

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR GENERATIONS



Depiction of a donor, Martyrdom Window

Ever since the first cathedral was founded on this site in AD627, York Minster has relied on the generous gifts left in memory of our forebears, from archbishops to kings, knights to noblemen, soldiers to choristers, and people from every walk of life.

Still today, legacies form an important part of the income of York Minster. Leaving a gift in your Will, no matter how large or small, will help to ensure the cathedral's future. Enclosed with this newsletter is a leaflet which explains different types of legacies and also gives some helpful wording. If you have any further questions, do please contact the York Minster Fund office.

MICHAEL DAWSON, OBE



Mike Dawson, never happier than when he had a fishing rod to hand and a black Labrador trotting at his heels, is best described as a true Yorkshire man. Strong of purpose, direct, full of integrity, he was a shrewd businessman, overlaid with a kind and generous heart. He left school at the age of 16 with two O Levels and joined a Leeds company Cawood Wharton, as an accounts clerk. After a number of other jobs, he joined Tunstall Byers in 1969 and the rest is history, which ended when, having bought the company, he then sold it for a very considerable sum of money.

In his autobiography "A Dog's Breakfast", there is a chapter headed 'Giving Back' and that is what he did after the sale. One of the institutions Mike supported was York Minster and over a period of three years he made a very significant series of donations. These were specifically used to help fund the two Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration projects, involving the removal and reinstatement of the Great East Window, one of the most important medieval stained glass windows in the world today. It is fitting therefore that under the window, a stone has been laid bearing his and his wife Sharon's names.

by Michael Benson, former Director, York Minster Fund



YORK MINSTER FUND

York Minster Fund Spring Newsletter

Spring Issue 2023



New Portakabins

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the York Minster website for further details and to reconfirm timings: www.yorkminster.org



Image: © Charlotte Graham

Light Glass & Stone: Conserving the St Cuthbert Window
25 June 2022 – 1 January 2024

A rare opportunity to see at close range original stained glass panels removed from the window as part of a major conservation project. Situated in the South Quire Aisle.



Image: © Ravage Productions

Sculpting the Sovereign
10 November – 2nd June 2023

Exhibition in the North Transept about the story behind York Minster's recently unveiled statue of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

WELCOME TO THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

For me, spring is always an exciting time of year. Green shoots emerge from the soil, leaves appear on the trees and lambs can be seen taking their first tentative steps in the fields. This year, new things are beginning to appear around the Minster too, many of which have been made possible through the Fund's support of the Neighbourhood Plan. College Green has now been renewed, with a wonderful bench designed to reflect the Great East Window. The new refectory in the old school is nearing completion and, most excitingly of all, work has begun on the Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management, heralded by Portakabins springing up by the

Masons' Lodge, kindly supported by the Shepherd Group. This Centre will further reinforce our place of leadership in developing heritage skills, supporting our apprentices, and helping us to maintain the magnificence of the Minster for generations to come. In this edition you will hear of some of the international links the Centre is beginning to forge which will reinforce York Minster's position as a global leader in restoration.

We also look back to Christmas and the very successful Christmas Tree Festival, which not only helped boost visitor numbers, but also served to forge links between the Fund and many local organisations and companies.

We also welcome the new Chapter Steward, David Colthup, and say a sad farewell to one of the Minster's great benefactors, Mike Dawson.

All we do is made possible only through your generous support, so a huge thank you.



Neil Sanderson

NEIL SANDERSON
Director of York Minster Fund



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YORK MINSTER CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2022



Following the huge success of the first festival in 2021, the York Minster Christmas Tree Festival returned to the cathedral during the Advent and Christmas period in 2022. This time it took place inside the magnificent medieval Minster and featured 40 trees decorated by local businesses, schools and charities.

The beautiful trees lit up the stunning Chapter House and Lady Chapel, each tree individually decorated, reflecting the ethos and character of the participating local organisations. Thank you so much to everyone who took part for all the imagination and preparation that went in to decorating each tree. They were all gorgeous!

Congratulations to Hempland Primary School and The Grand Hotel for winning the popular vote for best dressed trees.



The winning school category
– Hempland Primary School



The winning business category
– The Grand Hotel

YORK MINSTER CHAPTER STEWARD – David Colthup



I am delighted to have been selected to be the Chapter Steward at York Minster. By the time you read this I shall already be several months into the appointment and might even have started to gain a working knowledge of the stunning place which is York Minster, the Precinct and the amazing team of full and part-time employees and the hundreds of volunteers who refurbish and repair it, develop the property, welcome our many thousands of visitors and worshippers and the countless other tasks, many of which happen behind the scenes, to make the place work.

People have been a key part of my well-over 30 years in the Army, from enlistment at Strensall in 1986 to leaving in 2022; in fact a strap line recently used in the Army proclaims that 'People are not in the Army, they are the Army'. I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with, and in, some incredible teams in my military career who have done amazing things, often in hugely challenging circumstances. I am struck by a similar sense of purpose for the mission at York Minster. It fills me with confidence and enthusiasm for the work and challenges which lie ahead and how we will work together with York Minster Fund to deliver some genuinely exciting projects, which will further underpin York Minster as an iconic building and place, and how we shall keep it there well into the future.



Lee Godfrey, Lead Mason touring Milan Cathedral's rooftop works area with Francesco Canali, Fabric Site Manager.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CATHEDRALS

Since 2018, the York Minster Fund research and development project has cultivated knowledge sharing partnerships with cathedrals in Milan, Cologne, Nidaros and Washington DC. Each cathedral has focused on advancing techniques and technologies in masonry and glazing to support their current programme of works. The knowledge gained during partner visits and follow up discussions has directly led to the technology choices for the Centre of Excellence and continued areas of research.

At Washington National Cathedral, advanced 5 axis CNC stone cutting is being utilised to replace stone damaged in the 2011 earthquake. At Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, photogrammetry and 3D scanning is capturing building information to record digitally vital restoration documentation. At Cologne Cathedral, replicas of important sculptures have been 3D printed both for their records and for study. At Milan Cathedral, digital surveying of the building and the creation of a digital twin is in progress and difficult to access areas of the cathedral can be viewed using virtual reality headsets.

When York Minster's Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management opens in 2024 it will become a hub for collaboration and knowledge sharing with cathedrals and heritage bodies in the UK and worldwide. An apprentice exchange programme is planned and accommodation in the new Heritage Quad will allow visiting apprentices from partnering overseas cathedrals to live, learn and work alongside York Minster apprentices. Return visits will give York Minster's apprentices greater breadth of experience and continue a culture of collaboration into the future.



Alex McCallion, Director of Works and Precinct surveying earthquake damage at the top of Washington National Cathedral's central tower with Joe Alonso, Head Stone Mason.