

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday 21 June 2018

Present: Rt Rev Graeme Knowles Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair) Canon Philip Banks Tim Allen Catriona Brinkley Canon Cedric Catton Susan Cockram David Eaton Gray Elkin Paul Elkin Margaret Ellis Richard Franklin Sherril Furnell Geoffrey House Jane Leung Pam Pitts James Knowles Louise Martin Valerie Moore Leslie Olive Barbara Pycraft Liz Steele Shirley Warrington Doreen Young Visitor: Priest in training: Sarah Geileskey Attendance List 69%

1. Apologies received: Sarah-Jane Allison Canon Chris Andrews Stewart Alderman Judy Broadway David Brown Charles Hamel-Cooke Keith Elliott Susie Sloane Terry Stark
2. The Minutes of 21 February were signed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising - Canon Catton asked for an update on more child-centred services – Canon Matthew replied that this was on hold until the autumn after the new Dean was installed.
4. Appointment of a new Secretary - Louise Martin agreed to take on the role of secretary from Pam Pitts
5. Co-opted members of Forum 2018/19 –
 - Assistant Giving Recorder: Sherril Furnell
 - Head Verger: Rachel Clover
 - Electoral Roll Officer: David Eaton
 - Pastoral Support Team Coordinator: Pam Pitts
 - Member of the Music Dept: James Thomas
 - Cathedral Administrator: Sarah-Jane Allison
6. The Acting Dean began by saying that Chapter has a clear vision and serves the Cathedral well. In his experience not all Chapters are like this! Sarah Geileskey had recently attended Chapter and could inform Forum members as to what went on in the last meeting. There is a lot still to do. Stringent control over finances has been achieved but staffing is now down to the bone. There is a huge call on the office for Ordination ceremonies this year. Finance is a major area which needs addressing and a significant challenge. We have an appalling Giving record. The Dean is the first Priest of the Diocese and therefore has the ability to speak the truth to the Bishop in love. This is a very important role which may take The Dean away from the Cathedral. Forum and the congregation are requested to be understanding in this matter. We need to make friends again in the county in order to get support back for the Cathedral.

Canon Cedric stated how much Graeme Knowles in his role as Acting Dean was appreciated by the congregation.
7. **Vision and Strategy** - Canon Matthew spoke on two topics from this report.
 - **Cathedral community events** – better publicity was required. A handout was given to members for comment. Points made included:
 - What were we trying to achieve?

- Clarity required on jargon – what does Chapter 4 or 10/10 stand for?
- Where do we put our energy? Do we have the capacity to provide what we want?
- Must have quality so be careful what we agree to produce.
- Need to focus well and pull together from all different groups.
- How and to whom we present is most important.
- Other cathedrals have colour coded themes for different events.
- County support needed & diocesan/parish audience
- Youth events eg Gather & Discovery centre not on the circulated list

Richard Franklin reported that the Ceilidh was very successful – a number of young people attended and FOCC raised £1000 – held in a wonderful setting. People delighted to attend as a social event. It did not feel like giving. Feedback very positive. He was happy to help with ideas going forward.

- **Communication** – notes were distributed to members following Chapter the previous day. Breadth of offerings. - shift to e-mail – positive – Rachel had sent information on Threads this week. Need for advance information. Vertical communication is working – but not horizontal. Hannah is updating social media and members were encouraged to use Instagram and Twitter feeds.

Focus on Santiago - currently 4 full colour issues a year with advertising covering half the costs. Issues about capacity and resourcing.

- unused copies can be wasteful – Is it value for money?
- helps to promote the Cathedral
- ability to pick up a paper copy casually – volunteers and visitors
- distribution is the key including outside of the area and appreciated by people who receive by post
- consider write up in Bury Free Press
- suggestion change to Termly editions – 3 times a year.

Matthew will feedback to Sarah-Jane

8. **Fabric & Liturgy** - Canon Philip – spoke about connection with diocese – InHarmony courses were positively received. Valerie Moore continues to organise Ordinands tea after Evensong. Support for Prisons week. Moyses Hall – recently held a Sybil Andrews exhibition and were lent the Edmund tapestry. New Threads exhibition has been advertised widely. Liturgical events such as WW1 centenary – Crimson Glory,

Fabric – existing artworks have been found and displayed in the Edmund Room. Rewiring activity in Abbey House. External redecorations at Abbey House and Abbey Precincts. Emergency lighting installed in memory of John Moore.

- a. Deanery plans – need to sweat the property assets – income generating possibilities at Anselm house, re-look at Office area, Library, Gardens at Abbey Precincts and the Deanery. Plans shown for separating off the west wing to provide a 2 bed apartment leaving a 5 bedroom Deanery. Planning application to be heard on 26th June for West Wing apartment. Potentially complete by Christmas or more realistically Easter 2019. Estimates of £40,000 were already costed in the agreed deficit budget.
- b. Equal access for Pilgrims' Kitchen – wheelchair access and two sets of glass doors to allow visibility into PK to attract customers. Oak doors to remain inside with sliding glass doors for cloister access. Costs to be recouped over 5 years' revenue payback. To go to FAC for approval. Money is there earmarked for PK and the shop within Enterprises accounts.

- c. installation of acoustic panels were planned to be placed in the ceiling between beams in PK. Assessed and costed so far at £4000. Being progressed.
9. **Giving Group** - Liz Steele to meet with new Dean early on in September with regards to Giving. Training for clergy in the Diocese has been given by the Bishops in this area. We are doing well but not good enough. Only 9 people have moved to Parish Giving so far. This is a much simpler way of giving – monthly gift aid is received by the cathedral. Does not cost us anything. Currently we have 150 Standing Orders, 9 Parish Giving, 40 envelope givers with Gift Aid – 8 envelope givers not eligible for gift aid. Contactless giving stands so far at £2775 – a success. A second giving box will be requested from Chapter. Forum asked to spread the word on Parish Giving and packs are available. Admittedly it had been a soft launch until the Dean arrives. Had been mentioned at Forum and in newsletters. You get a prompt each year for increasing giving which is helpful and Gift Aid comes automatically to the Cathedral.
10. **Finance** - Stewart Alderman reported in absentia that a deficit budget was set for 2018 – essential for work on Deanery. Upto the end of May all was as expected with collections and stewardship up from this time last year. Plans for Giving group later in the year. Enterprises are ahead of the budget. Last week was a record week for Pilgrims' Kitchen. Overall a challenging year but some positive aspects.
11. **AOB** - Canon Catton – Prayer List availability – please restore to Lady Chapel – Data Protection was a reason for removing. Surely permission is granted by requesting a prayer. Congregation members wish to pray for those on list. Canon Matthew responded – Data protection was a real issue. Permission has been sought – but sitting there open to public was not the way forward – instead a targeted list could be provided for congregation members.

Charles Hamel-Cooke in absentia asked if lights that dazzle during sermons might be switched off. Canon Matthew will follow up with Charles.

Geoffrey House reported that the 10/10 group had identified 22 nominated charities – he had responses from 15 and from that list 4 were selected locally and 1 was an international charity. Chapter had accepted BSE Town Pastors, BSE Womens Aid, Gatehouse and the Greenlight Trust. – Embrace is the international charity. All to be supported for the next 3 years.

Leslie Olive gave feedback from a lady attending an event at the Cathedral who had been bowled over by atmosphere and welcome. Liz Steele reminded everyone of the 25th August Summer Fete

The meeting closed at 09:25 pm.

Louise Martin/June 2018