

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019

1. **Present:** Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair) Very Rev Joe Hawes Stewart Alderman Sarah-Jane Allison Margaret Bond Catriona Brinkley David Brown Canon Cedric Catton Rachel Clover Susan Cockram David Eaton Gray Elkin Charles Hamel-Cooke Jane Leung Louise Martin Valerie Moore Pam Pitts Barbara Pycraft Oscar Soons Liz Steele Doreen Young **Observing:** Sarah Geileskey
2. **Welcome to New Members & Co-options**, Matthew opened the meeting with a reading from Thessalonians and a prayer. Liz Steele was confirmed as Vice Chair of Forum. The following co-options to Forum were accepted: 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, World Day of Prayer: Mandy Alderman and Louise Martin was re-appointed as Secretary
3. **Apologies** received: Tim Allen Canon Chris Andrews Canon Philip Banks Judy Broadway Paul Elkin Keith Elliott James Knowles Leslie Olive Susie Sloane Shirley Warrington. Not in attendance : Margaret Ellis Geoffrey House
4. **The Minutes** of 27 February were signed as a correct record
5. **Matters arising – Flagstones –** Rachel confirmed the anti-slip coating had been applied. **Inclusivity -** Matthew had spoken to Lesley Barlow who has some knowledge of the area but appointing someone is still work in progress. **Community Events -** Three forms were received by Matthew who will focus on the ideas received and will liaise with Sue Cockram and Richard Franklin. **Gravetalk –** the Pastoral support team had enabled a trial to take place with the Mothers Union which had received a good response.
6. **Dean's report -** Joe updated the meeting on the "I wish" and "I'd rather" suggestions from the last meeting. **I wish - Choir School –** there is usually a dilemma between whether this can be a State rather than a Private School. It would need a large amount to fund a private choir school. King Edward VI School is Church of England Voluntary Controlled, with Joe and other Cathedral people as Governors. Conversations have started about strengthening the church school identity and culture. With regard to the **Cloister Return, Visitor Centre and the need for a Stable foundation for Cathedral finances –** all invited to meet Christine Stokes on 18th June with regard to these matters.

The Music Review Group will look at music issues raised such as **better attended Evensongs –** following a question the time of Evensong could be looked at as well as **more singing opportunities** for other voluntary choirs in Cathedral. The **Roller Blind in Pilgrim's Kitchen** is down for the meeting. **Shorter Sermons –** Sarah Geileskey has been analysing timings of recent sermons – the clergy have resolved to keep to 10 mins. **Real Coffee** on a Sunday – to be available in two weeks on 23rd June. **Clergy support –** Sarah will be our curate very soon. Our new Residentiary Canon Sally Gaze, her main work is in the Diocese, but will attend one Sunday a month and is on Chapter. Joe is speaking to the Bishops about appointing another Residentiary Canon for education. **Longer silence** before the first Hymn – already happening. **More children –** see item 7 below.

Joe then reported on his 5 a day:

Finance, Fund Raising to be looked at on 18th June with Christine Stokes. Thanks to the Electoral Roll team for their excellent work. Thanks to the Friends (following new Annual Review leaflet) and also to the FOCC and Vestey Trust. Joe explained that Suffolk in the City is aimed at Suffolk people in London, the congregation are not expected to travel down. Glass doors in Pilgrim's Kitchen – thanks to Enterprise Services for holding back £46,000 of revenue to pay for them. A major overhaul of the shop will be tackled next year. Business Group – Dominic Holmes has been working with Nick Upton & Adam Geileskey to build

relationships with local businesses who might be willing to support or sponsor the Cathedral. Possibility of a Carol service for businesses.

Parties – 23 June will include a Marquee and a Fund raising launch for non congregational contacts. A Thank you party at the Deanery for those who are part of Planned Giving will be held on the 7th July – a party for volunteers may be held separately.

Building - Joe has now moved into the West Wing of the Deanery and is delighted with the house. It has been expensive – giving Chapter a headache as to when he can move into the main Deanery, so that we can raise money from renting out the West Wing.

Relationships – Joe is only out at a parish one Sunday in the month – but even so he will look at his diary to make sure he is visible more at the Cathedral. The recent Lightwave service was very successful. Suffolk Harvest Festival is being planned as reported in previous February minutes. A question was raised about a possible focus for the Sunday morning worship on Harvest this year – to be looked at.

Music and Worship - see Sarah Geileskey's report below. The Music Review Group is underway. The Cathedrals Working Group takes up a lot of Joe's focus – but he hopes we won't be too heavily affected by some of the proposals which may not be relevant for us.

7. **Children & Young People's Ministry** – Sarah Geileskey explained that she was introducing the subject to Forum before her ordination to give her an idea of views. Other people will be approached as well. There will be visits to see how other churches approach this. She invited discussion from Forum members and ideas from the Notes issued before the meeting. Post It Notes were completed and entered onto a large roll of paper for Sarah to think about. Ideas were put forward about Fun, IT and Breakfasts amongst others.
8. **Finance** – Stewart Alderman reported on the finances as at end of May 2019 – the Deanery refurbishment cost more as we know – £51,000 debit (£15k more than we had budgeted for at this point). The Church Commissioners have given us £7500 more than we expected. He noted we £5000 up on planned giving, Visitor income is also up as well at this point. Enterprises £12,000 up at this point. Shop sales 22% up compared to last year. £7k ahead of budget. Question raised about Lego project which has now paid for all the bricks – this means all future donations are now pure profit. It was noted that Sarah Friswell joins the Cathedral staff on 1st July and Lego will be part of her remit.
9. **Giving Group and Planned Giving update** - Liz Steele reported that the budget was set at £150,000 (numbers have dipped to 184 – due to death of some members). 43 people are now signed up to Planned Giving. £5000 short of target at the moment. Cashless Giving Box - £1000 received last month – more options are being investigated eg portable giving devices. Can also be used for Sunday congregation giving.
10. **Administrator's Report** – Sarah-Jane mentioned the forthcoming Safeguarding Audit on 2-4 July. Volunteers still needed to give an hour of their time. Peer Reviews are happening on 6/7 November on Leadership, Management and Communications in Cathedrals. On the 1st October at 2pm - Bernard Donoghue, Director of ALVA will be talking about Volunteering. Sarah Friswell starts 1st July. Richard Cook starts 1st Sept. Matthew Foster also starts in September. Claire Greaves is leaving the Office and the Suffolk area to move to Wales and Thomas Hawkes will also be moving on in July.
11. **Fabric Update** – Matthew reported on the excellent Chapter chair upholstery service in the Vestry, the Glass doors are now installed as reported earlier. Question on the Anselm building – reminded of plans for the Bike Shed which is progressing – this was funded by the Summer Fete last year.
12. **AOB** - Pam Pitts noted the Churches Together Summer Celebration on 30th June. Plea for advertising – posters available at the meeting for distribution. A Gazebo is also required. Canon Cedric Catton – thanked all for cards received on his and Margaret's Diamond wedding – Charles Hamel-Cooke noted that the Pew News needed more robust proof reading. He would also like to know who the Organist is on the leaflet. Liz Steele and Stewart Alderman offered their proof reading services going forward. Majority agreed Pilgrim's Kitchen is a good venue for Forum.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Louise Martin/June 2019

Forum dates 2019: Wednesday 18 September Tuesday 12 November
2020: Wednesday 12 February Wednesday 17 June

APCM Tuesday 28 April

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings are held in Pilgrim's Kitchen at 7pm