

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



Annual Report 2018

To be presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday 25 April 2018

Canon Philip Banks

Cathedral Repair and Restoration works

The award of substantial grants from HM Government's WWI Cathedrals' Repair Fund has enabled us to complete the long-overdue work to repair and restore the clerestory windows and the replacement of the south cloister roof and ancient library roof. The programme of works has also included stonework repair/restoration and the re-painting of external metalwork on windows. All of this secures our cathedral for future generations of pilgrims, visitors and worshippers, and will be complete in time for the commemoration this November of the ending of WW1. Numerous other repair and maintenance work has been undertaken during the year, all ably co-ordinated by the vergers' team under Rachel's careful direction.

Cathedral Worship

The cathedral is a praying community with daily services of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and Evensong or Evening Prayer. Sunday worship remains the centrepiece of our worshipping week, supported by the work of our musicians – music is 'what makes a cathedral a cathedral'. This regular round of worship now includes a weekly meditation slot and a monthly weekday healing service. In addition to this regular round of worship, the cathedral hosts numerous special services for the county, community and diocese, including Ordinations, HM Courts of Justice Service, Prisons' Week, together with carol services for a significant number of voluntary and public sector organisations throughout the county. This year has seen the establishment of a partnership with King Edward VI School: the appointment of the first Derek Marsden Organ Scholar here – and School Musician in Residence there. Thomas Hawkes has therefore joined the music team and will be our Organ Scholar for a two year period. Finally, a thank you to our fantastic Vergers' Team, a mix of volunteers, part-time and full-time staff – we rely so much on them to maintain the daily round of worship and care for our buildings: thank you to Ted, Julie, Ian, Daniel, and Matt (recently joined) and to our honorary vergers Ginny, Paul and Keith, all led by our Head Verger and Estates Manager, Rachel.

The InHarmony Music outreach project

The Cathedral's InHarmony project, funded by the Foundation of St Edmund and led by Richard Hubbard, is now well underway following the year-long feasibility study and research across the diocese. The InHarmony Report has been published, and is the fruit of that survey of music for worship in Anglican churches across the Diocese. 444 parishes responded to the questionnaire (an exceptionally high 94% response rate), so we believe that this survey is the most comprehensive of its kind to be carried out in any Diocese in the country in recent years.

The report includes recommendations for future training events to encourage mission and to support rural churches, in particular, with the challenge of providing appropriate music to enhance worship.

St Edmundsbury Primary School

2017 saw the appointment of a new headteacher, Shaun Valentine, and an Ofsted Inspection which reported the school to be 'Good' - which was very pleasing for staff, governors and the whole community. Canon Philip Banks chairs the governing body and the current Chapter (Foundation) governors are Valerie Wilde, Lesley Barlow and Fiona Knapp who all have extensive schools' experience.

The Ancient Library Stephen Dart

Our four new library guides have been extremely effective this year. In addition to Heritage Open Days, we opened to the public on four Saturdays in May and for the Cathedral congregation on two Sundays after the 10 o'clock service. Our annual visitor numbers have increased threefold to well over 200.

We have held two exhibitions in the Treasury. The most recent 'Luther 500' was opened for the Luther Symposium held in the Cathedral on 30 September. Previously 'Seeing Red in the Library' featured books which were illuminated or partly printed in red. The highlight was possibly a recently identified page of thirteenth century manuscript which has been used to strengthen the binding of a book printed in 1539.

Over 100 of our 600 books have pages or strips of manuscript used in this way and Professor Rod Thomson made a return visit in July both to date them and identify the texts used. We are delighted that David Dymond is using some photographs of books in our collection in his forthcoming book on the activities of Suffolk church wardens in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

Our own research has enabled us to establish the precise date of the library's foundation - Sunday 20th July 1595. Thomas Bright the younger, who was instrumental in obtaining the town's charter and whose portrait hangs in the Guild Hall, was a church warden at that time. Visits to college libraries and the University Library in Cambridge have confirmed that the method used to chain our books is most unusual. An article on this appeared in *The Cathedral Archivists and Librarians Newsletter*.

Since the library's closure for roof repairs in November, we have been updating the lists of our collection of photographs and documents for the Cathedral Inventory.

Cathedral Art Group Maureen Cunningham

The Cathedral art group was established over 30 years ago, with the help of Angel Jones, in a portacabin on the Cathedral Garth. We are a very friendly group with 45 members of all abilities holding workshops, sometimes with professional artists.

Last year we were fortunate to be able to hold our exhibition in Moyse's Hall Museum and have enjoyed outings to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich. Some of our members have presented their work in various exhibitions such as Lavenham, Long Melford and our very own "Friends of the Cathedral" group

At Christmas we raised almost £600 for the Cathedral with paintings and work donated by our members. If you are interested, please pop in to see us. We hold our meetings every Monday up in the Edmund Room in the Cathedral Centre between 10am and noon.

Norman Tower Bellringers Joan Garrett

We currently have 21 active members, welcoming two but losing two as they moved away.

There are 6 retired members.

Regular ringing and practices We ring every Sunday from 9.00-10.00 for morning service and practise regularly every Tuesday from 7.15 to 9.00. Ringers from other Towers are encouraged to join us at special monthly practices. On most 2nd and 4th Sundays we attempt to ring a quarter peal, approximately 50 minutes of non-stop ringing, for Evensong. We have successfully scored 16 during 2017, and also used the occasions to practise prior to winning the George W Pipe Trophy, a competition for 12 bell bands for Essex and Suffolk. Six peals were attempted and 3 were successful.

Special events/extra ringing

- Ordination service (June) – rang for one of two services.
- Heritage Open Day in September – welcomed over 90 visitors.
- Tour of Britain (Sept) – rang when the cycle race passed by the Norman Tower.
- Quarter peal rung in memory of a local ringer, Frederick George Dewell. He was born in 1892, lived on Eastgate Street and served in the Middlesex Regiment 16th Battalion. He died in action on 31 May 1917 aged 25. He rang a full peal at Horringer on 12 April 1913.
- In November there will be special ringing events to mark the end of WW1.

Promotion opportunities

- Suffolk Day (21 June) – Radio Suffolk broadcast from the Cathedral and promoted ringing.
- 'We Love Bury St Edmunds' recorded our ringing and an interview about what we do.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoPm6JSZLIk>
- Christmas Fayre – we helped to run the Cathedral raffle.

Maintenance Long term the old bell wheels (circa 1900) refurbished in 1977 will need replacing; the soles are starting to split and several centres are weak. Approximate cost £1400 per wheel, 10 required.

