



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

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held in the Cathedral

Saturday 18th April 2015 at 9.30am

Present: 124 qualified and enrolled electors and 4 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.

2.1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from 34 members of the congregation.

2.2 Minutes of the meeting on 9th April 2014

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

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

2.4 Report on the Electoral Roll

Mrs Jackie Dryhurst reported, in rhyme, that there are now 423 members of the Electoral Roll including 34 resident in the parish.

2.5 Election of 6 Cathedral Wardens to serve for one year, three of whom will be Churchwardens.

The Dean thanked Keith Baggs and Philip Goodman, retiring as Churchwardens after six years. Eileen French also asked for the thanks of the congregation to be minuted.

There were seven nominations:-

John Churches, proposed by David Simmonds and seconded by Caroline Robinson.

Brian Greatrex, proposed by Ray Cooper and seconded by Michael Rivers.

Michael Harrington, proposed by Andrew Duke and seconded by Janet Pettifer.

Elizabeth Marshall, proposed by Bob Pettifer and seconded by Margaret Ardley.

John Rees, proposed by Kate Dash and seconded by Margaret Beverley.

David Sewell, proposed by David Simmonds and seconded by Ian Palotai.

Beryl Waugh, proposed by Bobby Harrington and seconded by Yvonne Spence.

A ballot was carried out and tellers appointed to count the votes received.

2.6 Election of one Church Warden or former Church Warden to serve on the Chapter for a period of three years.

There was one nomination: Brian Greatrex was proposed by Winifred Simmonds and seconded by Ann Freese.

2.7 Election of six members of the congregation to the Cathedral Congregational Council to serve for three years:

There were six nominations:

Ruth Bird, proposed by David Clothier and seconded by Norman Sharpe.

Eileen French, proposed by Elizabeth Marshall and seconded by Jean Crook.

Terry Guy, proposed by Michael Harrington and seconded by Francis Parish.

Bobby Harrington, proposed by Jenny Penny and seconded by Cheryl Harrington.

Pam Sharpe, proposed by Fiona Garbutt and seconded by Norman Sharpe.

Yvonne Spence, proposed by Elizabeth Marshall and seconded by Winifred Simmonds.

All six were elected.

2.8 Appointment of Sidespersons

There was one nomination, Mrs Brenda Blair, nominated by Elizabeth Marshall and seconded by Bernard Richardson. The meeting approved the nomination.

2.9 Finance Report

Mrs Caroline Robinson presented the Finance Report. She listed the assets of the Cathedral: the Estate (Chapter House and seven houses), the Choral Foundation investments, restricted funds such as the Keene Lectures, the Library and St Peter's Chapel, and the unrestricted funds: the general operating fund, Bookstall, Social and Fundraising Committee and Lunchtime Concerts. She then showed how income was categorised, listing Donations, a Legacy to St Peter's Chapel, regular giving and collections, grants and investments, lettings and fundraising. Turnover is just under a million pounds a year, comparable with a medium sized business. She explained where expenditure goes and who pays for what. An operating surplus for 2014 was possible as there were various staff vacancies during the course of the year which has enabled £20,000 to be set aside for a future works, intentionally an annual contribution.

Prospects for 2015 are not as positive and a Budget deficit of £36,000 is anticipated. It is possible to accommodate this for one year but without reserves like the ancient cathedrals some activities will have to be cut in the future. The tower building works are being completely funded by a First World War Centenary Cathedrals Grant and a £38,000 Government grant (Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund) means that the repairs to St Peter's Chapel roof are now fully covered. A legacy is being used to improve access and interpretation at Bradwell and the farmer has already put in a turning circle for coaches. There is also better access for wheelchairs.

The Church Members' Fund has been renamed the Planned Giving scheme. Donations received support worship, children's and youth work, utility bills, housing costs for the 7 houses and building repairs. Giving per head is noticeably below the national average and total giving has remained static. Many people have not changed their pledge for a number of years as there has not been a planned giving campaign for some time. There will be a new campaign in the autumn: please read the literature and consider how you can respond.

