

# PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

---

Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Encountering God through transformative worship, challenging discipleship,  
generous hospitality & prayerful engagement.

## **CONTENTS**

Dean's Foreword	2
Cathedral Council	3
Fabric	4
Canon Chancellor	6
Education	8
Canon Precentor including Music	10
Vergers	11
<b>TRANSFORMATIVE WORSHIP</b>	
Society of Cathedral Ringers	12
Servers	13
Healing Group	13
<b>PRAYERFUL ENGAGEMENT</b>	
Junior Sing	14
Toddler Group	14
Gunwharf Chaplaincy	15
Sunyani Partnership Link	15
Hospital Wheelers	16
Food Bank Donations	16
Uniformed Groups	17
<b>GENEROUS HOSPITALITY</b>	
Churchwardens	19
Welcomers	20
Duty Chaplains	20
The Flower Guild	20
Holy Dusters	21
Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral	21
Cathedral Guides	22
Research Group	22
Cathedral Shop	23
Handbell Group	23
Craft and Chat Group	23
Memorial Garden	24
Cathedral Club	24
Parish Lunch Club	25
Social and Fundraising Events	25
<b>CHALLENGING DISCIPLESHIP</b>	
Quiet Afternoons	26
Messy Cathedral	26
Becket's Bunch	26

## THE DEAN'S FOREWORD

Now well established, our annual theme for 2016 was particularly important. Religion is a major world issue affecting politics and community cohesion, and our theme of 'Faiths:Connected' enabled us to deepen relationships with our neighbours of other traditions and to learn something about each other. Using the medium of the arts allowed us to meet and interact in a relaxed way, and the artists receptions gathered people who had never been in the Cathedral before.

Cathedrals are in the news! Following the critical visitation reports on Exeter and Peterborough last year, there has been much media comment. All Cathedrals face similar ambiguities - they are the most successful part of the Church in terms of numbers, growth and community engagement, yet many are struggling financially. Fortunately at Portsmouth we are in a sound financial situation, mainly thanks to some very generous legacies. It is a simple fact that the normal income of a cathedral does not support the running costs - and that is even true of those who charge for entry. The legacies we have been generously given will not last forever, and our congregations must face the challenge of giving generously to our ongoing costs, as well as considering leaving a gift to the Cathedral in their wills.

Last summer saw the tower and cupola work completed. Thanks to excellent work by Peter Sanders and our architect Simon Ablett we received over £700,000 in grants towards this work - mostly from the First World War Centenary Cathedrals Repair Fund. This left about £100,000 to be funded from our own resources. Work will begin this summer on the renovation of the cloister windows and some roof areas - the majority of which is funded by another grant of around £240,000.

The reports in the booklet, together with the audited accounts, tell the story of a vibrant and healthy Christian community. As ever we are grateful to our many volunteers and staff for the range and variety of events we offer.

*David Brindley*

## CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

There were a few changes to the membership of the Council: the resignation of Commodore Andrei Spence Royal Navy in June, Canon Susan Rodgers in September and Mr. James Blott in November 2016 and Commodore Andrew Jameson Royal Navy served from November 2016 until February 2017. The Revd Canon John Draper and Canon David Bennison were appointed in September and Mr. Richard Smout in November 2016. There are a number of vacancies outstanding: one Lay Chapter, two Bishop's Council and one Cathedral Council, a full list of Council membership through the year is in the Audited Accounts.

The committee met three times in the year, once, as usual, with Chapter.

In April 2016 the Council received the annual accounts and noted the changes to the accounting regulations and SOFA, the first for 10 years, including new headings. The planned deficit was due to the implementation of Development Plan activities and improvements to property and it was noted that the Cathedral Chapter held over £2.4 million in investments and that total assets were in excess of £5.5 million. Also noted was the intention of Chapter, on advice from its Finance and Investment Committee, to rationalise our investment portfolio and as a matter of good practice to put our audit service requirements out to tender.

In September the Council, meeting jointly with Chapter, saw its first draft of the 2017 budgets and in November considered and received the finally drafted budgets split into: Operational, Development Plan and Capital, which it was noted was helpful. It was also recognised that the Cathedral would benefit from projected three to five year financial forecasts and that Chapter needs to consider income generation. It was understood the new audit firm could help with this.

Other matters considered by the Council through the year included being updated on: the Development Plan; the Cathedral Tower works; property improvements to the Deanery, 32 Woodville Drive and the redecoration of Cathedral House windows; and the planned works to the Cathedral Cloister, Sound System and new Organ Stop in 2017.

It is planned in 2017, under the guidance of the chairman, to take a broad look at the activity of the Council, including governance, and consider how Council could contribute to the life of the Cathedral better.