Cathedral Chaplaincy Canon Lawrence Pizzey

For over 30 years the cathedral has been served by a number of stipendiary, non –stipendiary and retired priests who have been available to serve the needs of any visitors to the Cathedral, on weekdays, from the beginning of May to the end of September. More recently, welcome stewards have also been in attendance so the chaplains' role has been slightly more confined, and as stipendiary clergy have been entrusted with ever-increasing benefices, fewer of them have volunteered for chaplaincy. "Retired" clergy have continued to fill the rotas and they have been joined by some Readers (active and emeriti), other lay volunteers and by ecumenical friends from the Salvation Army, and the Methodist and URC churches.

Last year some 30 different people served as chaplains, helping any who required assistance with personal matters, or with understanding the Cathedral building and its contents. Twice each day, the duty chaplain offers prayer from the pulpit and invites those in the Cathedral to pause and join in prayer and/or reflection. Often, one or more persons will subsequently thank the chaplain.

We shall continue to provide chaplaincy this year and pray that the number of volunteers will match the number of half-days (218) during the five month summer visitor season.

Chapter IV Geoffrey House

Chapter IV is the social branch of the Guild of St Edmund. It provides an opportunity for volunteers, past and present, to meet and listen to a talk from a member of the congregation or someone associated with the Cathedral. Refreshments are provided by members of the Mothers' Union for which donations are invited in support of our twinned Diocese of Kagera. The speakers in 2017 were: Michael Wilde (Town Pastors); Roy Tricker (The Diocese - 103 not out!) and Helen

Woodroffe (Work of the Discovery Centre). The meetings are well supported and Chapter IV is grateful for all those who freely give of their time, talents and support.

Christian Aid David Eaton

2017 was another super year for Christian Aid. Our fantastic team of enthusiastic collectors at the Cathedral work as part of the ecumenical Christian Aid group in Bury St Edmunds. Not only are we able to raise much needed funds but we also raise the profile of Christian Aid in the town. The Cathedral collected £2,435.45 incl. Gift Aid. As always, new volunteers are always most welcome for Christian Aid 2018 which is almost upon us! A big "thank you" to many people who support Christian Aid in various ways.

Christian Aid aims to end poverty and injustice worldwide by focusing on key areas such as helping people to claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education; become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes and make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

Christmas Fair Lorna Brook

Four stalls, Christmas Treats, Jigsaws, Gardening and Books were no longer in operation, so the Cathedral's Christmas Fair was able to be accommodated in the Edmund Room and the Discovery Centre. This proved to be much more successful than the tent we had tried out the previous year; plenty of customers found us in spite of our being less visible. This was due, in large measure, to the excellent signage that Marie had organised. The stalls made £4,530.60, which was a most creditable amount, considering that some of the real money-makers were no longer with us. May I emphasise that the tombola would make more money if people would donate more prizes - they do not have to be valuable: tins and packets of groceries are just as acceptable as bottles of wine! We could also do with more stewards, as the few people who currently volunteer cannot realistically be expected to cover all the ground for so long. We opened on Thursday for the first time this year as the Town had indicated that they would like us to follow their hours: indeed, coaches began to arrive at 10.00 that morning. I would like to thank all the stallholders who turned to and worked so hard for the extra day in addition to their usual efforts; it did seem to be worth it. I would also like to remind everyone that the Fair taking place next November will be the last that I shall be coordinating: I said I would do it for five years and I have now done four. The Cathedral will need someone else, preferably to work with me this time, with a view to taking it over next year.

Discovery Centre Helen Woodroffe Children's Education Officer

We have enjoyed another year of diversity and raising awareness of the importance of '*children and all those who work with them*'. We continued welcoming school groups at the Cathedral as well as going out visiting schools and parishes, making contact with 4000 children from 42 different schools and supporting over 40 parishes and benefices across the Diocese.

Highlights at the Cathedral included our popular Edmund Days; RESPECT Exhibitions: 'Journey' (June 2017) and 'Choice' (March 2018); and a Viking re-enactment as part of the Edmund Festival in November. Organising and leading training events for clergy, children's leaders and teachers continued throughout the year as well as running activities at the Suffolk Show and being part of the national initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Much of our time was taken up with the preparation and promotion of two key projects: PILGRIM 2018 and the Emmanuel Project. For PILGRIM 2018 (340th anniversary of John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'), we wrote and piloted a programme in Honington and Woodbridge schools to be used over a year, to help the development of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) aspects of the

primary curriculum. This proved to be very successful and will continue to be rolled out in the next academic year.

Our Diocesan Emmanuel Project was officially launched for schools by Bishop Martin in June; our role has been to write and produce sessions which can be delivered by parish teams to go alongside the RE teaching of 'Understanding Christianity'. Of the 23 units of work, we piloted 7 which we are now writing up and starting to deliver. We continue to make improvements in communicating our mission role and advertising our work through the hard work of Kim Judge, Discovery Centre Office Manager, and dedicated team of volunteers – all of whom we owe grateful thanks.

We pray that in all our work we remember Jesus' action of calling a child to stand among the disciples saying, *'whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.'*

Electoral Roll David Eaton Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll presented at the 2017 APCM had 333 names. At the time of writing this report the Roll is currently being revised for 2018.

The Roll comprises primarily of the local worshipping community who are therefore eligible to vote at the APCM and can stand in various church elections (other than clergy who are ineligible for inclusion). At the Cathedral we see our Roll as a positive way of showing our belonging to the Cathedral community and the mutual commitment that we have to each other. It is always encouraging to see new faces wishing to join the Roll.

Fabric Advisory Committee Susan Cockram

The Committee has, for various reasons only met twice in the past year advising the Dean and Chapter on various projects which are currently in hand. The Bishops and Deans stone was completed and unveiled in September 2017 and looks very fine on the North wall of the Cathedral. The lighting at the West End of the Cathedral has been completed and the emergency lighting installed. Various smaller projects were also considered by the FAC.

It was with deep regret that the death of Mr Brian Morton, structural engineer and member of the FAC since 2011 was reported in December 2017. His replacement is being sought. We also recorded the deaths of Mr John Moore, who gave a great deal of his time advising the Cathedral on electrical and other works and Mr David Cockram, the first Chairman of the FAC 1990-2000. "Discovery Day" held in June 2017 and was enjoyed by those attending.

Fairtrade Julie Eaton

Thank you to everyone who buys Fairtrade products as this contributes to creating a fairer world, something our Fairtrade speaker, Richard Stainer, has spoken of so eloquently. Our own Fairtrade stall raised a great total of £1,789.19 during the last year. This figure includes supplies for our Sunday morning refreshments and provisions for the office staff.

Janet Banks and I share the tasks of collecting and returning stock. When we visit the Just Traid shop in St John's Street we look for any new stock to select as new items to offer our cathedral customers. These we display alongside old favourites such as the ever-popular ginger biscuits, chocolates, teas, coffees and other goods which are usually in demand. However, do let us know if you have any requests, and we will endeavour to supply specific items for you.

