



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

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held in the Cathedral**

**Saturday 29th April 2017 at 9.30am**

**Present:** 68 qualified and enrolled electors and 2 clergy under the Chairmanship of the Dean, the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall.

**1. Opening Prayers, Welcome and Introduction**

The Dean began by reading the Gospel, John 6 vv 16-21, (Jesus walks on the water). He said that this is the assurance that Jesus comes to meet us in our hour of need. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Preparing for the Bishop's Visitation of the Cathedral**

The Dean said that 2016 had been a year of significant changes for the Dean and the Senior Leadership Team with one full time member of staff fewer than when he arrived. Volunteers are key to delivering the ministry of the Cathedral and the Volunteers' Steering Group is a delight to attend with training and induction improved and safe guarding playing a larger part. He is grateful to the Lay Staff Team which is the second smallest after the Isle of Man.

The core job of the Cathedral Staff is to run the Cathedral for the Diocese and the City. The office staff are paid by the national church to run the Cathedral for the Diocese. There are questions and issues about how we go forward; we are one of 14 smaller parish church cathedrals which are sustainable and highly significant.

The Dean drew attention to the Bishop's letter available today regarding the Visitation. In 2016 the Chapter invited Bishop Stephen to carry out a Visitation to validate the Governance of the Cathedral. (This is not, as in the cases of Exeter and Peterborough, because of something which has gone wrong). The team will be led by the Rt Revd Graeme Knowles over 7-8 days and there will be a Round Table discussion open to all on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May after Evensong. Areas considered by the Visitation will be Governance, Staffing, a Cathedral for the Diocese, the Civic Church, Media, Catechesis and Proclamation and the

general areas of worship, engagement with the poor and marginalised, the Cathedral building, Strategic Plan and congregational development.

**QUESTIONS:**

- It was asked whether charging for entry had been considered. No, it has not been discussed.
- What are the different teams mentioned? Senior Leadership Team, an Executive Committee, made up of the Dean, Administrator, two canons; the Core Staff team - office staff and head Verger; Musicians.
- How does Chapter intend to attract more young people and families? This is a congregational job rather than Chapter's. Despite extreme care being taken to include all the Junior Church parents in the Giving in Grace campaign, only 8 responded. There is thriving youth work and excellent attendance.
- How does the Cathedral interact more widely with the Diocese? The Lent courses are an example where key people in the diocese have presented the evening course, the Dean and Edward go out to churches in the wider diocese every other Sunday and the St Mellitus theological training Course meets here every Thursday. This is the second largest theological course in the country.

**3 (i) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from 25 members of the congregation.

**3 (ii) Minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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

**3 (iii) Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**3 (iv) Report on the Electoral Roll**

Mrs Jackie Dryhurst reported, in rhyme, that there are now 436 members of the Electoral Roll including 36 resident in the parish. (2016, 426 and 34 respectively).

**3 (v) Election of 6 Cathedral Wardens to serve for one year, three of whom will be Churchwardens.**

There were six nominations:-

- Maureen Benson
- Dan Glading
- Elizabeth Marshall
- John Rees-White
- David Sewell
- Linda Sewell

There being six nominations for six posts they were all deemed to have been elected.

### **3 (vi) Election of seven members of the congregation to Deanery Synod to serve for three years:**

There were two nominations:

- Dan Glading
- Brian Greatrex

They were duly elected.

### **3 (vii) Appointment of Sidespersons**

There were two nominations:

- Penny Cowell
- Peter Kemp

They were duly appointed together with all those already serving as Sidespersons.

### **3 (viii) Finance Report**

Mr Michael Foulks, Chapter Member for Finance, introduced this item, stating that the 2016 accounts had been audited and would be going to Chapter for approval the following Tuesday. He thanked the Social Committee, Welcome on Wednesday and the Friday Lunchtime Concerts for their contributions to the General Fund. He said the Review of Charitable Giving had meant that higher amounts had been given than in the past. Higher reserves, in addition to a grant, had enabled the Song School roof repairs and some work on the sound system. Chapter had reviewed governance and identified and rectified weak areas.

Mrs Caroline Robinson presented the Finance Report. The accounts are available from her in response to an email request. 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. She noted particularly the work of Julie Brown who had in 14 years increased the income stream and improved the offering of our premises to commercial hirers. This year lettings brought in £90,500. The reserves are sufficient for 5 months working. The normal policy is 3 months working, but repairs to the roof have to be paid in full before the grants can be actioned.

Income from the congregation has increased by eight and a half per cent, a total of £177,525 with a further £50,525 from Gift Aid.

There is an operating surplus of £28,000, derived from increased Chapter House lettings, no Head Verger for 8 months and an office post also vacant.

Merging the insurance policies of the Cathedral and the Chapter House saved £3,000, much more than had been budgeted for.

Congregational activities contributions to running costs were £6,000 from the Bookstall, £3,950 plus £1,670 to charities from the Friday Lunchtime Concerts, Social Committee £11,580 and £14,000 so far this year, and Sunday Coffee £650.

The operating budget for 2017 has been set with a small deficit. It is relying on a further increase in congregational giving and tight control of expenditure. There will be a Stewardship Update appeal in the autumn.

Caroline finished by thanking the wardens for counting and banking the collections each week and the Finance Committee for all their support.

### **3 (ix) Written Reports**

The reports have been available on display in the Cathedral for two weeks as well as on the website. Those who contributed were thanked together with Clare Broome who had collated all the reports and compiled the booklets

### **3 (x) Any Other Business**

There were no further items of business.

### **4 .Meeting Closure**

The meeting closed at 11.10 am with the Grace

The Date of the next meeting is Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 at 9.30am preceded by refreshments.