*Peter Sanders*  
*Clerk to the Council*

## CATHEDRAL FABRIC

**Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership** – The FAC is responsible for advising on and overseeing works to the Cathedral building and curtilage. It met six times in 2016: February, April, June, September, October and November under the chairmanship of Jane Jones-Warner who took up the role in 2016 and Mr Deane Clark remained on the committee. Our CFCE nominee Mrs Ann Elliot completed her term of office at the end of March and was replaced by Mr David English in November 2016.

**Cathedral Major Building Work** – Much of the work of the committee in 2016 has involved major repair works to the Cathedral building funded by the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund (FWWCCRF) which has seen the completion the Tower and Cupola and the successful bid for works to the Cloister. The significant repair works to the Cloister stonework and corroded windows has been identified and approved by this committee and CFCE and is to be undertaken in 2017.



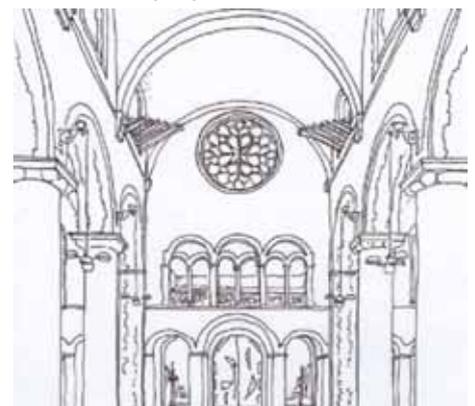
*The Restored Golden Barque*

We are grateful to our contractors, Daedalus Conservation (Eastern Chancel Wall and Tower & Cupola), and most particularly to our major funder the FWWCCRF.

**Quinquennial** – The Care of Cathedrals Measure requires us to commission a five yearly inspection and the latest QI and report by the Cathedral Architect, Simon Ablett, was undertaken in 2016. He reported that the Cathedral building, excepting the Cloister stonework and windows (see above), is mostly in good condition but drew attention to the following:

- Roofs – Some Asphalt areas are cracked and need attention, the Quiet Room leaks and needs attention, bolts on down pipes are corroding and should be replaced and the supports to the lead hoppers need attention.
- Masonry – Repairs to the stonework in the South Transept are a priority, a block on the North Transept needs replacing, pins in the pillars in Saint Thomas's Chapel need to be drilled out and the stone repaired, open joints in the arches of the Singing Gallery need addressing etc.
- Windows – Corroded windows need attention.
- South West Door – This should be refurbished in the same way as the South Door
- Health and Safety – The wooden ladders/steps on the roofs need to be replaced, the low parapet on the South Transept roof could be addressed by a cable safety system etc.
- Basement – This area is cramped and needs to be well managed.

**Organ Chamade** – The committee spent considerable time refining the design for this exciting new addition to the Cathedral's organ, which we are pleased to say found CFCE's approval. The preparatory building work for it was completed in March 2017 the final installation of pipes will be in September 2017.



*Architects sketch of the organ stop*

**Cathedral Sound System** – Chapter and FAC approval for this work resulted in the new system being installed at the beginning of 2017.

**Other FAC Work** – The committee has had a busy year as can be seen by the long list of projects it has been concerned with, the:

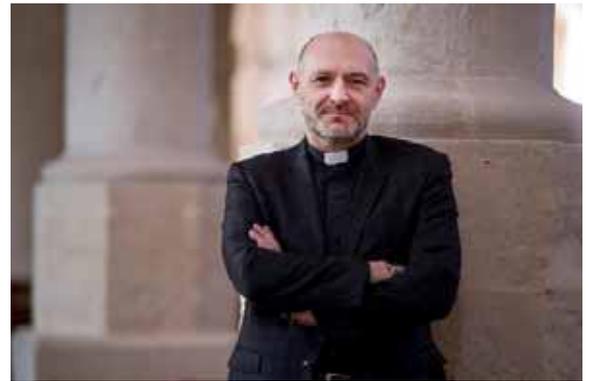
- Receipt and consideration of our Liturgical Plan
- Bishop Ronald Gordon Memorial Stone in the Lady Chapel
- Loan of the of the Tangier Plate and Marriage Certificate of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
- Arrangements for the permanent loan of the Marriage Certificate of Charles II to the National Museum of the Royal Navy Portsmouth
- Consideration of replacing the Cathedral's lighting systematically with LED bulbs to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce costs
- WRNS Centenary Commemorative Stone (dedication service in November 2017)
- Additional wording added to the Ieuan Huw Jenkins Memorial Window
- Request from our insurers EIG to fit two fireproof windows in the Tower overlooking the Nave and Quire roofs and agreement to do so (to be included in the Cloister works contract and fitted in 2017)
- Consideration of our Environmental Stewardship and the receipt of a Carbon Footprint Report. It is noted that the two primary aims of our programme of Environmental Stewardship are to reduce our carbon footprint and increase the efficiency of our energy usage and thereby reduce cost as well
- Steam cleaning of the Nave pavement
- Repairs to the Southside pavement.

