

WARDENS AT CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

Formal Proposal in preparation for the Annual Meeting

Introduction

The Visitation Report (2017) asked the Chapter to consider significant changes to the role of Churchwarden at Chelmsford Cathedral. Specifically the report quotes the contribution of one interviewee during the Visitation:

“ The wardens need to develop their leadership role, which includes representing the people to the clergy, and the clergy to the people – and at all times publicly championing the mission and strategy of the cathedral.”

This captures very well the direction in which the Chapter intends to reshape the role. The Visitation itself made the following specific recommendations:

1. That the Chapter gives serious consideration as to how lay leadership might be developed in the regular worshipping community.
2. That together with the Bishop and dean the cathedral community identifies the essential spiritual qualities they desire in all those sharing leadership in order to prioritise the spiritual flourishing within the cathedral’s mission.
3. That the Chapter reviews the “job description” of the cathedral wardens to separate liturgical function from lay leadership, considering a change of name for the office which better speaks of its function.
4. That new cathedral wardens and sidespeople are given relevant induction training, including briefing on the cathedral’s Strategic Plan.

The key role of wardens at a Cathedral, as the only elected representatives of the Cathedral congregations – is to represent the congregations and to act as confidential counsellors to the Dean in seeking to take forward the Cathedral’s mission.

The Chapter’s Proposal

- That two Churchwardens be elected at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (which state unambiguously that there shall be two churchwardens in every parish).
- That the elected Churchwardens serve for an initial term of three years, renewal for a further term of three years
- That both Churchwardens will attend meetings of the Volunteer Support Group
- That one of the elected Churchwardens become a member of Chapter (as allowed for in the current Constitution and Statutes of the Cathedral) and that the other elected Churchwarden be in attendance at Chapter meetings
- That the Churchwardens, in consultation with the Dean appoint a member of the Cathedral congregations to be the head sidesperson with the role of leading, recruiting, training and developing the team of sidespeople, with the Churchwardens support
- That the Executive, in consultation with the Churchwardens, identify and appoint a new pool of people team to take responsibility for counting collections
- That the Churchwardens in consultation with the Dean may appoint up to two deputy Churchwardens
- That the Dean in consultation with the Churchwardens may at some future time consider the appointment of a person carrying the traditional title “Moulsham Warden” to focus specifically on the Cathedral’s relationships with churches and communities in the city of Chelmsford.