

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



# **Annual Report 2019**

To be presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Tuesday 30 April 2019

## **Canon Philip Banks**

### **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. Our partnership with King Edward VI School has continued with Thomas Hawkes as our Organ Scholar here – and School Musician in Residence there. 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 them all, ably led by our Head Verger and Estates Manager, Rachel.

### **Cathedral Properties**

The year saw the completion of the extensive programme of cathedral repair and restoration work, made possible through the award of substantial grants from HM Government’s WW1 Cathedrals Repair Fund. Priority has been given to essential fenestration, stonework and metalwork repairs listed in the cathedral’s quinquennial. These projects have made our cathedral safe and watertight for a future generation of pilgrims, visitors and worshippers, and enables us to utilise the building for income-generating events.

The Repair and Maintenance programme for our offices (Abbey House), rental properties and clergy housing, again prioritising essentials listed in our quinquennials also continued during the year.

### **The InHarmony Music outreach project**

The work of InHarmony Music outreach, funded by the Foundation of St Edmund until 2021, continued in 2018, bringing resources and workshops to parishes, benefices and deaneries across the diocese. InHarmony, led by St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Officer Richard Hubbard, is one of the cathedral’s flagship projects which makes the essential connections between the cathedral and wider diocese and supports especially those churches which request support liturgically and musically.

### **Marking the 1918-2018 centenary of the WW1 Armistice**

The WW1 Cathedral Repair Fund grants gave us the encouragement needed to make successful grant applications to local businesses and Town and Borough councils, enabling the cathedral to put on Crimson Glory: a moving and exceptional theatrical/musical Arts event, involving some 200+ children and young people from schools and community groups across the county. The production was performed to a capacity audience in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant and many civic representatives.

‘Eve of Peace’, a diocesan/county commemoration service, marked the centenary and included military and emergency services, schools, scouting & guiding organisations: a poppy-drop during the silence (à la RAH Festival of Remembrance), a newly commissioned Remembrance anthem, young people from across the county forming a candlelit ring of light around the cathedral (symbolising hope for the future). A WW1 Cloister exhibition, involving local schools, attracted new families and children who would otherwise not come to the cathedral.

## **Eco Church Award for the Cathedral**

A Rocha UK's hugely influential Eco Church Award Scheme celebrates its third anniversary this year. The award scheme (see [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)) is for churches in England and Wales who want to show that the Gospel is also Good News for God's earth. Eco Church provide resources to help churches improve the carbon footprint of our buildings and land, and to engage with the local community. Following various energy-saving schemes here, including the complete replacement of the nave lighting with LED, the cathedral received the Eco Church Bronze Award, which is an endorsement of our 'green' aspirations and an encouragement to continue with energy-saving ideas to achieve the next award (silver) level.

## **St Edmundsbury Primary School**

Following last year's Ofsted Inspection (which reported the school to be 'Good') the school has continued to maintain high standards despite significant financial constraints being experienced here and in most schools because of inadequate government funding across the sector. Although this has added to the stresses and strains, the school still has a strong and very committed staff, led by our headteacher Shaun Valentine. Canon Philip Banks hands over the chair of the governing body to Valerie Wilde in 2019. The other current Chapter (Foundation) governors are Lesley Barlow and Fiona Knapp who all have extensive schools' experience.

## **The Ancient Library   Stephen Dart**

The Ancient Library, founded as the Parish Library of St James in 1595, is a unique collection of early printed books dating mainly from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A record 337 members of the public visited on our Open Days this year and donations have allowed us to purchase a data logger to monitor the environmental conditions more effectively and to conserve a book printed in Bury in 1761, which has a list of local subscribers. There have been 3 exhibitions in the Treasury: 'Luther'; 'Friends or Foes' (Jesuit volumes) and 'Beating the Forgers' (printers' marks). Our books featured strongly in the illustrations of David Dymond's new book *The Business of the Suffolk Parish 1558-1625* and our volume of Dionysius (Cologne, 1533) has been included in David Selwyn's *Supplement to the Library of Thomas Cranmer*.

## **Cathedral Art Group   Maureen Cunningham**

The cathedral Art Group meets every Monday morning from 10am till noon in the St Edmunds Room. We are a very friendly group of artist of all abilities with 45 members, including some from our congregation.

Last year we donated £600 (£200 each term) to the Cathedral plus £200 from our September Exhibition in the cloisters, for which we were very grateful to Sue Cockram (Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral) for use of their display stands. Also many thanks to Rachel and the Vergers for their help.

Last Christmas we contributed the £600 that we raised on our stall at the Christmas Fair from painting donated by our members.

Our members really enjoy our active workshops, some from professional artists.

Last year we visited Norwich Castle Museum, Cambridge Fitzwilliam Museum and this year Sylvia Paul's Exhibition in Colchester.

We are now looking forward to our exhibition in the Cloister from the 1st to the 14th of July. Do remember you are always welcome to pop in to see our group at work.

### **Norman Tower Bellringers Joan Garrett**

We currently have 16 full and active members due to two people stopping ringing for personal reasons and one person relocating, and 4 retired members. We have now started to train some new recruits and would welcome more recruits. If anyone is interested in learning to ring then do get in touch.

We ring every Sunday from 9.00-10.00 for morning service and practise regularly every Tuesday from 7.15 to 9.00. 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 22 quarter peals during 2018. Five peals, which take approximately three and a half hours were attempted although only 3 were successful.

One of the most memorable quarter peals of the year was with the ringers from Barnes to mark the arrival of our new Dean, Joe. Since then Joe has been a regular visitor to the Tower on Sunday mornings to say prayers with us.

We were very busy in connection with the national initiative to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on 11th November. We rang a half-muffled peal on Saturday 10 November. On Sunday we rang at the Norman Tower before visiting and ringing at several local churches that do not have enough ringers to man their bells. In the afternoon we rang a quarter peal at the Norman Tower and several of our band rang again at 7.00pm when beacons were lit across the county. In September we again welcomed over 90 visitors during Heritage Open Day.

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**

When, in the 1980's Canon Christopher Musgrave-Brown organised a team of Chaplains to greet and give pastoral care on weekdays between Easter and Michaelmas to any visitors to the Cathedral, there were more than three times the number of stipendiary clergy in the Diocese than there are today; so he had little difficulty in persuading those who were incumbents or assistant curates in the Sudbury Archdeaconry – together with some who lived further away – to spend one half-day (or even a whole day) each month as a Cathedral Chaplain. These days the (mainly lay) welcome stewards give a greeting at the main door, and we rely on mainly 'retired' clergy, readers, ministers of other denominations and Lay Canons to provide chaplaincy cover. Some of the Honorary Canons also make chaplaincy part of their contribution to the ministry of our Cathedral.

Last year a reduced number of volunteers offered chaplaincy cover for most weekdays from the start of May to the end of September; and I am hopeful that we shall be able to do so again in 2019 – although, once again, the number of people volunteering their time to serve in this capacity has reduced. I believe that it is still very worthwhile to have someone on hand to give pastoral care to any who are seeking it, and to lead brief prayers from the altar at 12 noon and 3 o'clock whilst inviting any in the cathedral at the time to observe a moment's pause for reflection and /or joining in prayer. That is what our team of Chaplains do.