**Landscape Project** – With the unsuccessful HLF bid and concentration on other major building works this project has been put on hold.

*Peter Sanders  
Chapter Clerk and  
Secretary to the FAC*

## CANON CHANCELLOR

The Cathedral is a busy and vibrant place. People often tell me that they can't keep up with everything that is going on – 'Great!' is my response. We have a responsibility to offer a wide range of different events and encounters with God from the traditional and reflective to the experimental and slightly wacky! It is a real privilege to work within a community that is able to engage with its parish, city, Diocese and beyond. All of which can only happen because of the wonderful team of staff and volunteers who make all of this happen.



### Annual Theme

Since we decided to have an annual theme to focus our education and outreach programme we have seen the number of people who engage with the Cathedral through the events and lectures grow significantly. In 2016 the theme was "*Faiths:Connected*" and we explored how Christianity and other faiths related to each other through a series of art installations, artists in residence and a six week course considering other faiths. This proved really popular and so we are looking at how we might engage those interested in worshipping through doing art in the Cathedral on a regular basis. The theme for 2017, "All Things Bright & Beautiful – exploring ecology and the environment through faith, science and the arts" was launched on Advent Sunday and we were delighted to be

joined by The Right Reverend Nicholas Holt, Bishop of Salisbury and Church of England lead on the environment who also presented us with our Bronze Eco Church Award. More details on the various events taking place can be found on the Cathedral website or the leaflets available in the Cathedral. The theme for 2018, which we will be launching in January so that the theme runs calendar year rather than liturgical year, is "Time" and work is underway to produce an equally exciting programme of activities.



### Deanery Synod

The Cathedral is part of the Deanery of Portsmouth and this year we have continued to play a full part along with all of the other parishes in its life and ministry. The Deanery of Portsmouth continues to offer chaplaincies in Charter Academy and other colleges in the city and we have been pleased to support these. In addition we have worked with the other churches in the inner city cluster of the deanery to operate an Older Persons Advocate project. The role involves supporting the parishes in their spiritual and practical work with older people. This project has been so successful that it has been chosen to work with national organisation to pilot new ways of building worshipping communities in retirement home settings. We are currently working on increasing the remit of the role so that it covers the whole deanery. The Cathedral continues to play a part in helping to shape the deanery action plan and thus the ministry and mission of the church in Portsmouth. We are grateful to Marion Syms, Kitty Price and June Purvis for being our representatives on Deanery Synod.

## **Discipleship**

Much of our discipleship work centred on our annual theme but we also prepared seven adults and two young people for confirmation and ran follow up courses after this. We trained a team of Lay Pastoral Assistants who are now actively serving the congregation and community in prayerful and practical ways. This team now meet regularly for ongoing training and supervision.

In partnership with the diocese we run the Living Faith course. This is a two year six module course exploring the Christian faith in more depth. We are about to start module five and have had a core group from across the deanery taking part and have been joined by others who have done one or two modules. People can join at the start of any module and more details can be found on the Cathedral website. This course has been a great place to foster and discern vocations and many are now exploring Lay Reader Ministry or possible ordination.

In line with our annual theme we shall be running a series of small group sessions exploring faith, scripture and the environment in the autumn.

## **Art & Drama**

In addition to our annual theme focus in 2016 we also hosted a number of local artists and organisations who exhibited in the Nave and the Ambulatory. This is a great way to invite people unfamiliar with the Cathedral to experience it. The building is a stunning way of displaying a range of different types of art and we continue to receive a large number of enquiries and requests to exhibit work.

We ventured into drama for our Patronal Festival in October when members of the Southsea Shakespeare Actors and of the Cathedral congregation put on a production of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral". It was a two night only spectacular and the Cathedral Nave created an incredible set to perform this wonderful play. Both nights were sold out and the play was well received by those who came and local critics alike. We hope to be able to produce more of this kind of work in the Cathedral.

*Peter Leonard*

## EDUCATION

Over 5,500 primary school age children have engaged with the Cathedral during this financial year, either by visiting for a workshop, taking part in Cathedral Sing, or by seeing either Canon Peter, Revd Dawn Banting or myself lead collective worship in their school.



