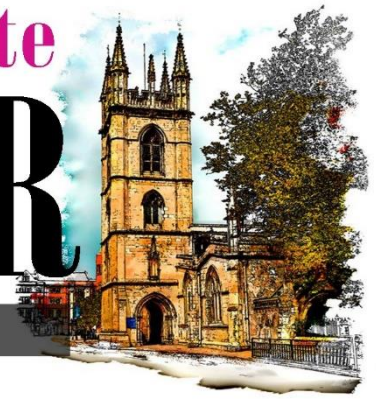


# Friends of St. Mary's, Lowgate NEWSLETTER



Issue 3

Autumn 2020

## MAKING ST MARY'S FIT FOR THE FUTURE

**Plans for improving St Mary's interior are moving ahead apace now, despite delays this year due to the virus pandemic.**

On 26 October St Mary's received the good news that the Diocese of York has granted Faculty approval for the proposed works. The scheme includes the installation of toilets, kitchen facilities, a new stone-paved floor in the South, South Outer and North Aisles, heating, new electrics & lighting and a screened meeting/counselling/workshop area.

Our plans were submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches in April, having, at the end of 2019, invited consultees the Church Buildings Council (CBC), Historic England, The Victorian Society and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to visit to discuss them.

### **Church Buildings Council**

The CBC and Historic England kindly visited in January and provided constructive advice and positive feedback. The CBC said, "The Council was inspired to hear about the ministry sustained by this church despite the manifest difficulties of using the building in its present state. It was convinced that there is a pressing need to undertake the proposed works to make the building fit to sustain and develop its ministry."

### **Historic England**

Historic England said, "We consider that the proposals have been developed in a sensitive manner that seeks to work with the form and grain of the building. The impact on the heritage significance of the Grade II\* listed building has been minimised to a level where we are comfortable that the public benefits will outweigh the harm."

During the summer public notices were displayed inviting anyone interested to comment, but no comments were received.

### **DAC decision**

In his decision in favour of the scheme the Worshipful Canon Peter N Collier QC, Chancellor of the Diocese, said, "I am satisfied that the people who have put together the current proposals because they wish to see their church not only beautified but also used will be able to offer this sacred space to many different groups in the area.... I am satisfied that there is a very clear and convincing justification for the proposals ..."

A number of conditions were set covering the archaeological watch, lighting and heating plans, the requirement for a further petition for future furnishings and the need for a display to record and explain the history of the church.

However, St Mary's is delighted to have received such strong support for the plans and the Project Group has congratulated architect David Sherriff for his vision, expertise and hard work which have brought about this welcome Faculty outcome.

### **What next?**

In September St Mary's received four tenders for the works and the PCC and Project Group is awaiting advice from the architect regarding the selection of a main contractor.

The budget required for the projects to be undertaken in Part 1A of the scheme is looking more certain at around £817,882. Through fundraising over the years, a wonderful legacy from Jean Jackson and grant support, St Mary's has achieved around 87% of the budget for this first phase. However, a shortfall of around £104,700 remains a real challenge.

**As an act of faith, with Faculty approval and good tenders, St Mary's is ready to start in January 2021. However, we do need top up funding to implement all that is envisaged in this first stage – see page 8 for details.**

## Message from the Chair

The Friends committee pray that all St Mary's valued Friends have been safe and well during this tremendously difficult year.

Sadly, the pandemic has meant that the events we planned for 2020 have had to be cancelled, but we do hope that it will be possible to rearrange them during 2021.

Committee member Stephen Hackett had kindly arranged a visit for Friends to All Saints' Church in Hessle in March. We had been looking forward to a guided tour of this beautiful, historic church, which dates from Anglo-Saxon times and is older than Hull Minster (and St Mary's), indeed for four centuries it served as Mother Church to the chapel of Holy Trinity, Hull.



