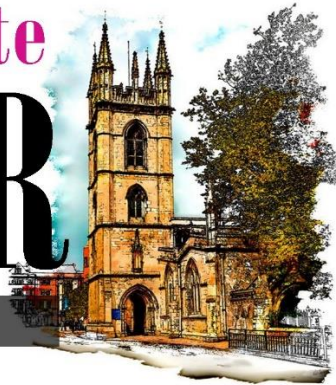


Friends of St. Mary's, Lowgate

NEWSLETTER



Issue 6 December 2022

NEW ERA FOR ST MARY'S



Picture courtesy of Carl Minns

We are delighted to say that our wonderful, medieval church now has heating, new electrics, new lighting and a beautiful, level York stone floor in the North, South and South Outer Aisles and the Nave.

Importantly, St Mary's also has three new, additional toilets, one which is wheelchair accessible and the vestry toilet has been renewed. We also have a basic kitchen facility.

Although there is still some work to be completed, St Mary's was able to hold a Service of Re-dedication on Sunday, 25th September (see page 3). Our Sunday 11am Sung Eucharist (BCP) has been held in church for much of this year, but on Friday, 4th November, our weekly Holy Communion Service (35 minutes) resumed too.

Thankfully, the soup kitchens at St Mary's, which take place on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, have been able to continue in the churchyard throughout the improvement works.

It has been a long and hard process, taking many years of fundraising and determination against the odds, but we have achieved significant change, which should give St Mary's a future.

Come and see for yourself! You will be very welcome.

BEFORE AND AFTER



2019



2022



2019



2022



2019



2022

WITH THANKS

All at St Mary's would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the following and others who have kindly contributed to the St Mary's improvement scheme in so many ways.

For legacies, grants and donations:

Miss Jean Jackson	Joseph Boaz Charitable Trust
Allchurches Trust	Myton Law
Anonymous grant	National Churches Trust
Diocesan of York Parish Buildings Grant	Sir James Reckitt Charity
Individual donors	St Mary's Organ Fund
Joan Tottle Trust	Wolfson Foundation

St Mary's architects:

For their vision, valued guidance and unstinting hard work –

David Sherriff AABC and Kynan Simmons AABC of simmonssherriff LLP.

The St Mary's Project Group:

For making it happen –

Fr Paul Burkitt, Peter Gibson, Amanda and John Habergham, David Haire MBE, April and Colin Heywood, Olga Li-La Vigars, Hilary Newton, Judith Preston Anderson, Fr Ian Walker.

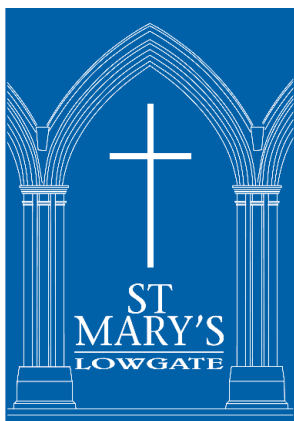
CHORAL EVENSONG - SERVICE OF REDICATION



St Mary's was delighted to welcome so many of you on Sunday 25th September for our Service of Rededication following our improvement works.

We should like to thank Bishop David Wilbourne, Honorary Assistant Bishop of York, for conducting the service and the Lord Mayor of Hull, Councillor Christine Randall, for joining us.

A big thank you also to all who helped to clean and prepare the church, to our guest organist, to the choir and guests and to all those who baked the delicious cakes.



Message from the Chair

I hope you will enjoy this Friends newsletter in which we aim to keep you up to date with St Mary's.

I write with new hope for St Mary's future. For some years the future has looked bleak with the condition of the church deteriorating. Largely because of that, the congregations were shrinking and the church's ability to serve its community diminishing. St Mary's had a mountain to climb. With still more work required, we have not reached the summit yet, but we have reached a point where we can take a breath and work to draw more people into St Mary's orbit with a view to a further push.

Now that the church is a warm, light, accessible and welcoming place to be, we have an opportunity to reinvigorate the Friends with the aim of understanding, exploring and enjoying this wonderful ancient building and its history and peoples and with the aim of raising more funds to support future work.

It is good to know that the Friends made a real contribution to St Mary's over the last year. The Friends have funded:

- A new hot water boiler for Hull Homeless Outreach
- A £2000 contribution towards the cost of the improvement scheme
- The purchase of a contactless payment/donation terminal

Appeal for committee members

With a committee of just three, we continue to do what we can to run the Friends. We really do need new committee members, so if you can join the committee or provide support please get in touch by email.

Newsletter articles

If you can contribute an article or news piece about St Mary's for the newsletter, its history and people or you have interesting photos, please do contact us by email.

