

The Friends of All Saints Church Pocklington

Newsletter – Spring 2026

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Friends of All Saints Church. Thank you to all our members who have provided such generous and regular support since the Friends was established in 2012 to help towards maintaining, protecting and developing our historic church.

David Stanton has been a key member of the Friends' organisation since its inception and now feels he would like to hand over the role of coordinator. We are very grateful to him for all his work on behalf of the Friends over the years. David will still remain on the Friends' committee; David Brown joins us to look after finance & banking; David Allison takes on the role of coordinator; Philip Gilbank continues to provide fascinating and sometimes surprising insights into the rich history of All Saints – please see below.

New web address and email address for the Friends

We now have a new website on the main 'Pocklington Group of Churches' site, where we will post newsletters and other items of interest to members:

www.pgoc.org.uk/Friends . We also have a new email address:

pocklingtonchurchfriends@gmail.com . You can use this to keep in touch with us (changes of address, for example) and we will be using this address to send out newsletters to those members who have email. Of course, you can also get in touch with us via All Saints Church office, Pavement, Pocklington. York. YO42 2AX.

'Become a Friend of All Saints' leaflet is being updated and reprinted and will be distributed widely in the next few months. We have taken the opportunity to make some small changes but be assured your membership will continue exactly as at present. We also intend to be out and about promoting the Friends at various events, commencing with the All Saints Craft Fayre on April 25th. Please come and say 'hello' if you spot us!

DNA

All Saints receives homecoming visits from around the globe

In the years 1820-1920 hundreds of Pocklington parishioners emigrated to the 'New World'; and All Saints gets periodic visits by people from around the globe whose ancestors originally came from Pocklington.

Two families from opposite ends of the world have revisited their Pocklington roots in recent weeks and were reunited with very special parts of their family history.

Canadian lawyer, Joel Hagyard and his daughter Nicola, came to All Saints in February. The Hagyard family were farmers, carpenters and grocers before one branch emigrated from East Yorkshire to Ontario in the 19th Century. And Joel and Nicola were able to sit in the All Saints altar chairs that were made by a Hagyard ancestor from Pocklington Market Place in the 1850s.

In March Mark Dolman and his daughter Alex arrived from New South Wales, Australia. Mark has traced his family history back to Marmaduke Dolman, who he

was able to identify on the Dolman memorial in the Lady Chapel that contains images of Thomas Dolman, his wife and eight children - Marmaduke (1562-1638) was Thomas' second son and was also buried in All Saints.



Canadians Nicola and Joel Hagyard sat in the All Saints altar chairs made by their Thomas Hagyard ancestor



Australians Mark Dolman and daughter Alex view the image of their ancestor Marmaduke on the Dolman memorial

Pocklington is getting a 'new' reredos – after a hundred year wait

A historic feature will finally arrive at All Saints in the next few months.

When St Helens church, Kilnwick Percy, was closed back in 2012, Archbishop John Sentamu, Archdeacon Richard Seed and the Kilnwick congregation agreed something from St Helens should be transferred to the mother church of All Saints as a focal point of Kilnwick Percy remembrance.

It was decided that some notable interior carving could be moved from Kilnwick to Pocklington, and the collection was taken out and despatched to London, then South Yorkshire, by the diocese for specialist treatment and restoration.

But retirements and Covid intervened and the project disappeared into the undergrowth for a few years. The scheme was resurrected in 2025, and a design for a reredos frieze agreed for behind the main altar at All Saints' east end. The project has been awarded a grant from the Cottam Will Trust which funds 'objects of beauty to be placed in ancient Gothic churches for the furtherance of religion'; with the Pocklington Friends and former Kilnwick parishioners also making a contribution.

It is being created from 16th and 17th century oak panels of biblical scenes originally brought to Kilnwick Percy from London and the Continent by Robert Denison, lord of the manor of both Kilnwick and Pocklington. The great church architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, said of the Kilnwick collection: 'some of it superb', and the St Helens reredos will be following in the footsteps of one of All Saints iconic possessions, the Denison tryptic, which Robert Denison donated circa 1850.

The Kilnwick Percy panels might have taken a dozen years or more to finally arrive at Pocklington in 2026, but All Saints has been waiting even longer for a reredos at the east end of the church. Dr Alexander Leadman in his history of All Saints in the 1890s wrote: 'the reredos is poor and unworthy of the church and ought to be replaced.' The item which offended Dr Leadman was eventually removed in the 1920s but never replaced until now - so it has only taken a century to get round to it. 'Good things come to those who wait' is a phrase often attributed as coming from the bible – it's not actually biblical, but it seems an appropriate quotation in this case.