

Friends of Ripon Cathedral

.....here to support our Cathedral



Annual Report 2022



Notice of **Annual General Meeting**

The eighty second Annual General Meeting of the
Friends of Ripon Cathedral
will be held on

Wednesday 5th July 2023 commencing at 7.30pm
Thorpe Prebend House, High St Agnesgate, Ripon

Guest Speaker

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines
Lord Bishop of Leeds

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Compiled by Jocelyn Brooks with thanks to the contributors, particularly those who have allowed reference to, or extracts from, other works to be included in this report.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, but no responsibility can be accepted. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the Council or the Friends.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Friends of Ripon Cathedral holds on computer file the names and addresses of members. This information is used solely to print address labels to mail the annual report, newsletters and other information and for membership records. We also hold email addresses for those members who have given us their consent to communicate by this method.

Under the GDPR, any member may object to their name being kept on computer file.

Objections should be sent to the Honorary Membership Secretary on foriponcathmembsec@gmail.com

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Dean of Ripon Cathedral

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CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE

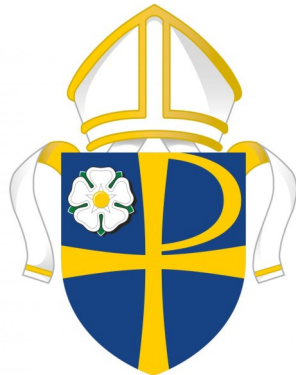
Vacancy

AUDITORS

ArmstrongWatson
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Friends of Ripon Cathedral

Annual Report



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds

Friends of Ripon Cathedral

.....here to support our Cathedral



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Letter from the Chairman

What a year !!



Indeed what a year it turned out to be.

For the first time since Covid hit our shores, the Friends were able to run a full programme of events - all of which were face to face and a great joy to be able to meet together again. This enabled us to complete our 80th Anniversary celebrations with Afternoon Tea at the Old Deanery.

The Cathedral celebrated in style its 1350th founding between April and October and it was good to be able to support that as the Dean remarks in his letter on page 7.

The Cathedral was also able to complete the 3 year programme of works on the fabric as described in more detail on page 29ff.

However 2022 will be remembered for events on the national stage which began with the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Cathedral hosted the regional service for the County of North Yorkshire and it was a wonderful occasion with many of you present.

Sadly a few months later there followed the death of the Queen and a period of national mourning. After the Funeral there was a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving with the address given by the Bishop of Leeds. The order of service which I have recently re-read, reminds us of her commitment at the beginning of her reign as



Photograph Michele Gee

well the importance of the Christian faith to her in her life of service.

As we look forward I want express my sincere thanks for the support of our loyal members as well as to my colleagues on the Friends' Council who do so much behind the scenes as well as encouraging your Chairman.

As I write this in April 2023, we look to enjoying this year's programme - we've already had three excellent, informative and inspiring Sunday afternoon lectures. Do come along and bring a friend - the lectures are free with light refreshments before and after the talks which begin at 2pm. A programme for 2024 is already well developed and will be published in the autumn.

With my very best wishes



Philip Arundel

At the Dedication of the Ledger Stone



Photograph by Michele Gee

From left to right:

The Most Revd and Rt Hon
Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishop of York.

Mrs Johanna Ropner
Lord Lieutenant of North
Yorkshire

The Very Revd **John Dobson DL**
Dean of Ripon

The Rt Revd **Nicholas Baines**
Lord Bishop of Leeds



A Message from the Dean

**The Very Revd John Dobson DL
Dean of Ripon**

I am delighted to extend greetings to the Friends of Ripon Cathedral, combined with gratitude for all the support the cathedral receives from them.. They come also from the Chapter and all members of the cathedral community.

Last year was a huge success for the cathedral. Memorably, we were able to mark the 1350th anniversary of the dedication of St. Wilfrid's basilica, and celebrate the fact that his crypt still remains a sacred and inspiring part of our cathedral today. This Anglo-Saxon place of prayer is the oldest built fabric of all England's cathedrals.

A lasting memorial to both Wilfrid and the 1350th celebrations is the ledger stone which now, looking absolutely magnificent, enjoys pride of place in the floor of the cathedral crossing. This would not have been possible without the generous gift of The Friends. We will remember for many years its dedication by The Archbishop of York during our patronal festival. I am extremely grateful to The Friends for this fitting and lasting legacy.

With the rest of the Chapter and wider community, I am also grateful to The Friends for funding, and thereby making possible, an outstanding series of academic lectures. With the patronal festival, these brought our 1350th anniversary to a memorable climax. Reflecting on influences that shaped Wilfrid, along with his leadership as a missionary bishop, we came to understand better his achievements at Ripon within the wider national and

European context. We were fortunate that Canon Professor Joyce Hill, a member of The Friends, as well as of the Chapter, was able to launch the series with a brilliant first lecture, as well as arranging the other three.

The Chapter remains grateful for the £150,000 of funding over recent years to support the maintenance of the cathedral and its estate.

It was pleasing that the Friends offered to purchase a new union flag for the central tower, supplied by a local business in Knaresborough , and in time for the Coronation! By the time you read this I hope that many friends will have been able to join in our celebrations over the Coronation weekend, not least the Commemorative Service for North Yorkshire in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant. We shall certainly rejoice in proclaiming, ‘God save the King ‘

I extend to Philip Arundel, your chair, all members of your council, and all Friends every good wish for the forthcoming year.