Please renew your Friends membership

Your commitment to the Friends is as vital as ever and we hope you will renew your membership for the year September 2022 to August 2023. You should find a membership form attached to the email via which this newsletter is being dispatched. If you have not received a membership form, please request one.

We suggest a minimum donation of £10 per person and under 18s membership is free. However, please feel free to give what you can as we value your interest.

Please contact the Friends of St Mary's by email at: friends@stmaryslowgate.org.uk

Amanda Habergham
Chair, Friends of St Mary's

A REFLECTION FROM FATHER IAN WALKER

The past year has been momentous in the story of St Mary's and we are now able to resume our regular worship and offer hospitality for other services in the city of Hull. My experience of church restoration and reordering is that it tends to take much longer than originally planned to gain permission, raise the funds and then carry out the work. There are times when we wonder when we shall see completion but once the work is done the building is transformed and all the stress and frustration turns out to have been worthwhile.

In recent weeks I have been gratified by the number of people who have said how good St Mary's looks and feels now that we have new floors, kitchen and above all heating. We are very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's who have supported us through all the restoration planning and work resulting in the revived church building that we see today.

At the service remembering road accident victims someone said that St Mary's is a hidden gem in the centre of the city so that many who pass by do not realise that it is there. Our task now is to make St Mary's better known and used while retaining its unique position as an oasis of calm in the heart of the city. Although the current phase of work is complete, our renewed ministry to the Old Town and beyond is only just beginning. We look forward to welcoming you in 2023 and sharing in all that St Mary's can give to worshippers and visitors alike.

Fr Ian Walker Priest-in-charge St Mary's Lowgate.

VOLUNTEER APPEAL

Could you spare an hour or more a week?

St Mary's would welcome both you and any help you can offer, from help cleaning the church with dusters and hoovers, helping to man the church whilst visitors wander in and out or making a cuppa for visitors.

There's no requirement to be a believer or a churchgoer, just a willingness to help with all those little jobs we all do at home, or a chance to make new friends and to help safeguard our heritage. Whatever your skills, please ring the churchwarden to chat about how you might help us and when.

Ring Olga 01482 323147 and leave your details for a call back.

GRANT AND DONATIONS NEWS

Since the FoSM newsletter in November 2022, St Mary's has received more generous support.

An application to **The Sir James Reckitt Charity** for a centenary grant was successful in securing a total of £22,220 to fund a set of 30 Abbey chairs, which St Mary's will be able to arrange for concerts, workshops and for visitors to use to enjoy refreshments. Faculty permission was in place and the chairs have been ordered and are due to arrive in late January 2023. This generous sum is also enabling St Mary's to install an alarm in the wheelchair accessible WC and will fund essential drain works.

All at St Mary's extend their sincere thanks to the Trustees of the Charity.

The **East Yorkshire Georgian Society** has awarded St Mary's a grant of £3,927 towards conservation work required to the monument to Joseph Pease & Others (c.1778-1840). Joseph Pease founded a banking dynasty in Hull that was to last for several generations, although the family were also merchants with many other interests. The Pease Bank, established in 1754, was both Hull's and Yorkshire's very first bank.

St Mary's has also been successful in securing a very welcome second grant from the **Joseph Boaz Charitable Trust**. This grant of £500 has enabled St Mary's to purchase a fridge.

Also, **Myton Law** has kindly donated a full set of crockery, an electric kettle, toaster, microwave, water and wine glasses and jugs, catering flasks, cutlery, serving dishes and tea towels, so that St Mary's new kitchen facility is now equipped with a smart set of catering crockery etc for 30 people ready for events.

The St Mary's Project Group also applied to the **National Churches Trust** for a further Gateway Grant to support the cost of other drains work. In November we received the good news that the NCT has awarded a grant of £5,000, so that this work can proceed.

More support needed

Despite this tremendous support, St Mary's still faces a number of major projects in the next ten years.

The church architect estimates that St Mary's needs to raise another £810,000 for:

£519,000 - repairs to the tower parapet & pinnacles, North Nave clerestory, North Aisle roof, South Nave parapet pinnacles, doors and rainwater drainage and

£291,000 - second phase of internal improvements - creation of meeting area, completion of kitchen and servery and plaster repairs.

If you can help by giving towards these projects, please donate by:

Cheque: Cheques made payable to 'St Mary's Parochial Church Council' and posted to: Mr P Gibson, PCC Treasurer, St Mary the Virgin, Lowgate, Hull, HU1 1EJ

Online banking: NatWest Sort code 56 00 06 Account Number 03821269

Online: Via St Mary's 'Give a Little' page – there is a live link to the page on St Mary's website www.stmaryslowgate.org.uk.

