



*Celebrating and reflecting God's love through
our lives, worship and music.*

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held in the Cathedral

Saturday 21st April 2018 at 9.30am

Present: 65 qualified and enrolled electors and 3 clergy under the Chairmanship of the Dean, the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall.

1. Opening Prayers, Welcome and Introduction

The Dean led the opening prayers and welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking all for their part in the work and ministry of the Cathedral.

2. "As the Father sent me, so I send you" (John 20,21) - responding to the Visitation.

The Dean gave a presentation focussing on the Visitation report (available on the Cathedral website) and the Round Table discussions. He said that in a parish church governance is firmly in the hands of the PCC and Wardens where in a cathedral it is the responsibility of a largely independent body of trustees known as the Chapter. This makes it even more important for cathedral congregations to take real responsibility for the life and mission of the congregations. He praised the work of the Volunteers' Steering Group as a model of good practice, as did the Visitation.

The Round Table Discussions which averaged 40-50 each time, centred on three headings: The Cathedral as a School for Disciples

The Cathedral as a transforming presence

The Cathedral as a building for the future.

The Cathedral as a School for Disciples: Topics discussed were Worship, Outreach, Welcome, priestly presence in the Cathedral, Courses / Teaching, Development of current activities, Outreach within existing Cathedral events, Outreach with Universities, Web outreach.

The Cathedral as a transforming presence: Meeting city needs, Ministry, Improving public knowledge, Cathedral role.

The Cathedral - a building for the future: Investment in buildings - finding or creating space for outreach and ministry, Investment in people, Investment in infrastructure, Investment in growth.

Conclusions: The church is here to be a mission centre of the Kingdom of God. The four themes which have guided Chapter's work over the last three years and which frame our communal life are

The Cathedral as an outward facing community

The Cathedral as the church of the Bishop

The Cathedral as a community shaped by worship

The Cathedral as a public space for everyone.

At the heart of this is St John's Gospel: **As the Father sent me, so I send you.** (John 20 v 21).

3.1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from 21 members of the congregation.

3.2 Minutes of the meeting on 29th April 2017

The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as being a correct record.

3.3 Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3.4 Report on the Electoral Roll

Mrs Jackie Dryhurst reported, in rhyme, that there are now 446 members of the Electoral Roll including 36 resident in the parish, increased from 436 in 2017

3.5 Election of 2 Church Wardens to serve for three years

There were two nominations: Maureen Benson and Elizabeth Marshall. There being no further nominations they were both elected to the office of Warden. The current Statutes and Constitution allow for one Warden or former Warden to sit on Chapter. It is intended that both should be ex officio, one as a member of Chapter and one in attendance. Elizabeth Marshall was elected to Chapter with Maureen Benson in attendance.

3.6 Appointment of Sidespersons

Miles Girdlestone, Dan Glading, Jean Glading, Bobby Harrington, Tony Harrington, Rosalie Ritson, Norman Sharpe and James Tyrrell were appointed as Sidespersons

3.7 FINANCE REPORT

Caroline Robinson, Treasurer, reported on the Cathedral Finances. She said the year had begun with a budget set with a small operating deficit, but had ended with a surplus of £162,579 across all funds. Several things had contributed to this: congregational activities, one of the houses being let commercially, staff

vacancies saving on salaries and extra funds from the Church Commissioners for the period of the vacancy following Father Simon's death.

Congregational giving amounted to £175,500 and there were 3 legacies. Anglia Ruskin graduations had returned to the Cathedral. The Song School roof had been replaced, fully funded from the World War 1 Cathedrals Restoration Fund and Listed Places of Worship Scheme. Caroline commended the Planned Giving Scheme either by numbered envelopes or Standing order, as it is tax efficient, supports worship, children's and youth work, utility bills and charitable giving. 5% of congregational giving goes to 5 charities. There will be a stewardship campaign in the autumn of this year.

Caroline concluded by thanking the Finance Committee and the Wardens for counting and banking the collections. The Annual Accounts will go to Chapter for approval at their next meeting and their availability will be announced in the newsheet.

3.8 Receive written reports on activities of organisations attached to the Cathedral, maintenance of the Cathedral and the proceedings of Chelmsford North Deanery Synod.

Thanks were expressed to Clare Broome for compiling the report of the organisations. The Dean said it is a report of which to be proud and reflects the life of the Cathedral.

6. Date of next meeting

Saturday 27th April 2019 at 9.30 am. Refreshments available from 9am

Elizabeth Marshall, Clerk to the Annual Meeting.

17.5.18