With my very best wishes

Dean John

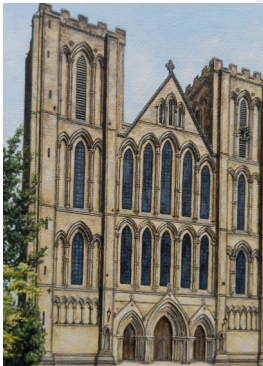
*The Very Revd John Dobson DL
Dean of Ripon*



Photograph by Michele Gee



Photograph by Jocelyn Brooks



I declare before you all that my whole life be it long or short shall be devoted to your service..... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

Princess Elizabeth 21st April 1947

Lectures and Events Reports 2022

January 16th 2022: Dr John Beal MBE :

A Monastery, Two Statues and a Book of Psalms



This talk looked at three of the most valued ecclesiastical possessions in the pre-reformation church. These were previously thought to have been destroyed or lost, but could they still be in existence today? It is known that some treasured possessions were rescued by church members and hidden before the religious reformers arrived to destroy them because they were regarded as idolatrous. Some of these have subsequently been found where they were secreted.

The first of these treasures is the statue of the Madonna and Child at the shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. After looking at the building of the Holy House as a result of a vision of the Virgin Mary experienced by Richeldis de Faverches, the Lady of Manor at Little Walsingham we heard about the subsequent development of the Priory and how it became a popular site of pilgrimage, second only to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury, and even overtaking St Thomas' shrine in popularity in the early 16th century. Commencing with Henry III successive monarchs made pilgrimages to Walsingham right up to, and including, Henry VIII. At the reformation the statue of the Madonna was reported to have been taken to London to be burnt. But different reports vary about both the date and where it was taken. We have a very good idea of what the statue of the Madonna and Child at Walsingham looked like as the medieval seal of the Priory was attached to Deed of Surrender in 1538 which is now held by King's College, Cambridge. There is a medieval carved Madonna at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London which looks remarkably similar to the one depicted on the Priory Seal. This statue known as the Langham Madonna was originally believed to come from a

destroyed church at the small village of Langham in Essex. However, the church at that village has not been destroyed, but there is another village named Langham in Norfolk very close to Walsingham where although the parish church has not been destroyed the nearby Walsingham Priory has. Furthermore, the vicar of Langham was one of a group of Catholics arrested and hung, drawn and quartered for resisting the destruction of the Shrine. Also, the owner of Langham Hall in Norfolk was part of a recusant family who also owned another house in nearby Suffolk where a hidden Madonna was found. The Langham Madonna at the V&A is either very similar to the Walsingham Madonna or may even be the original from Walsingham which was rescued and not burnt.



The second statue was a Madonna and Child from Ipswich, Suffolk known as “Our Lady of Grace”. The Shrine Church no longer exists but a modern replica is on the wall of a building near to its former location in Lady Lane in central Ipswich. Although not as famous as Walsingham it attracted many pilgrims including several monarchs and Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, whose hometown was Ipswich. This statue was referred to by Hugh Latimer, the reformist Bishop of Worcester as the younger sister of the Walsingham ‘Sibyll’. We heard about the history of the shrine and how Our Lady of Grace was allegedly taken to London to be burnt. It is of note that the person who received her in London wrote to Thomas Cromwell stating “There is nothing about her but two half shoes of silver” It has long been believed that the statue was rescued or bought by a group of Italian sailors who took it back to Italy with them. It was claimed that they were sailing south down the west coast of Italy when their ship was hit by a storm and they put into port at the small town of Nettuno. They believed that they had been saved by the Madonna and when repeated attempts to sail resulted in them being driven

back by the wind they felt that she was giving a message that she wanted to stay so they gave it to local church as thanksgiving. After the second world war the Madonna was taken to Rome for restoration and examined by an expert of C13 iconography who recorded that the image in was in the English medieval style, there was an inscription on the back in medieval English “Iu? Aret Gratosus” – ‘thou art gracious’, the wood had a high salt content consistent with exposure to seawater or sea spray and that the image was wearing a pair of half slippers in English silver. So perhaps this is another case of ‘one who got away’ and survived the Reformation?

The third treasure was the personal psalter of Thomas Becket to which he was especially devoted. Although the bodies or parts of the bodies of saints are frequently regarded as relics as are other possessions such as their clothes it is unusual for books owned by a saint to be regarded as a relic. However, when Dr Christopher de Hamel, the Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge was chatting over coffee with the Biblical historian Dr Eyal Poleg he was informed that one such relic was listed in the 1321 Sacrist’s Roll of Canterbury Cathedral where on the list of St Thomas’ treasures was listed, in Latin, “Item, a binding with the Psalter of Saint Thomas, bound in silver-gilt decorated with jewels ...” Dr de Hamel immediately recognised that he had seen that Latin description in a book in his library. Rushing across the quadrangle he found the book. Although that psalter had, in the past, sometimes been referred to as ‘The Becket Psalter’ there had been no proof that this was his book and it was widely regarded as a flight of academic fancy rather than fact. Further research on the various text entries made within the book eventually led to the definite proof that this psalter is indeed that previously owned by Becket and that it had been regarded as a relic to be treasured.