## **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 hear 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 2018 were: James Knowles (practising medicine in India); Sarah Friswell (Volunteers and Visitors at King's College, Cambridge); Leslie Olive (His life in music) and the Macmillan Cancer charity. We would encourage volunteers to attend these talks and enjoy our relaxed atmosphere and friendship.

Chapter IV is grateful for all those who freely give of their time, talents and support.

## **Christian Aid David Eaton Christian Aid Coordinator**

Christian Aid is part of the Faith in Action group at the Cathedral. This helps to embeds Christian Aid directly within the mission of the Cathedral.

2018 was another good year for Christian Aid. Our great 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 street collectors raised £2,201.05 incl. Gift Aid (and including the envelope collection at the Cathedral on Christian Aid Sunday). As always, new volunteers are always most welcome for Christian Aid 2019 which is almost upon us! I do sincerely thank the 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**

This was my fifth and final Christmas Fair. Following changes introduced last year, we again inhabited the Discovery Centre and the Edmund Room only, and opened from noon on Thursday. Saturday, unsurprisingly, was by far the busiest day. The Tom-bola sold out, and most stalls did well. We were very grateful for donations of really good prizes to both the raffle and the Tom-bola. The income generated overall was slightly up on that for 2017.

Some challenges, however, remain. The need to find helpers to support 3 full days of the fair, together with the difficulty of getting in to the town, places demands on our group of volunteers. Similarly, the need to find stock for 3 days of trading is equally tough. In addition, the management of the queues for the lavatories next to PK, (on the Sunday too!) places great demands on our stewards. But it helps to create a positive approach and welcome to our visitors, from which I feel sure we benefit.

I am immensely grateful for all the hard work put in by so many people over the last five years.

## **Discovery Centre Helen Woodroffe**

It has been another very busy year welcoming 45 schools and community groups (Beavers and Cubs) to the Cathedral, working in 47 schools in the Community and supporting over 40 parishes and benefices across the Diocese. Highlights included curriculum days for Candlemas, Easter and Christmas with both Candlemas and Christmas fully booked.

A partnership project entitled 'Enlightenment' with West Suffolk College Art Department proved to be very successful and we enjoyed a vibrant Edmund Festival in November, when a wonderful banner of Edmund's Shrine was created and then exhibited in local schools.

Continuing the Growing Younger strategy for the Diocese and Cathedral, we provided training days for new clergy and lay ministers and took part in the 10 Growing in God Roadshows promoting the importance of Family Ministry. Much of the year was spent writing a framework for the pilot of the Diocesan CONNECT Family Ministry Course which started in September with 11 experienced practitioners.

Deepening school-parish links remained a priority using the Emmanuel, Pilgrim and RESPECT projects. The Emmanuel Project (R.E programme for schools) enabled us to visit numerous schools and churches delivering 2-hour workshops about key Christian concepts. The Pilgrim Project programme (SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural in schools and parishes), marking the 340th anniversary of John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' was delivered in 3 schools (Honington, Woodbridge, Felixstowe) once every half-term and we commissioned the Pilgrim Musical by Ruth Travers, culminating in a Cathedral performance in June. RESPECT 2018 held in March, attracted 3000 visitors as we continued to celebrate the spirituality of children through the creative arts.

Links with the community were strengthened at the Suffolk Show again as we worked with over 1000 children, creating the Angel of Hope which has since visited several churches, sharing messages of encouragement from all-age church groups. We also funded the production of the 'Dear Grandpa' book, a story about dealing with family bereavement.

We give thanks for all that has been accomplished and as we look to the future, we remember what Jesus did when asked 'Who, then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' and he placed the child in the middle and said 'And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me'.

## **Electoral Roll David Eaton Electoral Roll Officer**

The Electoral Roll comprises primarily the local worshipping community and who by virtue of their membership of the Roll are eligible to vote at the APCM and can stand in various church elections for the laity. Clergy are ineligible for inclusion in the Electoral Roll as they participate in clergy elections through places reserved for the clergy. Bishops participate in elections through places reserved for them.

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.

The Electoral Roll presented at the 2018 APCM had 339 names. In February 2019 the Cathedral, along with all Church of England parishes, began the preparation of its new Electoral Roll. Led by Canon Matthew, a working group was established to help with the preparation of the new Electoral Roll. The group specifically wished the new Roll to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. It is with thankfulness that nearly 100 members have joined our Roll for the first time.

The Dean has written to all members of the new Roll welcoming them and specifically inviting them to come to the APCM on 30 April 2019. At the APCM I will present the final and verified new Roll to the meeting.

It has only been possible to prepare an effective new Roll thanks to the enthusiastic support of, amongst others, Bridget Tuck, Chris Nicholls, Liz Steele, Louise Martin, Rachel Clover, Canon Matthew, Dean Joe and the Cathedral welcome team. I express my sincere and grateful thanks to them all.

### **Events Mercy Wilson**

2018 has been a year of change for events. The role has passed through different hands, with Rachel Clover taking on the role in the interim period. Despite the changes in personnel, the events programme continued successfully in 2018, with minimum disruption to the programme the Cathedral was able to offer.

The fruit of this is that organisations which have held events at the Cathedral previously are returning, and we also are gaining new partners wishing to hold events at the Cathedral. We are hoping to hold some exciting new events in 2019 which are quite unlike anything held at the Cathedral before to help the Cathedral reach new, younger and more diverse audiences in line with the Vision and Strategy.

The Cathedral is continuing to grow existing partnerships with local businesses and the local community, and is seeking to develop new relationships throughout the town by improving the services and facilities the Cathedral can provide to businesses. Another area of ongoing development is the offer of being a venue for wedding reception hire.

### **Fabric Advisory Committee Sue Cockram Secretary**

The Committee has met three times in the past year advising the Dean and Chapter on various projects which are currently in hand.

Three new members have been appointed to the FAC during the year: John Burton, Roger Wright and Canon Aiden Platten who bring various skills to the Committee.

The FAC gave permission for the new Altar frontal, Dossal and the memorial stone in the Lady Chapel to be commissioned and both were dedicated by The Right Revd. John Waine in November 2019 and look very fine. Various smaller projects were also considered by the FAC.

### **Fairtrade Julie Eaton**

The Fairtrade movement helps producers in developing countries achieve better trading conditions as well as improved social and environmental standards.

Our Cathedral Fairtrade stall is usually held on the fourth Sunday after the 10.00am service. During the last year the Fairtrade stall raised approximately £1,463.18. This figure includes supplies for our Cathedral Sunday morning refreshments and provisions for the office staff.

Janet Banks and I share the tasks of collecting stock and running the stall, keeping accounts of the figures raised by the monthly stall, and returning unsold stock along with giving the money raised to the shop.

Often the first customers to our stall are the choir, full of enthusiasm! It is always a joy to welcome

their exuberant arrival – often for a weekly treat of good quality Fairtrade chocolate.