*All Saints', Hessle*



*Dr Alec Gill*

Likewise, we have had to postpone the Friends' AGM and it was not possible to hold our annual Friends' John Scott Lecture in September, which was to be given by Hull-historian Dr Alec Gill MBE. His talk, "HOME, Sweet OMENS", an imaginary walk through an old-fashioned superstitious household, promised to be very interesting and we do hope to be able to gather together to hear it next year.

We are grateful to you all for your patience during this time, we hope that you will find this newsletter of interest, that we may see you at St Mary's soon and that we will have opportunities to meet as Friends, in good health, in 2021.

Amanda Habergham  
Chair, Friends of St Mary's

# WELCOME TO FATHER IAN WALKER



*Caption - Father Ian Walker*

**On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, Father Ian Walker was licensed as interim Priest in Charge of St Mary's and assistant Curate at Hull Minster at a lovely All Saints service taken by Bishop Alison, just before the country began a second lockdown.**

Previously Rector of St Andrews Epworth until his retirement in 2017, Father Ian was involved in their £1.6 million restoration which, as St Mary's' plans, involved the floor being taken up and underfloor heating being installed. The last three years have seen Fr Ian assisting his wife Susan in her rural parishes.

Despite the lockdown, Fr Ian instigated a telephone service on Whypay, every Sunday. We began with a short Service of Remembrance on 8<sup>th</sup> November. This method allows anyone with access to a phone to dial in and take part in a live service and provides a vehicle for a quick chat just before and after the service with anyone else who has dialled in. Following the end of the second lockdown, the Sunday 11am service is taking place in church once more, but please check St Mary's website for any updates depending on Government restrictions at the time.

With the support of Fr Ian, St Mary's hopes to build stronger links with the Minster down the road, enabling the two churches to better serve the community of Hull and support the needs of the vulnerable. We welcome his experience and calm, steady presence as the building and community move forwards confidently into the future.



# FIRST SERVICE AFTER FIRST LOCKDOWN



*Caption – Father Dominic Black with St Mary's church wardens Olga Li La-Vigars (left) and Hilary Newton (centre).*

St Mary's was delighted to welcome Reverend Dominic Black, Priest-in-Charge of Hull Minster, who, on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, took our first service after the first lockdown. It was super to see so many of our congregation return, to meet Father Dominic, to hear our superb choir sing again and to take communion together.



*Caption – St Mary's has been open on Saturdays for Private Prayer since July*

## Private Prayer

St Mary's re-opened for Private Prayer on 4<sup>th</sup> July and has been opening 11am to 1pm each Saturday since. Thanks to the team of volunteers and Friends who have enabled this to happen.

## Thank you

Also, a big thank you to Friend and **Reader April Heywood** for preparing Readings and Reflections for Sundays from Easter until 13<sup>th</sup> September, which have been available on St Mary's website and have been both thought provoking and much appreciated.

## NEW ORGAN



*Caption – St Mary's organist and choir master Patrick Plunkett plays the new organ.*

**In October St Mary's received the most welcome gift of a beautiful electric organ from David Brown. The organ is now in church and the PCC wish to thank David for this tremendous gift.**

St Mary's Organist and Choir Master Patrick Plunkett writes:

The organ is a Viscount ('Prestige') electronic church organ with two manuals and full pedal board. In fact the previous, long serving instrument, was also a Viscount, though this model is obviously much more up to date, more sophisticated technically and offers much more in terms of registration and versatility. It certainly speaks well in St Mary's' acoustic and we have the option to add further speakers, should we need to in the future, to relay the sound to even greater effect. This would be a positive move if the instrument will be used for concert/recital performances.

David had mentioned donating the organ some time ago, knowing that it would be a great improvement for us. He recently made a decision to rationalise his home keyboard instruments and acquire more space. He is now enjoying his new Yamaha digital piano.

David has also kindly donated a Bechstein grand piano to Culture Music and it is now in their new premises in the Maister House in the High Street. Both instruments were moved into their new homes on the same day on 15th October.

