Minster, in all its glory, have much to thank Fiona for. never have come to pass. Those who love and enjoy the determination of Fiona Spiers, the YMR project would can truly be said that, but for the courage and skills to know when some leeway should be given. She would not compromise on needed to be done and her determination to achieve she understood the tremendous significance of what the most challenging, but most exciting project she Fiona once said that the YMR project was probably the most challenging, but most exciting project she had ever been involved with. From the beginning she understood the tremendous significance of what needed to be done and her determination to achieve success never failed. She would not compromise on standards, but she would use her enormous professional skills to know when some leeway should be given. When history comes to be written and future generations can look up and see the restored Great East Window, it can truly be said that, but for the courage and determination of Fiona Spiers, the YMR project would never have come to pass. Those who love and enjoy the Minster, in all its glory, have much to thank Fiona for.

At its inception in 1967, the York Minster Fund was established with two objectives, firstly, to raise money for the restoration and care of the Minster, a building in crisis at that point, and, secondly, to raise and hold a reserve against any future “disaster”. By any description, Covid 19 does not only represent a huge challenge for the general population, but a financial disaster for the Chapter of York. The lockdown, with its “freezing” of activities, has had a catastrophic effect on the income of the Minster, with a projected £5.2m reduction in income expected this year. This has required significant actions to be taken, such as the furloughing of the majority of staff, and, very sadly, the announcement of the closure of the Minster School. Due to the far sightedness of the Minster’s founders over 50 years ago and the generosity of our donors since then, YMF has built a disaster reserve which will allow us to step in and support Chapter and its Stoneyard at this time of need. It will allow the Chapter to continue with its work of restoration and conservation for the time being, as well as supporting the maintenance and development of the traditional skills and crafts, of which we are so proud. Inevitably, projects have been affected, the restoration of the grand organ will no longer be completed this year as originally planned and the programmes of protection and restoration for the windows, South Quire Aisle and St Cuthbert’s transept, have all been delayed. I am delighted to be able to report that, from July 1st, staff at the Stoneyard and the York Glaziers Trust are delighted to be able to report that, from July 1st, staff at the Stoneyard and the York Glaziers Trust are working from home. We are now beginning to look to the future and to what is possible in this new world as we emerge from lockdown. Once again, thank you for all your support, we will have much to do to recover our position from the pandemic. I am confident that with the generosity and help of our donors and supporters we will be able to emerge from this crisis and continue the work which our founding trustees started.

Welcome to the York Minster Fund Summer Newsletter

Welcome from the Director of the York Minster Fund

Fiona Spiers

Everyone at the York Minster Fund was very sorry to hear of the passing of Fiona Spiers, recently retired from the Heritage Lottery Fund, who played a pivotal role in the £20m York Minster Revealed project, a partnership between the HLF and the York Minster Fund starting in 2007. The project focused on the restoration and protection of the glorious Great East Window and enhancing accessibility to the Minster for people of all faiths and none. Fiona headed the Leeds office of the HLF, overseeing the match-funded project from the HLF perspective, and, together with Richard Shephard of the York Minster Fund, helped to guide the project to complete on time and below budget. Fiona once said that the YMR project was probably the most challenging, but most exciting project she had ever been involved with. From the beginning she understood the tremendous significance of what needed to be done and her determination to achieve success never failed. She would not compromise on standards, but she would use her enormous professional skills to know when some leeway should be given. When history comes to be written and future generations can look up and see the restored Great East Window, it can truly be said that, but for the courage and determination of Fiona Spiers, the YMR project would never have come to pass. Those who love and enjoy the Minster, in all its glory, have much to thank Fiona for.

Edited by Diana Terry & Karen Powell
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Registered Charity Number: 252157
With best wishes and my prayers.

and individually, you have been ‘the friends that called’

and to YMF’s many and generous supporters. Together,

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challenges to the Chapter: not least, the need to address a

for individuals, communities, businesses and economies

and, of course, to York Minster itself. It is also true that when we are tested, tried and ‘up against it’, good things emerge and significant

In a time of pandemic-induced crisis, YMF has shown itself

(YMF) and the Chapter of York that has come to the fore.

