

## **Guild of St Edmund Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 5 May 2022 at 10m**

1. LM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: JH, JdL, SH (TIP), JG, BP, AB
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 13 January 2022 were agreed and accepted. The only matters arising were that SF had spoken with TP and although the Lay Clerks and Youth Choir had been invited to join the Guild, no applications had as yet been received. The St Edmundsbury Singers all joined a year ago. SF will write to them all inviting them to attend the AGM.
4. SJA gave an update on the Chairs Appeal. 77% of the total has been raised so far and more letters have gone out this week and it is hoped to draw this appeal to a close shortly. There are some minor changes to the chair design which came following consultation and a shelf will be added on for hymn book etc. A sample of the chair is in the Sacristy should anyone wish to look.

SD asked about the floor refurbishment, SJA advised that this and other projects have been 'put back' following a reworking of finances due to the cost of rising inflation. All budgets have been reset and there is a forecast deficit of £8000 predicted for this year.

SJA spoke about the flats above the Cathedral Shop and how we are currently in negotiation to refurbish them once the remaining tenant vacates the property and then after all necessary work is carried out, this will provide 3 flats for rental and 2 bedsits for our Organ and Choral Scholar. There have been setbacks, work is due to take place on 3 Crown Street which will then be available to rent out and we are currently awaiting planning permission for the Deanery all of which will bring in income but progress is slow.

LM asked what other things have had to be put on hold, SF said that only signage and nothing too noticeable.

Chapter are in the process of agreeing the new constitution and statutes to be approved by the Church Commissioners. There will be a new Nominations Committee to recruit the right people to come on Chapter.

As part of this process we will become a registered charity which will put us in a better position to apply for funding.

5. Update from SF: We are in a positive position in terms of recruitment. There has been a 'rush' of new volunteers in the past few weeks (21 in total this year). Three new volunteers have come on board to help with the manuscripts exhibition, one new volunteer for LEGO and three new Welcome stewards, two of whom would like to be

Guides when the next training course is run. There has also been interest in volunteering for the Eco Yard project, advertising via Volunteer Suffolk.

Once again, our volunteers have come up trumps – when the cry went out for volunteers to be on duty for the manuscripts exhibition. It really only took one email and a team was formed. It is great that people are willing to be versatile with their time and talents.

It has been decided that it is time to refresh our 'look'. In the past gowns have been worn and some Welcome Stewards are wearing sashes. Guides have a special badge and chaplains tend to wear a cassock. A sub-group has met to look at options. New ideas will be brought to the Annual meeting.

6. Everyone was reminded that all volunteers need to go through the same application/induction process, no matter what role they are going to fulfil. This means that two references are required, they need to sign the Volunteer Agreement and do the Safeguarding training. There are quite a few people who have slipped through the net, so SJA and SF will be following up on this shortly (in particular, people will be asked to complete the Safeguarding training). With the migration to a new database, this is a good opportunity to get everything in order.
7. The revised Long Service awards policy was discussed. SF will prepare awards for 2022 Annual meeting.
8. It was agreed that the Guild AGM be held in the Nave at 4 pm on Tuesday 7 June. It was discussed whether to invite someone from the Hundleby Yard to talk at this. On Friday 18 November there will be a Eucharist at 1pm followed by a lunch and talk by Pat Murrell, SF to confirm.
9. Details of the Visitor survey were looked at and there are plans to do another this summer. SF has a meeting planned with JS to discuss positions of the donations box and the contactless boxes to choose the optimum place for these as they have been in their current position for six months.

SJA reported on the beautiful refit of the Cathedral Shop but with prices increasing both the shop and Pilgrims Kitchen will need to look at their margins which will result in an increase to prices. SD says the service is 'very slow' and SJA will be discussing this with staff in PK.

VM asked about collections at services. It was agreed that following the successful retiring collection on Easter Day, that we would start this on Sunday following each service. SC would arrange for a basket after the 8 am and TS would organise for the 10.30 am and 3.30 pm services with the wardens on duty.

10. Bell ringers: The Norman Tower Bellringers are very grateful for all the support and hard work given to ensure that the National 12 Bell Striking Eliminator on 26 March was so successful. In particular thanks go to JS, LW, SF and PB for contributing to all the organisation, and the extra volunteers that were on duty in the cathedral on the day. We were delighted that the Dean was available to join everyone at the end of the competition. Unfortunately, the Norman Tower team did not qualify for the final which will take place at Guildford in June, although Ipswich did qualify. The event raised about £700 for charity too. Following on from this success it is now likely that we will be invited to host a final sometime in the future. In the last few weeks, the local band has been strengthened by the addition of some experienced ringers who have moved to the area.

Welcome Stewards: For the Welcoming rota there are currently 37 volunteers on the list with a potential three coming up. What with a couple of Welcomers standing down in the last month or so it has been getting trickier to cover the full month's slots. However, with 40 we should be able to do much better. Everyone seems to like the Welcome Desk arrangement and it is nice to have a more focussed welcoming area with the leaflets and other information displayed more attractively. Some welcomers have started wearing the sashes again.

GP has extended the months there is a Chaplain to welcome (not in Jan or Feb). More are needed, numbers currently 12.

VM has recruited another person to the Sunday Morning coffee rota, she thanked JS for his help with accessing the Sacristy to produce the coffee in flasks each week and reported that it was much better in the South Aisle than using PK or upstairs in the Edmund Room.

JS said it was a 'stroke of genius' opening PK to the public on Sundays.

SC was pleased with the Easter flowers and has a new volunteer. SC reminded us of the Flower Exhibition in June to mark 1000 years of the Abbey of St Edmund.

SD had recently returned from the Choir Tour to Bath and Wells which had been very successful thanks to Tim Parsons and good support from Choir Parents.

SD reported that he had reported on the Ancient Library for three different annual reports as had some of the others.

RB said that the Gardeners were continuing to meet regularly and they would love to recruit volunteers with knowledge. Meetings have taken place with Canon Philip Banks, SF and Steve Cole recently and there was signage being put in place for the flowers.

CT was pleased with the 12 – 17 Parents plus children that come weekly and she also reported they have a new volunteer. Diddy Disciples currently join for coffee following with SG and AR.

SF advised the Lego model was at 97,000 bricks, there is a plan to have a 'Lego Event' in the summer holidays to get the numbers up to 100,000.

SJA suggested that something is put on social media to see if we can attract flower arrangers or gardeners. JS thought a link about the gardening project in the Hundleby Yard might encourage those to join the Gardeners too.

11. Matthew closed the meeting with prayers.

Date of next meeting **Thursday 15 September at 10.00 am**, no other dates confirmed.