David and I have both been into the church to listen to the organ in its new acoustic and sound out the registrations. There is no doubt that David's donation will have a very positive impact on the music of our services in accompanying our choir and we look forward very much to our regular services starting up again after lockdown restrictions.

**We are very grateful indeed for David's kind donation and hope he will return to the organ stool for us in the future!**

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your subscriptions for the year from 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**If you have not yet done so, please would you be kind enough to return the membership renewal form, which you will receive by email with this newsletter, along with your subscription for the coming year to The Friends of St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, Lowgate, Hull, HU1 1EJ.**

The amount you give to confirm your membership of the FoSM is at your discretion. A suggested minimum annual donation is £10 per person, but please feel free to give what you can afford. We are keen to encourage more people to join the Friends. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know and we will post them a copy of the Friends leaflet which outlines our aims and how they can become a member.

Thank you.

## Treasurer's Report

As with many other groups in 2020, there has been little financial movement due to the pandemic and cancelling of fundraising events. However I am glad to report that we have £2000 in holding for the Church to use as match funding for the grant applications the Project Group have made, in a bid to get the building improvements started in 2021.

On a smaller scale we have funded the purchase of a new artificial Christmas tree to replace the previous one, lost when our previous Church Warden Judith Anderson died in 2019. We also purchased some rubber backed mats to go over the trailing cables of the electric heaters used in the winter. Finally, and most importantly, in our current times, we have provided masks and sanitiser, essential to keeping the church open to the public on a Saturday for private reflection and for Sunday morning services.

**Olga Li La-Vigars,**  
**Treasurer**



# VOLUNTEERING AT ST MARY'S



Many thanks to the volunteers/Friends who kindly clear the roof, gutters and churchyard of leaves, chiefly Andrew Penny, Hilary Newton, John Howes, Peter Gibson, Jason Nicholson and John Habergham.

The autumn leaves are a real concern as they block the gutters and down pipes. St Mary's applied to Hull City Council in 2019 to reduce the height of the trees and, in a letter in November 2019, the Council assumed responsibility for the trees and for maintenance of the churchyard, but an outcome in terms of addressing the height and size of the trees is awaited.

## Volunteering

If you feel that you could spare a few hours, either on a regular or an ad hoc basis, to help at St Mary's with Saturday Private Prayer openings between 11am and 1pm, to help in future when it is possible to open on Thursdays and Fridays again or to help with odd jobs like cleaning or the autumn leaf clearing, please do get in touch by email to [info@stmaryslowgate.org.uk](mailto:info@stmaryslowgate.org.uk) or call the vestry and leave a message on Hull 618199.



# HULL HOMELESS OUTREACH UPDATE

Unfortunately, during the first lockdown earlier this year Hull Homeless Outreach had to suspend the soup kitchens at St Mary's.

However, the tremendous volunteer team have since resumed meal provision for those in need and is currently providing meals to take away early evenings on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

To find out more about Hull Homeless Outreach and how you can help visit:  
[www.hullhomelessoutreach.co.uk](http://www.hullhomelessoutreach.co.uk)

# GRANT NEWS

**In addition to driving forward the plans for the St Mary's improvement scheme, it has been a busy year for grant applications.**

In the autumn of 2019 the Project Group, with the support of Amanda Habergham as Project Officer for 20 hours per month, researched and reviewed grant opportunities to identify organisations for a second round of applications.

In a first round in 2018, St Mary's **Heritage Lottery Fund** application had been unsuccessful. Given re-application timescales and the urgent need for change, the Project Group re-focussed on other providers.

Frustratingly, an application to the **Highways Agency** in 2019 has, despite several attempts at follow up, not been confirmed either way by the Agency.

