

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



From the Dean

February 2019

Dear Friends,

How do we belong in the Body of Christ?

We are all beloved children of God and as Christians we hold the mystery of 'God with us' made visible in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So how do we respond to love 'so amazing, so divine'?

As we would to any invitation: we turn up, we worship, allow ourselves to be challenged, sustained, nurtured by scripture, Eucharist, community.

Perhaps we might also adopt a simple Rule of Life: time spent every day in prayer and reflection, time spent caring for other people and our world, some of our resources expended in hospitality and giving? In simple ways we can give back some of the love which has been poured out for us.

Joining the Electoral Roll is one way of expressing our membership and commitment to the Body of Christ at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Like our participation in services and the community of the cathedral, it says something about our desire to be identified with our brothers and sisters in faith. And it is an important way. But there are other ways.

Allowing ourselves to respond to God with our whole lives is a mark of our spiritual health. We recognise God's loving presence in everything that we are: 'love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all'. This includes how we allocate our resources of time, talent and money.

I hope that over the past year you have been able to feel more confident in the way the cathedral has been addressing its financial difficulties, living frugally and positioning itself for stability and growth. I am extremely grateful to all the staff and volunteers for the sacrificial way in which they have worked so hard, kept control of costs and helped to balance the books. The future looks a little better than it did, and I for one am relieved and grateful.

I know that many members of the existing Electoral Roll are also members of Planned Giving. I would like to invite everyone joining the new Electoral Roll to step up to membership of Planned Giving, ideally through the Parish Giving Scheme. If we all contribute according to our ability, the cathedral will be more stable and secure, and able to continue its mission in Suffolk and beyond.

Sometimes our financial commitment is like a subscription: the basic cost of being a member. Sometimes we contribute in order to support an important project. How often do we contribute because we want to express gratitude for what we have been given? I believe *that* is the source of giving which reflects truly who God calls us to be.

So do join the new Electoral Roll. And do join the Parish Giving Scheme. Increase your pledge if you are able and continue to give joyfully what you have decided is appropriate.

With thanks and warmest good wishes.

Dean Joe