John F Beal 2022

20 February 2022 Professor Joyce Hill

Ripon Cathedral Holdings in the Brotherton Library

On one of the wettest days of the year, Joyce Hill gave a talk in Holy Trinity, with some members attending on zoom, about the Cathedral's manuscripts, archival material and rare books that are kept in the Special Collections of the Brotherton Library in the University of Leeds. This allows them to be stored securely in the controlled conditions that are essential for their



Professor Joyce Hill

long-term preservation. At the same time, Special Collections has the facilities to allow them to be consulted, displayed from time to time, and made known to a wider public on the University website.

Joyce began by telling us something about the history of the University of Leeds Library, one of the leading research libraries in the UK. These days, the Brotherton Library is part of a large complex of libraries across the campus, but it was once the university's only library. It gained its name when Lord Brotherton donated £100,000 (equivalent to about £5M today) for the building of a new library for the university. The Brotherton Library, with its iconic round reading room, opened in 1936. It lies behind the well-known Parkinson Building on Woodhouse Lane, and is accessed through the Parkinson, which houses a free and changing exhibition of some of the Treasures of the Brotherton. Lord Brotherton had made his fortune through the coal-tar chemical industry, and was at various times Lord Mayor of Leeds and MP for Wakefield. He was created a baronet in 1918 and was raised to the peerage in 1929, but his wife tragically died when giving birth to a daughter, who also died, only one year after his marriage, and since he did not remarry, his title died out. In his Will he left a further £100,000 to the university together with his collection of 35,000 books, 400 manuscripts, and 30,000 historic letters: he had been a renowned collector. This

bequest forms the core of the Special Collections, added to since with items of national and international significance. This is where the Ripon Cathedral historic holdings have been kept since 1980, although they are still owned by the Cathedral.

Moving on to the Cathedral holdings themselves, Joyce explained that these consist of archive material (the earliest from the fourteenth century); books, including precious fifteenth century incunabula and collectors' items from a later date; seven medieval manuscripts, the thirteenth century illuminated Ripon Bible being the most famous, although there is also a twelfth century illuminated manuscript of the Book of Revelations, with commentary in the margins and between the lines of the text; and 65 fragments of manuscripts, dating from the tenth to the sixteenth century. In the early days of printing, and especially following the breaking up of monastic libraries at the Dissolution, manuscripts were often cut up and used to stiffen book bindings. Most of our fragments result from this practice but have long since been separated from the bindings in which they were used, although some fragments can still be seen in situ in some of our early books that still have their original bindings. Recently, Chapter gave permission for the fragments to be included in a research project by the library, which revealed some valuable information about the works they came from and where the various manuscripts might have been written. More work needs to be done on all of our manuscripts, however.

We enjoyed the images of the fragments and the manuscripts which Joyce shared with us. You can explore for yourself on the web by following the links at: <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections/view/1034>



The tomb of Baron Brotherton in Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds. Photograph by kind permission of the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery

March 31st 2022 Nabil Abbas
Manager of the Skell Valley Project



Nabil Abbas

Nabil Abbas gave a fascinating illustrated talk about the work of the project and the people and organisations involved in its ongoing progress towards completion.

The Skell Valley Project focusses on the 12 miles of the River Skell. The area is 40 square kilometres and includes the whole River catchment.

The river descends from its source on the remote moorland of Dallowgill, through farmland to the historic city of Ripon where it joins the River Ure. The project area includes Fountains Abbey, the Studley Royal World Heritage site and Ripon.

There are many layers of designations, landscape, nature conservation and cultural heritage, in the Skell Valley.

The vision for the Skell Valley is that:

Together, we will restore the River Skell to the heart of a unique and well connected landscape; where heritage is celebrated, nature thrives, and people are empowered to lead change which ensures the long term sustainability of the Skell Valley for future generations.

How is this going to be achieved:

Landscape is resilient by:

Tackling the threats of climate change and playing our part in a 'green' recovery following the COVID19 pandemic, making the landscape, its people and the local economy more resilient.

Nature thrives by:

Reversing the decline in nature, conserving ancient trees and woodlands and the wildlife they support and creating nature-rich green spaces near to where people live.



River Skell

Heritage is celebrated by

Saving our heritage from the threats of climate change and general neglect and creating new and exciting opportunities for people to explore the nature and history of the Skell Valley and be involved in its care.

People are empowered by:

Being empowered to deliver projects for nature, heritage and landscape by supporting them in learning the skills they need and removing current barriers that stop people accessing the outdoors and nature around them.

Nabil Abbas went into the details of how the project team and volunteers intended achieving these aims and listed sixteen organisations supporting this work in one way or another.

FUNDING

£2.5million is required to complete the project and this is provided by a number of sources:

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- The European Regional Development Fund
- The National Trust
- Nidderdale AONB
- Royal Oak Foundation Wolfson Foundation
- Other charitable trusts and community organisations
- Private donors



Nabil Abbas has promised to return in 2023 to give an update on the project to the Friends of Ripon Cathedral.

Report by Jocelyn Brooks

An English Passion according to Saint Matthew

(First Northern Performance)

Ripon Cathedral: 3rd April 2022

In April 2022, the Friends of Ripon Cathedral were delighted to be able to sponsor this important event.



Professor Philip Wilby

'An English Passion' was composed by Yorkshire composer Philip Wilby. The text (from St. Matthew's Gospel) was assembled by Canon Richard Cooper with hymnody drawn from traditional sources. The work was originally composed for Matthew Owens and the choir of Wells Cathedral, and first performed there on Palm Sunday 2019. It is

scored for five soloists, double choir, and two organs and also includes hymns to be sung by the congregation. The words of Christ are reserved for the tenor soloist, whereas those of St Matthew are divided between the other voices. As the title suggests, the work sets the Passion narrative against the background of an English context, rather as renaissance painters evolved a tradition of setting devotional images against natural landscapes. The famous religious paintings of Stanley Spencer have achieved a similar relevance, and this setting of St Matthew's text is counterpointed against the natural background of the English countryside. Accordingly, the melodies of the congregational hymns are taken from the collection of English tunes, published by Vaughan Williams in his 'English Hymnal' of 1906.