Early in 2020 we applied to the **Church Buildings Council** for a grant towards the cost of surveying St Mary's monuments. The CBC awarded us a welcome £1,200 towards the £1,700 cost, which, along with a kind private donation of £100, meant that we could commission the survey, which was needed in advance of the major works to ensure the monuments are stable, can be protected and subsequently conserved. The survey took place in July and St Mary's awaits the finished report.

News came in May that our applications to the **Diocese** for two Parish Building Project grants, towards the cost of installing heating and towards the cost of replacing the church's electrical system, had resulted in the award of one grant of £5,000 towards the electrical system.

In July, following a visit to St Mary's, the **Joseph Rank Trust** kindly awarded a grant of £15,000.

In August St Mary's applied to the **Allchurches Trust**, from which an outcome is awaited, and submitted an Expression of Interest in applying to Biffa for a **Landfill Community Fund** grant, but this was unfortunately turned down due, they said, to 'severely restricted funds'.

In September an application to the **National Churches Trust** for a 'Gateway' grant towards the cost of asbestos removal was submitted and in November we learnt that the NCT have awarded St Mary's £7,000 towards the £24,000 cost of this.

September also saw the confirmation of a grant of a much appreciated £7,500 from the **Joan Tottle Trust**.

In November applications were made to the National Churches Trust 'Cornerstone' grant scheme, to the **Wolfson Foundation** towards



*St Mary's heating has not worked for years, the floor, covered by the Victorians in impermeable tiles, has suffered from damp. Work is urgently needed to install new heating, electrics, boilers, kitchen facilities and floor.*



the cost of the floorwork and to the **Sir James Reckitt Charity**.

St Mary's may apply to the **Garfield Weston Foundation** dependent on the results of the above applications, but, ideally, wishes to make this an application for funds towards Part 1B works.

So, grant application activity to date has secured £35,700 of extra support. However, the shortfall of £104,700 is still significant. Even if we succeed with these outstanding applications we will be somewhere between £40,000 and £70,000 short of the budget required for Part 1A projects and, of course, will still in the near future need to find the funds for Part 1B work and exterior works identified in the Quinquennial Inspection report.

**It is a challenge, so if you are able to contribute, or have any ideas for obtaining further funds, the St Mary's Project Group should be pleased to hear from you!**

**Contributions towards the St Mary's improvement scheme can be made by cheque payable to 'St Mary's Parochial Church Council' and sent to:**

**Mr P Gibson, Treasurer, St Mary's PCC, St Mary the Virgin, Lowgate, Hull, HU1 1EJ.**

**Ideas or offers of practical help can be sent to Amanda Habergham, Project Officer, by email to: [amanda@habergham.net](mailto:amanda@habergham.net)**



# MARITIME ST MARY'S

Interest in Hull's maritime heritage is being revitalised through the city's 'Hull – Yorkshire's Maritime City initiative'. As St Mary's has been at the centre of city life since at least the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, the church is very much part of that heritage and many of Hull's maritime and merchant families are commemorated here.

St Mary's asked maritime history specialist Martin Wilcox of the University of Hull's History Department to visit St Mary's to make a preliminary assessment of what the church can contribute to the initiative. His report makes interesting reading:



*Caption – the memorial to John Bannister in St Mary's, picture courtesy of John Howes*

**I visited the church in November 2019, accompanied by Dr Colin Heywood, and noted the following names on memorials around the church.**

## **John Bannister**

Collector of dues for the Hull Dock Company, who died in 1840. He was the father of Anthony Bannister (1817-78), who became manager of the Humber Union Steam Shipping Company. Subsequently he moved into local politics, becoming a councillor in 1845 and then Sheriff of Hull 1849-50, and then Lord Mayor in 1851. In 1855 he was Lord Mayor a second time. Subsequently he was instrumental in founding the Hull and Withernsea Railway.