Along with selecting chocolate for the stall, when we visit the Just Traid shop in St John's Street we look for any new stock to offer our Cathedral customers. However, the shop has experienced difficulties in sourcing stock for complex reasons in the supply chain. This unfortunately includes the popular stem-ginger biscuits. We are grateful for the forbearance of some of our loyal customers who are disappointed by this, as are we but we hope the situation will soon be rectified. Thank you for your patience.

Occasionally we do a 'double month' stall - November and December for instance - when we have a larger stall carrying extra stock. This has proved to be successful. We 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.

We appreciate the support of all our customers. Thank you.

### **Fellowship of St Edmund Philip Pitt**

The number of servers in the Cathedral team has risen this year. More younger members of the congregation have joined, and you will see them shadowing the team at 10am services as they learn the ropes before taking on responsibility for ensuring that servers continue to execute their duties in a professional manner. We efficiently support the four main Sunday services at the Cathedral, along with the additional services during Festival seasons, such as Easter and Christmas. Processional duties to support additional services on Saints' days and other important religious and civic occasions also form part of our responsibilities. Caitlin continues to manage the servers' rota effectively and other senior members of the team play their part in ensuring that members develop within the various server roles.

A highlight this year was the opportunity to accompany the Kevelaer Pilgrimage to collect the Pascal and High Altar candles. Although timings meant that only two servers were able to join the trip, it is an experience that we would recommend to anyone.

Overall, the servers remain one of the less visible groups during services. If nobody notices the servers 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 efficient support to the clergy during worship.

### **Cathedral Flower Arrangers Susan Cockram and Margaret Woolmore**

2018 was again a very busy year decorating the Cathedral for many events including the installation of our Dean; festivals, weddings and the many other services which take place.

Parishes of the Diocese have arranged flowers on several occasions, this seems to be much appreciated by the Parishes and the Cathedral certainly benefits from their many beautiful and varied designs.

Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the arrangers and our faithful waterers for all they do each week. We have said "goodbye" to Elizabeth Godfrey and Alison Dunn from our waterers and welcomed Caroline Baker and Margaret Wheeldon to that team. 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, christenings, 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. Do please get in touch!

### **Faith in Action Geoffrey House**

The 10:10 Group based on John 10:10 "Jesus came that they might have life and have it abundantly". Have experienced a challenging year in redefining its role, which was confirmed as including:

Junior Church; Kagera; Missionary and Charitable Giving; Responding to Disasters and Emergencies; Eco church, support for persecuted church abroad; co-ordination with other faith and secular groups, inclusive church and other relevant areas

Kagera and Junior Church groups continued to develop with positive ideas and the process for identifying and selecting the charities that the Cathedral would support from parish giving was taken forward and 5 Suffolk based charities were selected, for a 3 year period, along with 1 International charity.

Action in relevant areas will be considered if the situation demands and proposals are in hand for briefings from external specialists. The name of the group, 10:10, after much deliberation was changed to Faith in Action, as this was seen better to indicate that the group was concerned to represent where our faith was taking us, and would help to focus on the need for action.

### **Forum Louise Martin**

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 open the church electoral roll. The Forum may co-op unto 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 Pam Pitts retired from the post of Secretary after 6 years and Louise Martin was appointed to try and take her place (hard task !) Bishop Graeme Knowles gave his last report as Acting Dean. September's meeting welcomed Dean Joe Hawes where he outlined his five priorities of trying to bring in more Money, developing Cathedral Buildings for income generation, improving the Age profile of the Cathedral congregation, supporting Cathedral Music and building stronger relations with the Diocese. The November meeting reviewed the success of the Deanery Parties and the progress of the Cathedral Giving group as well as approving changes to the way Intercessions are used in the Cathedral. In February we met in Pilgrim's Kitchen and discussed in small groups three questions posed by the Dean - I like, I wish and I'd rather. Canon Matthew introduced the Church of England initiative - Gravetalk, which was followed by a group discussion.

Financial reports are shared at Forum and names of new staff are given throughout the year as well as information on 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 which now meets at an earlier time of 7pm in Pilgrim's Kitchen.

## **Friends of the Cathedral Choir Kathryn Mitchell**

The aims of the FOCC are:

- The advancement of the Christian religion by providing support and grants to St Edmundsbury cathedral choir;
- To promote education and training in choral singing for members of the St Edmundsbury cathedral choir by providing support and grants to the choir;
- To promote the art of choral music for the public benefit.

To meet these aims, the FOCC has organised the following fundraising events in 2018:

Quiz Night in February

The Sponsored Walk around the grounds of the National Trust property at Ickworth Park in April

The Ceilidh in the cathedral in June

The Barbecue at the end of the academic year in July

Starry Night in September

The Christmas Fair in November and the sale of the choir's CDs

In addition, drinks and cushions have been sold to concert goers at all concerts at the cathedral, and drinks sold to those attending the Bury Concert Club events. Cakes have been sold each month on Sunday mornings at the cathedral, and the 500 Club has continued to operate every month, both of which provide a regular and important contribution to our funds. These regular fundraising activities, along with the one-off events, are the nuts and bolts of what we are here to do. That said, new ideas for fundraising will always be welcome.

I wish to thank the Officers – Stephen Dart as Treasurer, Julia Gooch as Secretary and Judy Broadway as Membership Secretary, for their diligence and efficiency over the last 15 months. I also wish to thank all the committee members for their commitment and time, as well as chorister and probationer parents, friends, family, vergers, clergy, the Music department and all others who have helped support us in our aims. Thank you all for your continuing support of this committee without which our choirs would be much the poorer.

## **Friends of Cathedral Music Judy Chisman**

This year, we have once again welcomed some new members as Friends of our charity supporting choral music wherever it is played and sung.

Our members have enjoyed three National Gatherings, at Coventry Cathedral in summer 2018, then at Bangor Cathedral in the autumn. The inclement weather was balanced by the fun we had at a choral workshop given by Cathy Lamb, Director of Music from Lichfield Cathedral. Our singing must be improving as, at our most recent National Gathering centred in Newport, we were asked to sing Evensong, and we were introduced as the FCM choir which was a first! Newport showed us some spring sunshine and we enjoyed the wonderful sound of the 1858 Grey and Davidson Organ played for us in Usk Priory, before we sang later in the day at Abergavenny in the particularly splendid St Mary's Priory, sometimes known as the 'Westminster Abbey of Wales' for its many interesting tombs and medieval oak statue of Jesse. Tintern Abbey was fascinating, being the second Cistercian Monastery built in Britain, and here very few stones have been removed, only the roof, unlike our own Abbey. There is something to be said for building your Abbey in such a remote valley!

Locally our members were invited to get together one Sunday in September at St Mary le Tower church in Ipswich where a cheque for £15,000 from FCM was handed over. This donation is to be used for two chorister endowments, one boy and one girl. Several members were able to attend the morning service when the cheque was handed to Revd Canon Charles Jenkin and the Choir

Trustee, Jonathan Hunt. We were delighted at the numbers attending the choir and the enthusiasm of the singing, and pleased to hear a talk from the Director of Music, Christopher Borrett. Particular thanks to our Music staff here in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, to James and Alex for their hard work. We wish Alex well as he moves to Derby Cathedral as Director of Music, but we are delighted that an FCM National Gathering is planned for summer 2020 at Derby Cathedral. We will be delighted to meet Alex again there in his new role.

