

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held via Zoom on 20 October 2020 at 6pm

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

Present: There were 67 members of the Cathedral community online (names on file)

1. **Apologies:** There were no recorded apologies

2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 30 April 2019 were approved.

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

4. **Election of Churchwardens:** Grateful thanks were extended to Stewart Alderman and Liz Steele for their six years of office especially during the uniquely challenging seven months of lock down. Stewart and Liz have attended faithfully Chapter, Council and Friends meetings. Stewart remains on the Enterprises Board and Liz remains on the Giving committee. Stewart responded to the Dean's thanks saying what a privilege it had been to serve the Cathedral for those six years. The Bishop has stated that existing Wardens can continue until the end of the calendar year. The meeting unanimously agreed this was a good idea to enable smooth hand over.

Terry Stark and **Barbara Pycraft** were elected unanimously to take over with effect from 1 Jan 2021.

5. **Election of Chapter members:** An extra vacancy now exists on Chapter as Barbara Pycraft now moves to become the Wardens' representative. **Dominic Holmes** is willing to continue for a further 3 years and **Sue Hughes** has agreed to stand. Both have wide experience in business and the community. Both Sue and Dominic were elected unanimously to Chapter.

6. **Election of Council members:** Sue Cockram and Pam Pitts have served six years on Council. Thanks were expressed to both of them. **Christine Andrews** and **Catherine Cox** are willing to stand and were duly elected. Although the Council will only exist for a further three years Dean Joe stressed how important it was for Council to audit and review Cathedral Chapter holding it to account.

7. **Elected members of Forum:** Matthew Vernon gave thanks for the service of Judy Broadway, David Brown, Geoffrey House & Oscar Soons.

Alex Knock, Fiona Knapp, Alice Sheepshanks and **Sam Vernon** were unanimously elected.

8. **Lay and Clergy observers** to Thingoe Deanery Synod

Lorna Brook, Margaret Ellis, Michael Wilde and **Catriona Brinkley** continue as representatives, plus a member of Clergy. It was confirmed that new elections to the Deanery Synod would not be held until next year.

9. **Representatives to Churches Together:** **Pam Pitts** was re-appointed.

10. Representatives to World Day of Prayer Committee: Jane Leung and Mandy Alderman were re-appointed.

11. The Annual Report: The Chairman referred to the Annual Report consisting of the Finance and group reports at the Cathedral. This was emailed out in June 2020 and has been online on the Forum web page since 28 September 2020.

Families, Children and Young People – thanks were expressed to Helen Woodroffe for her work in the past year. It was noted that Helen was recently licensed as a lay minister.

David Eaton confirmed that the revised **Electoral Roll** is 346 members, which is a net decrease of five on the 2019 Electoral Roll. There were four additions and nine members died. In accordance with official Church of England Covid-19 guidance the Electoral Roll is accurate up to 1 October 2020.

3 questions were posed for the break out rooms –

1. What have we done well during lock down at the cathedral ?

Return to singing, music competitions - great job by Richard Cook, flowers, welcoming, kept safe with risk assessments, online services - allowing international guests to participate, website, creative use of technology - thanks to Rachel and with financial support from the Friends, Harvest cards, Zoom meetings, one of the first Cathedrals to open for Private Prayer and services in a safe way, Tuesday 12.30 Eucharists, kept traditions going, performance of Pilgrim's Kitchen upon re-opening so quickly, meal provision to food banks, marquee and gazebos outside PKs, weekly Clergy reflections, telephone pastoral care, improvising services from clergy homes and gardens, maintaining our financial position, junior church and Diddy Disciples

2. What could we have done better ?

Communication - technical difficulties in early days, social media could be more interactive, some shielders were unaware what was happening at the cathedral, outreach, clergy phone calls to congregation (generally rather than vulnerable), pastoral care, introductions to new clergy, introduced junior church earlier in lockdown, services coming across as performances rather than participation, seating arrangements for singles in services, started choir activities earlier, allowed private prayer during other services or events, different rules from CofE, plays the rules according to the book, does not need to go further than guidelines, kneelers back, Wednesday 1pm Eucharist seating in the round.

