



Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2024

Present: Canon Matthew Vernon (Chair), S-J Allison, C Andrews, C. Arnold, P. Bentley, A. Bond, M. Bond, J. Broadway, J. Burrows, E. Burrows, S. Cockram, K. Foreman, Dean Joe Hawes, R. Lant, S. Lant, L. Martin, A. Mc Andrew, V. Moore, M. Pendlington, P. Pitts, B. Pycraft, A. Rooney, L. Rowlands, A. Shipton, D. Soper, H. Steavenson, L. Steele, R. Summers, A. Thorpe, F. Von Nasthusius, C. Walsh, S. Wates, M. Wheeldon, D. Young.

1. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Canon Matthew welcomed everyone including new members. The reading and prayer related to St Matthias' Day.

2. Vice-Chair, Secretary and Apologies

From our two Wardens, it's Terry's turn to be Vice-Chair.

Various members have declined becoming Secretary for good reasons. The search continues. Liz Rowlands has kindly agreed to minute this meeting.

Apologies: Canon Philip Banks, C. Burrows, F. Knapp, J. Knowles, J. Mansfield, A. Sheepshanks, T. Stark, M Steavenson.

Canon Matthew drew attention to the objectives of Forum in its new Terms of Reference and encouraged questions and discussion by members.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024

The Minutes were approved and signed. Final thanks were given to Louise Martin for being Forum Secretary.

4. The Dean's Report (for information and questions)

• NLHF Project briefing

Following a description and slides about the project, questions covered these points:

The Yard Project will be relocated when the new west wing of cloister is built.

Any project has to be finite with achievable fundraising goals. Future generations will develop further, including the possible completion of the cloisters.

Updating the Cathedral offices is not part of this project.

The project has a 2 year development stage and 2 year delivery stage.

Diversity is a key principle. The Chair of the new Project Board had highlighted diversity at the first meeting.

The new Welcome Centre will incorporate the Tourist Information Point, but not necessarily the café indicated on the indicative floor plan.

St Mary's Church is involved through the Heritage Partnership.

The Cathedral took on being lead partner because it was best placed to do so amongst the three lead partners (including West Suffolk Council and English Heritage) and because of the capital developments to Cathedral property within the project.

The project has spiritual and religious influence, including the story of St. Edmund and the significance of the Abbey site.

• Living in Love and Faith update

Dean Joe described his experience of the weekend spent in Leicester immediately before this meeting and the ongoing LLF process. It had been an intense weekend of conversations between representatives of the differing traditions within the Church of England. The goal is to agree arrangements that will work towards an agreed formula allows for the differing views to continue to be honoured, as with women's ministry.

• St Botolph Pilgrimage

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Canon Matthew highlighted the latest pilgrimage which the Cathedral had played a leading role in planning and leading.

- Pre-election talks

Dean Joe outlined the developing plans for the Cathedral to host talks about key issues for the forthcoming general election.

- Chapter Minutes from January meeting. Points raised included:

The County Council cuts in funding for the Arts and the relocation of Bury St Edmunds' Record office.

The change to Richard Hubbard's role in providing music development across the Diocese.

The appointment of the new Director of Music, Claudia Grinnell, arriving over the summer and starting in September.

The grant received for Noyes Fludde.

The networking meeting held between staff and members of the various new committees under the new Constitution & Statutes.

The departure of the pews and the arrival of the chairs.

Chapter undertaking to provide a third of the Diocese's commitment of £10k for the new Cathedral in Kagera. Canon Matthew and Valerie Moore have begun discussing fundraising. Bishop Martin will make his final trip to Kagera in July, accompanied by Canon Matthew, Rev Sarah & Adam Geileskey, and teenagers Phoebe Vernon, Anika Cox, Theo & Anna Geileskey.

5. Forum feedback on the APCM (for Forum views)

Sarah-Jane reported that since the APCM she had communicated with the three people who had raised detailed questions about the annual accounts at the APCM and provided the full answers that had not been possible at the APCM.

A couple of members made observations about the APCM, including that there had been too much time spent applauding.

6. Planned Giving (for information and questions)

As the new chair of the Planned Giving Group, Felix von Nathusius introduced his hopes for increasing planned giving within the Cathedral community. These were discussed. There was support from members for a regular newsletter and the suggestion of showing which Cathedral activities planned giving supports. Automated gift aid is being introduced to the contactless giving.

7. Financial Report (for information and questions)

Sarah-Jane reported that the year so far has been positive with Enterprises performing well and an increase in visitor donations. Chapter are determined to breakeven for the year and avoid drawing on very limited reserves, so the deficit budget set for the year means Chapter and staff are focussed on limiting expenditure and increasing income.

8. Safeguarding update (for information)

Sarah-Jane reported on new training about domestic abuse and a new national database.

9. Bishop Martin visit to Kagera with Cathedral reps (for information)

Already covered.

10. AOB

None

11. Forum dates 2024:

Wednesdays 3 July & 6 November - at 6:30pm in the Edmund Room

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.