



## YORK MINSTER FUND

# York Minster Fund Summer Newsletter

Summer Issue 2025

## WELCOME TO THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

As I am writing this, it is hard to believe that this will be my last input into our Newsletter. It has been my great privilege to be Director of York Minster Fund for the last 9 years, but now is the right time for me to move on to pastures new.

In my time with the Fund I have been lucky enough to be involved in some great projects. In 2018 we completed the final section of the Great East Window restoration, and then with further support from the National Lottery were able to embark on the 20- year Glass plan to continue the process of protecting the Minster's precious windows. During this period, we have managed to protect more than 15 windows and are well on the way with the windows of the South Transept.

The focus of the stone restoration during my time has been on the South Quire Aisle. We have supported the restoration of parapets and pinnacles, buttresses and grotesques and it is especially pleasing to see that we are now beginning to come to the end of the work in certain areas; although the St Cuthbert Transept still has much work to do.

All this work has been underpinned by the ongoing support for the continuation and development of heritage skills. This came to full fruition in the completion of the Centre of Excellence for Heritage Skills, which not only brings together the latest technology with the best of heritage skills, but also shows what is possible in terms of design, even on a historic estate.

It's not all just about fabric though in the Fund. Between 2018 and 2020 we supported the restoration of the Grand Organ and have supported many other projects within the music and collections and learning teams...we even managed to find the oranges for the Christingle one year!

Over the last 9 years we have been able to make grants and co-ordinate funding of over £25m for the Minster.

But our work is not only about spending money. It has to be raised first and with the dedicated skill of the YMF team we have hopefully put some Fun into the Fundraising. We have held concerts and dinners; lightshows and Christmas tree festivals; sold badges and books, and all through this period you have been incredibly generous in your support for all the work we do.

But one thing you learn in a place like York Minster is that there is always much more to do and we are all only small links in a chain that stretches back over a thousand years. In our time we do what we can, but we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

So, in this edition of our newsletter, you will hear of our continuing work and ways in which we endeavour to raise money and protect this incredible building.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have been part of York Minster Fund, but everything we have done has only been possible through your generous support. So, all that remains for me to do is say thank you once again and to wish you all every success in the future.

I am delighted to update you that I will be leaving the Fund in the safe hands of New Director Chris Loughran. Chris has significant experience in charity management, including his current voluntary role as Chair of the Beamish Museum. You will be able to learn more about his work and plans in the next addition.



NEIL SANDERSON  
Director of York Minster Fund

## GOODBYE TO DIANA TERRY

York Minster has been a part of my family life for over 25 years, providing a place of solace and of joy. Both my children were choristers, and I started working for York Minster Fund after I lost my first husband 18 years ago. I joined when Michael Benson and the late Richard Shephard revitalised YMF, a small tight knit office, but a formidable force!

Some of the highlights of my time with YMF are the launch of the York Minster Rose at Chelsea, and the subsequent Rose Dinner, we had turf in the nave and acrobats swinging from the ceiling! There was the restoration of the extraordinary Great East Window, and the Northern Lights Dinner, featuring a cutting-edge light show unprecedented in a UK cathedral, we even had a helium balloon floating down the nave complete with a trapeze artist hanging from it. We welcomed large audiences to the stunning light shows in the nave and to the magical Christmas Tree Festival, a great showcase of local businesses, schools and charities working together. Latterly the development of the new Centre of Excellence opens another exciting dimension to YMF. Just a few examples, and it was wonderful to be involved in them all.

I have been so lucky to have worked with so many fabulous people in the Minster community and beyond, making firm friends along the way. It has been an enormous amount of fun and a huge privilege to play a tiny part in helping preserve this magnificent building for the future.

Although leaving the Minster is a big change, I am very much looking forward to many exciting adventures ahead, travelling the world with my wonderful husband, having more time to tend our 80+ roses, painting and seeing more of our family, but I very much hope to stay in touch with life in the Minster too!



