

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL

Minutes of the meeting held for the Guild Committee

Thursday 8 May 2025

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer** SD welcomed everyone, in particular TS who was attending in place of RB to represent the gardening team. MV led us in prayer.
2. **Apologies:**
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2025 were approved and signed. Item 3 SF confirmed that the new name for Chapter IV will be Guild Get Together. Item 7 SF confirmed that the new Terms of Reference are now complete and will be sent out to all volunteers shortly.
4. **Cathedral Update:** SJA gave an up-date on all financial matters. The Cathedral had been a pilot in an external financial audit and the results of this audit will be available shortly. From a survey taken from all Cathedrals 50% had a deficit in 2024 and in 2025 it is forecast that 75% Cathedrals will report deficits. Sarah-Jane reported that it is hoped that our Cathedral will meet its budget this year with careful budgeting. SJA said that although Sustainability Grants are available for 2-3 years to cover staff costs, finance must be available to cover costs when the Grants come to an end. Visitor numbers and income are down this year. The Deanery will be ready for the Dean to move into early June.
MV gave a short update of the Abbey Reborn project: Fencing is being put up around the Abbey Gate, boards will be erected giving information about the Project. Archaeological digs will be taking place outside the Anselm Room in July and car parking will be suspended in that area. Various interpretation 'themes' will be discussed with the public to get an idea of what is to be displayed in the Interpretation and Visitor Centre. Fundraising is going extremely well, and the Dean is pleased with the good response.
5. **Volunteering update** SF reported that the recruitment of volunteers had slowed down recently. More Welcomers were needed. SF reported that the following had been nominated for Volunteer of the Year Award in Cathedrals: SA as an individual entry and the Gardeners Team as the team entry. The winner will be announced during National Volunteering Week 2 June.
6. **Safeguarding:** SJA reported that following the national safeguarding questionnaire the committee will meet on 27 May to discuss the results and will prepare the action plan. Two new members have joined the Committee; AT and SO. A new Chair will be appointed today at Chapter. A survey from INEQE will be carried out later this

year. The Church of England Safeguarding structure is being changed – this will take up to three years to complete!

SF asked about Pastoral support for any volunteers and the procedure to be followed. Canon Matthew outlined the following – it is possible to email the pastoral coordinator (PP) at the Cathedral or to ring a member of the Clergy. It is felt essential to ask the sick person for their agreement to give name/information. Canon Matthew requested that the following be included with these minutes “**PASTORAL SUPPORT**” If you or someone you know in the Cathedral Community would like support, please do let us know. Visits to home or hospital can be arranged, with Communion if wanted. Contact either Canon Matthew Vernon or Pam Pitts, email pastoral.coordinator@stedscathedral.org or leave a note in the Pastoral pigeonhole in the Cathedral Office.

7. Plan for Guild AGM 5 June: SF outlined the programme for this event:

Evensong 5.30 pm (at the start 12 new volunteers will welcomed into the Guild). This would be followed by a relaxed buffet-style supper in the Cathedral during which the sub-dean will speak; the long service awards would be given out and the Chair for the Guild would be nominated; several names had been put forward and been approached. Sarah explained that Louise Martin has stepped down from being Chairman earlier this year – LM was thanked for all her hard work and dedication to the Guild whilst Chairman. There will be no formal reports. SF reported that several volunteers would receive awards for 5, 15, 25 and 30 years, but this year JB and AB would receive 50-year awards.

8. Volunteer Co-ordinators’ open Forum: all reports are attached.

9. Closing Prayers: CV led us in prayer.

SD was thanked for chairing the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: 11 September 2025 at 10.00 am in The Chapter Room