



# The Friends of York Minster

*President:* His Grace the Archbishop of York  
*Patron:* Dame Judi Dench, C.H., D.B.E.  
*Chairman:* Julia Charlton-Weedy

Church House  
 Ogleforth  
 York YO1 7JN  
 Telephone: 01904 557237  
 E-mail: friends@yorkminster.org

*Secretary:* Jayne Hammond  
*Hon Secretary:* Meg Shorland-Ball  
*Hon Treasurer:* David Hare

Dear Friends

## Newsletter June 2020

We hope that you are keeping well and cheerful in these challenging times. We are sending you our 2020 Annual Report, despite the problems in distributing it, as we thought that you would be cheered to read of all that has happened in the last year. Hopefully we can look forward to similar events in future years. Thank you to all the contributors and to the editor Trevor Julian, who has worked extremely hard.

Although our office in Church House is closed we have still been working on behalf of the charity. The officers are meeting weekly via FaceTime and WhatsApp while Council meetings have been e-mail based. Jayne, our secretary, is working from home with access to our database and emails. Modern technology has certainly made it easier to cope during this pandemic.

The last Council meeting on 10 June voted to cancel our 2020 AGM which was due to be held on 25 July. The Annual Accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission and a summarised balance sheet is contained in the Annual Report. If anyone would like a copy of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM they are available from the office.

At our June meeting, Ian Wolstencroft retired as Hon. Treasurer of the Friends and we would like to thank Ian for all his hard work and support in the last seven years. We have been very lucky to find David Hare to replace Ian. David was voted on to Council as a trustee at our April meeting and was approved as Hon. Treasurer at the June meeting. We look forward to working with David who we haven't met in person yet because of the restrictions. At the June meeting the Council elected one new member for Council, Aileen Bloomer. Aileen has been a Friend for many years, has a background in education and is a guide in the Minster. At the June meeting Pam Davies, Ian Hebden and Gillian Morrow retired after serving for four years. We would like to thank them for their support over this period. It is sad that we are unable to hold an AGM and say thank you to them in person.

We are using this time to look at our governance and policies. A working party has been set up to look at whether the Friends needs to convert from an Unincorporated Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We will keep members informed when it reports back.

We held one lecture at the beginning of March, but since then the pandemic has meant that all our planned activities and holidays have had to be cancelled. The Norman Allen group cancelled the holiday to Alsace but members will receive a full refund. We cancelled the holiday to Llandudno in September as we thought that, even if travel restrictions are lifted by then, members would not be keen to go. The owner of the hotel has transferred our booking to next September and kept our deposits. We have offered members who booked the chance to rebook for next year or have their deposits returned. Any spare places will be advertised in January. As of now we do not know what, if any, activities we will be able to organise for the autumn/winter. We know that many of you have missed being able to share outings and visits with friends or to chat over coffee and cake. We will do our best to organise activities when it is safe to do so.

We have decided to print a Christmas card this year and will be sending out an order form in September. Hopefully the office will be open by then but if not you will be able to order by post. Do remember the cards do raise money for the charity.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered their support by serving on committees, delivering reports, making cakes and sending us donations. Thanks to Jayne who has kept the office administration going while working from home.

We have found that we do not have e-mail addresses for many of you. It is easy to forget to let people know when contact details change but it would help us if we had up-to-date information.  
**PLEASE SEND DETAILS OF EMAILS, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.**

We look forward to the Minster being open, at least for private prayer, and to a resumption of a more normal life. The dean has written a letter to all Friends with greetings from the Deanery, expressing his thoughts during lockdown and the plans for the Minster to reopen. The letter is on the Minster website, <https://yorkminster.org/get-involved/friends-of-york-minster>.

Look after yourselves,



Julia Charlton-Weedy



Meg Shorland-Ball