

May Newsletter 2019

Dear Friends,

2018 proved to be an exciting year. We celebrated our 90th Anniversary with a very successful AGM Weekend and then, in December, we planted a cherry tree beside Queen's Walk to mark the Anniversary. We had several good outings and lectures during the year plus two excellent holidays. At the end of the year our Chairman, Graeme Robertson, retired after 5 years in the rôle. Graeme was our first lay Chairman and has done an excellent job supporting the Friends, its activities, Council members and Officers. Graeme will still be very active within our organisation. Julia Charlton-Weedy, who has been involved with the Friends and the Minster for many years, was elected by Council as our new Chairman. We also saw a change of Dean during the year. Dean Vivienne Faull left in the summer to become Bishop of Bristol and in February, 2019, our new Dean, Dr Jonathan Frost, was installed. We look forward to working with Jonathan.

Annual report

I hope you will be impressed by the Friends' 90th Annual Report which is enclosed. It gives details of our activities during the year, our finances, and contains many informative articles about the Minster and the people involved with it. I was interested to read about the memorial in the North Transept to the Women from Britain and the Empire who died on active service or were killed in air raids in the First World War. Edith Cavell is one of those named. Canon Peter Moger describes the Minster's Centenary Armistice event involving 1,000 local children from 100 schools which shows the importance of the Minster to the local community. On a lighter note another article lists some of the questions the Minster guides are asked by visitors and the answers they were given. So, don't just put the Report on one side but sit down, read it and see just how much you learn.

Thanks to all who contributed to such a splendid document, to our designers, Kim and Nigel Kirby, for their excellent photographs and special thanks to Trevor Julian and Graeme Robertson, our editors, for their hard work in organising it.

Friends Council

At the AGM Pam Coffin, Vivien Moorcroft and Linda Tooley will stand down from Council. They will all be missed as they have made valuable contributions to the Friends but I know they will all still be very actively involved.

Administration.

We sometimes have a member ringing up to ask why they have not been receiving any information from us and we usually find that the details we have are not up-to-date. Please will you let us know when you change your address, phone number or e-mail then we can make sure that you receive all our mailings.

Dates for your diary

Our varied activities programme of lectures, visits and holidays continues to be very well supported. Many thanks to the Activities Group for their excellent organisational skills.

We will be sending out booking forms in September for autumn events but here are some dates for you to put in your diaries:

- Thursday, 12th December (10:30 – 12:00) – Friends' Coffee Morning at Merchant Taylor's Hall.
- Saturday, 21st December - Cinderella ballet in Leeds.