Many thanks for the work of the Lay Clerks who put in so much time, and we wish Tony Jolley a happy retirement after many years on the back row.

We are so fortunate to enjoy the variety of choirs - The Cathedral Choir, the St Edmundsbury Singers, St Cecilia Chorale and the Junior St Cecilia choir. We enjoy the many and varied quality voices.

If you feel you would like to support the work of Friends of Cathedral Music charity, do please pick up a red leaflet about our work, from the back of the cathedral, or please contact me.

### **Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral Susan Cockram Interim Director**

In May last year we enjoyed a lovely visit to the Old Charterhouse in the City of London and the Wallace Collection. Arthur and Sue Tanner took about 30 friends on a lovely holiday to Liverpool and Chester and many of us enjoyed a very interesting Church Crawl in Norfolk. We have many interesting trips organised for this holiday and hope to hold a drinks party asking Friends to bring their friends who would be interested in joining us!

I hope you all have noticed the lovely new Lady Chapel Altar Frontal and Dossal which now adorn the Lady Chapel. My thanks go to the many Friends who contributed to this. We would like to commission an Icon for the Lady Chapel and hopefully re lime the ceiling, so do please contribute to this.

I would like to thank Martin Liddle and Rachel Booth who are retiring as members of the Council and to welcome Louise Martin to the Council. My thanks go to all the Council for their help and support during the last year.

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 like to know more about the Friends do please contact me at [sue@cockram.net](mailto:sue@cockram.net) or Louise Martin (Membership Secretary) at [friends@stedscathedral.org](mailto:friends@stedscathedral.org) or pick up a leaflet from the Cathedral.

### **Cathedral Giving Liz Steele**

The Giving group met several times during the year. The main focus last year was to introduce and encourage people to transfer to the new preferred option of Parish Giving. This has been slow, but we feel it will improve as people feel more confident with the new system. Each year we are asked to raise an expected income from regular givers, and this is entered as an individual budget line in the accounts. Sadly, some of our longstanding, regular givers, have passed away or moved away. This means that we need to encourage new givers to 'take their place'.

At the end of the financial year we were almost at our expected target despite there being a reduction in giver numbers. This was because those already giving by Standing order or by Parish Giving raised their amounts. When looking at what you can afford it is important to take into account all the giving you already make, then work out 10% of your 'after tax' income. This is classed as a tithe.

We have produced 2 Giving Newsletters and we are due to release another very shortly. This will be emailed to all those on our email list.

A huge thank you to all those who are already regular givers. If you are not at present doing this and have been thinking about starting, then please ask any of the committee or myself for details.

### **Groundforce Alan McAndrew**

I think all gardeners in our Cathedral family will agree the weather we have experienced over the last 12 months has been totally unique. The atrocious weather last springtime severely hampered the restoration of the Cloister Garth area once the builders had finished their wonderful work on the roof and clerestory windows. We had temporarily removed many large plants in order to enable the builders unrestricted access to their work. We were desperate to get the plants especially the St Edmund roses out of their large temporary pots and back into their proper places once again. Finally the whole of the Cloister Garth required some serious restoration work after use by the builders and the Christmas Fair.

However, our wet-weather gear was soon discarded as we enjoyed the long hot summer sunshine that was to follow. The garden restoration work was soon completed and back to its usual condition.

We were then caught completely off-guard by the summer's long hot dry days with temperatures which forced us to only work in shady areas. This included the Deanery Garden where we were trying to make the premises look inhabited as plans for its future unfolded. The lack of rain did not help the many plants we were nurturing and then we could hardly move because of all the watering cans. All the lawns too suffered badly because of the drought and they still show scars of an exceptional summer. Sadly the extensive ornamental Box hedge of the Herb Garden has also been badly affected by the prolonged drought and will require careful attention for the next year or two.

Our annual winter's rest was over quickly as the New Year's weather soon changed to Spring – like conditions which at last, enabled us to get on with our main work of weeding, planting, pruning and clearing away all the leaves of winter. However it was soon evident we had an uninvited visitor lodging in some shrubs in the Remembrance Garden and helping himself to all the bedding plants springing into life. Once discovered Mr Muntjack was evicted from the site forthwith and new discreet mesh fencing erected to deter his return. This appears to be working. Although he did not eat the snowdrops, crocus or daffodils he must have be-quested these to his squirrel companions. They love crocuses.

Finally, just like your Groundforce Team, many garden items are getting very, very old. In particular our fence posts and trellis, fencing, benches and footpaths will need some serious T.L.C. in the near future. If the highly unusual weather conditions we have experienced over the last 12 months continues into the future, we might even have to look at different types of plants for the gardens. Look out for the first new olive tree!

## **Cathedral Guides Stephen Dart**

In addition to our standard morning tours six days a week from May to September and at Christmas, Easter and half terms, we have given monthly 'Parish Tours' and over 30 pre-booked tours.

This year we have also held very successful themed tours: Stained Glass; the American Connection; The 3 Builders and a Candlelit Tour in November. Our particular thanks to the vergers for all their help in creating this magical occasion.

At our monthly meetings we take turns to give a presentation and topics this year have been: Kneelers; The Symbolism in Church Design; 1960s Photographs of the Cathedral; Beckford Bevan & the 1860s works; John Wastell, the sixteenth century Master Mason; J T Appleby & the Rose Garden and our Stained Glass by Hardman. We also had a most enjoyable trip looking at stained glass in a number of local churches and a typically challenging quiz written by Charles Taylor in our December meeting. We wish him well with his move to East Suffolk.

We have spent some time considering the nature and timings of tours and, with the new guides who have been undergoing training during the last couple of months, we expect to offer more tours than previously this year.

## **Guild of St Edmund Geoffrey House**

The Guild of St Edmund, which supports all volunteers in the Cathedral, had a positive year in 2018. 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. Reports were presented by Geoffrey House (Chairman), Sarah-Jane Allison (Administrator: People & Policies) and Hannah Ratcliffe (Visits and Volunteers). An informative talk, explaining an aspect of volunteering, was given by Jacky Radford, who described a climb to the top of the tower. Long service awards were presented. Evensong followed in the Quire and the meeting concluded with a buffet in Pilgrims' Kitchen.

The St Edmund Day celebration on 16 November started with Eucharist in the Quire at 1pm followed by a light lunch in the Edmund Room, provided by Pilgrims' Kitchen. Dr Richard Hoggett was the speaker. His talk offered new insights on the history of the Abbey and the Heritage Partnership.

## **Home Groups Canon Christopher Andrews**

In Lent 2019 two groups have met to read through Jane Williams' Lent book "The Merciful Humility of God", one at Canon Matthew Vernon's home and one at the home of David Rees. 18 or so people have been involved.

