east end of the nave, where the dinner's champagne reception will be held. This tradition will continue in 2022 when a new statue of Queen Elizabeth II will be proudly positioned at the west end of the Minster.

The funds raised from this dinner will go towards supporting the preservation of the magnificent St Cuthbert Window which dates from around 1450. Its restoration is part of the Chapter's 20-year plan, devised in conjunction with the York Glaziers Trust, to preserve all the Minster's medieval windows.

Please contact: ybfdinner@yorkminster.org for further information about the Platinum and Light Dinner.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Help add some extra joy and sparkle to the Christmas festivities in York this year!

Celebrate Christmas 2021 at York Minster with all the family at our Christmas Tree Festival, in the old Minster School Yard (opposite the South Doors of the Minster).

The festival runs every day from Thursday 18th November 2021 to Thursday, 6th January 2022. Festive food and drink will be on sale and the Minster shop will be selling decorations in the precinct. Vote in the Best Christmas Tree competition, with the winner selecting a charity/school of their choice to receive the prize.

Entry is free but donations are most welcome. Participating in this joyful occasion will support our local charities and schools and help spread some much needed Christmas cheer.

WORKS DEPARTMENT: APPRENTICES



FREYA DE LISLE – Stonemason

I am immensely privileged to have been offered the place of apprentice stonemason for York Minster. Having completed a History of Art degree at Warwick University, much of which encompassed the development of medieval castles into country houses, and the history of stonemasonry, I became sure I wanted to enter a career in the preservation and upkeep of heritage sites. Previous to my university work, I hadn't known that stonemasonry as I know it now was even a job option in the present day!

During the end of my first year at Moulton College, I was encouraged to enter for the advertised position by my stonemasonry tutor Emma Dexter, who had been an apprentice at York Minster herself. Although I have only been at the Minster now for a couple of months, I have learned so much from my mentor Vic, and my colleagues in the Stoneyard and Lodge.

I have primarily been practising making various mouldings, in addition to some work on the scaffold increasing the slope of weatherings, as well as pointing and flagging inside the Minster. I hope to start my first stone for the Minster in the coming weeks, to which I am eagerly looking forward.



IAN GOODWIN – Joiner

I have been an apprentice joiner/carpenter with the York Minster for three months now and I am loving every minute of my new career. I wanted to become a joiner for several years to follow in the footsteps of my late great uncle.

I was always good at working with my hands. When I was younger, I used to make toy trains, castles, trolleys, and go-carts with my grandad. This gave me basic skills using hand tools and inspired me to start woodworking.

In the three months at York Minster, I have taken on projects both supervised and unsupervised. The projects range in size from carving a small corner of oak to infill part of the organ, making a medium-sized toolbox for the apprentice stonemason, to construction work such as building stud wall hut to house the new statue of the Queen whilst it is being carved. The statue will then be placed on the front of the Minster to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next year.

I'm looking forward to becoming a better joiner/ carpenter and hone my skills further.



MICHAEL DAVIS – Gardener

I've been in retail for the last 12 years, but decided to change career paths during Covid due to finding an interest in the outdoors and gardening because of lockdown.

Since I've started here everyone has been extremely welcoming and it is a caring and warm environment to work in.

There is a lot to do. I hit the ground running and have learned a lot in 3 months, especially with the contrast in work due to the changing seasons. I am excited for what comes next especially with the upcoming projects that the Minster has planned.

RIDE RETRO RETURNS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YMF

Visitors to York were in for a surprise in September when the third annual Ride Retro rolled into town, bringing sixty customised scooters and vintage motorcycles up to the doors of the Minster.

Paul Garbutt of Backfire Promotions and Nick Bielby of the York Inset Scooter Club rallied the troops in support of York Minster Fund, raising £760 towards the vital projects that help protect York Minster.

Thousands of people saw the display and witnessed Dean Jonathan Frost astride a Triumph, while finding out a bit more about why the riders were supporting York Minster. "For us, this is the most beautiful building in the world" said Mr Garbutt, "and we wanted to do our bit to help".

Paul and Nick presented their cheque to Danny Knight of YMF and Canon Michael Smith of the Chapter of York.

The event, now in its third year, also supports Prostate Cancer UK and York Normandy Veterans.