If you are interested in talking to St Mary's about sponsoring a specific project, then please do call our churchwardens Hilary on 07947 561624 or Olga on 01482 323147 or email info@stmaryslowgate.org.uk

SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE



The Reaching Out to the Homeless team in action at St Mary's, November 2022.

During 2022 both the **Hull Homeless Outreach** and **Reaching Out to the Homeless** teams have continued their wonderful work providing soup kitchens in St Mary's churchyard. They have had to contend with the work going on to improve the church, which has meant that parts of the churchyard have been occupied by building materials, but they have provided the usual brilliant and caring service to anyone in need.

Currently, the soup kitchens operate from St Mary's on:

Wednesdays **from 5pm-6pm**

Thursdays **from 5pm-6pm**

Fridays **from 6pm-7pm**

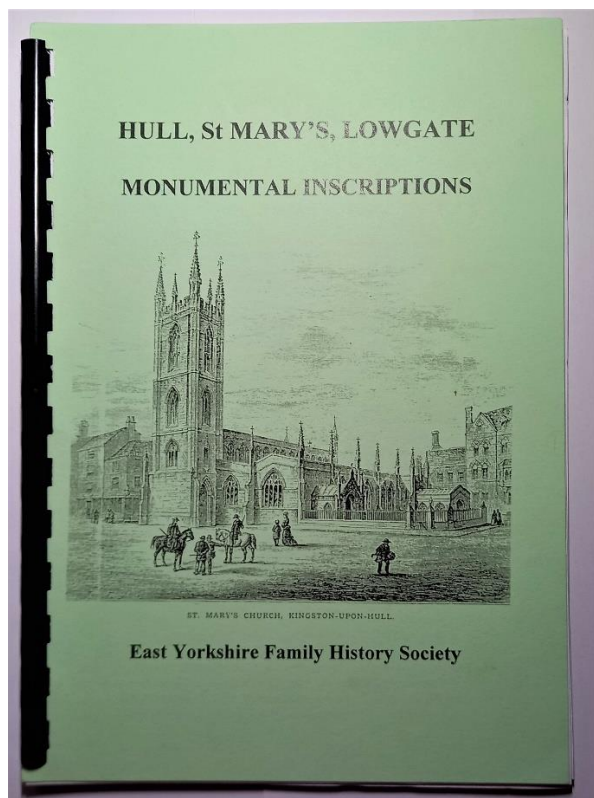
Karina for **Reaching Out to the Homeless**, said, "We are averaging between 40-50 people at the soup kitchen every Friday. Sadly, there seems to have been an increase since the cost of living crisis.

"We would always welcome any food donations as they would be useful in helping others. We are OK for volunteers.

"We are supported by YMSH who provide medical assistance when needed, so it would be nice to give a shout out to them as they provide this service not only to us but also to most of the soup kitchens around the city centre."

You can find Hull Homeless Outreach on Facebook @hulloutreach and Reaching Out to the Homeless are also on Facebook, where you can direct message both organisations with offers of food or support.

PUBLICATIONS



The East Yorkshire Family History Society has drawn our attention to their publication **Hull, St Mary's, Lowgate - Monumental Inscriptions.**

This 48-page booklet includes 361 monumental inscriptions found in St Mary's church, the churchyard and in the Trippett Street burial ground and an index for St Mary's and Cemetery listed alphabetically by name.

The list includes many notable names, including Blaydes, Dobson, Hildyard, Jarrett, Pease and Thornton and monuments dating back to 1655.

There is also a plan indicating the position of the monuments in the church and churchyard.

The inscriptions were recorded by Dave Mount and were typed up by Enid Walford in 2007 and subsequently reprinted in 2010 and 2016. Those for Trippett Street were recorded c.1949.

The booklet is EYFHS Publication No. M246 and is available to purchase from the Society, which can be contacted via www.eyfhs.org.uk

EAST YORKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY VISIT



On Saturday, 30th July, St Mary's was delighted to welcome the East Yorkshire Local History Society.

Members enjoyed a guided tour of the church researched and written by churchwarden Hilary Newton.

Churchwarden Olga Li La-Vigars gave the tour, which was followed by refreshments including a fine selection of cakes kindly baked by St Mary's architect David Sherriff especially for the occasion.

Thanks to Hilary, Olga and David and to our helpers on the day John Howes and John and Amanda Habbergham.

If your group or society would like a guided tour of the church, please contact Hilary or Olga or Friends Chair Amanda Habbergham by email:

friends@stmaryslowgate.org.uk

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS AT ST MARY'S



St Mary's Gothic font is by the local mason Thomas Frith, 1863.

