

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A beacon of faith, hope and love in Suffolk



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 30 April 2019 at 7pm

The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral at 6.00 pm. Drinks and nibbles were then served by the Wardens' team.

Dean Joe Hawes as Chairman began the meeting with a prayer.

Present: There were 81 members of the Cathedral community (names on file)

1. **Apologies:** There were 30 recorded (names on file)
2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 25 April 2018 were approved.
3. **Electoral Roll officer:** Thanks were extended to David Eaton who was reappointed unanimously.
4. **Election of Churchwardens:** Stewart Alderman and Elizabeth Steele were re-elected.
5. **Elected members of Forum:** Thanks were given to Richard Franklin. Margaret Bond, Sue Cockram, Jane Leung, Valerie Moore and Oscar Soons were elected. Vice-Chairman of Forum: From the two Wardens - this year, Liz Steele.
6. **Lay and Clergy observers** to Thingoe Deanery Synod for 3 years from 2017: Lorna Brook, Margaret Ellis, Michael Wilde and Catriona Brinkley plus a member of Clergy.
7. **Representatives to Churches Together:** Geoff Birkby and Pam Pitts were re-appointed.
8. **Representatives to World Day of Prayer Committee:** Jane Leung and one to be confirmed.
9. **The Annual Report:** The Chairman referred to the Annual Report consisting of reports from various groups at the Cathedral. This has been online from 15 April, as well as paper copies at the meeting and in the Cathedral Office. The Finance report was emailed to Electoral Roll members from 15 April and was online from 15 April.

Thanks to Canon Philip Banks – now on sabbatical and also thanks to fellow colleague Matthew Vernon. Thanks to servers and all those who support the Music, Prayer, Sacrament and Worship in the Cathedral. Thanks to Rachel Clover as Head of Estates and Head Verger – especially for securing the bronze Eco award on behalf of the Cathedral.

Dean Joe confirmed he would be moving into the Deanery on 23 May.

Thanks to Richard Hubbard for the InHarmony Music outreach, WWI Armistice Centenary events and the recent Palms and Thorns service. It was confirmed that Valerie Wilde was taking over as Chair of Governors of St Edmundsbury Primary School. Thanks were expressed to Stephen Dart and Margaret Statham for their work with The Ancient Library which has been awarded a grant from the Friends of the Cathedral towards book conservation.

Canon Matthew Vernon spoke about the forthcoming 2020 celebration and confirmed we would welcome some Benedictines during the event.

Thanks were expressed to the Bell Ringers – Bishop Martin had been taken up into the Norman tower during Easter Day and it was noted they rang along, with other Cathedrals, to acknowledge support for Notre Dame. Thanks were given to all Chaplains both new and returning members.

Chapter IV/Christian Aid were acknowledged with particular mention of the forthcoming service on 12 May at 5:30pm launching the Christian Aid week collection.

Special thanks to Lorna Brooks for her 5th and final Christmas Fair. Thanks to Helen Woodroffe for the last 18 years of cheerful service with the Discovery Centre. Shortlisting for Helen's replacement would take place on Thursday 2 May which would see the role being split into two.

David Eaton confirmed that the Electoral Roll had recorded an increase in numbers from 339 to 351 this year.

Dean Joe was grateful for new members of staff, mentioning Mercy Wilson the new Events coordinator working alongside Dominic Holmes and Sarah-Jane. Thanks to Sue Cockram for all her work as Friends Director and as Secretary of the Fabric Advisory Committee.

Dean Joe again thanked the Servers and noted that they are getting younger! Thanks also to Flower arrangers and to the renamed 10/10 group now known as Faith in Action.

The next Forum meeting on 12 June at 7pm in the Edmund Room was to be renamed to be a Meeting of Parishioners for that one occasion where finances will be discussed with a chance to meet Christine Stokes.

Friends of the Cathedral Choir – thanks to Kathryn Mitchell and Julia Gooch who have stood down as Chair and Secretary respectively. Terry Stark announced she was selling tickets for the Ceilidh in June.

Thanks to Liz Steele and Chris Barlow for their work on Planned Giving. Liz also thanked Chris Barlow, and David Brown who support her. We now have 41 parishioners in Planned Giving who are contributing through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Dean Joe remarked that the Groundforce team remain remarkably supple and cheerful. His thanks to Alan and his colleagues for making the grounds look so gorgeous.

