

# St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



## Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2018

**Present:** Very Rev Joe Hawes Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair) Canon Chris Andrews Canon Philip Banks Catriona Brinkley Canon Cedric Catton Susan Cockram Sarah-Jane Allison Margaret Ellis Sherril Furnell Jane Leung Pam Pitts James Knowles Valerie Moore Leslie Olive Barbara Pycraft Liz Steele Doreen Young Judy Broadway David Brown Charles Hamel-Cooke Susie Sloane Visitor: Priest in training: Sarah Geileskey

1. Apologies received: Stewart Alderman Tim Allen David Eaton Gray Elkin Paul Elkin Keith Elliott Richard Franklin Louise Martin Terry Stark Shirley Warrington
2. The Minutes of 21 June were signed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising - Canon Matthew – the issue of child-friendly services will be addressed when the Dean has had time to assess Sunday morning worship. Matthew will coordinate with Richard Franklin in regard to community events.
4. Dean's report – Only 9 Sundays into his role and already he can see there are big differences between his parish priest role and becoming a Cathedral Dean – we have a distinct remit for the diocese, bringing people in and a place for children, a seat for the bishop who lives in Ipswich, so he would try to be the glue between the Bishop and the cathedral. He acknowledged the staff are stretched due to cut backs and financial constraints with many doing two jobs, which can be challenging. He therefore invited us to be thoughtful in our communications with the staff.

Joe identified 5 priorities, Money and buildings are two areas being looked at together, trying to bring more money in without selling off property and working with local businesses to utilise the cathedral more. The 36% of the electoral role who currently utilise planned giving needs to be increased. His third and fourth priorities are addressing the age profile of the Cathedral and supporting the Cathedral's music. Addressing the age profile may require a change to the pattern of Services on Sunday mornings – but this is not likely to change for a year. His fifth priority is building stronger relations with the diocese. Joe is also spending time getting to know the county, staff, retired clergy and the local community.

Joe mentioned how welcome he has been made to feel by colleagues, chapter, staff and congregation. He gave feedback on the National conference of cathedrals held at Manchester recently and a separate report will be circulated.

It was mentioned that staff changes were not always communicated well and Sarah-Jane would address this by regular updates in the weekly bulletin.

5. **Finance** – Sarah-Jane reported that finances were still tight with this year's planned deficit. Some of this relates to the redevelopment of the West Wing of the deanery. Planning permission is not yet through so some of the planned expenditure will not occur until next year. Sarah-Jane identified that the early Easter and harsh winter had affected visitor income, and the LEGO project was slightly down on its target. However, community giving and events income were up on budget and Pilgrim's Kitchen income was up by £10,500. The tap giving box is doing well and we are looking at a second box being installed. Rents are being renewed with tenants, she also reported a budgeting error for the Discovery centre. In response to questions it was confirmed that the west wing of the Deanery would be remodelled first before the main part of the Deanery.

Sarah-Jane mentioned that Molly Dewar was relocating with her fiancée so will leave the Cathedral staff. A new events manager was being sought, also new Pilgrim's Kitchen staff were starting soon. With regard to safeguarding, the SCIE audit is planned to take place at the beginning of July next year.

6. **Giving Group** - Liz Steele – Chapter have agreed to a second giving box near the north door. Only 14 people have signed up so far for Parish Giving. There is a reduction on regular giving of 18 people, but even so we are still almost on budget. Service collections are ahead of budget by £4000.
7. **Vision and Strategy** - Canon Matthew spoke about Santiago – we know it is appreciated by people who live elsewhere. Hayley Collard is moving on from being editor. Charles Hamel-Cooke reported that he had looked into the way other Cathedrals communicate and presented the names of a variety. He recognised the need for both an online and a printed version to be available. He felt if the copy is right then it could pay for itself through advertising and increased visitor numbers. There was much discussion. The Communications Group will continue to explore options and Forum will be kept informed.
8. **Heritage Partnership Update** – Matthew spoke about the current work of the Heritage Partnership. The focus this year has been two consultancy studies – a Heritage Assessment completed in June and a Conservation Plan soon to be finalised. Matthew shared some images from the Heritage Assessment. The Cathedral with the Council is leading the Heritage Partnership as part of serving the local community. The work also supports plans the Cathedral has, for example to knock through the old archway in Pilgrim's Kitchen garden to improve visitor flow. Other projects include creating new tennis courts in the old nursery area across the road from The Fox pub, also improving interpretation around the Abbey grounds eg better signage. In 2020 we will celebrate the millennium of King Canute founding the Abbey. The Cathedral will be involved with this celebration and is working with partners across the town.
9. **Fabric & Liturgy** - Canon Philip updated on the following
  - work is ongoing with the Anselm building – boxing in the eaves to keep it safe.
  - floor work is taking place in the Cathedral
  - Abbey House re-wiring has cost more than expected
  - The new bike racks are being funded by proceeds from the Summer Fayre.
  - Pilgrim's Kitchen plans are going through for the glass doors and new lobby area.
  - acoustic panels in Pilgrims' Kitchen will be installed on Monday 1 October. Pilgrim's Kitchen will be closed that day. Thanks to Rachel for her organisation of this.
  - King Edward VI memorial plaques had been cleaned – funded by Old Burians and Friends of the Cathedral.
  - The recent renovations to the Cathedral clerestory have come to a conclusion – only slightly over budget – with all the grant from the government World War 1 fund spent.
10. **Autumn Events** – details in the notes sent with the agenda - Philip mentioned Crimson Glory on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and the Eve of Peace service on the 7<sup>th</sup> – all are welcome to attend.
11. **AOB**

Pam Pitts – toilet twinning – was this still being collected for? – yes a smaller donation box had been provided to prevent further vandalism.

Sue Cockram mentioned about the timing of future Forum meetings - this will be put on the next agenda.

Judy mentioned if we could have the melody line for hymns printed in the service sheets – this would be looked into.

Leslie Olive mentioned the upcoming Suffolk Philharmonic Concert on 27<sup>th</sup> October and new Stabat Mater.

Liz Steele mentioned that the Cathedral car park was for staff only especially during the week. All to note when planning for meetings that we should not offer parking for such events.

The meeting closed at 09:30 pm.

Louise Martin/September 2018