As Dean of York, leading the Minster through the latest

tight spot in a long history of tight spots, it has been the

quality of relationship between the York Minster Fund

The impact of closing the Minster in March posed sharp

challenges to the Chapter: not least, the need to address a
cliff-edge drop against budgeted income for 2020. With slim

prospects of a swift bounce back in visitor or commercial

stream, the Chapter is taking the actions required to

ensure the York Minster navigates this particular

storm and re-emerges to sustainable growth in mission.

Without YMF’s support, the pressing need to reduce costs

would surely have meant vast areas of ongoing restoration

work being shelved or put on indefinite hold. Plans have, of

course, been adjusted, reviewed and reprioritised. However,

through partnership with YMF and the generosity of

its supporters, the Chapter has been able to preserve

continuity in key areas of restoration and in projects

designed to generate sustainable income in the longer term.

I want to record, therefore, the significant debt of

gratitude owed by me as Dean, and by the Chapter of

York, to Richard Shaw and the Trustees of YMF; to Neil

Sanderson and his inspirational and dedicated team;

and to YMF’s many and generous supporters. Together,

and individually, you have been ‘the friends that called’

at just the right moment. My thanks to you all.

With best wishes and my prayers.

THE RT. REVEREND DR JONATHAN FROST
Dean of York

STAINED GLASS NAVIGATOR

UNPARALLELED IMAGES OF YORK MINSTER’S
STAINED GLASS

That is what will greet you when you visit

York Minster’s brand new Stained Glass

Navigator. Using incredibly high-resolution

photography and viewpoints impossible
to reach in person, the Navigator offers

you unique insight into some of Britain’s
finest art and architectural achievements,

all housed in one easy-to-use website.

This partnership between YMF, York Glazier’s

Trust and the Chapter of York, supported by the

National Lottery Heritage Fund, will eventually

be the online home to all of York Minster’s

stained glass, spanning nearly 1000 years.

We’d like to thank all of you who have donated

through the website so far. Your support

has been fantastic, and we’re working hard

to bring you even more so you can enjoy

the glory of York Minster from home.

RICHARD GALLOWAY

It was with much sadness that

we received the news of the
death of Richard Galloway

at the beginning of May.

His son Damian wrote:

‘After his retirement, he found

great energy and purpose assisting

your efforts in delivering the vital

work of the York Minster Fund,

and the restoration projects you

served. He also talked of the

friendships that he had developed

with everyone at the office. York

Minster meant a great deal to him.

Richard was a great servant of the

York Minster Fund, appointed

as a Trustee in 1998, serving for

over 10 years with enormous

commitment and dedication.

“My Grandma, who lived in Plymouth, often said she would like to

visit York Minster as her eldest sister, Dorothy, had been a VAD

[Voluntary Aid Detachment] in World War I. She died, still as a

VAD, in the subsequent flu epidemic. Grandma knew that her sister’s

name was inscribed in York Minster, but had never seen it. In the

early 1960s we had a holiday in Yorkshire and visited the Minster.

Grandma finally got to see her sister’s name, D. Hodge, inscribed

with all the other VADs on the panels on the back of the choir stalls.

It meant such a lot to her and I have never forgotten that day.”

- Elaine

“…I found myself very unhappy, and the final straw came when my

mother criticised the cake I’d made. That was when I decided to

leave. I ended up in York, very distressed, and only the Minster

was open. I was inside, crying, when a friend spotted me. We

got chatting over a cup of tea (you could have a cup of tea in the

Minster in those days) and after calming down I drove back home

to find my whole family still enjoying the party! They had no idea

that I’d left, and thought I’d been sulking in my bedroom upstairs.

I’m now happily living in York, with a view of the Minster from

my garden. It provided hope for the future on that dark day,

when it all got too much for me. The Minster is very special:

it’s stable; it’s always there. I will now go and say “cheers” to

the Minster, as I often do with an aperitif in my garden!”

- Susan

We’d like to thank Elaine and Susan for allowing us to publish

their stories, and we always want to hear more! If you have a

story you’d like to share, please send it to: ymf@yorkminster.org