

# St Edmundsbury Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

## Minutes of the Forum meeting held in Pilgrim's Kitchen on Tuesday 12 October 2021

**Present:** Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair), Tim Allen, Sarah-Jane Allison, Margaret Bond, Canon Cedric Catton, Susan Cockram, David Eaton, Rev Sarah Geileskey, Fiona Knapp, James Knowles, Jane Leung, Louise Martin, Valerie Moore, Jane Olive (part), Pam Pitts, Barbara Pycraft, Anita Rooney, Alice Sheepshanks, James Stark, Margaret Steavenson, Doreen Young.

1. **Welcome:** Canon Matthew opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since 2019. He passed on Dean Joe's apologies for not being with us as he was unavoidably required at another meeting with King Edward VI school governors.

2. **Apologies:** Canon Philip Banks, Dean Joe Hawes, Sue Hughes, Alex Knock, Jane Movley, Gray Elkin, Paul Elkin, Dominic Holmes, Tim Parsons, Karen Smith, Louise Stewart, Sam Vernon

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of 20 January 2021 and 29 June 2021 held via zoom were approved and duly signed.

### 4. **Matters Arising:**

- Updates from the June **congregational meeting**, the new All Age Eucharist has been going for 3 weeks coupled with the revised time of 10:30 for the Sung Eucharist and resumption of coffee after the 10:30 service. The congregation would need reminding to bring back the hymn books after the service, and put back the kneelers afterwards. Generally it was agreed that it was good to have coffee in the Nave but perhaps in the summer we might spill out onto the Garth? More welcoming for new people to find coffee in the Nave. Sarah Geileskey had welcomed between 20 and 30 people each week for the 9am service and suggested it would be useful for Forum members to attend to see how it was going.
- **Learning Hub** – Claire Cachelin is still on maternity leave, but is due to return soon after the birth of her baby boy. School tours have returned to the Cathedral.
- **Environmental action.** Anita Rooney reported on Karen's written submission that the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the solar panels on the Lady Chapel, South Aisle, and Pilgrim's Kitchen are still being explored. The sustainable living meeting had been attended by Karen – they are getting ready to discuss the next topic following on from COP 26. The Eco-group continue to do great work with the Hundleby Yard clean-up. The Eco-survey needs more responses from the congregation. Eco Church awards, thanks were expressed to the Cathedral staff for their assistance, ideas and support. We are now building on the Bronze award already achieved and expect to be ready by the end of autumn, with only two categories left to complete, to reach the Silver Award. The Cathedral now uses recycled paper for printing, toilet paper, and recycled cups for coffee (or even better bringing our own mugs). Bees were installed on the roof

by Naomi Sturges last spring. Although the Cathedral's gas and electricity supplies are still locked in with the current provider plans are taking shape to change this in the future.

- **Hope into Action.** This charity collaborates with churches to provide a house for vulnerable people, 2 challenges, 1. Money to purchase a house, 2. Seeking a lead volunteer. Matthew and HIA representatives to meet with a potential financial sponsor in the next few days which should hopefully resolve the first challenge.

**5. Deputy Wardens** – Terry Stark reported that the new deputy wardens being proposed at Forum are Kathryn Mitchell, Robert Lant and Carole Arnold. All present were content with the suggestions. It was confirmed that the Vice Chair of Forum for 2021 will be Terry and Barbara will take this on next year.

**6. Open Forum** – there was a group discussion for 15 minutes to raise questions for the management team.

**Questions raised – The Edmund Room** – the monthly Mothers' Union and other groups (Art, Young Families etc) have identified a need for a mini kitchen – Matthew noted this is on the cathedral wish list pending available funds. **St James School** update – this was a diocesan responsibility and no news as yet. This is acknowledged to be frustrating for its slow progress. Requested that Dean Joe report back our concerns to the diocese. James Stark reported that the **Christmas Market** this year will be something new as there is nothing happening in the town apart from Santa's grotto in the Arc. There will be signage provided by the council for our event. 15 external stall holders are interested for the weekend of 25-27 November in the Nave. There will be no spill out into the Edmund room, and no requirement for tables to be hired in order to reduce costs. Stall holders are paying about £150 for a 3 day plot. Internal stalls (not charged) will be run by the Cathedral Art Goup, a Food stall by Christine Andrews and a Plant stall by Felicity Stemp. There will also be a small beer tent. Planned to have a 3pm sing along for Carols led by the Cathedral quartet. Open each day between 10-4:30pm Bakers are requested for the food stall. FOCC will also have a CD stall.