Along with the encouragements and support of all our customers, including the choir, one of the highlights of this year has been from our young people at church helping to run the stall. They bring several skills to the task including mathematical and financial prowess and an ability to attract

customers, even persuading some to make purchases which they were unaware they needed! Thank you to those who have helped and to Janet and Kate Vernon for their organisation of the volunteers.

On certain occasions we have larger stalls carrying extra stock. We also try to include seasonal stock especially for Christmas and Easter. Cards, toys, ornaments, jewellery, soaps and small gifts often grace the stall. These and several edible items can be purchased to be given as treats or gifts for all sorts of occasions including birthdays and celebrations. Bury St Edmunds has been a Fairtrade Town since 2015; St Edmundsbury is a Fairtrade Cathedral and part of a Fairtrade diocese.

Fellowship of St Edmund Philip Pitt

The number of servers in the Cathedral team continues to fluctuate but has increased slightly in recent months as a number of younger members of the congregation have joined us. This bodes well for the future as the average age of the team is reducing while the professional attitude to duties continues to be maintained. We efficiently support the four main Sunday services at the Cathedral, along with the additional services during Festival seasons, such as Easter and Christmas, as well as the celebrations of Saints' days and other red letter occasions.

The number of servers at the 10am Eucharist has been reduced from four to three which puts St Edmundsbury Cathedral in line with many other cathedrals in Britain. This has also eased the work for Caitlin who continues to manage the servers' rota effectively. Other senior members of the team play their part in ensuring that members develop within the various server roles but there remain challenges with filling all roles at times. Members of the congregation will have noticed additional servers at recent services as shadowing is used to introduce new members of the team to the duties involved. We also aim to increase the training opportunities over the next year to achieve the aim, over the next twelve months, of training all servers in all roles.

Overall, the servers remain one of the quieter, less visible groups during services. If nobody notices us we have performed our role immaculately. The duties of a server at the Cathedral will be wide and varied but team members can always be relied on to provide quiet, efficient support to the clergy during worship.

Cathedral Flower Arrangers Susan Cockram Margaret Woolmore

2017 saw us yet again very busy year decorating the Cathedral for festivals, weddings and many other services which take place. We managed to negotiate the scaffolding again last Autumn, but it is so good to see the Cathedral free of all scaffolding – long may this last! Again, this year we have been helped by the Parishes of the Diocese on many weekends. This seems to be much appreciated by the Parishes and the Cathedral certainly benefits from their many beautiful and varied designs. It will be fun during the next few months working amongst the scaffolding – always ready for a challenge! Sadly, Pat Gooderham died in December and we shall miss her determination fighting her cancer and arranging such lovely flowers at the font for our festivals. Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the arrangers and our faithful waterers for all they do each week. A big thank you must also go to the Vergers for all their help and support over the past year which is much appreciated. If you would like flowers arranged for special events: anniversaries, weddings, birthdays or a christening, do please get in touch.

“Fun, Flowers and Friendship” is the motto of Flower Arrangers and we exercise that to the full, adorning our beautiful building, having fun and making friends. We always need lots of help, we have a lot of space to fill and would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us. We all help each other and are always happy to help anyone who thinks they would like to be part of the team so do please get in touch.

Forum Pam Pitts

The Cathedral Forum meets four times a year to discuss issues and hear updates on various matters affecting the Cathedral. A list of members is on the Cathedral community notice-board in the Cloisters. There are fourteen elected members who are on the church electoral roll. The Forum may co-opt up to eight additional members; at any time not less than half of co-opted members are members of the Cathedral Community. The Cathedral Chapter may attend Forum also Readers and retired Clergy; six Deputy Wardens are ex-officio members.

In June difficult financial challenges were outlined and details given of the new Cathedral Giving group. There was an update on ongoing repairs to the clerestory windows. A copy was shown of the final draft of the Vision and Strategy document linked to the diocesan "Growing in God." September's meeting gave further financial input and details of a contactless system of giving. It was noted that Dean Frances Ward would leave on 15 October and Bishop Graeme Knowles to be licensed as Acting Dean on 16 October. The November meeting discussed "What are we looking for in a new Dean?" In February the appointment of a new Dean was confirmed. Further details from the Vision and Strategy document were given, particularly linked to Forum involvement. Names of new staff are given throughout the year as well as information linked to aspects of Cathedral life.

This year there are five vacancies on Forum; being a member aids communication with the Cathedral community and is a means of putting forward new ideas. Do consider joining the Forum. A new Forum Secretary will be appointed at the 21 June meeting; I have been in role for six years.

Friends of the Cathedral Choir Kathryn Mitchell

The FOCC has had a busy year fundraising to support the Cathedral Choir. The year's events have included Starry Night in May, the barbecue on the Garth at the end of the Summer term, a Sponsored Walk in September and the Quiz in February 2018.

The monthly Sunday morning cake stall has continued, along with the 500 Club, both of which make a regular and significant contribution to our revenue target. Throughout the year, the FOCC provides a cushion hire service at cathedral events and concerts; a drinks service is also organised at major cathedral concerts and events, and also for the Bury Concert Club series held at the Unitarian Meeting House. Funds raised this year have been used to support the production of a new Choir CD, the purchase of new hymn books for the Choir and to contribute to the costs of the Choir's tour to Portugal in April 2018.

These events require the time, energy and commitment of all those who form the FOCC committee, along with the support of other friends, choristers' families, vergers, the Music department and the wider cathedral community.

Friends of Cathedral Music Judy Chisman

Our members have had another very interesting year visiting cathedrals and chapels where great choirs sing. We visited Bristol Cathedral and City for a weekend in June and were very impressed with the cathedral choir and organist. In Sheffield in October, we explored the recently extended cathedral with a very fine addition on the west end and also enjoyed some of the city heritage, Cutlers Hall being a wonderful highlight. We were impressed by the outreach work of the music department in Sheffield.

Our third National gathering took us to Cambridge and with 250 members attending over the three days; it was an extraordinary feat of organisation. We were able to visit the major colleges with a choral history - Kings, St John's, Trinity, Jesus, Clare, Queen's and Selwyn. There was an element of choice so we could pick our own Evensongs when we wished, but it was especially good to dine

in King's Dining Hall, have tea in St John's and supper at Selwyn. I hasten to add that these treats were not all on the same day!

Our Diocesan members were invited to meet up on Advent Sunday when we took part in the readings and offertory. Some members stayed on to enjoy the Advent procession that afternoon. Some are regular supporters of the organ recitals. Thank you to our music department and choir for all your hard work. We wish you well on your forthcoming choir tour. Membership of FCM in our Diocese has risen a little and we welcome new members to support this great choral tradition we all enjoy so much. Pick up a red leaflet at the back of the cathedral if you would like to know more.

Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral Susan Cockram

Following the very sad death of my husband, David, last October I was asked to be Interim Director of the Friends. David was Director for ten years, a job he greatly enjoyed; it gave him great pleasure to arrange the various activities for the Friends over the years.

The Friends celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Annual Day in July; we slightly changed the format. Unfortunately, David could not attend and regrettably not everything went to plan with the tea, but I know the rest of the day was much enjoyed by those who attended. At the AGM Cedric Catton and Louise Martin retired having completed their terms of office and we are all grateful to them for their commitment. We welcomed Ian Brookman as Treasurer and Kathryn Mitchell as Secretary.

In May we visited Southwark Cathedral and Greenwich; in September Arthur and Sue Tanner took thirty friends on a lovely holiday to Salisbury and Wells. In May this year we are going to visit Old Charterhouse and the Wallace Collection and, in September, Arthur is taking a party to Liverpool and Chester. I would like to thank those who stepped in to help with the various events. We held the usual Art Show in the Edmund Room in August and this will be repeated this year.

It is marvellous to see the Bishops and Deans Stone finally unveiled in the Cathedral – the Friends contributed to this work.

So, what are the Friends about and how much they do contribute to the Cathedral? The Friends were formed in 1942 and their objectives are to support and encourage the Dean and Chapter in their work and to enhance the fabric and beauty of the Cathedral as a token to the gratitude we owe to Almighty God. We also have fun on our social events. If you would to know more about the Friends, do please contact me at sue@cockram.net or pick up a leaflet.

Cathedral Giving Liz Steele

The new group has now been in place for nearly one year. It is our brief, as a committee, to raise the amount given on a regular basis to the Cathedral. This amount should be in the region of one third of the total income budget; at the moment it is a fifth.

During the year we have produced and sent out two Giving Newsletters that update everyone on the Community database on the amount given and the bands of giving, as well as any new initiatives that we have introduced.

I recently enrolled the Cathedral into the new Parish Giving Scheme which is being funded by the Diocese. This scheme is now our preferred method of giving as it is administered by The Diocese of Gloucester and enables us to have all our regular giving sent to our bank account on the same day each month along with monthly gift aid, not quarterly. As this is being funded by the Diocese there is no cost to us as a Cathedral. Last year we saw a number of high givers leave the Cathedral; it was our task to make this up. Although we did not quite manage it, we are not far off.

This year also saw the introduction of the cashless giving box in the Cathedral. This has already raised £1600 which is very good news. If you are already a regular giver or you would like more information on Parish Giving, please see me as I have packs with all the details.

Groundforce Alan McAndrew

The Groundforce Team has had a very busy year. It needed an early start in 2017 to fully restore the Quiet Garden and Remembrance Garden after the builders finished their much needed restoration work on the Abbey House windows. The restoration of this area was a springtime priority closely followed by the Cloister Garth, which had been bequeathed to us earlier.

The Garth required serious feeding and weeding for such a large area especially with the Labyrinth project in mind where healthy free growing grass, was a basic requirement. Thankfully one of our team is an expert when it comes to cutting the endlessly narrow circular grass pathways in a defined, geometrical pattern. He soon re-established the correct design. We were very fortunate for this because he then broke his leg in an accident at home!

All too soon it was the season for builders to move in. Roses and plants were quickly removed to provide access. They had to be re-potted and moved away for safe keeping over winter. Meanwhile numerous very large tents and marquees were established in the area to cater for the winter activities of the Cathedral. Our end of season work was further enhanced by a thoroughly unexpected request "Could we possibly look after the vacant Deanery gardens until a new successor was appointed?" This will no doubt keep us busy for the next few months.

The Groundforce Team truly believes that the thousands of visitors to the Cathedral must enter or leave through one of our many gardens. Their memories of what they see and hear start and finish outside amongst the many flowers, herbs, trees and shrubs which we are fortunate enough to tend. Our aim is simply to make and maintain them all to the best of our ability.

Cathedral Guides Marguerite Budden

The Guides have provided public guided tours from 1 May to the end of September, including Christmas, Easter and half-terms. This meant we showed about 400 people around the Cathedral. In 2017 a new ticket system was introduced at the Tourist Information Point; visitors paid £3 for an 11.00 tour with children 16 and under free. We have also had 34 pre-booked tours of local groups such as WI, U3A, corporate UK Power networks, retired NHS workers and many others. Some of these groups organise a light lunch or cream tea with the tour which increases revenue. It has been calculated 957 people joined these tours.

Stephen Dart took over the Chair of the group in September. At the monthly meeting, the rota is organised for 4-5 weeks and Hannah arranges the bookings, contacting us by email. After the business, there is a presentation; recent ones have been "Provosts and Deans" and RAF banners. There is also usually a "church crawl" of local churches in the diocese.

Outreach in the diocese is very important. Several parish groups have taken the opportunity of a pilgrimage tour on a Sunday at 2pm followed by Evensong then tea and cakes provided by the Friends of the Cathedral. Plans are in hand to trial afternoon public guided tours as this is the time of greatest footfall in the Cathedral and we hope to boost numbers. There will be a few themed tours on Saturdays during the summer and a special one-off candlelit tour in November.

We are looking forward to a bumper guiding season in 2018. Whilst we are expert at navigating scaffolding and fenced-off areas, it will be great to have our lovely Cathedral back to normal.

Guild of St Edmund Geoffrey House

The Guild of St Edmund, which supports all volunteers in the Cathedral, had a positive year in 2017. All volunteer groups are represented, and the quarterly meetings enable a flow of information both from and to Chapter, which all consider very helpful. The AGM was held in June. Geoffrey House (Chairman), Sarah-Jane Allison (Administrator: People & Policies) and Hannah Ratcliffe (Visits and Volunteers) gave their reports. One of the LEGO volunteers informed all present about the origins of LEGO about the project we have ongoing here; long service awards were presented too. Evensong followed in the Quire and the meeting concluded with a buffet in Pilgrims' Kitchen.

The St Edmund Day celebration on 17 November started with Eucharist in the Quire at 1pm followed by a light lunch in the Edmund Room, provided by Pilgrims' Kitchen. Dr Francis Young was the speaker. His talk offered new insights on the life, death and possible location of Saint Edmund.

Home Groups Canon Christopher Andrews

Home groups are key opportunities for members of the cathedral congregation to meet regularly to engage in study of and reflection on Scripture and books by Christian writers and theologians. In Lent 2017 two groups met each week, one of which read together "Dethroning Mammon" the Lent book written by Archbishop Justin Welby.