# JULIA RAUSING

— TRUST —

## A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT FROM THE JULIA RAUSING FOUNDATION

We are delighted to announce an extraordinary £500,000 donation from the Julia Rausing Trust. This major gift has brought the fundraising campaign for the Centre of Excellence for Heritage Skills and Estate Management to a successful close. It will also fund vital conservation of three stained glass windows in the South Transept.

This support marks the beginning of the first major fabric and repair project to be undertaken in the new Centre. The work will include a detailed analysis of the iconic Rose Window which last received restoration following the 1984 fire.

The Very Reverend Dominic Barrington, Dean of York, said:

“All at York Minster are deeply grateful for this gift, which will benefit so many people, from heritage craftspeople from around the world to the many visitors who come to our historic site each year.”

Our heartfelt thanks to the Julia Rausing Trust for making this possible.



## THE NOEL GODDARD TERRY CHARITABLE TRUST SUPPORTS SOUTH TRANSEPT CONSERVATION

We are pleased to share that the Noel Goddard Terry Charitable Trust has generously donated £9,000 towards the conservation and protection of the South Transept windows. This thoughtful gift contributes towards the restoration of windows S14, located just below the Rose Window. S14 features the crest of Noel Goddard Terry, introduced during the last major restoration intervention in the 1970s, (see image). Rich in colour and symbolism, the shield incorporates emblems of heritage and craftsmanship and is beautifully framed within an ornate border of blue and gold glass. The Terry's family legacy at York Minster is a lasting one, and we are honoured that the Trust continues to support the ongoing conservation of the Minster's fabric.

## RIDE RETRO

Last December, we were thrilled to welcome members of Backfire Promotions and the York Inset Scooter Club to the Minster, where they presented a generous donation of £750 in support of the York Minster Fund. Although the much-loved Ride Retro event was unable to go ahead last year, the Club's support remained unwavering. The funds were raised from surplus resources, a testament to the dedication of the group and their commitment to supporting local causes.

Community groups such as the Scooter Club play an invaluable role in helping to protect the fabric of York Minster, and their support never goes unnoticed. We look forward to the next Ride Retro event, and in the meantime, you can find out more about the Club and their upcoming events by visiting [www.yorkinsetsc.com](http://www.yorkinsetsc.com).



Image: Richard Smith from York Inset Scooter club presented the cheque to Cate Birch of the York Minster Fund.

Left to Right: Cate Birch, Paul Barbutt, Nick Beilby, Mike Benton-Rose, Richard Smith





## STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIP: CORPORATE CIRCLE EXPANDS



*In the Heritage Quad from Left to Right:  
Laura Cotter, Simon Bradbury,  
Adam Hickey, Cate Birch*

The development of the Centre of Excellence for Heritage Skills and Estate Management has not only created a physical space for innovation and training, but also a growing network of like-minded organisations who share our passion for heritage.

We are delighted to recognise Pinnacle and Stone Industry Group as the inaugural Silver Members of the York Minster Fund Corporate Circle. Their support has been instrumental in shaping the early infrastructure of the Heritage Quad.

Pinnacle Conservation generously contributed towards the cost of a new water tank, essential to the day-to-day needs of the Centre's work. Stone Industry Group funded two flexible banker benches, key tools that provide ergonomic working space for the stonemasons.

We were pleased to welcome Adam Hickey of Pinnacle Conservation and Simon Bradbury from Stone Industry group to the Heritage Quad, to see the new Centre in action along with Cate Birch (Head of Fundraising and Development) and Laura Cotter (Research and Innovations Manager) and have the chance to reflect on the impact of these early collaborations.

## APPRENTICE UPDATE

Thanks to the generous support of the Worshipful Company of Constructors Charitable Trust, we caught up with stonemasonry apprentice Jemima Davies to reflect on the first six months of her time at the York Minster, funded by the Trust.