## **Thomas Wilson**

Window in south end of West Wall. Born in 1792. Began to invest in shipping from 1822 in partnership with other local businessmen, and took full charge of the firm from 1841. In 1850 the firm was reconstituted as Thomas Wilson Sons & Co, reflecting the involvement of his sons Charles (later Lord Nunburnholme) and Arthur. Thomas died in 1869. Under his sons' leadership TWSC became the largest privately owned shipping firm in the world, owning more than 100 vessels by 1914 and operating steamer routes from Hull to every inhabited continent. The firm subsequently suffered heavy war losses, and arguably also from the lack of interest or ability on the part of the third generation of the family. Taking advantage of high ship values in wartime, it was sold to Ellerman Lines in 1916.

## **John Thornton and Samuel Standidge**

The Thornton family were leading merchants in Hull from the sixteenth century, and their family tree includes Aldermen, Magistrates and other civic dignitaries. They were related to the Wilberforce family by marriage. Like many merchant families they diversified into industry, in this case sugar refining. One branch of the family moved to London, where they continued in trade and also became bankers and political figures.

A John Thornton, merchant, married Mary Standidge, daughter of Samuel, although this may not be the same Thornton as commemorated on this plaque. According to Jackson (1972) there is some confusion over the Standidge family tree. Standidge was born in 1725 at Bridlington, went to sea at an early age and was a captain by 1752. Subsequently he set up as a shipbuilder and shipowner, and pioneered the Greenland whaling trade in 1766. In 1785, he was operating four vessels in the business. He died in 1801. Despite Sheahan's portrayal of him as a self-made man he must have had substantial financial backing.

## Benjamin Blaydes

This monument is probably to the Benjamin Blaydes who was town Chamberlain in 1736-7 and three times Mayor of Hull, and may well be the man responsible for the (re)construction of Blaydes House. The Blaydes family, of which there were two or three branches active at any one time, were among the leading merchant dynasties in eighteenth-century Hull. They were also shipbuilders, and at various times in the eighteenth century operated three shipyards in and around Hull, including the North End Shipyard which is currently under renovation. In one of these yards was constructed the *Bethia*, which went on to become HMS *Bounty*. They were also shipbuilders for the Royal Navy, and in 1774 launched the 28-gun frigate HMS *Boreas*, which from 1784 to 1787 was commanded by an ambitious young captain named Horatio Nelson.

Mr Blaydes, who died in 1771, is interred, along with several of the family, in the former Trippett Street Burial Ground.



*Caption – the Dobson memorial, picture by John Howes*

trade until late in the eighteenth century, although by this time they were no longer among the leading merchant houses.

### William Dobson

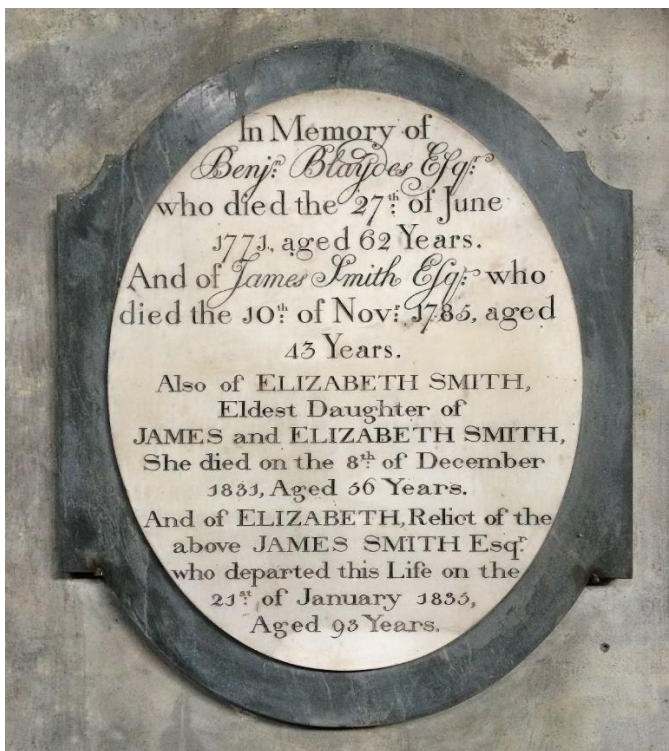
Merchant adventurer and twice Mayor, who died in 1666.