The weekly home group has met on most Mondays through the year, apart from holiday periods, at 74 Daisy Avenue. Eleven or so people are involved including one relatively new member of the congregation. Anyone who is interested in joining or finding out more is most welcome to contact me or any other member whom they know.

Most of the time together is spent on study and discussing the chosen book or Bible passage. It is of course rewarding to get to know and trust one another as time goes on, helping to strengthen the cohesion of the cathedral congregation.

This year we have read through the first half of the Book of the Acts of Apostles with the guidance of Tom Wright's stimulating commentary in his "For Everyone" series. Apart from this book we have also had a number of Bible studies on the three readings set for the previous Sunday, prepared and led by one member of the group. Different teaching Bibles used by members also have very helpful notes to throw light on the passages we look at. Study of scripture together in a relaxed way has helped a strong sense of commitment among us.

### **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, two or three at a time. The leaders meet together once a term to review and improve their work and to plan future developments. Last year the number of children fell to a very small group, but this year numbers are slowly climbing again.

On Sunday mornings Junior Church children process with their leaders down the aisle during the first hymn, and then go to the Discovery Centre 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 before they return to their families for Communion. The adult congregation is often able to enjoy the children sharing their learning in a short Show and Tell at the end of the service.

In several Family Friendly services during the year, including Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Junior Church children and young people play a part in the liturgy by reading, leading the intercessions and taking part in other activities.

In September Junior Church children, leaders and parents greatly enjoyed a lunch party in the Vernon/Banks garden and in January fifty children, family members and friends enjoyed the Sleeping Beauty pantomime at the Theatre Royal. Oh yes they did!

### **Kagera Valerie Moore**

This year our Diocese celebrates having been linked with the Diocese of Kagera in North West Tanzania for 25 years. Over the years the link has grown stronger as visits have been made from there and to there. This year we have had visits from Bishop Darlington Bendakaha and Thomas Shavu from the Church and Community Mobilisation Programme who both undertook questions and answer sessions instead of a sermon. The Bishops' Lent Appeal this year is in support of Kagera to help young people build a better future, help subsistence farmers survive climate change and help priests motivate and lead communities out of poverty. People are always very welcome to visit there and see how hard they are working to support each other and to appreciate the blessings which we have.

### **Kevelaer Stewart Alderman**

The twenty sixth annual pilgrimage from the Cathedral to Kevelaer in Germany took place from October 17th to 22nd. This year's pilgrims were Bernadette and Philip Pitt, Susie Sloane and Keith Elliott accompanied by pilgrim leaders Lorna Brook, Geoffrey House and Stewart Alderman. The group were joined in Kevelaer by Canon Philip on the Friday.

Beautiful weather blessed the trip, warm for late October with bright sunshine and dry throughout allowing for al fresco refreshment stops along the way.

On route to Kevelaer following the overnight ferry from Harwich was a stop at the beautiful city of Utrecht, a visit to the Cathedral and coffee coincidentally at a restaurant called PK's! On arrival at Kevelaer the group settled in at the Priesterhouse adjacent to the Basilica, our home for the next few days where on Friday we would fully explore the town with its many Churches, stations of the cross, the amazing candle chapel and of course the Basilica itself.

Saturday started with a private Eucharist in the Priesterhouse Chapel before a drive to Kalkar where our contact there Guido Braam talked to us about the incredible carvings behind the alter in St Nicholas Church. Lunch by the Rhine was followed by a trip to Xanten. On Sunday we joined the congregation for the main service at the Basilica and this year Bernadette represented us by joining the procession, sitting in the sanctuary and reading one of the lessons. During the service our Paschal and Votive candles for 2019 were blessed before being carefully transported back to the cars for their journey back to the Cathedral!

Following the service we travelled to Ypres where we again attended the emotional and moving daily Menin Gate last post ceremony. On our final day we visited the Passchendaele exhibition and the Tyne Cot commonwealth war cemetery before driving to Calais for the Eurostar home.

On February 3rd at Candlemas the pilgrims presented the Kevelaer candles to the Cathedral during the 10am Eucharist.

The 2019 pilgrimage will take place from October 1st to 5th where Dean Joe will visit Kevelaer for the first time.

### **Cathedral Library Margaret Hartley**

An encouraging number renewed their membership and there was a pleasing number of new members this past year including trainee Cathedral Guides.

We still have a good selection of current periodicals but in order to save money quite a few of these are donated by members of the congregation and other people I've persuaded to pass on magazines once they have been read.

We are blessed with a small but dedicated group of volunteers who enable the library to be open at the times stated: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 4pm, Saturdays 10am to 12noon and Sundays 11.15 to 12.15 after the morning service.

Special thanks to Alan Broadway who not only oversees the rota but also produces the bi-annual Library Newsletter. The February 2019 issue is now available. The article by Stephen Dart on the Ancient Library is always interesting and this time Canon Matthew Vernon has written an article about learning from other religious traditions. Thank you to all who support the Library.

### **Mother's Union Jane Leung**

March 2018 saw the election of a new committee. Margaret Ellis remains as Chairperson, Elizabeth Nunn as Treasurer and Jane Leung as Secretary. Brian Lillistone remains Branch Chaplain.

Lady Day Service, St Andrews Church, Ipswich. Thursday 12th April 2018. A packed church greeted Lynne Tembey, World Wide President for Mothers Union, with a Service including Eucharist. Lynne arrived at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in the afternoon to present Long Service Awards.

Mothering Sunday: Was held on 11th March 2018, 10.00am St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The Mothers Union welcomed Jacqueline Griffin, officially as a Cathedral Mothers Union member. Three hundred posies were made by MU members for this service.

Twelve members of our Cathedral Mothers Union visited Kings College Chapel, Cambridge, on Tuesday 15th May 2018, for a tour at 2pm by Sarah Friswell. The tour was followed by Afternoon Tea.

Summer Strawberry Tea Party, June 2018. A very big thank you to Elizabeth Nunn for hosting this year's Summer Strawberry Tea Party. A grand total of £500 was raised.

Sea Sunday Service 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017. MU members knitted and made knitted hats, gloves and bought toiletries for the seafarers.

St Edmundsbury & Ipswich MU AGM: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Wave Of Prayer Service, 17th July 2018, 2.30pm, Lady Chapel. Service was led by Revd. Brian Lillistone.

Mary Sumner Service. 9th August 2018. A Eucharist service was held in remembrance of the Mothers Union founder, Mary Sumner. Our Mothers Union Chaplain, Canon Brian Lillistone, led the service.

Remembering Service –15th September 2018, 3pm. The service was held in the Lady Chapel. MU members provided refreshments.

Cathedral Summer Fete: 27th August 2018. Our Mothers Union stall was the Hoopla.

Prison Sunday – 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 18. Our guest speaker was Declan Moore, Governor HMP Hollesley Bay.

Seafarers Mission And 'Link Of Hope' Shoeboxes: Seafarers Hats, scarves and gloves were taken over to Felixstowe Docks by Jenny White and her husband. A very big thanks you to Jenny for covering the shoeboxes.

Cathedral Christmas Fair – NOVEMBER 2018. MU made £823.66 from the White Elephant stall.