The regular weekly group of 10 – 12 people has met for most of the rest of the year, apart from holidays, on Monday evening at 7.30pm at our home in Moreton Hall. There has been a healthy turnover of membership during the year. The meeting begins with a cup of tea or coffee. Simple prayers lead into study of a book or Bible passage with discussion for the rest of the evening. We have continued our study of Canon John Parr's book, "Credible Witnesses" on John's gospel. Among other books we have also read Rowan Williams' "Finding God in Mark", not heavy to read and a rewarding introduction to the main elements of the gospel.

Any member of the congregation is most welcome to join the meeting. Friendships can grow over the weeks in time spent together in this way. We hope that, as time goes on, more people in the congregation will take this opportunity to strengthen their grasp of the faith and their sense of belonging with others in that faith.

Junior Church Penny Bentley

Junior Church has continued to support children and young people to develop their faith, enjoy appropriate activities, and have fun together. It is led by a team of ten adults and several teenagers who work on a rota. The leaders meet all together once a term to review and improve their work and to plan future developments. Numbers of children have fallen over the past year, as teenagers have moved on, and there are very few younger children coming to the cathedral with their families. On Sunday mornings Junior Church children go with their leaders to the Discovery Centre during the first hymn for stories and activities. They now, at the request of the children, have extended their time in the Discovery Centre to share a specially chosen interactive Eucharistic Prayer and the Peace. They return to their families for Communion.

In four services during the year, including Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Junior Church children and young people play a part in the liturgy, reading, leading the intercessions and gathering round the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. In September children and parents greatly enjoyed a lunch party in the Vernon/Banks' garden. Sadly the small numbers meant Junior Church was not able to present its traditional Nativity before Christmas; it was ably replaced by a thought-provoking

presentation by young people from the congregation. In January fifty children, family members and friends enjoyed the "Dick Whittington" pantomime at the Theatre Royal. Oh yes they did!

Kagera Valerie Moore

Our link Diocese of Kagera in north-west Tanzania is a very beautiful part of the world but is struggling with climate change. The Cathedral congregation has been very supportive of our link this year; we were able to send over £500 from our Kagera meal event and over £400 from our monthly stalls. The focus of much of the money this year has gone to the Church and Community Mobilisation Programme which supports people in improving their subsistence farming and being able to support their families more effectively. If you would like to find more about the work, please do ask me and perhaps think about visiting there yourself. You would be assured of a very warm welcome.

Kevelaer Stewart Alderman

The 2017 pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds' twin town of Kevelaer took place in October. Stewart Alderman, Lorna Brook and Geoffrey House finalised plans and the itinerary for leading groups from 2018. We stayed at the Priesterhaus, adjacent to the magnificent Basilica and overlooking the shrine to Our Lady of Kevelaer. The first day we set aside to explore the town with a tour of the stations of the cross in the town park, San Antonio Church, the Basilica, the Candle Chapel and the shrine.

Next day we went to Xanten with its fort and archaeological site. The Basilica here has 22 altars all with elaborate paintings above them. Beneath the Basilica is the Stiftsmuseum, an elaborate and interesting treasury. At Kalkar, a visit to St Martin's Church to view the astonishing carving of the story of St George above the altar. On Sunday we attended Mass in the Basilica in Kevelaer. During the service the priest presented and blessed the two candles that we bring back to St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the Votive candle that sits in the high altar and is lit at evensong and the Paschal Candle that is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil service.

Leaving Kevelaer, we drove to Ypres arriving in time for dinner before attending the daily service of remembrance at the Menin Gate. On our final day we visited the Passchendaele museum and experienced what life in the trenches and tunnels in the First World War would have been like. We also spent some time at Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery before driving to Calais and the Eurostar home.

Once again a tremendously fulfilling pilgrimage; we look forward to leading and sharing this experience with groups from the Cathedral or elsewhere.

Cathedral Library Margaret Hartley

At the moment Library membership and use is about the same as last year. Once again our volunteers have done a good job and there were only a couple of occasions when the library had to close because no-one was available to open it. We now have two new volunteers so hopefully that will ease things.

Margaret Statham and Stephen Dart have been using the library on a Thursday while the Ancient library is out of action. Alan Broadway is producing the February Newsletter in time for Lent. Once again, thanks to Stephen Dart for providing an article on the Ancient Library and other volunteers for contributions. Signage is still an issue. A sign similar in size and shape to the one for the Garden of Remembrance and on the same post, would, I think, be a big help.

Mothers' Union Jane Leung

March 2017: the election of a new committee. Margaret Ellis : Chairperson, Elizabeth Nunn: Treasurer and Jane Leung : Secretary. Brian Lillistone remains Branch Chaplain.

A MU kneeler was made by Audreen Lillistone, to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Canon Philip Banks blessed it at the Mothering Sunday Service 2017. New members Maureen Cunningham and Mandy Alderman were enrolled. Three hundred posies were made by the MU and distributed at that service. The Lady Day Service was on Saturday 25 March at St Edmund's Church, Southwold. A big thank you to Elizabeth Nunn for hosting this year's Summer Strawberry Tea Party in June; a total of £401 was raised. A Garden party was held at the Bishop's House in Ipswich. The AGM was on 4 July.

In August a Eucharist service was held in remembrance of the Mothers' Union founder, Mary Sumner. Mothers' Union Chaplain, Canon Brian Lillistone, led the service. The Mothers' Union stall was Hoopla at the Cathedral summer fete in August. "Remembering Together": A very moving service was held in the Lady Chapel. After the service tea and refreshments were served which gave parents time to chat to each other. Prison Sunday: Speaker was the Bishop of Prisons and Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff. The Seafarers' Mission 17 shoeboxes were delivered by Lorna Brook and Jenny White to Felixstowe Port, together with knitted hats. Thirteen shoeboxes for 'Link of Hope' were delivered to Romania.

At the Christmas Fair the MU made £811.71 from their stall. The Mothers' Union collected Christmas gifts for the Women's Refuge Centre Throughout the year some of the Mothers' Union attended a Eucharist at Cross Penny Court and Manson House. We also provide cakes for Chapter IV meetings and there are monthly Food Bank collections.

Music James Thomas Director of Music

The Cathedral's choirs and music staff continue, to the best of their abilities, to provide suitable music for worship at the Cathedral. January 2017, Cathedral Choir numbered 11 Choristers, 5 Probationers, 8 lay Clerks and 2 Choral Scholars. Highlights follow of a year which had, at its heart, seven choral services a week provided by six choirs.

February: RAF Regiment's 75th anniversary service; a CD recording "Make we merry". April: welcome to new Probationer, Theo Geileskey. Farewell to Thomas Upton, a long-serving chorister and Head Chorister. Successor: Samuel Vernon. May: concert as part of the Bury Festival: Duruffé's Requiem. July: much enjoyed hosting the girls and boys top lines from Trinity Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Sad farewells to one chorister, William Lowden, and two Choral Scholars, Rob O'Brian and Ethan Grimwood. Summer holiday: annual Outward Bound camp in Happisburgh.

