St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk

**Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019**

1. **Present:** Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair) Very Rev Joe Hawes Canon Philip Banks Stewart Alderman Tim Allen Margaret Bond Judy Broadway Rachel Clover Susan Cockram David Eaton Gray Elkin Paul Elkin Margaret Ellis Rev Sarah Geileskey Charles Hamel-Cooke Geoffrey House James Knowles Louise Martin Valerie Moore Jane Movley Barbara Pycraft (part) Pam Pitts Oscar Soons Liz Steele Doreen Young
2. **Welcome** Matthew opened the meeting with a reading from Paul’s Letter to the Colossians Chapter 3 and a prayer.
3. **Apologies** received: Sarah-Jane Allison Canon Chris Andrews Catriona Brinkley David Brown Canon Cedric Catton Keith Elliott Jane Leung Leslie Olive Susie Sloane Terry Stark Shirley Warrington.
4. **The Minutes** of 18 September were signed following one correction to section 13 line 2 – replacing the word Rachel with Tim.
5. **Matters arising** – **Macmillan Coffee Morning** held on 24th September was a success with a total raised of £831.75. **Dementia Friendly Church** – there was a good turnout for the talk by Sue Vincent of the Alzheimer’s Society on 1st November. More people volunteered to help after the talk**. Atrial Fibrillation** – thefirst test has been successfully done by Margaret Bond. **Deputy Warden Training candidates** Stewart reported thatnext April 2020 two more deputy wardens will be needed – to be trained from Jan 2020 – Louisa Stewart and Jane Olive have been identified as suitable candidates. **20/20 update** – this was issued with the agenda and has been sent to the Diocese. The launch of **20/20** had occurred in the Cathedral Nave on 12th November with 150 in attendance and was publicised on Radio Suffolk.
6. **Dean’s report** - Joe updated the meeting on the Suffolk Harvest Festival – it was celebrated on 13th Oct – there was a noticeable increase in attendance at Songs of Praise. Financially this event broke even and donations were made to Food Banks. Forum members mentioned that we needed the TV screens at Harvest services in the future and possibly some new close-up shots for Preachers, Readers and the Choir. Also suggestions were made that it might be possible to re-site control of sound to the west end of the Nave instead of near the Vergers office. It was noted in response that a remote control for the sound system has been purchased and this may assist with sound control.

Joe then reported on his 5 a-day

**Finance:**Looking encouraging for end of 2019 with a healthy forecast. Reserves have been depleted however to facilitate the West Wing updates. We still have a job of work to do. The healthy forecast is caused by generous donations, the sponsorship scheme, 69 people migrating to parish giving and outstanding work by Enterprises while keeping tight financial control on expenditure. Chapter has still to agree the 2020 budget on 13th November but Joe is looking for a break even budget. This would include a full year of funding for the eHarmony project and a wage increase for staff. Money has also been put aside for Lay Clerks in the budget and a full year’s funding for a Youth worker alongside funding for other projects. **Christine Stokes** has been working hard on the Major Donor Panel - first meeting has taken place.

**Buildings:** Emphasis will be on the Nave – with space for worship, fund raising, young people and arts and cultural events. The idea is to extend the stone floor, improve heating and further improve the sound system. A statement of need is being prepared. The Legacy leaflet has been rolled out on 11th November.

**Children** **and Young People** –.Sarah Geileskey reported on progress in the background. She has spent time with Kim Judge and has been looking at a programme of events. Over 200 children have visited the Discovery Centre since October, and another 200 are planned to visit before Christmas. Sarah is gathering information on other Cathedral’s experiences and has already visited St Albans and will visit other Cathedrals soon. Looking at needs for young people in town as well and building relationships following discussions with the University of Suffolk. Exploring with West Suffolk Council and other interested parties about setting up a Youth Action Group – aiming to look at gaps in provision. Sarah has spent time with young families on Fridays to find out what their needs are. There will be a presentation to Forum in the New Year when Sarah has more results. The Dean and Sarah are supporting a review of the church ethos at King Edward VI School.

**Music and Worship –** Joe has been working with Archdeacon Sally gaze and others on a Benedictine rule of life for the Diocese and the Cathedral community.

