

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

Minutes of the APCM meeting held on 25 April 2023 at 6:30pm

Dean Joe Hawes as Chairman began the meeting with a prayer. Members of Chapter and Forum were introduced to all at the meeting.

Present: There were 62 members of the Cathedral community attending (names on file)

- Apologies:** Christine Andrews, Chris Andrews, Caroline Baker, Gwen Baker, Janet Banks, Elizabeth Blasby, Keith Blasby, Alan Birt, Robert Bourne, Alan Broadway, Ann Brown, Penelope Carter, Sue Cockram, John Cytacki, Maureen Cytacki, Julie Eaton, Jenny Gough, Margaret Hayns, Christine Kreckler, Sandra Lant, Jane Leung, Frances Parr, Sally Redpath, John Robson, Liz Rowlands, Carol Rowntree, Jan Simmons, Ted Simmons, Rowena Sudbury, Valerie Wilde.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of 4 May 2022 were approved and duly signed as accurate.
- Electoral Roll officer:** Thanks were extended to David Eaton who was reappointed unanimously. David reported that the Electoral Roll has 343 members. At April 2022, the Roll had 354 members. During the year to April 2023, 16 new members were added, eight members died, six members moved away and one was ordained. During the year, the Cathedral introduced a new computer system and as a result 13 members of the Roll were identified as having moved away prior to April 2022 and so have also been removed. This gives the current membership of 343. Special thanks are due to Bridget Tuck for her assistance in preparing the revised Roll this year.
- Re-Election of Churchwardens:** **Terry Stark** and **Barbara Pycraft** were the only nominations received and were duly re-elected and greatly thanked for continuing in their roles as Churchwardens since first appointed on 1 Jan 2021.
- To elect two members of the Electoral Roll to Chapter.** **Dominic Holmes** has stood down from Chapter and **Sue Hughes** has been co-opted to continue. There were three nominations for the two non-executive positions, **Judy Broadway**, **Terry Stark** and **Barbara Pycraft** and an election was held. The three candidates were asked to introduce themselves prior to election.

Thanks were expressed for the work of Dominic Holmes on Chapter and he was applauded for his significant contribution. The non-executives must be in a majority on Chapter. Chapter must co-opt three further non-executives who will be nominated from the Nominations committee. These nominations will be subject to a skills audit for good governance.

- Lay and Clergy observers to Thingoe Deanery Synod:** Previous observers were **Lorna Brook**, **Liz Steele**, **Michael Wilde** plus a member of Clergy. Philip

Banks and the Cathedral Curate are confirmed as the clergy representatives and Lorna Brook, Liz Steele and Michael Wilde were duly re-appointed. Geoffrey House offered to stand and there was still room for one more nomination.

7. **Representatives to Churches Together: Pam Pitts and Margaret Steavenson** were thanked for their prior service and duly re-appointed.
8. **Representatives to World Day of Prayer Committee: Jane Leung and Mandy Alderman** were thanked for their prior service and duly re-appointed.
9. **Finance report 2022.** Dean Joe was pleased to introduce our Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter – Mark Pendlington. **Mark Pendlington** introduced his report by saying that he had excellent support from the finance team and the finance committee which he chairs. Thanks were expressed to all those for contributing to the Cathedral's income through planned giving, patrons, donations, legacies, events, enterprises, members of staff, FOC, FOCC fund raising and grant applications. We continue to build and grow on those special things that only we can do as a Cathedral with the aim to invest more reserves in our CCLA fund. Recognition is important at annual meetings. Our finances are in good hands. We have immense expertise at our disposal and despite budgetary pressures we can look forward with confidence to growing our mission and ministry. The main financial report was widely distributed prior to the meeting. Sarah-Jane confirmed that the full Annual Report with 2022 accounts is available on the Cathedral website. In addition, an Annual Review summary has been produced and will be emailed out after the meeting. **Stewart Alderman** reported on Enterprises that it has been an exciting year, the shop and TIP have been refurbished. Feedback from staff, volunteers and customers has been fantastic. A 30% increase in sales has been noted since re-opening after the refurbishment. Pilgrim's Kitchen and Shop together have raised in excess of £500,000 this year.

Philip Banks spoke about No 3 Crown Street which is nearly complete and should have a tenant soon, generating income. Any questions were welcomed on our property investments. Hundleby Yard has had investment this year and enables connection with the community which might in the future show dividends.

Questions were welcomed whereby one was asked about some costs incurred which Mark P explained included some staff salaries. Donations this year showed a significant increase – what was this? Sarah-Jane responded that we had received two very generous legacies which show this increase.