### Workshops

#### Primary Schools

Primary age children have taken part in a range of themed workshops. These include:-

- Heraldry
- Symbols
- The Ichthus
- Spirituality & Prayer
- Spirituality & Art
- Remembrance
- St George's Day
- St Nicholas
- The Cathedral of the Sea (includes the growth of the city of Portsmouth in the history of the Cathedral)
- World Book Day

There were a number of workshops planned with visiting specialists linked to our annual theme, All Things Bright & Beautiful. On the green, younger children built dens out of Christmas Trees with Dr Sara Collins, Forest Schools Practitioner; a willow dome was created with the help of year 2 and year 5 pupils from Cottage Grove Primary School, led by Chris Jenkins. Plus, on Shrove Tuesday, children not only learned about pancakes and the beginning of Lent, but what Portsmouth is doing to protect the planet's environment. They had great fun playing 'Footprint', the Sustainability Challenge board game, introduced and supported by Owen Devine, the game's designer.

We continue to welcome ad hoc visits from schools and of course lead tours around the Cathedral, adapting our focus to fit their topic (perhaps a particular period in history, RE curriculum concepts – light, ritual, symbols etc.)

#### Secondary Schools

I am delighted to report that our engagement with Secondary Schools has increased this year. Charter Academy students in Years 8 and 9 again came to take part in Spirituality Days and had the opportunity to learn something about themselves and about the Christian faith, too. Our theme this year was MSB - Mind, Soul, Body and both days finished with a Farmers' Market trading 'game' which engaged even the quietest and more reluctant pupils.

St John's College also visited the Cathedral on two occasions. Year 7 learned all about the Cathedral building and how its layout reflects the Christian Journey. Years 10 & 11 had a tour of the Cathedral followed by a session with Canon Peter Leonard that we called "Grill a Canon"! Students asked a range of questions on their RS topics: sexuality, abortion, creation, pilgrimage and faith. Quite a session!

In October, we hosted our second 6<sup>th</sup> form Question Time event as part of our Patronal Festival. Our multi-faith panel were quizzed on three subject areas: International Relations; Immigration and the Refugee Crisis; Interfaith Relations. With the recent furore over the US Presidential elections and the Brexit vote in the UK, it proved another occasion for interesting debate in the Nave!

## **Outreach & Cathedral Sing**

As part of our outreach work, the team continues to visit St Jude's Primary School and the Portsmouth Grammar School regularly to lead collective worship. I was also pleased to visit all the schools who have become members of our School Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral. I spent the annual two days at Catherington Church with our set of Black Canons' robes and ran workshops as part of their work with Horndean Junior School children. The Cathedral of the Sea themed day is very popular and has the benefit of being a joint offer to schools by the music and education departments. The St Nicholas event in December again delighted visiting schools and the Sing team also ran workshops at the Diocesan Leavers' Services.

## **Friends and Families**

I continue to plan for Family Activity Days in the school holidays following the success of our first one last summer. Just after Easter, we held a Chocolate workshop and children came and decorated their own chocolate lolly and learned about the cocoa pod, its growth and harvest. In the afternoon, adults attended a Guided Tasting session led by Fiona Sciolti, international chocolatier – a pure indulgence! In August, as it was an Olympic year, we partnered with Spirit in Sport to run a mini-Olympics day for families. Playing tennis, badminton and golf in the Nave was certainly a sight for passing tourists!

## **Volunteers**

The education team relies heavily on a dedicated group of volunteers and I am grateful for all their support. Not only do they help with the children when they visit, but they help me too – sorting equipment, testing out new ideas, preparing resources, learning new skills (origami!), plus tidying the cupboards and putting things away.

My work days are certainly varied and I am fortunate to be able to visit other cathedrals and share ideas with colleagues throughout the country. The end of March 2017 saw me spending a day at the NEC in Birmingham at the Education Show. Representing cathedrals, abbeys and minsters across the UK, I manned a stall called Sacred Spaces, Special Places. We promoted the work of our education teams to teachers and educators, all of whom were keen to learn more about bringing their children to our inspiring settings.

I would like to add my thanks to the Education team for all their support throughout the year, but especially whilst I was off work, recovering from knee surgery. Sarah Lovatt, John Bolt, Rev Dawn Banting and Canon Peter Leonard all took a part in either organising or running the January workshops and I am very grateful for their help in keeping the children's work at the Cathedral going in my absence!

*Sarah Page*

## CANON PRECENTOR

It is a pleasure to be able to write about my first complete year here at Portsmouth Cathedral, and my two immediate impressions are how quickly it has gone, and how exciting it has been!

Easter last year was glorious with a wealth of music and significant congregation numbers. Eastertide was notable for, amongst other things, the opportunity to 'Beat the Bounds' on a joyful day out, taking in a train ride and concluding with a boat trip from the International Ferry Port back to the Camber. That weekend continued with a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Gap Year Scheme (and a packed choir for Evensong) and the opportunity to host the Choir Schools' Association conference, jointly with The Portsmouth Grammar School, and a service for the National Bellringers' conference.