In October, St Mary's was delighted to hold its first baptism since the closures for the pandemic and for the improvement works.

All at St Mary's wish baby Willow, her parents, Godparents, family and friends the very best.

In the same month the church also hosted its first wedding since the re-opening and, sadly, the funeral of Molly Patten.

If you would like to celebrate a wedding, hold a funeral or arrange a baptism at St Mary's, do get in touch with Fr Ian Walker on 01964 259252 or 07528 210757 or by email at irsw@btinternet.com

FRIDAY HOLY COMMUNION REINSTATED

On Friday, 4th November, St Mary's weekly Friday lunchtime Holy Communion service was reinstated. It has not been possible to hold the service for two years, initially because of the pandemic restrictions and, latterly, because the contractors have been in church on weekdays undertaking the improvement works.

This 35-minute service starts at 12.30 and is designed to allow people working in the city to attend during their lunch hour.

Open to all, the spoken service is followed, for those who have time, by tea, coffee and biscuits.

We do hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the church for this service on a Friday!

You will be most welcome.

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY VISIT



Hull Civic Society paid St Mary's a visit on the evening of Monday, 26th September.

It was good to show them the improvements that have been made over the last two years.

Fr Ian greeted the Society and Churchwarden Hilary Newton gave a guided tour, which was followed by refreshments, including cakes again kindly donated by our architect David Sherriff.

Thanks to Fr Ian, Hilary, David and to John Howes and Amanda and John Habergham for helping to host the evening.

Do contact the churchwardens or Friends if you would like to arrange a group visit.

ST MARY'S TREES

For some years the size and height of St Mary's three London Plane trees in the churchyard has been a concern. Whilst the trees are beautiful, their height and canopy size have been causing problems with leaves blocking the church's gutters and making the churchyard slippery. Roosting birds have created dirt that is both slippery and a hygiene hazard and a number of limbs are too close to the church's pinnacles.

In 2019 Hull City Council, as St Mary's is a closed churchyard, assumed repairs and maintenance responsibility under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Since then, the St Mary's Project Group has been pressing the Council to propose a plan for the trees that would help to address the issues in the churchyard.

In October this year the Council undertook some limb reduction and crown lifting work that has alleviated, but not fully addressed, the problems.

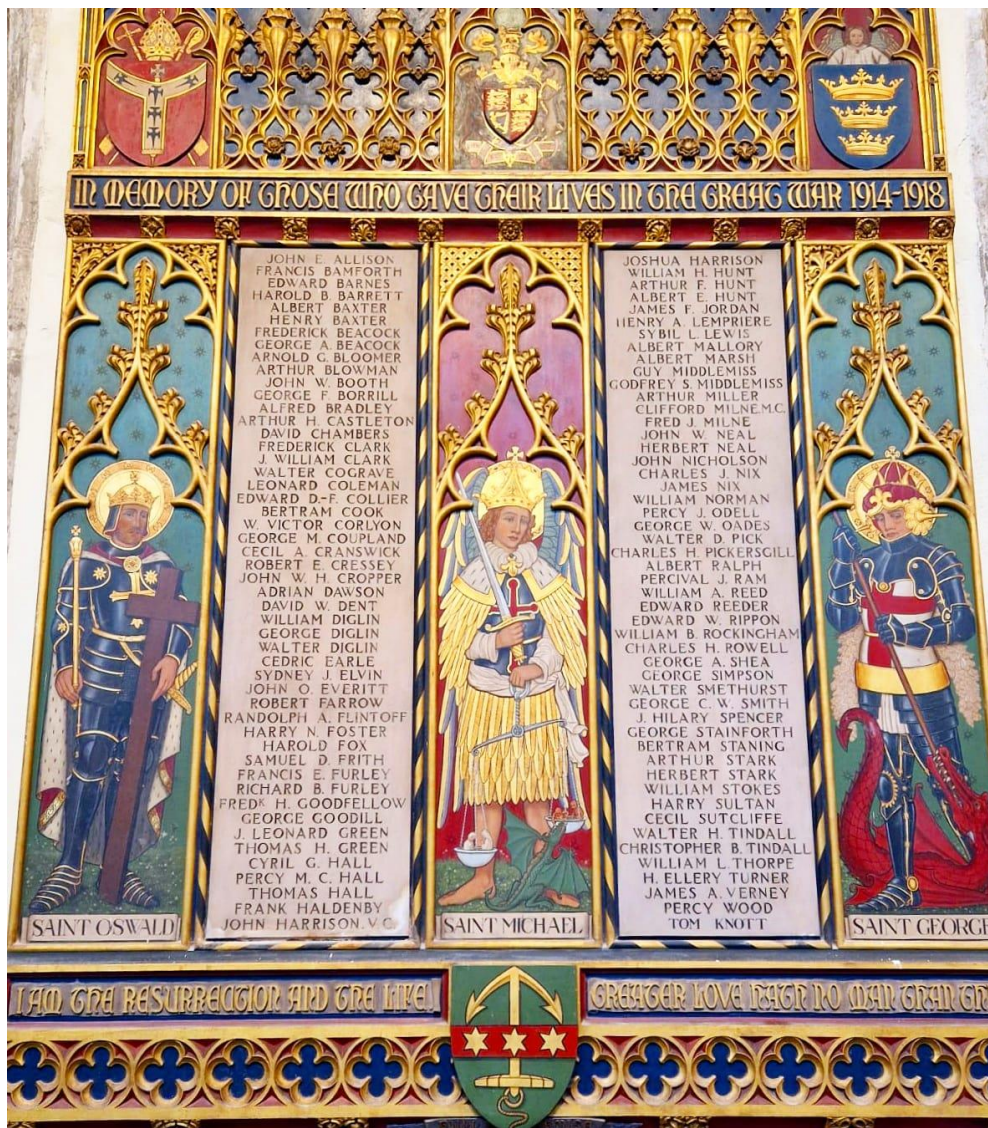
Following a meeting with ward Councillor Herrera-Richmond and representatives of the Council's Streetscene team in October, the Council has proposed further work to pollard the trees at seven metres. The Council's tree team advise that the resulting canopy regeneration will make the trees considerably more manageable for the future and increase their longevity in their confined location.

