

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2018

Present: Rt Rev Graeme Knowles Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair) Canon Philip Banks Canon Chris Andrews Tim Allen Stewart Alderman Sarah-Jane Allison Catriona Brinkley Judy Broadway Rachel Clover Susan Cockram Keith Elliott Richard Franklin Sherril Furnell Geoffrey House Jane Leung Pam Pitts Susie Sloane Visitor: Priest in training: Sarah Geileskey **Attendance: 53%**

1. Apologies received: Canon Cedric Catton David Brown Owen Cox David Eaton Julie Grimsey James Knowles Barbara Pycraft Terry Stark Liz Steele Shirley Warrington
2. The Minutes of 14 November were signed as a correct record.
3. No matters arising.
4. The Acting Dean began by saying that Christmas had followed the last meeting; he highlighted the number attending services as well as those who came to the Christmas Fayre in the town. There could be an increase inside the Cathedral over the Fayre days welcoming people and being there to chat with visitors.

Interviews for a new Dean had been 19/20 February and an appointment has been made subject to a health check and other checks. There had been 16 applicants and 5 were interviewed; the decision of the panel had been unanimous. No one is to "quiz" Stewart Alderman, Liz Steele or Michael Wilde for information; the announcement may take up to two months.

An Archbishops' working party has published their document following research into Cathedral Governance which can be seen at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/our-cathedrals/cathedrals-working-group> Chapter has studied the report and some Chapter members are preparing a response. There will be Governance and Management at Cathedrals with the Dean sitting on both committees. A full-time Finance Officer to be employed; the Administrator becomes the Chief Operating Officer. Parish Church aspects are to be abolished; Cathedrals can opt back in if they choose. The voice of the congregation could disappear and the administrative role of Residentiary Canons is not clear. Chapter will be chosen according to people's skills. There are some good recommendations regarding more finance to be made available.

There had been a request by Canon Catton for more child-centred services and congregation involvement. There are four of the former each year at present. Re. the latter, a certain style of worship is expected at a Cathedral; other churches locally offer varying styles to suit people's needs. Canon Chris Andrews suggested an open discussion regarding children's services so opinions can be aired. A query regarding the way forward for Junior Church has been highlighted recently due to falling numbers.

5. Canon Matthew went through the Vision and Strategy information which was on Forum Notes (on file) He gave a powerpoint presentation showing some aspects of the current Vision and Strategy process highlighting the sections, those on Chapter responsible for them and the names of those making them happen. An example of action is that Chorister parents had been targeted to meet from 18 February.

Two areas relating to the Forum were discussed in more detail: “developing a social programme that welcomes everyone into the life of the Cathedral” and “to develop the Cathedral Forum to make best use of members’ expertise and experience.”

Some current social activities were listed: FOCC events, Patronal lunch, First Tuesday lunch and the House Groups which are educational as well as social. Some events are for fund-raising purposes; it was felt an overview and coordination are needed regarding when they happen and the nature of the event. A new Cathedral web-site is to be developed; there are currently difficulties which are being addressed.

The Acting Dean thanked Canon Matthew for all the work involved with the Vision and Strategy document.

6. Canon Philip thanked the Events and Marketing Manager, Marie, for organising various income generating events and finding new bookings. There is a Diocesan link through InHarmony and, within the County, “Crimson Glory” in November will commemorate the end of WW1. The Diocesan Synod meets at the Cathedral on Saturday. A successful Chorister recruitment day was held in January; one for girls will be after Easter. St Edmundsbury Primary School had a “Good” rating at Ofsted; a new Head is in post. There have been four years of work on the Cathedral thanks to grants; the cloister roof is currently being repaired. Emergency lighting has been put in place at the west and east ends; more will be added in due course. Canon Cedric Catton had sent an AOB about a possible exhibition of altar frontals; the Acting Dean said this will not happen in Lent. A new altar frontal is needed in the Lady Chapel.
7. Sarah-Jane Allison gave the names of two new staff: Claire Greaves an Admin. Assistant and a Verger, Matthew Hammonds. Interviews for a new member of Staff in the Shop will be on Tuesday. Thanks were given to those who have completed the safeguarding training. In line with the Diocese, Cathedral staff will be undertaking performance reviews formerly known as appraisals.
8. Stewart Alderman gave a finance report. The deficit in 2017 was reduced to £1,000. Certain areas had performed better than forecast and savings had been made on staff and advertising costs. Some repairs and maintenance tasks have been deferred. The “burn time” is now said to be 15 – 20 weeks. Some areas had been cut within the Office; noted that “capacity” has to be kept in mind when undertaking tasks.
9. Canon Matthew gave the report from the Giving Group. The new Dean will be involved in a campaign in the Autumn. A newsletter will appear shortly. The new contactless giving point is proving to be successful.
10. Geoffrey Houses said a decision will be made in March following charity requests so 4-6 will be chosen to represent local charities as well as those overseas. The need to rename the group was highlighted.
11. AOB: Susan Cockram suggested the Forum meetings start at 6.15 or 6.30 – there will be a gathering of opinion among the Forum members. It was noted some people on Forum are at work during the day.

There will not be curtains in Pilgrims’ Kitchen; Canon Philip is looking into sound reduction boards.

The places for election at the APCM: 1 on Chapter from January 2019, 1 on Council from November 2018, 2 Churchwardens and 5 places on Forum. Barbara Pycraft (Chapter) and Judy Broadway (Council) have each served for 3 years so are eligible for a further 3 years.

Nomination papers will be made available in early April to be returned to the PA to the Acting Dean. Reports from groups for the Annual Report are requested by 16 March; the report will be online in April.

The Eucharist before the **APCM on 25 April** will be at **5.30 pm** followed by drinks and nibbles.

The meeting will be at **7pm** in the Edmund Room.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Pam Pitts/ February 2018