National events included the Cathedral being represented at the Royal Navy Drumhead Service to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Jutland with a Drumhead Service on Southsea Common, a Royal Evensong to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and a Sunday Eucharist specifically marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme (with a new mass setting for men's voices and trumpet written by our organ scholar Luke Fitzgerald). In July we also held a historic early morning service for the Mary Rose Trust on the anniversary of the sinking as they prepared to re-open the enhanced Mary Rose exhibition that day.

The Choir Term and Choir Year came to an end and we said farewell to a 'vintage' group of Choral Scholars. Happily there was little in the way of farewells to choristers, and we were able to welcome a new group of Choral Scholars fresh for the new term and its new possibilities in September. The busy pattern of Patronal weekend, Royal Marine Band Service Memorial Service and Seafarers prepared us for a marvellous half-term Choir Tour to Cologne, with several concerts and services culminating in Solemn Vespers at Cologne Cathedral. In November, after All Souls' and Remembrance, where the Choir sang at the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, the year turned back to Advent and our new Annual Theme with the Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, preaching as the House of Bishops' lead on the environment and ecology. We also celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the completion of the West End of the Cathedral in 1991 with the Very Reverend Jane Hedges coming back to preach, and the Right Reverend David Stancliffe conducting the Monteverdi Vespers.



*Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance*

Advent and Christmas saw our Cathedral choirs singing more than ever, with an invitation to Lambeth Palace to sing for the Children's' Society, and more services and events than ever in the Cathedral including our deservedly popular Carol Services. 2017 started well for worship with January 1<sup>st</sup> falling on a Sunday, and we enjoyed an Epiphany Carol Service and a Candlemas Christingle service. At the end of January it was a privilege to host services for the International

Military Chiefs of Chaplains conference, and in February we helped to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roberts' Centre. Just recently we have journeyed through a moving Holy Week, led by the preaching of Bishop Michael Turnbull and accompanied by some profound choral music, into the joy of Easter worship and sunshine with record attendance on Easter morning as well as for much of Holy Week.

In other respects, it has been a significant year with more baptisms taking place in the Cathedral than previously – including a number of requests for baptisms in the main 10.30 Eucharists. With these my clergy colleagues, especially Peter and Dawn, have been much involved. The welcome that families and visitors and newcomers receive here is a key part of the way we attract people and draw them to participate in worship, so I am grateful to the Churchwardens and the wonderful teams of sidespeople and welcomers – and above all to David and Oliver for the brilliant part played by our choirs and music in both our regular services and our special liturgies. The servers, led by Paul Sandham, have made a great contribution, as have those who read and lead intercessions week by week, with Claire Hutchinson helping prepare the rotas for this. We have invited parishes from around the Diocese to think about coming to take part in Evensong on the occasions when they are being prayed for on the diocesan prayer cycle, and we look forward to more taking up this invitation in the coming year.

The first impression made for visitors and worshippers by the clean and well-ordered Cathedral building is essential, and the Holy Dusters' work each week benefits us all, as do the cheerfully meticulous preparations of the Head Verger, Jessica until August and Malina in the latter part of the year, and those who assist for all the numerous workshops and events that take place here as well as the services which make the Cathedral such an amazing and inspiring place to be.

*Jo Spreadbury*

## **VERGERS**

I feel privileged to have been appointed as Head Verger at Portsmouth Cathedral, following the departure of Jessica Hallion in September 2016. I'm enjoying the new role, although there have been a number of challenges to overcome in recent months.

I would like to thank the various volunteers who have been involved with and assisted the verging department over the past year: Wendy Sandham, as an Honorary Verger, Celia and Anne who help look after the linen; the Holy Dusters, who do a wonderful job in keeping the building clean and Peter for taking care of the silverware and brass, including the lectern, which is always polished to a high standard. The Cathedral Guides have worked hard to make visitors feel welcome and the Flower Guild have put a lot of effort into preparing floral displays throughout the year.

I would like to thank Canon Jo for her mentoring as I changed roles from assistant to Head Verger and the support of all the clergy and staff have enabled me to work efficiently and take on this job with confidence.

I look forward to building a stable department over the next few months, with new staff

*Malina Wyzykowska*

## THE SOCIETY OF CATHEDRAL RINGERS

It was a great privilege to take on the role of Tower Captain last August. It is a job which has been made significantly easier by the enthusiasm and dedication of our previous team. It is thanks to them and specifically in terms of our ringing my dad that both our Thursday and Sunday ringing has developed so successfully. The tremendous difference over the past few years is obvious to anyone who has attended regularly; our first few painfully hesitant attempts at twelve bell ringing now being a distant memory. On behalf of all our band, thank you, and I hope that I and those who follow me will continue to build on your previous success.