The trees fall within the city centre conservation area and the Council has applied to the Local Planning Authority for approval for the work. St Mary's has obtained the necessary List B approval for this work from the Diocese.

The Council has also asked its street cleansing team to sweep the churchyard once a week.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

For the first time since 2019, St Mary's was able to hold a Remembrance Service. On Sunday, 13th November, attendees gathered in the churchyard for the two-minute silence at 11am followed by a service in church.



This war memorial in St Mary's Chapel of the Nativity contains the names of 100 war dead – casualties of the First World War.

Among the names is **John (or Jack) Harrison**, who achieved fame as a Hull FC player. In 1915 he joined the East Yorkshire Regiment. In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for his actions in France. Three months later his platoon was on patrol in Oppy Wood when they were pinned down by machine gun fire. Jack charged at the guns, saving many of his comrades' lives, but losing his own. His body was never found. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Also notable is the unusual inclusion in the list of a woman, **Sybil Lewis**. She trained as a nurse and midwife, then studied Medicine before setting up a medical practice in Hull. In 1915 she volunteered to work with the Red Cross in Serbia. The hospital was overrun by the enemy and she spent four months as a prisoner of war. She was released in February 1916 and returned home, but despite weakened health she went again to work with the Serbian army and civilian refugees in Macedonia before finally returning home in December 1917. She died in March 1918 after an illness which was deemed to be a result of her service abroad. She was awarded the Order of St Sava for her services to Serbia.

The memorial dates to 1921. It was designed by Temple Moore & Moore. The design was by Leslie Moore with decoration by Charles Head. Leslie Moore also designed the churchyard cross, dated 1921.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As the improvement scheme is almost complete and we are able to use the church, we aim to hold the following Friends events in 2023 and will be in touch as soon as we have details:

2023

March-June 6pm, dates TBC	'The John Scott Lecture Series' – Monthly Wednesday local interest, history and architecture talks	St Mary's, Lowgate, Hull
Sat, 9 th September	Friends AGM	St Mary's, Lowgate, Hull

WEEKLY SERVICES

Fridays	12.30 Holy Communion (approx.. 35 mins)
Sundays	11.00 BCP Sung Eucharist (approx. one hour)

Please see the website for service updates: www.stmaryslowgate.org.uk

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

11.15pm, Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24 th December	Midnight Mass
12.30pm, Friday, 30 th December	Nine Lessons and Carols followed by tea/mince pies

CHURCH OPEN

As the church is brought back into order following the scheme of improvement works, the churchwardens are aiming to reopen to visitors as usual on Thursdays and Fridays in March and on Saturdays in the summer months.

Currently, group visits are possible and welcomed by appointment. Please contact: our churchwardens Hilary on 07947 561624 or Olga on 01482 323147.

Please visit St Mary's website for updates.

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

If you have an enquiry for a wedding, baptism or funeral service please talk to Fr Ian Walker on 01964 259252 or contact him by email at irsw@btinternet.com

Please follow St Mary's



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