### **Music James Thomas Director of Music**

It is quite impossible, in 300 words or fewer, to describe what the Cathedral's Choirs have been doing over the past year. That's 27 words gone already!

Cathedral Choir April tour to Portugal: Lisbon, Fatima, Coimbra and Belém. Hugely enjoyable. April: Girls' afternoon, similar to the boys' event in January, to recruit singers for the St Cecilia Juniors, which was successful. Ascension Day, jointly with St Mary's – always good to do this.

May: Bury Festival Concert. Victoria's Missa 'O Quam Gloriosum' ; also Harris, Ireland and Palestrina. Well received by a good audience. July saw the Installation of our new Dean. Joined by the choir of All Saints', Fulham, all our choirs were represented and participated.

July: end of Choir Year. Farewell to Sam Vernon, long-serving Chorister and ARSM. August: Outward Bound summer camp. Many thanks to Messrs Geileskey and Williamson for being the resident choir dads.

September: the new Choir Year began with the choir in good heart despite low numbers. Great to install Jamie Sparkes as Head Chorister. October: the annual Diocesan Choirs' Festival, in lovely but exceedingly damp Southwold. Later in October we welcomed representatives of Moreden College who have made a generous grant to the Cathedral Choir. Ashley and Tudor made the first honorary Morden Choristers.

November: Fauré's Requiem at a very moving All Souls' Eucharist. Excellent to be part of 'Crimson Glory' – our contributions were few but very telling. County Commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice, trumpeters from the Parachute Regiment and the world première of 'Before Action'. The composer was David Fawcett, winner of the Cathedral's Composition Competition, funded by the R A Vestey Memorial Fund.

December: Choristers sang with St Mary's Choristers at BBC Radio Suffolk's 'Children in Need' Carol Concert at the Apex. Annual Advent Procession which was then exported in its entirety to St Giles Cripplegate, London, as a fund-raising event for the Foundation of St Edmund. An excellent performance of Messiah and Carols by Candlelight; the service of Nine Lessons & Carols; 25th a small orchestra to accompany the Mozart Mass setting.

2019 got off to a very good start with the arrival of two new Probationers, Rhys and Abraham. Another, Harry, has also joined, bringing the numbers of Probs up to a more hopeful 5. January: The 'Be a chorister' event despite being widely advertised, attracted only 4 potential recruits, none of whom joined.

March – the choir sang for the Funeral of former Lay Clerk, Peter Wood and later in the month were joined by the choir of St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich for Evensong for H. M. Courts of Justice.

Music Staff news: The major news is the appointment of Richard Cook as the new Assistant Director of Music, and Matthew Foster as the new Organ Scholar and Musician in Residence at King Edward's Upper School, both of whom will start in September. We will wish Alex, Dora and Peter farewell on Easter Sunday as Alex takes up a new post at Derby Cathedral, and we will say thanks and farewell to our current Organ Scholar, Thomas Hawkes in July.

All of the above in addition to our usual services.

Colts Choir – really needs new recruits! Singing very well.

St Cecilia Juniors – healthy in numbers, cheerful in spirit

St Cecilia Chorale – managing very well with 17 members (6/3/3/5) – a lovely group of young people.

St Edmundsbury Singers – singing very well.

Men's Voices – providing an oasis of calm and meditation on Wednesdays.

### **Pastoral Support Team Pam Pitts**

The Pastoral Support Team (PST) oversees formal pastoral care activities in the Cathedral, for example home communions, hospital visiting, responses to pastoral cases, keeping in touch with people in residential homes and supporting those recently bereaved. Harvest gifts are collected for Tayfen House and the Storehouse food bank. Gifts at Harvest and Christmas are distributed to

housebound or elderly members of the Cathedral and these are all much appreciated.

Other pastoral activities include: First Tuesday Lunch held in the Pilgrims' Kitchen for anyone from the Cathedral community, a special Remembering Together service for those who have suffered a baby or child bereavement, Mothers' Union visitors for the housebound and a thriving Young Families' Group held in the Edmund Room on a Friday morning. A monthly Eucharist is held at Cross Penny Court, Cathedral Clergy alternating with the North Bury Team, and at The Martins and Manson House led by Cathedral Clergy or Lay Eucharistic ministers.

The PST members are Margaret Ellis, Sarah Geileskey (Ordinand), Charles Hamel-Cooke, Margaret Hayns, James Knowles, Pam Pitts, Ted Simmons, Chrissy Trendall and Canon Matthew Vernon (Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean). This year the team has been involved with "Gravetalk" led by the Hospice and had two reflective practice sessions.

We continue to recognise and value the amount of pastoral care which goes on 'unofficially' between congregation members and is an expression of our Christian concern for each other.

If someone in the Cathedral community is unwell and would like a visit either at home or in hospital, please contact Canon Matthew Vernon via the Office (01284 748720) or Pam Pitts (01284 763020) or email to [pastoral@stedscathedral.org](mailto:pastoral@stedscathedral.org) Home Communion can be arranged. Information or a request can also be left in an envelope in the "Pastoral" pigeon-hole in the Cathedral Office.

### **PR & Marketing Hannah Ratcliffe**

There are a wide variety of events and activities which require promotion throughout the year. Towards the end of 2018 we reviewed our communications and updated the newly launched Connect, eNews, which provides highlights for the month ahead.

The Cathedral has an account on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, using these platforms to share our latest news and also redirect back to our website, for further information on our news stories and events.

In 2018 we had 22 new volunteers. We had 397 new followers on Facebook, growing from 947 to 1344. Our Twitter account had 339 new followers. Instagram – doesn't seem to have a monitoring system but we gained approximately 500 followers in the year.

### **The Cathedral Shop Jane Harrison**

Last year started slowly in the Cathedral Shop and snow at the beginning of the year meant the shop had to close for a couple of days as town came to a standstill. As the weather picked up though, so did the number of customers with a good Easter and a very successful Christmas Fair and festive period, which saw our highest level of sales to date and a good profit for the year.

The Threads through Revelation exhibition which was on display in the Cathedral drew in large numbers to the shop where merchandise linked to the exhibit was sold. Although sales were good across the board a couple of ranges stood out, our selection of Eco Chic bags and Bamboo cups flew out as everyone becomes more environmentally aware and Seed bombs, a novel way of planting seeds in the garden proved an instant hit too.

Last year Sue Hollis joined our team in the position of Sales Assistant and we said goodbye to Gill

Cotterell and Margaret Holt who both decided to retire after a number of years volunteering in the shop. The shop relies heavily on our volunteers and I would like to thank them all for all they do.

### **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride Julie Grimsey**

Held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the annual event was a great success. More than double the number of people participated from the Cathedral, compared to the previous year. I would like to thank everybody who was involved in any way for their support: bike riders, mobility scooter drivers, striders with and without walking sticks, recorders, sponsors, organisers, tea and cake makers and well wishers. The participation by Thomas Shavu from Kagara, the Dawkins family who are involved with the Kagara project and the Dean made the event especially entertaining. Thomas had borrowed a bike at home to practise before he arrived in England. The two men were good sports in having a ride from The Cathedral to St Edmunds Catholic Church in the Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw. In 2 hours our group managed to visit 12 churches including 5 different denominations with the Dean in disguise in his cycling lycra and clerical collar. It was lovely to have so many diverse groups out visiting churches. One couple managed to visit 24 churches on their bikes. The striders also had a great day out in glorious weather and many churches were visited with about 80 registering at the Cathedral.