More Cathedral Guides have been recruited - thanks to Stephen Dart for arranging their training. Thanks to the Friends of the Cathedral to Sue Cockram as Director and to Martin Cork the Chairman. Thanks to all 300 Guild of St Edmund volunteers.

Dean Joe remarked that we were blessed with a decent number of retired clergy who assist with services and especially to Chris Andrews for the Home Groups. Thanks to Penny Bentley and her team for the Young People groups. Valerie Moore thanked all who supported our link Diocese of Kagera.

Stewart Alderman mentioned that the Kevelaer pilgrimage had a date change from that earlier reported.

Nick Upton mentioned that there was no report from King Edward VI school – this would be rectified next year. Jane Leung spoke on behalf of the Mother's Union and thanked all members both men and women for their support and most recently for the Easter garden.

James Thomas was thanked for all the Cathedral Music and his continuing hard work – Thanks also to Alex Binns, who had recently departed for Derby Cathedral, Thomas Hawkes and Philomena Brunner. A plea for new choristers was extended to all.

Dean Joe acknowledged it was an ongoing challenge to recruit Cathedral choristers. He looked forward to working together to keep traditional music alive in our Cathedral.

The Pastoral Support team were thanked – there was a meticulous level of care and attention to detail for members who need our prayers and support.

PR and Marketing – we have said goodbye to Hannah Radcliffe but a familiar face will be returning in Sarah Friswell. We face challenging times in running the Cathedral Shop given what is happening on the high street – recently there have been excellent results from Jane Harrison and her team. A major refit on the shop is planned for next year.

Ride and Stride last year was much enjoyed by the Dean. He noted that Suffolk Churches were in dire need of restoration and need our support.

Thanks to Valerie Moore for Sunday Coffee who said she had a brilliant team to work with. The Tourist Information Point had an outstanding volunteers team. It was noted that the Vergers had recently said goodbye to Dan Gallagher and thanks were expressed to part time as well full time Vergers.

10. Dean's report: Buildings and Money are only for one purpose – to welcome people into the Kingdom of God so that hearts and minds can be renewed and refreshed. Living stones make the church. Everything else falls into context when we remember this.

Our buildings project made Dean Joe realise he needed help. The Church Commissioners have a Cathedral Sustainability Fund for staffing – so we have applied for a fund raising consultant – Christine Stokes. She is very experience and has worked with Dean Joe before and with Leicester Cathedral for the Richard III project. We need financial security and sustainability. We do have tight control of costs but still we need a strategy to increase income generation – financial rooted and grounded with buildings that are fit for purpose. Plans for the Deanery were mentioned.

The Community is founded on the sacraments – belonging in community – we welcome and grow together with more Youngsters and those who are different to us. Dean Joe stated we are a remarkably loving and welcoming community. Let us journey together. Thanks for an exhilarating first year.

11. **Financial report** Mike Shallow spoke about the Financial Review document (on file) and paid tribute to working with a great team, influenced by Dean Joe. We were lucky last year to record a £2000 surplus – the first time in some years – owing much to Dean Graeme sacrificing his salary and our not completing the Deanery this year. This will of course affect next year's finances. There are no financial reserves – we have never been a wealthy Cathedral – but we do have property which can be improved upon to secure future income streams. The value of the Cathedral is in its buildings. There is a real opportunity over the next 5 years to support the long term benefits of the Cathedral. Dean Joe noted that we are very grateful to have a volunteer Finance Director alongside the paid Finance staff.

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 much applause in appreciation.

12 **AOB** – Chris Barlow thanked the Finance team for the full set of accounts in the timescale they were given to be presented in time for the APCM. It would be helpful to have an abridged set of accounts for the financially challenged among the members. Dean Joe mentioned in reply that a new look report is planned for next year.

Dean Joe said attendance at the 10 o'clock service is very good.

Appreciation was expressed to the Wardens' team for the refreshments served earlier. A warm welcome was extended to Sarah Geileskey to be ordained as Curate at Petertide.

The date for next year's APCM is Tuesday 28 April.

The meeting finished with prayers at 8:35 pm.

Louise Martin/April 2019