September: Katharine's and my 21st year. Extra service at Barham where the Revd Carl Melville, former curate here, is Priest-in-charge and an extra service to celebrate Luther's 500th anniversary. October: annual diocesan choirs' Festival. Baptism of three Choristers. A special Evensong to say farewell to Dean Frances Ward. Bishop Graeme became Acting Dean; the Music Department is very grateful for all his positive support. December: Messiah was well up to standard, particularly the excellent soloists. Advent and Christmas engagements were all successful and enjoyable especially the Christmas morning service accompanied by a small string orchestra.

Plans are in place for the Choir Tour to Lisbon on April 3. Singing concerts and services in Lisbon, Fátima and Coimbra. Very grateful to the generous contribution made by the FOCC.

Recruiting is more difficult than ever, a 'Be a Chorister' event resulted in the appointment of three Probationers: Oliver, Tristan and Oliver. Here's to many years of happy music-making together.

Pastoral Support Team Canon Matthew Vernon

2017 was another year of ongoing pastoral care; much of this is informal within the Cathedral community. Formal pastoral care is delivered by the Pastoral Support Team, a group of lay people and ministers: Margaret Ellis, Margaret Hayns, James Knowles, Ted Simmons, Chrissy Trendall, PST Coordinator, Pam Pitts, led by the Canon Pastor. Sarah Geileskey (Priest in training) joined the team in September. The team meets monthly and oversees responses to pastoral emergencies, Holy Communion at home, Communion Services in residential homes linked to the Cathedral, hospital visits, Harvest and Christmas gifts, contact with Cathedral people in residential and care homes as well as supporting recently bereaved members of the Cathedral community. The First Tuesday Lunch group, Young Families, Mothers' Union Visitors, Remembering Together (an annual service for people affected by the death of a child of any age) report to the PST. Since June, a service of Healing & Wholeness is held in the Lady Chapel on the third Tuesday of each month at 12.30 pm; anyone is welcome to come.

In July, Canon David Crawley retired from the role of Cathedral Chaplain after more than six years' self-supporting ministry and invaluable contribution to the Cathedral community. Much of the way formal pastoral care is offered in the Cathedral is thanks to Canon Crawley's work. In the absence of another member of the clergy offering ministry in this way, the Cathedral Chaplain has not been replaced; duties have been shared between the PST.

Please contact if someone in the Cathedral community is unwell, would like a visit or is in hospital. Home Communion can be arranged. Contact Canon Matthew via the Office (01284 748720) or Pam Pitts (01284 763020) Send to pastoral@stedscathedral.org. or leave in the "Pastoral" pigeon-hole in the Cathedral Office.

PR, Marketing and Events Marie Taylor-Stent

The Head of PR role was combined with the Marketing and Events Manager role as one in August.

Events: 2017 was busy with a range of events, new partnerships and business connections that all helped to bring new and familiar faces to the Cathedral. There was a significant increase in venue hire bookings particularly high-profile 'pews out' events. Examples being regional partners such as Archant Media and Abbeycroft Leisure which created considerable PR value and, as a knock on effect, generated sale leads for many new customers and future bookings for 2018-20. 2017 saw the start of many new partnerships such as new large scale cinema screenings in the Nave, science based family activities and new ventures which have helped us reach new audiences. There was also an increase in traditional music concert style events booked. The combined effect was to bring in increased income, attracting broader visitors and supporting uplift in spend on site in Pilgrims Kitchen, Shop and Lego project. Significant challenges were working around Fabric Projects and scaffolding on site during the year.

Marketing and PR: A significant Archant media deal performed well for the cathedral with three times above the average performance on digital advertising campaigns as an example. Focusing mainly on Lego project/general Cathedral promotion as a destination and events, Christmas Fayre and the Messiah concert. There were regular and quality PR exposure drives throughout the last two quarters of 2017. These were focused on venue hire /events /tours and trips/tourism campaigns/ worship/ special projects such as The Heritage Partnership Project, Gather Youth event and tourism campaigns with "Bury St Edmunds and Beyond." There was a regular stream of day to day news stories and editorials with a wide range of media channels that all performed well and provided free very positive PR exposure.

Santiago Hayley Collard

Santiago is produced quarterly and, thanks to our advertisers who help cover the production costs, continues to be printed in full colour. Our aim is to produce varied content with something of interest for every member of the Cathedral community, whether it be information and reviews on events, interviews with staff and volunteers, thought provoking articles or simply some light humour. If anyone has any feedback on the content, or suggestions for articles, please speak to a member of the editorial team or email h.collard83@googlemail.com.

The Cathedral Shop Jane Harrison

The role of the Cathedral Shop is a varied one. As well as stocking ranges of souvenirs for visitors to the Cathedral and town, we also sell gifts and cards to local residents and resources for churches in the diocese. We offer a friendly welcome to all and advice and guidance to those who may need help selecting that special gift for a christening or confirmation. All of these tasks are carried out by our regular team of volunteers without whom we would not be able to run the shop.

As usual, last year was a busy year for the shop as we hosted a number of book signings supporting local authors as well as sourcing ranges to highlight different events held at the Cathedral. Our range of stock is always changing to reflect the seasons as well as the church calendar. Our selection of Christmas cards and decoration sold very well over the festive season. Fairtrade fortnight was marked with a display of Fairtrade items. We continued to see an increase in the sale of Easter decorations with more people choosing to decorate their homes for Easter. We also introduced a new range of fine bone china mugs, trinket boxes and thimbles all of which are edged in gold and feature our beautiful vaulted ceiling. We have had much success with our extensive range of William Morris products which we increased over the year due to its popularity.

Although last year saw difficult trading conditions for the high street we managed to achieve our target set for the year which is down to the continued support of our loyal customers and volunteers.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride Julie Grimsey

The annual Ride & Stride event took place on Saturday 9 September and was a success as a result of the efforts of so many willing volunteers. I would like to repeat my grateful thanks to each of them in this report. Ten members of the congregation participated on foot or bike; 21 people recorded 88 participants who visited the Cathedral and we contributed £505 in sponsorship. The total for the whole event raised by the charity was £145,000 - a four year record. St Edmundsbury Cathedral should benefit financially from this fund.

The 2018 event is scheduled for Saturday 8 September. The date is awkward from the point of view of encouraging participation, as members of the congregation are often on holiday in the preceding weeks. Consequently I would like to launch the project in May, raise awareness and involve more participants (walkers, riders and recorders) from as wide a spectrum as possible. It could be a team building exercise, a physical challenge and an opportunity to raise much needed income for the Cathedral, without too much effort. I will contact various Cathedral groups after Easter in order to achieve this aim. I shall also be a visual reminder in my luminous and conspicuous cycling gear...thus difficult to ignore.