Collectively participants from the Cathedral raised £853, half of which will be credited to our funds. In 2017 we collected £505. This increase in our sponsorship is very pleasing. The whole event raised £137,028, an excellent effort, although almost £8000 less than last year. My primary aim for next year is to maintain the congregation interest level in the event, with more participants in all areas and possibly to increase the sponsorship raised.

### **Sunday Coffee Valerie Moore**

Coffee, tea and biscuits after the 10.00 a.m. is always a good way to keep up with old friends and make new ones. It also gives the opportunity to meet the preacher after the service on particular occasions. We endeavour to meet in the Pilgrims' Kitchen and in summer we spread out onto the lawn. We use the Edmund room if downstairs is booked for a function.

We are now encouraging people to be eco friendly by bringing their own Keep Cups to eliminate waste. The disposable cups are recyclable but not through our blue bins and to recycle them gives additional work to the vergers. We would also be saving the Cathedral money.

### **Tourist Information Point Stephen Moody**

The Cathedral Tourist Information Point (next to the Cathedral shop) now has a team of 30 enthusiastic volunteers who provide a warm welcome the town. We are open the same hours as the shop and have an average of 80 people per day popping in for maps, visitor guides, hotel accommodation and tours. We offer a wide range of free publications and brochures as well as a selection of Bury St Edmunds gifts, books and souvenirs to purchase.

Working with the various attractions in town, we keep up to date with what is on offer locally and work with the 'Bury and Beyond' and 'Our Bury St Edmunds' marketing teams to ensure that visitors and locals can benefit from the wealth of facilities in Bury. As well as visitor information, we also help with bus and train times, car parking, local 'What's On' information and local food and drink.

Our most asked questions are about parking, where is St Edmund buried and where is Wetherspoons! There is no such thing as a normal day as you never know what you might be dealing with next! Bury attracts visitors from across the world - we even have people in who are

tracing their ancestry and want to locate family graves!

The Tourist Information point volunteers offer a friendly smile and welcome and act as ambassadors to the town, ensuring that visitors and locals alike leave with a great impression of the town.

### **Vergers Rachel Clover**

2018 was a year of change for the Vergers' department. Having left the full-time position post open until the New Year James Stark was appointed to the vergers' team in April. The team is now complete with Rachel (Head Verger/ Estates Manager), James, Ted, Ian, Andrew, Daniel and Julie. We also have our Honorary Vergers Ginny, Paul and Keith.

2018 was another busy year. We assisted at more than 1400 services and 78 events in the Cathedral which doesn't include events held in the Edmund Room. We have all kinds of services from Easter though to Christmas Day. In 2018 we also had the RAF regiment 100th celebrations, The Dean's installation, and the Eve of Peace service to name but a few. These functions run alongside everyday services such as Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer and Evensong. On top of this were all the different lectures, concerts, fun events and film showings that took place in 2018.

We have our day-to-day tasks which include ensuring the Cathedral is secure along with helping Julie with the cleaning and tidying. We are also responsible for minor maintenance tasks e.g. ensuring floor tiles are safe, the locks work, pews are treated, floors polished etc. At times when events precede or follow on from services, we can be seen busily getting furniture in the right places. Furniture is always left ready for the first service of the next day however late an event finishes.

A verger is on duty all the time the Cathedral is open. It can be open for 11 hours or 16+ hours a day, depending on what's on.

It's been a busy year for me and my team. I may always seem to be rushing around and busy but am always ready and willing to listen!!

### **Visitors & Volunteers Hannah Ratcliffe**

The Cathedral welcomed a range of groups throughout the year, both self-guided and booked groups, ranging from U3A to specific interest groups.

Tours can also be related to a specific theme. Our most popular offering is the Tour and Cream Tea package. A team of volunteer Tour Guides deliver our group tours and also offer daily tours during the May to September season.

In addition to this, we also offered Parish Pilgrimage visits, which offered groups the opportunity to join in with a spiritual tour of the building, before attending Evensong and enjoying tea and cakes provided by The Friends of the Cathedral.

There are a wide range of opportunities and activities where volunteers support the Cathedral with their time.

In 2018 we welcomed 22 new volunteers to the Guild of St Edmund (our volunteer body).

Our volunteer demographic was broadened with the introduction of our LEGO® Build project. We have had various students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award who have participated in volunteering with us.

Throughout the year we organise two main events for our volunteering teams to come together as a group; in June where we host an annual buffet and long service awards presentation and also in

November where we organise a lunch and guest speaker.

Additionally we work with the local college and educational establishments to provide work placements for students.

### **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. 2018 seemed to be a bumper year for weddings and sadly a busy one for funerals all of which had members of the Wardens' Team on duty.

In April 2018 Alan Dodd's who had served as a Duty Warden for five years stood down. A very enjoyable thank you Alan meal was had attended by the Wardens's team, Rachel our Head Verger and Philip our Canon Precentor. Initial efforts to find a replacement for Alan were unsuccessful and so the team has operated one short since April however it is encouraging that we now have a good mix of interested people and so appointments will hopefully be made soon. There will be significant changes to the Wardens' team over the course of the next 12 months with Catriona Brinkley leaving to commence her training for ordination, along with Stewart and Liz completing their time as Cathedral Wardens' in April 2020 and similarly Keith Elliott and Shirley Warrington finishing as Deputy Wardens' also in 2020.

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 sides people at the 10am service on Sunday's and to those who act as Stewards at Choral Matins and Sunday evensong services and to those who always say yes when we ask for help at some of the many additional services throughout the year.

We are also grateful to those who do the readings and carry the offertory. We are sure that there may be people out there who aren't currently being asked to do these things but who would like the opportunity. Please, if this is you then do speak to Liz or Stewart as we would be delighted to hear from you.

And finally well done and thank you to your Deputy Wardens' (Terry Stark, Shirley Warrington, Susie Sloane, Catriona Brinkley and Keith Elliott) who do an amazing job week in week out.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer Jane Leung**

On Friday 16th March 2018 Woman's World Day of Prayer took place in Christchurch Moreton Hall. This great wave of prayer encircles the globe starting in the Far East in Samoa and ending some 36 hours later in American Samoa, during which 60 languages will have been used in 170 countries and islands.

Reports compiled by Forum Secretary: Louise Martin

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 25 April 2018 at 7pm**

The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral at 5.30 pm. Drinks and nibbles were then served in the Edmund Room by the Wardens' team.

The Acting Dean, The Rt. Rev Graeme Knowles, as Chairman began the meeting.

**Present:** There were 47 members of the Cathedral community (names on file)

**1. Apologies:** There were 23 recorded (names on file)

**2. Minutes:** The Minutes of 5 April 2017 were approved as correct and signed.

**3. Electoral Roll officer:** Thanks were extended to David Eaton who was reappointed.

**4. Election of one member of Chapter (from January 2019):** Barbara Pycraft was elected for a second term of three years.