### Thomas Swan

Merchant adventurer, died in 1629.

### Joseph Robinson Pease jnr and snr

The presence of this memorial is something of a mystery, since the Pease jnr's diary makes no mention of St Mary's and suggests that the family worshipped at Holy Trinity. They were prominent merchants in Hull and an earlier member of the family founded the first bank in Hull in 1754, during the 'country banking' boom. Joseph Robinson Pease jnr, who lived at Hesslewood House, was Chairman of the Hull Dock Company, a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of the East Riding. He died in 1866.



*Caption – the memorial to Benjamin Blaydes in St Mary's, picture courtesy of John Howes.*

## Beilby Family

The Beilby family were prominent merchants in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, and several of them served as town Mayors, Chamberlains and/or Sheriffs. Some of the family are buried in the Minster. The family remained in



## John Jarratt

Married to Anne, daughter of Robert Thorley. The Thorleys were a prominent merchant family who had a branch house in Narva, in modern-day Estonia. Branch houses were common among merchant firms specialising in particular geographical areas, and were usually run by a member of the family. Sons were often sent to the branch house to gain experience to fit them to take over the main house. Robert Thorley was the largest individual shareholder in Hull Dock Company. Jarratt was probably related to the local business and property-owning family, after one of whom Jarratt Street is named.

## Lost memorials

It is evident from Gent's *History of Hull* that there must once have been a great many more memorials to people with maritime connections. Among them were William Mould (merchant and alderman, d.1721), Thomas Scaman (master mariner, d.1712), Thomas Thackray (merchant adventurer and twice mayor, d.1630).

**Martin Wilcox**  
**Department of History**  
**University of Hull**

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J.J. Sheahan, *General and Concise History and Description of the Town and Port of Kingston-Upon-Hull* (London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co, 1864).

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

With the coronavirus pandemic these are uncertain times, but please put these dates in your diary and check the St Mary's website closer to the time to ensure they are confirmed before venturing out:

## 2020

Christmas Day, 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December	3pm	Carol Service

## 2021

Saturday in March or April (TBC)	11am	*FoSM visit to All Saints' Church, Hessle details to be confirmed
Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September	11am 2pm	*Friends AGM *Friends 'The John Scott Lecture'

More details of 2021 Friends events\* will be sent to you in due course.

## GENERAL OPENING TIMES

Due to current Government restrictions general openings are suspended but St Mary's aims to be open again as usual as follows in due course:

Thursdays	11am to 2pm
Fridays	11am to 2pm
Summer Saturdays	11am to 4pm (2021 dates to be confirmed)

Please encourage friends and family to visit – they will be very welcome.

Also, if you can spare time to be part of the volunteer team which keeps St Mary's open on these days please do contact Churchwardens Hilary Newton or Olga Li La-Vigars at [info@stmaryslowgate.org.uk](mailto:info@stmaryslowgate.org.uk) or call the vestry on 01482 618199.

## SERVICES

Currently services are as follows, but please check our website as this is subject to change depending on Government restrictions:

Fridays	Holy Communion	12.30 approx. 35 mins
Sundays	BCP Sung Eucharist	11am approx. one hour

## OPENINGS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

During the pandemic St Mary's has been opening for Private Prayer:

Saturdays	11am to 1pm
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**Please check St Mary's website for confirmation of the Private Prayer opening before attending – masks are required and other safety precautions are in place.**

Produced by: The Friends of St Mary the Virgin, Lowgate, Kingston upon Hull, HU1 1EJ.

Tel: 01481 618199. Email: [friends@stmaryslowgate.org.uk](mailto:friends@stmaryslowgate.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryslowgate.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslowgate.org.uk)