Sunday Coffee Valerie Moore

We have continued to serve coffee and tea to almost 100 people every week, hopefully with a smile. Each member of the team works on four Sundays each year and we are always ready to welcome more helpers. Help with recycling more of our cups would be much appreciated.

10:10 Geoffrey House

The Peace and Justice Group became the 10:10 Group based on John 10:10 "Jesus came that they might have life and have it abundantly". Volunteers met initially under the guidance of Dean Frances to establish the compass of the group.

The brief included: Kagera, Junior Church, response to Disasters and Emergencies; advice to Chapter on budgeted missionary and charitable giving, the Environment and Climate Change, co-ordination with other groups in the Cathedral, Town, and Diocese, involvement on issues of faith in action, including awareness of, and support for, the worldwide persecuted church. Kagera and Junior Church groups continued to develop with positive ideas. Plans were introduced for collections in support of Disasters and Emergencies. Proposals for new ways of selecting charities for the Cathedral to support were approved by Chapter and procedures introduced to seek new charities for 2018 -21.

The other responsibilities have not yet been fully developed, but action will be considered if the situation demands and proposals are in hand for briefings from external specialists.

Tourist Information Point Stephen Moody

The Tourist Information Point is situated next to the Cathedral Shop and welcomes the thousands of visitors who come to Bury St Edmunds each year. A fantastic team of 35 volunteers offers a personal and friendly service to visitors and locals. We regularly receive comments on how nice it is to be able to ask questions to a human face rather than a screen!

The TIP is open seven days per week throughout the year. The team ensures that we have the current attraction leaflets, information on 'What's On' and transport timetables available. We often have to rise to the challenge of finding obscure information, hotels, bus times and sites in far flung corners of the UK... thank goodness for Google!

This last year has been extremely busy at the TIP; during the four days of the Christmas Fayre, the team had over 1300 visitors through the door wanting help and information. On an average summer week, we would deal with about 600 visitors, some of whom have discovered the town by chance and want to know more. We are also busy with coach tours and specialist groups and have many locals coming in to find out about the local attractions and events.

The new website 'Bury St Edmunds and Beyond' is up and running and offers a one stop portal for all <https://www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/> A new town map has also been produced to reflect the new branding. Tickets are sold for the Cathedral tours and Tower tours as well as the daily town tours; also a range of gifts, books and souvenirs. During the spring, the 'Hidden Gardens' tickets were available which bought in many visitors to both the TIP and shop. A friendly smile awaits visitors and locals alike at the Tourist Information Point.

Vergers Rachel Clover

2017 was a year of change for the Vergers' department. Robin Turner left the team in October and Melanie Takáč in November. Daniel Gallagher joined the team in December and the full-time position post was left open until the New Year. By the end of 2017 the team consisted of Rachel (Head Verger and Estates Manager), Ted, Ian, Andrew, Daniel and Julie. We also have our Honorary Vergers Ginny, Paul and Keith.

2017 was a busy year for the team. Straight after Easter we had to manage, for the restoration of the clerestory, the west part of the Nave having scaffold for approx. 5 months before it moved eastwards for another 4 months - finally coming down just before Christmas. It was the huge task

of cleaning the Cathedral ready for Christmas. Thank you to all who offered to come and help. This caused its own problems for the team with managing cleaning once the contractors went home on a Friday and different layouts for events. We made sure it didn't affect services and events too much. We have assisted at more than 1400 services from HM Courts of Justice to the Dean's farewell, Christmas, Easter and RAF Regiment 75th celebrations, to name a few. These are all alongside our regular pattern of services held every day such as Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and Evensong. On top of this are the different lectures, concerts, fun events and film showings which have taken place in the Cathedral. When the Cathedral is open, a vergers is on duty. The Cathedral can be open for 11 hours or 16 hours a day depending on what's on. It's been a busy year for the team. I may always seem to be rushing around and looking busy but I am always ready and willing to listen.

Visitors and Volunteers Hannah Ratcliffe

We welcomed 22 new volunteers during 2017. Changes were introduced to expand membership of the Guild of St Edmund to include volunteers in other groups including the Tourist Information Point and smaller groups, the Servers. The benefit is that each group can elect a volunteer representative/s to attend the quarterly meetings of the committee. Issues can be raised here, some taken to Chapter. The Guild is a forum for good news to be shared; links are established between the various groups. Several events were held throughout the year from the annual Guild meeting in June with a buffet provided for all volunteers to a successful St Edmund day in November. For the first time we linked in with the national Volunteers' Week which is in June; several volunteers came along for an informal social with tea and cakes.

After a great launch in September 2016, Tower Tours continued in 2017 and were the highlight of many visitors' Tripadvisor reviews. We welcomed several new members to the team last year bringing the number of Guides, both volunteers and staff, to ten. Alongside offering public tours, there were several group Tower Tours organised throughout the year. The Tourist Information Point greatly assisted in selling on the day tickets for tours.

Our LEGO build continues to grow as the first phase of height is added around the building. Volunteers enjoyed various social events in the year with the chance to meet new faces and celebrate achievement together. The team has welcomed visitors from all over the world; it is a testament to them that the project runs as well as it does with the build area open every day of the week. We look forward to the next stages of building and the continued outreach this project achieves.

Cathedral Wardens Stewart Alderman and Liz Steele

It has been another busy year for the Wardens' Team in their role of welcome to our congregation and visitors and support of our clergy and vergers at the Cathedral's usual round of Sunday services, civic services, special services and when we welcome schools and organisations, particularly throughout December. 2017 seemed to be a bumper year for weddings and, sadly, a busy one for funerals; the Wardens' Team was on duty.

There were no changes to the team in 2017 so it's been nice and stable. It changes for 2018; we thank Alan Dodds for five years' wonderful service as a Deputy Warden as he stands down. We will miss Alan's great sense of humour as well as his fruit cake and sherry at our January meeting! Alan's replacement will be announced in due course. We remain eternally grateful for the support we receive from so many people to ensure that, as Philip puts it, front of house always runs smoothly. Thank you to all those who volunteer to be sidespeople at the 10am service on Sundays and to those who act as Stewards at Choral Mattins and Sunday evensong services. Also to those who always say "yes" when we ask for help at some of the many additional services throughout the year.

We are grateful to those who do the readings and carry the offertory. There may be people out there who aren't currently being asked to do these things but who would like the opportunity. Please do speak to us about it as we would be delighted to hear from you. Well done and thank you to the Deputy Wardens Catriona Brinkley, Alan Dodds, Keith Elliott, Susie Sloane, Terry Stark and Shirley Warrington who do an amazing job week in week out.