**5. Election of one member of Council (from November 2018):** Judy Broadway was elected for a second term of three years.

**6. Election of Churchwardens:** Stewart Alderman and Elizabeth Steele were re-elected.

**7. Elected members of Forum:** Thanks were given to Owen Cox and Julie Grimsey. Gray Elkin, Paul Elkin, Charles Hamel-Cooke, Louise Martin, Leslie Olive, Doreen Young were elected. Vice-Chairman of Forum: From the two Wardens - this year, Stewart Alderman.

**8. Lay and Clergy observers to Thingoe Deanery Synod for 3 years from 2017:** Lorna Brook, Margaret Ellis and Michael Wilde plus a member of Clergy. In 2018 Elizabeth Elliott has stepped down; Catriona Brinkley was appointed for three years.

**9. Representatives to Churches Together:** Geoff Birkby and one to be decided by Forum. Elizabeth Elliott has stepped down.

**10. Representatives to Women's World Day of Prayer Committee:** Margaret Ellis and Jane Leung.

**11. The Annual Report:** The Chairman referred to the Annual Report consisting of reports from various groups at the Cathedral. This has been online from 4 April, as well as paper copies at the back of the Cathedral and in the Cathedral Office. The Finance report was online from 19 April.

Canon Philip Banks referred to the scaffolding which had been in the Cathedral before Christmas; there had been some leaks in the Cloister during repairs. Paul Elkin noted that the highest areas of the Quire still need cleaning. Thanks were given to Canon Banks for his work as Chairman of Governors at St Edmundsbury Primary School and to other Governors supporting the school.

The skills of the Norman Tower Bellringers were highlighted and a recent success. Mrs. Lesley Barlow had spent time observing at the Discovery Centre; the quality of work and organisation by the team were commended. David Eaton, Electoral Roll Officer, said there are 339 on roll.

The Friends of the Cathedral Choir are holding a sponsored walk at Ickworth Park on 28 April and a Ceilidh in the nave on 16 June; the importance of their fund-raising was stressed.

Liz Steele emphasised that preferred giving would be through the Parish Giving scheme; she had folders available. Thanks were given to Groundforce for extra work involved in maintaining the

Deanery garden; keeping the Garth tidy and planting some areas at the Cathedral are welcoming.

The importance of Home Groups is that it provides, for some, a better learning environment. Valerie Moore suggested someone may like to go to Kagera with her later in the year. A challenge was issued to make more use of the Cathedral Library as people know where it is situated. The Mothers' Union was pleased to host the world-wide President recently.

Canon Matthew Vernon paid tribute to the past work of the now retired Chaplain, Canon David Crawley. He said that awareness of pastoral needs should be passed to the Pastoral Support Team Coordinator, Pam Pitts, or to himself as Canon Pastor, Canon Philip Banks or to the Acting Dean. Bishop Graeme praised the work of the Pastoral Support Team at the Cathedral.

Thanks were conveyed for the PR, Marketing and Events' work of Marie Taylor-Stent; she has now moved to another job and the Dean's PA is moving to work for the Police. The Cathedral Shop is the first place some people come to in a Cathedral setting so a good welcome is important; thanks were given for all Staff and volunteers there. Julie Grimsey encouraged more to participate in the Historic Churches Ride and Stride in September. The Tourist Information Point is to be renamed the Visitor Information Point.

The Vergers' Team was warmly thanked for all it does behind the scenes and, in particular, for all the cleaning involved after the work on the clerestory windows finished just before Christmas. A different country prepares the service each year for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Canon Matthew Vernon highlighted the A5 sheet with updates linked to Vision and Strategy.

**12. Acting Dean's report:** Sharing some of Chapter's business, the Chairman said it had been a "bumpy year" including the outcome of the Archbishops' Commission on Cathedrals. Internally, there had been much work on the financial situation resulting in cutting staff numbers and working hours. Thanks were given to the Administrator, Sarah-Jane Allison, and the staff team for all their hard work in very difficult circumstances. There had been some sad happenings over the year including the death of David Cockram in October.

The importance of the work of volunteers was emphasised as they are used in so many roles; many gifts are put into action. Thanks were offered for all volunteers. In order to make buildings work for us, the west wing of the Deanery is going to become a separate property. The Acting Dean warmly thanked all his Chapter colleagues, lay and ordained.

In July the new Dean, Canon Joe Hawes, will come with fresh ideas. He has "a real heart for Cathedral work" and the future will be very exciting. Change will be needed which may be "painful, fun and joyous." Bishop Graeme Knowles received warm applause following his thanks for the support and friendship experienced in his current role as Acting Dean. Christopher Barlow gave thanks to Bishop Graeme. A written AOB question from Lesley and Christopher Barlow was then addressed:

*As we move on from this cost cutting exercise, it is important that the distinction between salaried staff posts and the work of volunteers does not become blurred. The contractual relationship between the Cathedral and salaried staff is quite different from volunteers. Certain roles and responsibilities need to have the discipline and the benefits of an employment contract. Will the Chapter ensure that this distinction between staff and volunteers is maintained?*

The Acting Dean noted that a distinct job description is needed for volunteers in some roles. The volunteers need to be protected and Chapter will be protected by a written document.

**13. Financial report** Mike Shallow spoke about the Financial Review document (on file) and paid tribute to working with "a great team", including the Administrator, Sarah-Jane Allison. Thanks were given to Mike Shallow for the way he has made the finances function and for his role in an advisory capacity as an observer on Chapter. There was applause in appreciation.

**14. AOB** Canon Matthew Vernon thanked the outgoing Forum Secretary, Pam Pitts, for preparing for the meetings over six years as well as compiling three Annual Reports; flowers were presented. Liz Steele gave warm thanks to Bishop Graeme for his role as Acting Dean since October and to his wife, Susan, for being alongside and supportive. Appreciation was expressed to the Wardens' team for the refreshments served earlier.

The provisional date for next year's APCM is Tuesday 30 April.

The meeting finished with prayers at 8.16 pm.

Pam Pitts/April 2018

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Tuesday 30 April 2019  
at 7.00pm in the Edmund Room, Cathedral Centre after a Eucharist at 6pm**

### **AGENDA**

1. To note apologies for absence
2. To approve Minutes of the APCM held on 25 April 2018
3. To appoint an Electoral Roll Officer
4. To elect two Churchwardens pursuant to the Churchwardens Measure 2001
5. To elect five members of Forum and appoint a vice-chair of Forum
6. To confirm lay and clergy representatives to the Deanery Synod elected for three years in 2017: Margaret Ellis Lorna Brook, Michael Wilde and Catriona Brinkley
7. To appoint representatives to Churches Together
8. To appoint two representatives to the World Day of Prayer Committee
9. To note the reports of Cathedral life as seen online - some paper copies on request
10. To receive a report from the Dean
11. Finance report 2018
12. AOB

**The APCM 2020 will be on Tuesday 28 April**