Canon Richard Cooper

The choir for this first northern performance of 'An English Passion' was Voces Seraphorum who regularly sing services at the cathedral. On this occasion they were joined by a large number of additional singers drawn from other choirs from across the Leeds Diocesan area and beyond, with no less than 65 singers taking part.

In addition to providing funding for musical scores, the generous financial support of the Friends also enabled Voces Seraphorum to engage some professional soloists including: Eleonore Cockerham (soprano, formerly with renowned vocal ensemble Voces 8), David Woods (tenor, who sang the role of Christ) and Philip Gault (baritone, who sings with Scottish Opera).

They were joined by two other great soloists from within the choir: Emma Page (alto) and Iain Ward-Campbell (bass).

The important chamber organ part was played by Sarah Paynes and the main cathedral organ was played by the composer himself, Philip Wilby. The performance was conducted by Voces Seraphorum's Musical Director, Kevin Paynes.

'An English Passion' is designed to be performed liturgically and this was the case in this performance at Ripon which took place on Passion Sunday. The performance was a great success and was attended by almost 400 people, including many members of the Friends. As Dean John said after the service:

'Many congratulations on An English Passion. It is a wonderful work and was performed magnificently this afternoon at the cathedral. It seemed to me that everyone played his or her part brilliantly, not least the organists, conductor and soloists! It was clear from comments at the door that people appreciated the combination of spiritual depth and musical creativity. You gave us a moving and memorable start to Passiontide - thank you very much.'

Due to the situation in Ukraine at the time of this performance, Ripon Cathedral had made the decision to dedicate the performance of an English Passion to all those who were caught up in any way with that conflict. As such, there was a retiring collection for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal : Disasters Emergency Committee. This raised a staggering £1,900.



It is hoped that this wonderful piece will be heard again at Ripon at some point in the future.

Stained Glass: Art, History, Craft and Conservation

Saturday 23rd April 2022



Professor Sarah Brown is the Course Director for MA courses in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management at the University of York, a role that she combines with her responsibilities as Director and Chief Executive of the York Glaziers' Trust, where she has recently overseen the conservation of the 1405-8 Great East Window of York Minster.

This work is recognised internationally and she was recently consulted on the restoration of Notre Dame's stained glass. Sarah is also chairman of the British committee of the Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi and has published widely.

After delays because of the pandemic, Sarah Brown gave her seminar on Stained Glass: on Saturday 23rd April 2022.

This was a brilliant day, with her starting with illustrated talks in the morning, followed by a tour of Ripon Cathedral looking at some of the most interesting windows.

In the morning Sarah reminded us that in Genesis we find 'Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness'. During the medieval period churches developed larger stained glass window which let in more light and colour, but the windows with their Biblical pictorial histories were useful teaching aids in a society with limited literacy.

Glass is made from sand heated to a very hot temperature, along with plant ash from wood, plants or seaweed supplying sodium or potassium as a flux (to lower the temperature needed to melt the glass), and adding metallic oxides of iron, copper and other metals for colouring: all a very skilled process, described by the monk Theophyllus about 1120 in his '*On Diverse Arts*'.

In the 1st C BC the Phoenicians invented the blow pipe, used to make very thin (and so cheaper) glass layers in many shapes, the technique being perfected by Romans whose massive workshops supplied the whole empire. From C11 cylinder glass was made by blowing a sphere at the end of the blow pipe, which was then lengthened to a cylinder by swinging the still molten glass at the end of the blowpipe, cutting it lengthwise, and then flattening it into sheets of clear or coloured glass. From C14 crown glass was made by spinning molten glass on the end of the blowpipe into a circular discs, often used for windows.

A flat wooden table at Girona Cathedral gives an example of early drawings (or cartoons) which showed which parts of the picture used which coloured glass sheets, suitably shaped by scoring with a hot iron and then broken off the sheet, with final details of the shaping using a grozing iron (now machine glass cutting is more accurate) to nibble the edges (or later with a diamond scorer). The same cartoon could be used with different arrangements of coloured glass and recent UV examination of the table shows that it was used over time for many different designs. From C17 paper was used in preference to wood.

From C13, painting clear glass gave a much more detailed picture than blocks of stained glass. The paint, made by mixing ground glass, metal oxides and gum Arabic was painted on the front of glass sheet and then fired. Paint could then be selectively removed for highlights or giving a 3D appearance. From C14 silver stain was introduced, painting the rear of the glass with its brilliant colours ranging from pale yellow, and gold to orange, ideal for hair, haloes and other highlights. Clear glass can be dipped in dense ruby glass to get a thin enough layer to bring out the red colouring and then abraded (sometimes with acid) to make flash ruby, for example in flames, a nimbus, or the teeth of the devil as shown at Fairford.

Sarah then mentioned how medieval leading used fine strips of lead, used to outline features of the painting. But lead needs replacing after about 100 years, with later restorers using lead that was much thicker than the original and also using lead strips to 'mend' cracks in the glass, resulting in a much less clear design. Modern methods use thinner strips for the edges and epoxy resins for mending cracked glass, a great improvement.