Women's World Day of Prayer Margaret Ellis

On Friday 16 March a Women's World Day of Prayer service took place in Christ Church, Moreton Hall. Due to the inclement weather, this was two weeks later than the rest of the world. With women from all the churches in Bury we celebrated a service written by the women of Suriname on the theme: "All God's Creation is Very Good " based on Genesis 1.

Suriname is on the NE coast of South America with rain forests and large rivers; it is rich with flowers, animals and resources such as bauxite. This great wave of prayer encircles the globe starting in the east in Samoa and ending some 24 hours later in American Samoa, during which 60 languages will have been used in 170 countries and islands. With readings, songs, music and prayers the women of Suriname urged us to cherish God's gift of creation and play our part in caring for it. Each of us was invited to do one small thing to avoid waste. Money donated at this service each year goes to a wide range of projects both local and international.

Reports compiled by Forum Secretary: Pam Pitts

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 5 April 2017 at 7pm

The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral.

Canon Matthew Vernon opened the meeting with a welcome to all and a pause to recollect and remember God's presence.

Present: There were 52 members of the Cathedral community (names on file)

Apologies: There were 17 recorded (names on file)

Minutes: The Minutes of 26 April 2016 were approved as correct.

Electoral Roll officer: Thanks were extended to David Eaton who was re-appointed.

Election of one member of Chapter: Dominic Holmes was elected. Thanks were given to David Cockram who has recently served 6 years but had been on Chapter formerly as well as on the Cathedral Administrative Committee.

Election of two member of Council (2nd term): Susan Cockram and Pam Pitts were elected.

Election of Churchwardens: Stewart Alderman and Elizabeth Steele were elected.

Elected members of Forum: Thanks were given to Caroline Baker, Judy Broadway, Geoffrey House and Janet Simmons after three years on Forum.

Judy Broadway, David Brown and Geoffrey House were elected.

Vice-Chair of Forum: From the two Wardens, this year, Elizabeth Steele.

Lay and Clergy observers to Thingoe Deanery Synod for 3 years: Lorna Brook, Elizabeth Elliott, Margaret Ellis and Michael Wilde were appointed plus a member of Clergy.

Thanks were given to Paul Elkin who has stepped down.

Representatives to Churches Together: Geoff Birkby and Elizabeth Elliott were appointed. Christine Trendall has stepped down; thanks were given.

Representatives to Women's World Day of Prayer Committee: Margaret Ellis and Jane Leung. Trish Pullan has stepped down; thanks were given.

Chairman's report: Canon Matthew Vernon highlighted aspects of the previous year from May 2016 as a way of celebrating events and happenings at the Cathedral (list on file)

Staff who left were Dan Soper, Jayne Whiteman, Helen Willingham and Amanda Sturgeon.

Names of long standing members of the Cathedral community who have died in the last 12 months: Dale Stonehouse, Alexandrina MacInnes, Basil Vining, John Ottley, Anthony Garrett, Edith Batty and John Moore.

Some quotations linked to experiences of people visiting the Cathedral were noted. The final version of the Vision and Strategy document was approved by Chapter today including the new strapline: "A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk." This will be adopted for Cathedral notices and stationery. The Vision and Strategy will be printed professionally and distributed.

Finance: The audited accounts for 2016 had been available on the Cathedral website since 4 April. Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson, Finance Manager, outlined various aspects of a accounts summary distributed to the meeting (on file) including the comparison of 2015, 2016 and the 2017 budget, highlighting the operating deficit of the last few years. In the light of the financial restrictions, the 2017 budget is pragmatic in contrast to the aspirational 2016 budget. Tony Kimber, Cathedral Administrator gave details (on file) of the income streams and expenditure that did not match budget in 2016 resulting in a £227,000 operating deficit. A large legacy had enabled an aspirational budget to be set, but in the event the whole legacy was needed to cover the shortfall in income. The plan for 2017 is to adopt a managed deficit of £60,000, in 2018 a deficit of £30,000 and no deficit in 2019.

There were questions linked to the Lego project and general donations; one more payment is needed to Bright bricks. It was admitted they have been slow with modules and the Lego kits.

New ideas are needed for the Christmas Fair and meetings will be taking place, including with the Borough. The extra use of the Shop and Pilgrims' Kitchen at this time are financially vital.

It was observed that the Cathedral may be "living beyond its means." Concern was expressed that a property that had been given as a legacy was being sold. This is a property asset being converted to a cash asset to ease pressure on cash flow. The importance of the income provided by Enterprises was highlighted. Chapter was commended for providing clarity by having the courage to put the budget forward. The Lent stewardship review is underway and Gift Day on 4 June is planned. A vote on thanks was given to Mrs Elizabeth Gibson and Tony Kimber for having ensured the accounts were available for the APCM.

Reports: Thanks were given to various groups linked to the reports submitted. David Eaton had noted that there are 333 on the electoral roll. The FAC report should have said 7 May not 7 June. A reminder the annual Cathedral Friends' Day is 15 July. Valerie Moore warmly thanked all who had helped with fund-raising for Kagera. The Stewardship Recorder is now Christopher Barlow not David Spark. The "holding" Chairman of the 10:10 Group is Geoffrey House. Jacky Radford and Liz Rowlands have stepped down from compiling the welcome stewards' rota; Hannah Ratcliffe is now compiling it.

AOB: Canon Cedric Catton suggested "Embrace the Middle East" is a charity for consideration by 10:10 group. A speaker had been at a Tuesday evening lecture. Canon Philip Banks described the scaffolding due to erected after Easter for the repairs to the clerestory windows. Tony Kimber, Cathedral Administrator, is moving to be CEO at Focus 12. Thanks were given for his "energy, commitment and the turnaround of Pilgrims' Kitchen."

The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

Pam Pitts April 2017

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Wednesday 25 April 2018
at 7.00 pm in the Lecture Room, Cathedral Centre after a Eucharist at 5.30 pm.**

AGENDA

1. To note apologies for absence:
2. To approve Minutes of the APCM held on 5 April 2017
3. To appoint an Electoral Roll Officer
4. To elect one member of Chapter for January 2019
5. To elect one member of Council for November 2018
6. To elect two Churchwardens pursuant to the Churchwardens Measure 2001
7. To elect five members of Forum and appoint a vice-chair of Forum
8. To confirm lay and clergy representatives to the Deanery Synod elected for three years in 2017: Margaret Ellis Lorna Brook Elizabeth Elliott and Michael Wilde and one member of Clergy
- 9 To appoint representatives to Churches Together
- 10 To appoint two representatives to the Women's World Day of Prayer committee
- 11 To note the reports of Cathedral life as seen online – some paper copies on request
- 12 To receive a report from the Dean
- 13 Finance report 2017
- 14 AOB

The APCM 2019 will be on Tuesday 30 April (provisional date)