Dean Joe expressed huge thanks to Liz Steele and all those who give through Planned Giving.

10. **Dean's report – Tim Parsons** proud of the 20 girls and 20 boy choristers, recruited 6 vicar chorals. The Cathedral choirs visited Bath and Wells and Leipzig tours last year. Great for team building. Thanks to St Eds and Youth Choir **Catherine Rayson** 25% increase in web site views after web review. 167 pieces of online press coverage – Christmas Fayre was top, County Commemoration service for the Queen was second, followed by Abiding Wisdom. **Matthew Vernon**

reported for **Sarah Friswell**, national survey, new signage, extra volunteers. **Cressida Parsons** – thanks for raising all the targeted £150,000 amount for the chairs. 95% of patron renewals plus 12 new patrons in the year. **Kim Judge** reported on the Learning Hub, collaborated with visitor experience, learning across the cathedral – Teach Rex was a great success. Cathedral at Night and the graffiti wall, the sewing of the Edmund Banner, some children have never stitched before. Over 300 people attend the Edmund lecture 2,500 children connected this year.

James Stark reported on new vergers, platinum jubilee, commemoration services for the Queen, abiding wisdom weekend. Many concerts, the beer festival, Christmas fayre. A new summer fayre is planned as well as a silent disco in the nave.

Matthew Vernon reported on social action, Fair Trade, Kagera, The Yard (officially opened by High Sheriff recently), Warm Spaces scheme was offered in the old Library. We now have tenants in the Hope into Action house. Philip Banks thanked all those who contributed to our worship, musicians, vergers, servers. Three highlights were our connection with Ukrainian community, the Prisons service which was greatly appreciated. 9 o'clock service now into its second year. **Sarah-Jane Allison** highlighted on Constitution changes. New terms of ref, recruited nomination committee, risk audit committee and new members of Finance committee. 1st May officially a charity. Dean Joe highlighted: how promptly all staff responded to the Queen's death – cathedral open within 10 mins. Brilliant to see all the choristers bounding down the cloisters. Together on Tuesdays is just what we should be doing. Watching the Bishop's reaction to Stephen Dart and the Bury Psalter presentation. Safeguarding Sunday, nurturing 5 vocations in the cathedral. Bitter sweet joy at losing Sarah Geileskey, but also welcoming Anita Rooney in her curacy.

What are we looking forward to?

TP looking forward to a recording, **CR** new communications meeting, pew project, **SF** Suffolk saints pilgrimages, **CP** – patron recruitment, legacy campaign on 1 June. **MV** Dementia friendly environment, Eco St Eds, **JS** – continuing to work on the master plan. **PB** – 3rd royal service, commitment, service and community. **Anita R** priested on 1 July and first mass on 5 July. **MV** – cultural survey results.

Pews and Chairs – we thought we had the best application for the CFCE, but they wanted earlier involvement. They turned our application down and wanted a revised application. They did not like the leather seated chairs. Victorian Society mentioned the dark ceiling restored by Stephen Dykes Bower. Visit on 26 April to look at alternative options and colour schemes. Freemasons have been generous to the chair project. Some of the pews will be sold as they are, Rough Stuff will repurpose the remainder to make smaller pews for sale and to make use of offcuts as chopping boards, on a profit share basis. What will happen to the kneelers? Suggestions welcome. Some will be retained for use as kneelers.

The Deanery – prime responsibility to preserve the Cathedral building. The Deanery does not have to be a heritage building, and is not necessary as an asset to the Cathedral. Always a struggle to break even. Reserves are depleted, a radical step may need to be taken. To make a Grade I listed building habitable costs a lot of money. Re-wiring, removal of asbestos £860,000 estimated costs will have risen to over a

£1 million. To raise this money the rents (from Clopton Cottage) would need to be tied down for this purpose for the next 25 years. Long term viability – still being decided. All clergy housing being looked at. Must be realistic, but Chapter must make a decision. Is the Deanery the right building for us? Question – would a Cathedral Close be more beneficial to preserve for the future. Was the removal of the staircase really necessary? Feasibility study is long overdue for all clergy housing, do we need to buy a new property? Can we re-use existing property. Dean Joe asked for our prayers.

What will we look like next year? A better welcome, a more diverse and inclusive congregation, lottery application completed, hope for a royal visit, more events. Thanks to those who stood for Chapter, Barbara and Terry were elected.

AOB – Barbara thanked Joe for being our Dean and Louise for being secretary.

The meeting finished with prayers at 8.15 pm.

Louise Martin/April 2023