Caroline concluded by thanking Margaret Stephens for administering the envelope scheme (for the last 36 years) and the Wardens for counting and banking the collections. She thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work and stated that there will be a notice in the Newssheet when the accounts have been audited and available to the congregation.

Asked how the amount given per head was calculated, Caroline said it was based on the Sunday adult attendance and is in the region of £7 per head. The Dean said that the Diocese of Sheffield, with the lowest churchgoing in the Church of England, records an average of £18 per head, while the C of E average is between £11 and £13 per head per week.

Caroline also explained that we do not contribute a cash Parish Share but give in kind, with special services, with our volunteers, and with the advice and time given by our Liturgy Department. We do not receive any money from the parishes and are self-supporting.

2.10 Written Reports

The reports have been available on display in the Cathedral for two weeks as well as on the website. Fewer copies have been printed this year in acknowledgement of our EcoCongregation status. The Dean invited questions: there were none, but Eileen French asked for particular thanks to be extended to the Flower Guild who always ensure that there are beautiful arrangements in the Cathedral and who raise the funds for the majority of them themselves. (The Cathedral pays for the Altar flowers but all others are provided from Flower Guild funds)

2.11 Any Other Business

- Tony Allen said how much the printed orders of service were appreciated, especially by the housebound. He suggested it might be possible for a suitable advertiser to sponsor them to offset the cost.

- Nikki Dunn expressed thanks to Tim Leeson and his volunteers for his work with the young people. As a parent she valued the quality of the work and felt it was very beneficial to them.
- John Rees said how much he had appreciated the Holy week services this year which were very helpful and moving. The Dean replied that the external feedback for Holy Week had been noticeable this year.

3.Presentation on Round Table Discussions by The Dean

The Dean said that there had been 4 meetings, one in each of the 4 months from January to April, at which there had been some 250 people in all. All congregations had been represented, (Sundays and weekdays). The topics had been:

1. The Cathedral as an outward thriving community,
2. The Cathedral as the church of the Bishop,
3. The Cathedral shaped by worship,
4. The Cathedral as a public space.

Helen Allen had carried out a detailed evaluation of the results of the discussions and this will inform the Chapter's development of a Strategic Plan.

In the first week the principal comments were

- Welcome, availability and access
- Getting the best out of our people
- Reaching out to other churches in the diocese
- Reaching out to social needs
- Reaching out to the public square
- The website needs to be up to date (essential)
- Request for a Cathedral Joke Book

In the second

- Dual role as the parish church and the Bishop's church
- Cathedral has a central role in the diocese
- Major diocesan services and events
- Contribution of the Holding Crosses - the Cathedral's wider role

In the third

- Wide spectrum of worship (the Choir singing at the Cenotaph is the International Public Square)
- Daily prayer here
- Other cathedrals show a growth in weekday worship but not apparent here
- What do people get from worship?
- Welcome
- Children: would children invite their non-Christian friends?

In the fourth

- Balancing the use of the Cathedral
- The sound system (recognise currently not fit for purpose)
- Experience of Cathedral itself
- Suggestions for the wider use of the Cathedral

- Communications / use of website
- Cathedral's dual role as local church and Bishop's church
- Importance of stewards and welcomers
- Importance of centrality of mission and outreach in all its forms
- Real appreciation of opportunity to discuss and talk.

Helen's summary will be available for members of the congregation who would like to see it.

Bobby Harrington presented the Dean with a cheque for £8,000 from the Social and Fundraising Committee

4. Results of Elections

Cathedral Wardens: John Churches, Brian Greatrex, Michael Harrington, Elizabeth Marshall, David Sewell, Beryl Waugh.

5.Meeting Closure

Brain Greatrex thanked the Dean for chairing the meeting and drew attention to the heritage given us by our forebears in the artworks displayed in the Cathedral and which now has national recognition. He also thanked James Davy and the Music Department and Caroline Robinson for all their contributions to the life of the Cathedral.

The meeting closed at 10.57am.