**Staff update** – Karen Smith is currently experiencing a different church tradition at St Mary's but will return back to the Cathedral. Ruby the organ scholar is not currently with us – an update will follow in due course when we know what her plans are. **Thanks** to the vergers team for all their hard work.

Can we have name badges for the new wardens? Yes - this is now feasible. Should we not all wear a name badge at the Cathedral on Sunday? Matthew to consider.

**Welcoming** at the Cathedral - should we have more information packs or information cards for new members? Can we have a list of Who's Who and of what groups are available visible in the pews. New newcomers' evenings should be reviewed. It was noted that cards are available at the back of the Cathedral which can be completed and handed into the office. Matthew to review the Welcome Pack. This enables permission for email contact to be granted. Is there a flyer for the young families service? Yes it is online on the Cathedral Website and at the back of the Cathedral.

Are there plans for honey from the Cathedral bees to be made available for sale? Currently Naomi & Chris Sturges do this, but could we market our own honey? Harvest Festival next

year will be at Trinity Park. This year's festival was more informal. Issues raised will be discussed at the forthcoming Harvest Festival mop up session.

**7. Dean's Report:** Matthew reported on behalf of the Dean that the Master Plan continues to frame our life together. **Vision and values** – various current strands of activity are connected, the management team have been part of a new national safeguarding training. Sarah Jane and Joe have attended a course on increasing ethnical diversity in Cathedrals. Training on line management has been recently given by Stewart Alderman. Jutta Brueck, Dean of the With Community at Ditchingham, has spoken on Benedictine values. Kim Judge has been leading values workshops with staff. Enabling staff to look inward in order to look outward with more confidence.

**8. Finance Update** - Sarah-Jane provided a written financial statement, which showed a forecast loss of £8k for 2021, this was better than had been originally budgeted owing to successful funding applied for by Christine Stokes. Heritage Funds of £72k and sustainability funding had been achieved for new staff. A new 2 day week development post for applying for funding will shortly be filled. **Sustainability** – during Patron tours and lunches more patrons have been recruited. **Governance** – Sarah-Jane, Matthew and Joe will be attending new cathedral measure training. The Church Commission gave money promised, up front, which has helped this year. Thanks extended to all for Parish Giving. There has been an increase and renewal of existing patrons. Visitors are down in general, but September 2021 actually exceeded September 2020 numbers. **Events** – some loss of funds despite the Beer Festival (12k received) and the planned Christmas Market. Income on commercial property is up on income due to Clopton Cottage being rented out. Cathedral property is overspent on expenditure due to repairs on 3 Crown Street. The overspend on the music and choirs budget is in a good cause as new probationers are receiving music lessons. Sanctuary Housing (above the shop) we are working on ending the lease to the mutual benefit of both parties. Enterprises are doing very well and may even exceed forecast. An insurance claim following the flood will recoup losses on the TIP Information budget. We aim to rent out part of 3 Crown Street when the electrics have been fixed. Accommodation will still be available for a verger however.

**9. Liturgy & Music:** A detailed report from Canon Philip had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Iona Eucharist led by Richard Hubbard had been marvellous.

**10. AOB** - Forum normally holds 4 meetings a year. After canvassing opinions, it was agreed to meet in January, May, Sept and November 2022. Do we need an open meeting as well? Observers are always welcome to any Forum meeting. We can always involve more people if a suitable topic arises. Dementia Friendly discussion to be held 4 November at 11:15 am in the Edmund Room, speaker will be Maggie Woodhouse.

The meeting finished with prayers at 7.55pm

Louise Martin/Oct 2021

**Forum dates 2022: Wednesday 26 January, Wednesday 11 May.**  
All at 6:30pm in Pilgrim's Kitchen.