1. **Sabbatical Reflections –** Philip Bankswas hugely grateful to members of staff who picked up work in his absence. He asked for reflections for 3 minutes by members on **what feeds your soul in worship** and **what challenges you**. Philip spoke about Fresh Expressions – how to reach the 95% who do not attend church regularly. He had recently visited a church in Cambridge which started with coffee, and felt like a theatre with darkened lights, a stage and an excellent worship band, dry ice (incense), good preaching, and in the midst of this worship - a Eucharist. John Bell from the Iona Community has successfully led an afternoon of worship singing recently in the Cathedral. The challenge is how to make worship attractive but not lose what is already working and good in the Cathedral. A second question for Forum members to reflect on was **how to breathe new life into ancient liturgies and music?** Philip and Sarah would welcome more feedback after the meeting on this or related topics.
2. **Hope into Action –** Geoffrey House reported that the Faith in Action (FiA) group were asked by the Dean to investigate how the Cathedral could work with Hope into Action: <https://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/> (HinA), a national (Christian) charity whose aim was to establish “one home per church per community.” There are currently some 63 partner churches and 70 houses. In Suffolk, HinA works with the charity Selig Suffolk Trust (SST) <https://selig.org.uk/> which also operates the Ipswich Night Shelter and manages 4 houses. Selig would help to find and manage properties and tenants. Meetings had been held with interested parties. Houses would be purchased, in trust, by local investors, who would be paid interest on their investment, currently 2%. Tenants would be homeless people from a variety of backgrounds and situations. The role of a partner church was explained. In addition to financial backing, support should be offered from congregation members to tenants, for example, by meeting for a coffee, or other social activity. Selig would provide training in safeguarding and management of such meetings. A paper from FiA would be presented to Chapter seeking approval to undertake further preparations for the Cathedral becoming a partner church. In addition a “lead person” should be identified to take forward Cathedral involvement, supported by FiA.
3. **Fabric Update –** Philip Banksreported that arepairs and maintenance budget is being put forward to Chapter for their approval. The Music review group is looking at lay clerk recruitment and funding a back row after retirement of existing members with an aim to encourage young people and build relationships with other senior schools like County Upper to hopefully provide a choral scholar. Also looking to discuss this with St Benedicts School and Sybil Andrews College. The Music Review Group is looking at a girls top line – Richard Cook has taken over from Polly Anderson and is recruiting for a young girls choir to complement the colts. This may all take about a year to put in place.
4. **Finance –** Stewart Alderman reported a £40,000 surplus to end this year’s budget. Over the last 18 months income has been increasing and costs have remained stable. All cost lines are meeting or exceeding their budget forecasts. Collections are the same as last year. Visitors have provided £51,500 this year. Income from candles was £14,000, Income from Tower Tours is encouraging – Lego surplus is £13,000 this year. Pilgrim’s Kitchen saw £31,000 profit this year despite taking on another member of staff. A 16% increase in profits in October has been attributed to the new glass doors in PK’s.
5. **Giving Group and Planned Giving update** - Liz Steele reported the Tap machines have provided £10,000 of additional income this year. She is now also encouraging people to review the amount they give regularly. Dan Soper has agreed to support Chris Barlow with stewardship recording. A cheer up January lunch is planned in the Cathedral Nave as a thank you to those who have signed up to the planned giving scheme.
6. **Administrator’s Report** – Joe reported in Sarah-Jane’s absence that a peer review of English cathedrals has occurred here in St Edmundsbury. A report is in preparation but overall there was a positive response. There are four new members of staff – Mark Halker (verger) Tim Vaughan (marketing), Erin Seligman (Dean’s PA) Kate Hibbert (Administrator’s PA).
7. **AOB –** Liz Steele reported as a Hospital Chapel trustee that they are looking to increase the multi faith chaplaincy team and would welcome support in this area. Margaret Ellis reported as one of the Deanery Synod representatives that Churches Together are planning a Hustings meeting for Election Day in the near future. Thanks for refreshments at the meeting were extended to Liz Steele.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm. Louise Martin/November 2019

**Forum dates 2020**: Wednesday 12 February Wednesday 17 June

APCM Thursday 23 April - Edmund Room - (note new date)

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