Our Sunday service ringing has continued to be well attended. We have rarely rung with fewer than eight and over the winter this has been ten and twelve regularly. I hope this trend will continue! An absence of nine months would be as good as fatal for many bands and it is thanks to the commitment of our regular attendees that our ringing started again so seamlessly last May. Despite Sunday ringing being in great contrast (in complexity) to Thursdays, it is easy to forget that the ringing we produce would be the envy of many towers across the country and is of a standard that we should all be rightly proud.

Ringling at the Cathedral has never, certainly in my time, operated like a traditional tower. Ringling on a Thursday is vastly different to a Sunday and there will be few places in the country ringling both Bristol Maximus and rounds on eight for adjacent touches on a practice night! Challenging as this makes running the ringling at times, I am clear that embracing this difference can only be positive and it is fantastic that ringers of all abilities feel welcome and are attracted to ringling here; I believe that we are far richer for it.

My hope is that our Thursday ringling, across the entire spectrum which we cater for, will continue to progress as it has done so successfully over the past few years. I feel strongly that the only way to make further progress, is that we should aim for an environment where everyone feels able to ask for appropriate help and one where we all take responsibility for our own ringling such that we support those trying to learn something new in the best possible way.

I hope that the band has enjoyed the introduction of a regular call change touch with an experienced band at practices and increasingly on a Sunday morning. We are extremely fortunate to have an exceptional ring of bells. Whether we ring 6, 8, 10 or 12 I feel that this is our opportunity to show off our bells. These touches have produced some of our best ringling over the past six months and I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have!

At the end of last year, we welcomed the Dean as our key contact with the Cathedral and we look forward to working with him. On behalf of all the band, I would like to thank Canon Peter for his support during his time in this role. Our ringers have long enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Cathedral and we continue to be thankful for the support we receive.

As I said before, ringling here thrives on the wide spectrum of ringers that we attract and I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past six months. From our dedicated Sunday team to those who come out once a month for the 12 bell practice, it is all of you who make the ringling at Portsmouth what it is. I am proud to be part of it and I hope you are too!

*Benjamin Carey  
Tower Captain*

## **SERVERS**

My blaze of optimism this time last year has been tempered by experience. Expanding our team has, for a host of reasons, been more difficult than I anticipated. Although we don't keep records, I am convinced that the majority of services have had superior cover to that in 2015, and I am grateful to all our servers for their willingness to fulfil duties and to adapt to various changes with enthusiasm.

If I had to choose one, the high-spot of the serving year must surely have been the 150th anniversary for the Sisters of Bethany. With a cathedral full to overflowing, this was a once in a primacy occasion that celebrated both the history and the continuing importance of the religious life; an excellent celebration to be part of. At its heart, that's what serving represents; an unparalleled opportunity to be caught up in Eucharist.

I am relinquishing the post of Head Server and am delighted that Matt Smith has agreed to take over. Matt joined us in the summer, bringing a wealth of experience, and his professionalism has been a major factor in maintaining our activities through the seasons since his arrival.

*Paul Sandham*

## **HEALING GROUP**

The Cathedral's regular Communion Service with prayer and anointing for Wholeness and Healing continues on the first Wednesday of each month in St Thomas' Chapel and is a blessing to those within our Cathedral community and beyond. It is a very quiet and simple service and a wonderful opportunity to intentionally lay our circumstances before God. There is something mysterious about the church's ministry of healing. It is difficult to know what is taking place because it is God our creator who is quietly and gently working in us at our point of need – whatever that might be – and we all need God's healing grace and peace in our lives especially when facing challenges or trying to discern a way forward at one of life's cross roads. Why not join us one month for prayer, either for yourself or for a relative or friend?

Later this year on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November the Cathedral is once again hosting a Diocesan Healing Day co-ordinated by our Diocesan Healing Adviser, Dr David Pearson. The day will open with a keynote address, followed by a choice of various workshops, and close with a short service when prayer and anointing will be available. This will be a good opportunity to think further about what is meant by 'wholeness and healing' and the nature and place of healing within the ministry of the church and perhaps to dispel some misunderstandings.

*Marion Syms*

## **JUNIOR SING**

'Junior Sing' is Portsmouth Cathedral's newest choral music programme.

Building on the Cathedral's very successful outreach project – Cathedral Sing – Junior Sing is designed to give children in Key Stage 2 (aged 6 or 7-11) across the local area an opportunity to come together approximately twice a month to sing and have fun. Whilst not expressly designed to feed into the Cathedral Choirs, one girl has recently 'stepped up' into Cantate. The emphasis is on developing good singing technique and music education in a fun and engaging way, learning songs – sacred and secular – and playing games.