Jemima has become a valued part of the Minster's Masonry team, contributing to both on-site and workshop activity. Her role has included dismantling parts of the South Quire parapet and supporting lifting operations using forklifts and the gantry crane. She's also developing confidence in handling large stones, having trained on the Minster's newly-installed wire saw and overhead crane.

In February, Jemima began work on her first commissioned stone – a shaft moulding for the S10 buttress. It's her most complex piece to date, and one she is completing with growing independence and skill.

Alongside her technical development, Jemima is nurturing her artistic practice. A two-day sculpture workshop earlier this year introduced her to clay modelling techniques and the creative flow that lies behind traditional carving.

Reflecting on her journey so far, Jemima said:

*"I'm incredibly grateful to the Worshipful Company of Constructors Charitable Trust for making this apprenticeship possible. Their support has given me the chance not only to develop my craft, but to be part of something truly meaningful in preserving our heritage."*

We are proud to support Jemima on her apprenticeship and deeply thankful to the Worshipful Company of Constructors for making this opportunity possible.

Supporting apprentices like Jemima means preserving centuries of heritage skills at York Minster.

With your help, we can continue to fund the training of young craftspeople in stonemasonry and joinery to gardening and plumbing: all skills vital to the care of such an extraordinary place.

Every gift makes a difference.

Turn to the back page to see how you can support the next generation.



Image copyright: Tonkin Lu



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW TRUSTEE – MARTHA VESTEY

I have been an artist for 20 years and hold an MA in Fine Art from City & Guilds of London Art School. Having previously studied in Florence, the preservation of historic art and architecture is close to my heart. I'm thrilled to be supporting York Minster, as well as the state-of-the-art methods currently being used in the Centre of Excellence. As a new trustee for the YMF I hope to contribute to raising funds for what is such a unique institution.

## PATRON GIVING

We are delighted to share that, thanks to your incredible generosity, over £5,000 has been raised by individuals and Patrons specifically in support of the South Transept Window Appeal. Your response to our last newsletter's call for help has been truly heartening.

With your support, we are now preparing to begin the first phase of restoration work in spring 2025, as part of the inaugural programme at the new Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management.

This work will not only secure these extraordinary windows for generations to come but also offer vital hands-on training opportunities for the next generation of heritage craftspeople.

To all who gave: thank you. Your gift is helping to conserve the beauty, artistry and faith embodied in York Minster's fabric, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to its future.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the York Minster website for further details and to reconfirm timings: [www.yorkminster.org](http://www.yorkminster.org)

### *Patron Event:*

**Monday 1st September 2025**

Join Sarah Brown from the York Glaziers Trust in the surroundings of the Lady Chapel at 3pm, as she delivers one of her illuminating talks on the Trust's remarkable craftsmanship and conservation work within the Minster.

Light refreshments will be served, and we encourage all attendees to stay on and enjoy Evensong at 5:30pm.

### *Founders and Benefactors Event:*

**25th September 2025**

Founders and Benefactors are invited to join us for a special Evensong in the Minster, with guest speaker The Right Reverend Jones KBE.

Following the service, a drinks reception will be held in the Technology Hub, part of our Centre of Excellence for Heritage Skills and Estate Management, where guests can learn more about our conservation work and training programmes.

### *Christmas Carol Concerts:*

**4th & 5th December 2025**

Don't forget to book your tickets for one of the Minster's most cherished seasonal events.

Ticket release date to be announced please keep an eye on our website and emails for updates!

## YORK MINSTER APPRENTICES DONATION FORM

Name .....

Donation Amount .....

Please tick the relevant form of donation:



**BACS**

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Sort Code: 40-57-31



**Cheque**

Made out to York  
Minster Fund



**Cash**

Please tick for Gift Aid:



Yes, I would like York Minster Fund to claim Gift Aid on this and any future donations I make. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Please complete and send to York Minster Fund,  
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