She then described things that over time can damage glass (such as deliberate damage, ball games, flying stones from mowers, polluted acid environments), but pointed out that the major problem has been internal moisture condensing on the interior of the cold glass, which can then support mould, retaining further moisture. Her team has developed an advanced restoration method using another layer of glass with a ventilated space between it and the original glass and with a drain channel at the bottom to remove any condensed water. During the restoration the original glass is carefully cleaned with amongst, other methods, cotton buds, which are changed as soon as they accumulate any dirt. In the past cleaning was so vigorous that fine details of the paint and shading often got removed.

In the afternoon she took us round Ripon Cathedral, drawing attention to many details in the windows labelled in the booklet, '*Glory in Glass: Windows in Ripon Cathedral*', available in the bookshop, as Windows 4 - Medieval Roundels (with the oldest glass), 9 - The Williamson Memorial with patterns of vines, 20 - Heraldry Patterns, 23 - The Great East Window (with vertical panes ideal for Christ and his disciples), 38 - The Grantley Window, and 40 – The Wise Memorial: Ascension.

Illustrations

Picture1



C15 glassworks, from *The Travels of Sir John and Mandeville*.

The upper part of picture shows woods for heating and for ash flux (supplies sodium and potassium), and the digging of sand and metallic oxides (for colour).

The lower part shows various uses of glass blowing.

Picture2

Left, cartoon on smooth wooden C14 glazing table at Girona Cathedral, showing symbols for the colour of glass required in each part of the design, and holes showing the position of glazing nails.



Right, the result.

Picture3



Detail from the Wise Memorial Window in Ripon Cathedral, showing the Ascension.

This more recent pane takes advantage of modern techniques to give a much more realistic picture than was possible in the early medieval period.

Report and photographs by David Barnard

Summer Lunch

Parcevall Hall 24th June 2022



The Parcevall Hall website explains the history as follows:

“Parcevall Hall is the only Retreat House and Conference Centre of the Diocese of Leeds. Set in 24 acres in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the oldest part of the Hall dates from the 16th Century.

Complete restoration and extension was undertaken from 1927 by Sir William Milner, Baronet of Nun Appleton Hall, the godson of Queen Mary and a keen horticulturalist, who also landscaped the grounds and was instrumental in the establishment of Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate. On Sir William’s death in 1960, he bequeathed Parcevall to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, who now lease the Hall to the diocese.”

When Philip, our Chairman contacted Parcevall Hall to organise a lunch, the Friend’s Council was delighted to discover that Parcevall Hall and the gardens would be at the disposal of the Friends to enjoy all day and the following would be available to all who wish to spend the full day there, with an exciting plan organised by the staff.

For those who wished to arrive in the morning there was coffee or tea with home-made biscuits served at 10.30am and then, to give everyone an appetite, people were encouraged to have a stroll in the extensive gardens before lunch.

A delicious lunch was served for everyone at 12.30pm





During the afternoon there was time to rest in the house or once again to walk through and enjoy the beautiful gardens in the sun.

For those wishing to stay on, tea and cake was offered at 3.00pm before departure.

There was another surprise in store as the cake was decorated to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Friends of Ripon Cathedral.

The Summer Lunch has become a fixture in the Friends' programme over the last few years and so we can all look forward to another interesting day in June 2023.



Report and pictures by Jocelyn Brooks

Summer Lunch June 8th 2023

SAMPLING THE DELIGHTS OF COXWOLD



The Patronal Eucharist of the Feast of St Wilfrid of Ripon and the Dedication of the Ledger Stone 16th October 2022

In the Guide to Ripon Cathedral's 1350th Anniversary, the importance of St Wilfrid is described as follows:

"Ripon Cathedral is marking an incredible milestone, celebrating 1350 years since its consecration by St Wilfrid in 672AD.

Remarkably, the Anglo-Saxon crypt remains from Wilfrid's original basilica church. This sacred place is the oldest building of any English cathedral and it is still in use today.



Wilfrid's passion was to strengthen and grow the Christian Church in the pagan Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and he became one of the most influential and pioneering leaders.

Wilfrid's life was turbulent. His bravery, loyalty and straight-talking brought him into conflict, exile and even imprisonment. However, he was a great missionary bishop and an effective leader of the church with uncompromising self-belief.



He died in 710 and was buried at his beloved Ripon, at the side of the altar in his church. A year after his death, a moonbow appeared above Ripon, just as the monks finished evening prayer; as a sign, they believed, that through Wilfred God was blessing this special place.

In 672, St Wilfrid built the first basilica church here to serve the community and region.

Some 1350 years later, Ripon Cathedral continues as a living community of faith, serving the city of Ripon, the Diocese of Leeds with its 2.6 million inhabitants and the region".

The Friends agreed to fund the laying of a Ledger Stone, a decorated block of stone embedded into the floor of a church, minster or cathedral to mark the place where a person of importance is buried.

THE DEDICATION OF THE LEDGER STONE

Archbishop: Gracious God
as we celebrate the 1,350th anniversary
of Ripon's Anglo-Saxon crypt
we give you thanks for its ancient stones which bear witness
of your faithfulness in every generation.
As Wilfrid , holy and bold, built up your Church in his day,
so may we now, in and through the Cathedral
bear witness to the inclusive good news of your kingdom
for this city, diocese and region,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Archbishop: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
through your goodness we have this ledger stone to present,
the fruit of the skills you have given to us.
We offer it to your glory and for the good of your Church.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Archbishop: Almighty God, giver of all gifts.
May this stone now incorporated into the fabric
of this ancient cathedral
as a lasting expression of gratitude
for our founding patron, St Wilfrid,
prompt us to follow his example
of bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to your world.