A typical session might go something like this:

We start with a series of stretches to wake up the body and get it moving, running on the spot, tensing and releasing muscles. No finely-honed athlete would exercise without warming up, and it's the same for a singer: your body is your instrument. We'll work on breathing – low breaths into the stomach, allowing the ribcage and shoulders to float above – and then start Brain Gym. These might be tongue twisters – 'I like a proper cup of coffee from a proper copper coffee pot' – or things like trying to draw a square in the air with one hand and a triangle with the other. Try it! Then vocal warm ups: sliding up and down scales, using well-known songs, telling stories using sounds. This seems a lot of preparation work, but establishing good vocal habits is an essential part of singing. After that, we move on to the songs of the day. This term we are following the Cathedral's theme of 'All things bright and beautiful', and currently working on a setting by June Clark of 'There is a balm in Gilead' and 'Colours of the Wind' from Disney's 'Pocahontas'. We build in memorisation, elements of music theory, and communication. Then it's time for squash and biscuits before a second session.

We continue to contact local schools, offering to give taster sessions to their pupils during assemblies, and use links forged through Cathedral Sing. Numbers are still fairly low at the moment, but from little acorns come mighty oaks!

*Oliver Hancock*

## **TODDLER GROUP**

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Brigid McGovern in February since she has been the chief organiser of this group for many years with an amazing facility to remember the names of the mothers and children even when their attendance was intermittent, an ability that we older helpers definitely lack!! Brigid always chose such lovely gifts for each child for the Christmas party as well as organising the summer outing and, as with her involvement in Beckett's Bunch, is a hard act to follow!

We have a continual flow of new mothers and babies but we are always sorry to see old members leave us when they start school or child care as their mothers return to work. We have between 12 and 20 mothers weekly and a number of children from this group have been baptised during the year. We begin each session in the Cathedral led by Canon Peter or Dawn before moving to the hall for play and refreshments.

We have been grateful to Steve for putting out the toys each week and for the mothers who help to clear up at the end. But we do need more helpers to make the tea and help with cleaning all the toys which is done about every eight weeks. Currently there are three of us who do the job but we need back up for illness or holidays etc. Please help if you can.

*Carole King*

## **GUNWHARF CHAPLAINCY**

They are to be found everywhere – in prisons and hospitals, universities, colleges and schools, on board merchant ships, in the armed services, police and fire services have them, even Portsmouth Football Club has one – and so does Gunwharf Quays. I write, of course, of chaplains. They come in a variety of guises, lay or ordained and their primary purpose is to listen to working people at their places of work. This is also a ministry of taking the Church, Christ and the Gospel into the public forum.

Gunwharf Quays, as you know, is an extremely busy place, comprising, not only retail units, but also restaurants, bars and places of entertainment. It is also multi-cultural and multi-lingual – both staff and visitors. Just pause and listen when you next visit.

On our visits to Gunwharf as chaplains we encounter staff from many countries and cultures. We are available to the staff to listen and to bring something of Christ into the public space. Of course, we are not there to proselytise, but, if appropriate we may share our own faith journey.

This year we have been able to expand our team which enables us to reduce individual workloads and as a result spend more time with staff. We have welcomed back one former, experienced chaplain and recruited a new one. We are drawn from both Cathedrals and other city parishes.

If you would like to know more about chaplaincy at Gunwharf Quays or you sense a calling to become one of us, please speak to Canon Peter who will be more than pleased to explain more about the role.

*David Stickland*

## **SUNYANI PARTNERSHIP LINK**

*If you want to go fast – then journey alone*

*If you want to go far – then journey with others*

What a privilege to be able to journey alongside the people in Sunyani. The highlight this year was to send a substantial contribution towards the provision of a Toyota 4X4 Pickup vehicle to enable Bishop Festus's ministry as he travels more easily and safely around his large rural diocese.



Now we are helping towards equipping the Eye Clinic he is hoping to establish near-by the Cathedral. I have a 'shopping list' of various items of equipment.



Earlier this year a new Cathedral Dean was installed, the Very Revd. Robert Barnabas Num. This will help to lighten the load on Bishop Festus who had been working as both Diocesan Bishop and Cathedral Dean for the past two years. In the Diocese the church is growing with the establishment of two new Archdeaconries. One of the new Archdeacons is the Revd Edward Baffoe. If that name sounds familiar, it is because Portsmouth Cathedral helped support his

training through Seminary about 10 years ago!

Ghana has been celebrating 60 years as an independent nation. Development continues apace but the recent death of 18 schoolchildren in the Sunyani Diocese in early March, when one of Ghana's enormous trees fell on them as they played and celebrated, was a reminder of life's fragility.

*Marion Syms (Link Officer)*

## **HOSPITAL WHEELERS**

This has been another busy year for the 'Wheelers'. The Wheelers are a group of volunteers who work at Queen Alexandra Hospital on a Sunday morning bringing patients to the morning Eucharist service and returning them to their wards after the service has finished.