3. What are you longing for from the Cathedral in 2021 ?

Processions, open services on Sunday, no face coverings, welcoming people from across the dioceses, different groups, ordinations and licensing, continued working with Hope into action, bringing our own cathedral community together again, reintroducing welcome cards, shorter queues for coffee, clustering in the Cloister, congregational hymn singing, youngsters taking part again, bigger congregations, focus on sense of family togetherness, offering support and looking after each other, keeping in touch more with people on their own, communion in both kinds, opportunities for more live music eg concerts, access training for online services to be extended to those who struggle, space for cathedral groups to meet again eg mindfulness and art group, to be more creative within limitations, more frequent zoom meetings, more opportunities for being a significant voice in the county eg the recent NHS service which was excellent, Abbey 1000 events, Carols on the Garth, more clergy presence after services for a chat, bringing the best of what came before into whatever lies ahead.

12. Deans report – we had a glorious Christmas, but then lock down occurred after the Mothering Sunday service and the Cathedral was closed for worship. Dean Joe reflected on what we received from the Cathedral during this time, what do we want to hand on to our children ? The Benedictine rule identified by Rowan Williams. A place of stability. Tools in a workshop are worn smooth by use and time – what do those tools look like for us? Being present to one another, attentive, truthful to one another. Putting up with one another at worship, in the garden and in the refectory. True peace as opposed to False peace – speaking the truth from a position of love. Peacemaking – making sure we listen to the youngest and the least in the community. Being mutually accountable. staying faithful to each other. Ensuring the jagged bits are chipped away by being faithful. The continual conversion of our lives and morals. Converse with courtesy about our disagreements. we should be determined to resist anxiety. Things change and nothing remains constant. There will be profound need. The spirit of the living God continues to be at work within us. We converse Christ to one another. Provide a clear and stable way ahead by the sacraments. Good lessons we have learned from our teachers. Cathedral doors wide open to all who need us. Candle lit for NHS until the end of lockdown. Locate ourselves again in scripture. Cook for each other. Provide Food Banks, Shop for each other. Continue to be the Mother church for the diocese. Look forward to uncertain year ahead but in our company, stable and refusing to give way to anxiety, as Christ our light indwells.

Thanks were expressed from those attending for the Development of Junior church, Morning coffee chats before Church, live streaming which only occurred because of Covid-19 – looking forward to more community initiatives like this going forward. Encouragement to be bold. Prayers for expressed for Lebanon.

13. Finance Report – Sarah-Jane reported that we did forecast a deficit of £35,000 but finished with £92,000 surplus which has already been spent owing to capitalisation of two projects. Initially we thought we would have a large deficit. Actually we are looking at £4000 deficit for this year. Success with the church commissioners over funding and the furlough scheme helped plus increased planned giving. Pilgrims Kitchen has helped as well. Next year challenges will arise because our visitor income is down and we cannot plan for events. Abbey 1000 events hope to go ahead but this is still uncertain. We are currently advertising for a Director of Music. We need a Head of Learning and a Digital Communications Manager to relieve the burden on Rachel as Head Verger. All but two patrons have renewed – but we need more. Thanks to Liz Steele and Chris Barlow for their Giving Scheme work. Buildings have been mothballed which has reduced costs. Enterprises – Shop, Pilgrims Kitchen and Room rental has been helpful financially. Enterprise 2019 turnover was excellent at £500,000. The refurbishment of the shop has been well done in 2019 but will need to be continued in 2021. The shop re-opened on July 4. Pilgrim Kitchen's opening was welcomed and is very safe. Trading has been excellent and continues to build up by 20% month by month. £30,000 has been already handed back to the Cathedral in October this year. Thanks expressed to Jane Harrison for her work in the shop.

Budget setting for 2021 is challenging but we are hopeful for further Church Commission funding and grant applications. We have not been as hard hit as other Cathedrals who rely on visitor income and entry fees as we rely on the stability of planned giving, building rentals, and Enterprises which enables us to keep our financial position in a healthier position that otherwise might have been the case.

12 AOB - Dean Joe expressed his thanks to his colleagues, he welcomed Ben Edwards as the new curate and Anita Rooney as our new ordinand and he further thanked all staff. Thanks were expressed to Dean Joe for his leadership throughout this year.

The meeting finished with prayers at 19:55 pm.

Louise Martin/Oct 2020