All: **Amen**

The ledger stone is censed

Archbishop: We now dedicate this ledger stone in memory of Wilfrid
In the faith of Christ
and for the benefit of his Church
we dedicate this ledger stone to the glory of God
and in the memory of St Wilfrid
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: **Amen**

November 20th

Kirkstall Abbey—A Virtual Pictorial Tour

Jane Abramson, A voluntary guide at the Abbey



Kirkstall Abbey is one of the country's finest and most complete Cistercian ruins in England.



Jane Abramson

It became an important abbey in Yorkshire and undoubtedly played a significant role in the development of Leeds in the Middle Ages through the wool trade.

This talk was a virtual tour of the abbey, looking at the buildings and describing how the abbey developed; also how the monks lived, worked and prayed for almost 400 years.

The tour started at the reredorter for the lay brothers, and then turned into the cellarium where lay brothers lived and worked when not out on the granges.

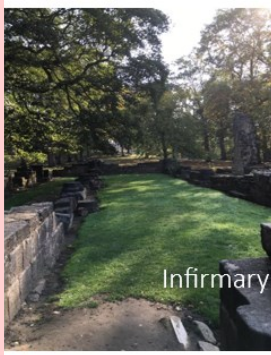


After briefly observing the kitchen, the tour turned into the very well preserved cloister.



From the cloister the lay brothers' lane leads into the back of the church from where, the main features were pointed out.

The tour turned back into the cloister and showed in particular the Chapter House, remarkably well preserved after 870 years.



After a brief tour of the outbuildings including the infirmary and passing the Abbot's lodging, the tour arrived at the choir monks' refectory, where a description of the monks' diets and eating habits were described.

At the end of the virtual tour, the history of the dissolution and the fate of the abbey over the following centuries was explained.

On 22 November 1539 Abbot John Ripley peacefully surrendered in the Chapter House and he was given the gatehouse to live in. The choir monks were pensioned off. The abbey was left in ruins, so monks could not return and repair it. Animals grazed and sheltered. An orchard was planted in the cloister. The wealth of the land owned by the abbey, went to the crown.

Sir Robert Savile purchased the estate in 1584, and it remained in his family's hands for almost 100 years. In 1671 it was sold to the **Brudenell** family, the Earls of Cardigan, whose connection with Leeds remains today in street names. The abbey became a romantic ruin. When the 7th Earl of Cardigan put the abbey up for sale it was eventually purchased by Colonel North, a wealthy businessman originally from Leeds, who gifted the abbey to Leeds in perpetuity for the people of Leeds to enjoy. After a major restoration, Kirkstall Abbey opened to the public in 1895 without charge, as it remains today.

Christmas Afternoon Tea at the Old Deanery Thursday 1st December 2022 at 4.00pm



A Christmas social with a difference was organised at the Old Deanery. It was a sumptuous afternoon tea followed by a very interesting speaker, Mr Guy Wilson, who in 2000, as the then Director of the Leeds Armouries, was responsible for commissioning the Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins to write a piece as a celebration of the Millennium and the move to Leeds from London of the Royal Armouries.

The result was the *Armed Man* subtitled *A Mass for Peace* so as not to be seen as music to glorify war but a prayer for the peace of the world and dedicated to the victims of war in Kosova..

The times were set so that following the tea and the short speech, anyone wishing to attend Evensong could walk across the road to the Cathedral in time for 5.30pm.



What a difference 3 years of support focussed on fabric maintenance has made!!

Back in 2018 the Friends awarded a grant of £50,000 pa for three years for maintenance of the Cathedral and estate. We all know how timely intervention on a small repair prevents it becoming a bigger and more expensive one and occasions arise when improvements can be made at the same time. Just as important are the regular programmes of surveys



and compliance reports. Some work people will never see as you walk around each day. All items however have made a difference in updating the management of buildings and whilst much remains to be done this money has enabled significant progress to be made.

The first grant came through in 2019 with work on various areas of floor in the Cathedral, especially on the south side of the choir. The WiFi system was upgraded - a fortuitous move as unknown to us at the time we were laying the foundations for the streaming kit which would be so vital when lockdowns came the following year.

Other early priorities, identified and discussed with the Friends, were work on Minster House in particular external stonework and replacing the roof of the music office.

External painting on several properties protected the woodwork and new consistent signage was completed. Compliance work including asbestos surveys and regular fixed wiring testing were satisfactorily completed confirming a safe environment for visitors, volunteers and staff.

This first year's grant meant new chair trolleys could be purchased

- a huge benefit to the vergers as the new ones are much lighter, easier to steer with one person able safely to move chairs to where they are needed for the next event.

2020 started well. The most urgent part of the walls to be repaired was the section immediately opposite Thorpe Prebend House on High St Agnesgate which required the closure of the road.

The series of lockdowns severely hampered work for the remainder of that year a few minor works were completed including repairs to the Consistory Court door on the north side of the Cathedral a survey of the Font prior to any subsequent work.

Perhaps the most important activity was the start of the Cathedral's journey towards reducing its carbon footprint and energy bills. LED lights were installed in the Liberty Courthouse Office and the floor and column lights in the Cathedral replaced by LEDs.

