

Minutes of the Congregational meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 29 June 2021

Present: 63 members (list of attendees on record)

1. **The Master Plan**

Dean Joe welcomed as all and said what a privilege it is to welcome 15 women and men who will begin their ordination retreat at the cathedral on Wednesday before their laying on of hands service on Saturday and Sunday. They are being called to be Priests and Deacons. Today is the Feast of Peter and Paul. Dean Joe invited us all to pray for them.

Theatre begins in Liturgy such as the Mystery cycles, Liturgy can be deadly or holy. It is holy when there is connection and understanding. Joe hopes for a holy meeting.

Without vision the people perish. Joe acknowledged the good comments and questions which were received from the APCM. Joe answered some of those questions. Wide consultation had been made. We are all going to deliver the Master Plan. Chapter meetings and staff meetings have been re-adjusted around the four main areas – Worship, Mission, Hospitality and Sustainability.

The Cathedral Learning Hub – growing younger, including younger choristers. Obedience – what does that mean ? In a Benedictine community we owe obedience to each other. We cannot achieve this Master Plan all at once. We should be a centre for creating vocations not just for ordained ministry but for lay ministry as well. Summer drop-ins – Claire Cachelin and Kim Judge are working on this. Plans for a major refit of the shop next year. Chorister recruitment is a top priority for the music department. There will be an update on the Master Plan at every Forum.

Please E-mail Erin Seligman – the Dean’s PA if you have any new ideas for the master plan.

Questions: Paul Elkin – welcomed Joe’s comments which he found uplifting. Richard Summers – will the Master Plan create a culture change across the Cathedral as a whole ? Joe hopes it will increase participation, openness and diversity. Creating an exciting place to be, belong and visit. Matthew Vernon – senior management at Cathedral are doing safeguarding training – more than just the mechanics, about the culture of organisations. Places are safe when they have open cultures that feature accountability, democracy and shared decision-making. Felicity Stemp – how are people outside the congregation going to know that we are changing – becoming more welcoming and open? Joe said it’s a stunning question and needs to be answered. Penny Bentley – Black Lives Matter march on Saturday 3 July.

3. **Worship**

Matthew Vernon introduced a discussion around “growing the congregation, especially with younger age groups”. Topics for discussion included:

The timing of Services on Sunday mornings is affected by a range of issues:

* addressing the average age of Cathedral worshippers by attracting a new generation
* a new service (in keeping with the Cathedral’s eucharistic and musical traditions) which will attract new worshippers who are not attracted to the Sung Eucharist
* a service time that suits young families and their busy schedules
* a time for the Sung Eucharist that gives space for coffee afterwards
* a location for coffee with Pilgrims’ Kitchen trading so well on Sundays
* continuing to offer a “Cathedral” style of Sung Eucharist
* preserving the Mattins tradition
* resourcing for growth amongst young families

Matthew mentioned that no decisions will be made this evening – Chapter will make the decisions and the next meeting is on 21 July. Feedback will be made after that meeting. We will not go back to a pre-pandemic pattern of worship. There is a passion for providing worship for a younger age group. The Sung Eucharist is intended for everyone, it will still be in the Cathedral tradition ie not a family service, 95% of people do not attend church so we have a lot of people we can reach out to.

Break – out groups – followed.

4. **Mission**

Michael Robinson, with Claire Cachelin, introduced a discussion about “the Cathedral as a centre for learning”. Michael Robinson thoughts

1. To build or rebuild people’s trust e.g. establishing informal ways to engage. What are the overlooked opportunities to become learning opportunities e.g. visitors. This is not a museum or a cosy club but a living community of faithful people trying to do things differently.
2. We need to be prepared to be challenged and ultimately changed. History shows us that the most profound voices are to be found on the margins. Be a centre of learning (conversation partners, bridge builders, conveners) and not a centre of knowledge so we can gently open up the riches and wisdom of our faith to this generation. Be ready to stir our curiosity and deepen our faith so that we are ready to give account.
3. Developing ourselves as a learning community is developing a shift in culture. How shall we live differently? People are curious and regard themselves as spiritual beings with an innate desire to work to the common good. Speaking into peoples’ lives begins with listening and engaging.

What are the most pressing things in society that Christians should be talking about?

What should we engage with? What event at the Cathedral would you invite your non Christian friends to? What events would stir your curiosity or energise your faith?

5. **Sustainability**

Karen Smith introduced a discussion about “promoting green practice and demonstrating a commitment to environmental action” at the Cathedral. Feedback on the draft ECO survey was invited. Karen gave a presentation on work in progress – solar panels could be installed on unseen areas of the south aisle Cathedral roof, introduce a lights out campaign, looking at Pilgrim Kitchen’s power use, ECO survey creation underway, ECO garden at Hundleby Yard, A Rocha awards (move from Bronze to Silver award).

Challenge to be carbon neutral by 2030 by the Diocese.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOy8Rcrg9lzBsNZQLiBHQMLCjvXcW4p_-5SVX9_P8iGYvKHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link>

6. Dean Joe concluded the meeting by saying that we had experienced a whistle stop tour of the Master Plan and a most engaging meeting had resulted.

The meeting finished with the Grace at 8 pm Louise Martin/Jun 2021