



YORK MINSTER FUND



DR FIONA SPIERS

Michael Benson, the former Director of the York Minster Fund, pays tribute to the late 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 writ 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.



Carving the beef at the 2014 Beef, Beer & Bubbles Dinner in the Minster. From L to R, Margaret Sentamu, Charles Dent and Ingrid Roscoe

DAME INGRID ROSCOE DCVO FSA

Charles Dent, former Chairman of the Trustees of the York Minster Fund writes:-

Dame Ingrid Roscoe DCVO died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on 28th June aged 76. She had been a trustee of York Minster Fund for ten years, from 2004-2014, and was a loyal, generous and much loved supporter of the Minster over many years.

She married Marshall Roscoe at 19 and they had 3 children. After bringing up the family she enrolled at Leeds University and became a noted art historian completing a doctorate for her research into 18th century British Sculpture. She then threw herself into serving Yorkshire and supporting many organisations in the County including serving as Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire 2004 - 2018.

The Minster has lost a long serving dedicated supporter.



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Summer Issue 2020

Welcome to the York Minster Fund Summer Newsletter



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE YORK MINSTER FUND

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 Fund'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 beginning to return and work is restarting on all these projects.

We are incredibly grateful for the support and flexibility we have received from all our donors. While our ability to deliver fundraising events has inevitably been restricted, I have been moved

by the spontaneous generosity and understanding of so many people.

Many things have had to move on-line, you will hear in this edition about the wonderful Stained Glass Navigator, and the YMF team remain 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.

NEIL SANDERSON
Director of the York Minster Fund



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LOTTERY FUNDED

THE FRIENDS THAT CALLED



Unexpected gifts have appeared within the otherwise unwelcome experience of lockdown. Old friends have called. Newer friendships have deepened, grown and flourished. Determined to stay connected, family members, previously unfamiliar with social media or new technologies, have taken adventurous steps into the wonders of the digital age. After an amusing start, a daily WhatsApp with my mother now keeps us in touch better than ever.

Coronavirus has undoubtedly administered a painful, sometimes deadly and devastating, shock to the system for individuals, communities, businesses and economies the world over; 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 rediscoveries are made 'for those with eyes to see.'

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 (YMF) and the Chapter of York that has come to the fore. At a time of pandemic-induced crisis, YMF has shown itself to be the trusted friend who called, a practical and generous partner in securing the Minster for future generations.

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 revenue streams, 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.

Jonathan Frost

THE RT. REVEREND DR JONATHAN FROST
Dean of York

STAINED GLASS NAVIGATOR

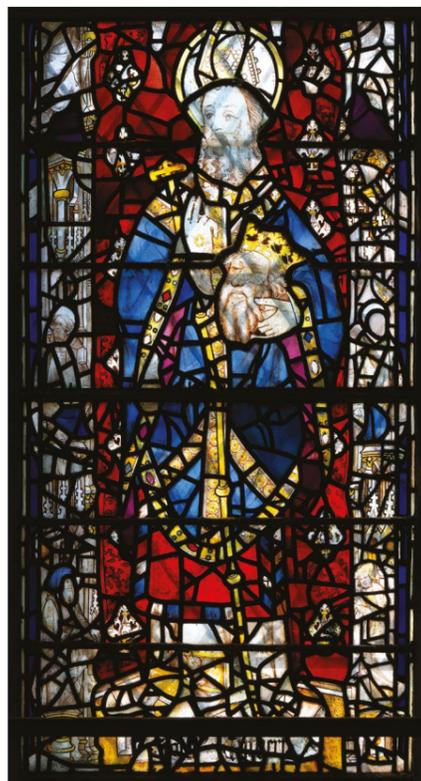


Image of St Cuthbert from the St Cuthbert Window

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.

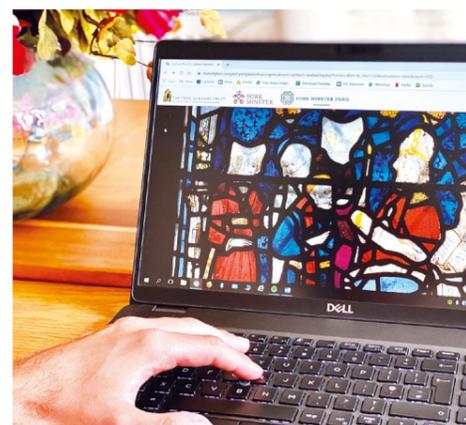


RICHARD GALLOWAY

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.



The Stained Glass Navigator can be easily accessed via the following link: stainedglass-navigator.yorkglazierstrust.org

Due to the current situation we have had to cancel all planned events in the Minster but are hoping to be able to put something in place soon. Updates on events will be available on the York Minster website.

SUPPORTERS' STORIES

Last time, we asked you to send in your stories about York Minster and why it meant so much to you. These were two of our favourites, especially poignant at the moment...



"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 1. 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 was preparing a birthday tea on a cold January's day. 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