2021 started slowly so it was agreed that the expenditure of the grant could be stretched into 2022. However the archway over the south walk needed urgent attention and was restored to its former glory.

Progress gathered at pace in 2022 with a range of minor works across the estate - an example being repairs to the door of the Webb & Webb shop - you may not know the shop is part of the Cathedral estate. The stables of Minster House and major repairs were required which take some detailed planning. Scaffolding was erected, lots of pointing done, weeds dug out of the wall, gutters cleaned and painted and chimneys rebuilt. The building is now





safe and no longer deteriorating paving the way for internal works to utilise the internal space as funds permit.

Looking to the future much more lighting in the library, the choir stalls and large spotlights was replaced by LEDs.

Members of Chapter are grateful for the Friends vision in deciding to fund this programme of works at this time which met a pressing need - the examples above are a small sample.

Whilst there will always more to be done the momentum created by this activity has been a real encouragement.

Membership Secretary's Report



Dr David Barnard

As I write in January 2023 we have 268 active members, slightly fewer than one year ago. During the year we have been trying to make the way we hold contact details on the Friends easier (and cheaper) to use, moving away from a complicated relational database to spreadsheets (safeguarded by passwords and backed up by the office). I apologise if this has caused any slip-ups (do let me know if you have had any problems), but it appears that the new system is now working more efficiently. One consequence is that my email address has changed to:- foriponcathmembsec@gmail.com – although for any urgent messages I would suggest you use my personal email, dlbarnard42@gmail.com.

David Barnard
Membership Secretary

Annual General Meeting

Notice

The eighty-second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Ripon Cathedral will be held in Wednesday 5th July 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Thorpe Prebend House, High St Agnesgate, Ripon
All members are encouraged to attend.

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the 81st AGM held on 11th July 2022 at 7.30pm.
3. To receive for adoption of the Annual Report
4. Chairman's remarks
5. To receive for adoption the Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2022.
6. Election of Officers for 2023/24

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary,
Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Secretary

A separate nomination form is included

7. Election of Council Members
8. Appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts
9. Any other business

Guest Speaker
The Rt Revd Nicholas
Baines
Bishop of Leeds



FRIENDS OF RIPON CATHEDRAL

Minutes of the AGM held on the 11th July 2022

Present: Philip Arundel (Chairman), David Terry, Ruth Terry, Brian Crosse, Joan Beer, Malcolm Beer, Jocelyn Brooks, Ruth Townrow, Tony Robinson, David Clifton, Roxana Clifton, John Beal, Beryl Lee, David Barnard, Dean John

Apologies: Nina Harrison, Joyce Hill, Tom Ramsden, David and Jennifer Riley, Anne Groves, Richard and Janet Cooper, Victoria and Robin Ellis, Ann Baldwin

1. **The minutes of the 80th AGM** held on the 28th June 2021 were approved and signed.
2. **The annual report** was adopted
3. **Chairman's remarks.**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all members for their support. This has been a difficult year but things are gradually getting back to normality. The 80th celebration was a wonderful success especially the lunch at the Old Swan in Harrogate. He mentioned the afternoon Christmas event in December. The possibility of the Lincoln Holiday taking place in May 2023 was mentioned. This was for the third time of asking! We are looking for new members to help with planning the programme.

4. **Statement of Accounts.**

The accounts were received and adopted-proposed by John Beal seconded by Jocelyn Brooks This was agreed nem con.

5. **Election of Officers for 2022/23**

The following were nominated as officers of the Friends and approved en bloc.

Chairman: Philip Arundel

Vice-Chairman: John Beal

Treasurer: Anne Groves

Secretary: Ruth Townrow
Membership: Secretary-David Barnard
Communication Secretary: Jocelyn Brooks

6. Election of Members of Council

David Clifton and Janina Harrison were nominated and elected.

7. Appointment of auditors

It was agreed that Armstrong Watson should be reappointed.

8. AOB

The Friends had a very successful lunch with the Dean and Chapter.

The Dean was pleased to see the development of the Friends especially during the Covid years. He congratulated them on the vibrancy and life in the Friends and thanked them for their ongoing work and financial support to the Cathedral

Philip was thanked for his contribution and drive.



The meeting was followed by an address by our Guest Speaker the Rt Revd Tony Robinson the Bishop of Wakefield

Ruth Townrow
Honorary Secretary

Projects Funded over the Years

1941-49

Donation towards the cost of the memorial to Dean Charles Mansfield Owen

Renewal of tracery of the SW clerestory window

New ashlar inserted in the wall of the library

Tracery of two windows in the library renewed : buttresses and gargoyles

Choir screen cleaned of plaster wash

1000 feet of tubular scaffolding and fittings acquired, & its erection on the SW tower

Pilasters repaired and refixed

1950-59

£1650 towards general upkeep : replacement of wall in chapter house with arch

£100 to restoration of the organ

£75 for Cathedral music

£78 curtains, pew runners and kneelers in choir

Renovation of kneelers in Nave

£900 to fabric; £400 to furnishings

£350 to clear western part of All Soul's chapel before conversion to choir vestry

Nave altar frontal. New gold carpet and underlay for sanctuary

Long kneeling cushions for high altar

Hassocks for chapel in north choir aisle

£100 to renew altar linen

1960-69

Hymnbooks, prayer books; moveable oak book cases to contain them.

New oak bookcases for the library

Cleaning of library ceiling and library restoration

£225 to organ fund

£464 for chairs for the library

Automatic electric motor for clock - SW tower

£50 to re-writing and reframing notice board on "The History of the Fabric"

£300 for the Sanctus bell in the new bell cote on St Wilfrid's tower

Repairs to priceless volumes

Cleaning of C14th alabaster reliefs

1970-79

New staging neatly storable
Cobbled and flagged forecourt to the cathedral
Flood lighting
Crypt adapted as a treasury
Repainting and gilding of high altar
Reforming of the chapel of St Wilfrid
Chairs for the choir and chapel of the Holy Spirit
Renovation of the C15th font
Cost of materials for a set of green vestments and cream material for two new copes
£2500 towards cleaning the south wall
New frontal for nave altar
£2500 towards lighting and electrical installations

1980-89

New lighting in the choir
Converting the NW tower into a book stall
£1890 for decoration to Library ceiling
In 1987 Miss Hilda Wilmshurst left a trust "money to be used on the greenery in the church yard with particular emphasis on the planting of trees".
Shrubbery SW corner of the churchyard
Repairs and replacements to the choir library
Awards to boys leaving the choir
New heating chamber for gas boiler behind apse.
Entrance and transformation of the undercroft
New stone altar in All Soul's chapel
£4000 to the organ fund
Covers for library bookcases

1990-2000

Three lime trees, two walnut trees, two whitebeams, two ornamental crab trees
From Wilmshurst Trust an annual contribution to the groundsman's salary
Brass candlesticks, shades tables for the library
Tools, new seat, a new lawn mower
Conservation of Ripon gauntlets
Restoration of C14th alabasters
£12,500 to new work at the west front
Contribution to a new public address system
Renewal of flags
Renewal of kneelers
Tapestry cushion for the stone bench

2001-2010

Flags (2001) £567 Refreshment Tables (2001) £360
Skywinder Ladder (2001) £2,468
New "Friends" display board. £350
Bell Ropes (2003) £300 Flag (2003) £109
Contribution to restoration of alabasters £489
Floor and vesting table for Chapter House £4,419
Nave Roof restoration £13,300
Window Guards £1,710
Floor and decoration of Library £4,989
Conservation of Victorian clergy photos £1,043
Stands for millennium cushions/art exhibitions £2,500
Handrail and restoration of South Steps. £5,000
Choir Robes (2006) £1,000
Towards kitchen refurbishment at Thorpe Prebend House £500
Flower festival Stands (2007) £810
Vergers' uniforms (2007) £405
300 Folding chairs for Cathedral £13,165
New grass mower for churchyard £171
Fire Doors (2008) £1,702 Winch (2008) £1,530
100 Folding chairs for Cathedral £4799
New Union flag & 2 St George's Flags for the Tower £448
Welcome Desk & Chair (2009) £3,597

2011–2020

New Chairs for the Nave £59,639
Publication of Chantries book £148
Publication of Woodcarvings book £5,460
Amplification system & hearing loop £20,706
Bechstein piano, £10,000
Towards a new Aspirated Fire Detection System, £39,500
Completion of sound system £18,610
Carillon of bells for NW tower - £4,113 (repaid)
Underwriting *Glory in Glass* booklet on the Cathedral's windows £1,885
CCTV system - first payment £8,500
Cleaning of the organ case £4,555
CCTV system - final payment £11,500
Conservation equipment £848
Union Flag for Cathedral £137
Digital Projector for use in nave £778
Display - Cathedral Flower Show £500
New clergy vestments (copes) £11,120 (2017)
Cathedral Tap and Donate equipment £3,000 (2018)
Work on the fabric of the Cathedral and Estate £50,000 (2019)
Cathedral and Estate £25,000 (2020)

2021– 2030

Cathedral Fabric repairs £50,000 (2021)
Sponsorship of the Autumn Lectures on Pilgrimage. £1,000 (2021)
Grounds maintenance £1,464 (2021)
Cathedral fabric repairs £25,000 (2022)
Sponsorship of Autumn Lectures £2,000 (2022)
Wilfrid Leger Stone £17,000 (2022)
Sponsorship of *An English Passion* £1,000 (2022)



We always welcome suggestions for lectures, study days
and visits from members.

The Friends Council is already working on plans for the
2024 programme so please send your ideas to:

The Chairman of the Friends of Ripon Cathedral

c/o The Cathedral Office,

Liberty Court House

Minster Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire

HG4 1QS

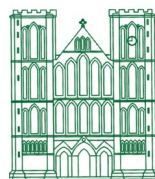
or at

chairman@friendsofriponcathedral.org.uk



Friends of Ripon Cathedral

.....here to support our Cathedral



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR AUTUMN 2023

All the lectures are held on Sunday afternoons at
Holy Trinity Church, Kirkby Road, Ripon HG4 2EY
Lectures start at **2.00pm** followed by light refreshments.

LECTURE September 17th 2023	Nabil Abbas <i>Manager of the Skell Valley Project, Fountains and Studley Royal</i>	The Skell Project <i>Following his lecture in March 2022 we welcome back Nabil to give us an update on the Skell Valley Project</i>
CELEBRATING WILFRID October 15th 2023 at 10.30am	Patronal Festival	<i>The Friends, as part of the Cathedral Community, are invited to this service of celebration</i>
LECTURE November 19th 2023	The Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth <i>Bishop of Bradford</i>	<i>With Bradford becoming the City of Culture in 2025 Bishop Toby will talk about how faith communities can contribute.</i>