Wheelers come from churches around the diocese and work from 9.45am until midday, usually volunteering once a month. The Wheelers arrive in time to meet with the duty Chaplain and discuss the patients who are going to be with us for the service, so we are able to make their experience as good as it is possible to be, for example if they have suffered a stroke, are blind etc., We help set up the chapel with spaces for the number of wheel chairs and on the odd occasion a bed for a very disable patient or people on oxygen (no candles). Once the chapel is set up for the service we share a time of quiet prayer before setting off to collect the patients from the different wards, with one of us staying behind to welcome walking patients and family and friends who come to visit their loved ones.

You may have passed by the chapel, which is just after the coffee shop by the west entrance on A Level. It is a lovely quiet space in a busy hospital. A place of sanctuary and calm for staff, patients and visitors alike.

There have been some changes to the chaplains, after Jeanette and Gordon retired. The hospital welcomed John Detain as Senior Chaplain and Laura Cameron who previously worked one day a week who has taken on Gordon's hours of two and a half days a week. Laura's single day has been taken on by Dawn Banting. At the end of July we will be saying farewell to Chaplain Anne Lindsay as she retires after a very busy time over the years at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The Chaplains also have the support of Chaplains assistants, volunteers who visit patients on the wards to offer pastoral care and company to patients. Full training is provided for both Wheelers and Chaplains Assistants. To get further information about either, please contact:- Su Bishop on 02392 286408

*Alan and Judith Williamson*

## **FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

The need is greater than ever but the secret band of 'Food Fairies' has continued to add that extra packet or tin to their weekly grocery shop and leave it in the collection boxes by the North Cloister door. Each week we have been able to take these donations to the food banks that support Refugees, Asylum Seekers and families identified by the Roberts Centre in need of help. Sincere thanks to whoever you are.

## UNIFORMED GROUPS

Becket Hall is in regular midweek use by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Beavers. The following reports give a flavour of activities of these groups.

### BROWNIES

Over the past year, both the Rainbows and Brownies have experienced their own residential events. In January the Brownies headed off for their "Brave" themed pack holiday, for which we were joined by another group who were unable to go away on their own. The girls all enjoyed the opportunities to experience archery, caving, fire lighting, a campfire, walking in the woods in the dark, some indoor craft activities and, of course, taking their turns at doing the chores that make these events fun for everyone. The Rainbows have had their own residential event, their Rainbow Sleepover, in March, which went really well and was a wonderful experience, especially for some girls who had never stayed away from family before. Our next Sleepover is scheduled for this coming March, so fingers crossed that it is just as successful.

Aside from residential events, both groups have tackled Mother's Day crafts, Backwards Day activities, Science Week experiments and a party for International Women's Day, along with a Burn's Night celebration making their own fluffy cuddly haggis and edible Loch Ness monsters! During the summer term, both groups tackled their own badges, with the Rainbows doing the 'Get Healthy' roundabout, whilst the Brownies chose 'Friend to Animals'. The Brownies in particular had an interesting second half to term, where each group was allocated an evening to run an hour's worth of activities. The range was impressive and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time, despite realising that explaining games multiple times gets annoying! The summer was crowned by our Family Evening at Sandy Acres, including games and a campfire, combining both groups and their families. As leaders, it was great to see everyone mixing, helping each other out, and sharing their experiences with their families. We certainly hope to be able to do it, or something similar, again in 2017. The Autumn Term was planned entirely around what the girls had said that they would like to do. They gave us some suggestions (e.g. painting or cooking) and we expanded on that to try and give them a range of interesting activities. Hopefully they enjoyed the selection of things during that term and we look forward to doing it again next year. The Guide Christmas Pantomime is always a wonderful occasion to bring all of the 12th Portsmouth groups together and we enjoyed seeing what the other groups had been up to before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

The start of this term was rather taken over by preparations for the Brownie Pack Holiday but we have also been working on the Toymaker badge and, in conjunction with The Portsmouth Grammar School, will be undertaking the Science Investigator badge in the second half of the term. The next Rainbow sleepover will soon be upon us, and then the Rainbow 30th Birthday celebrations in the Summer term. All-in-all, it's been a busy year for both groups, and there is more yet to come.

*Mouse, Tiger & Butterfly*

## 12<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Guides

The girls started the year working in their patrols completing 'Go for its'. In March they completed their Fire Fighter badge, we had members of the fire brigade come to the hall to teach the girls and we went to the fire station for a tour and look over the engines. We had a 'Peer talk' on being resilient from a young lady called Abiee Harris, giving the girls food for thought on dealing with everyday life. They have completed the Cooks Badge and the World Cultures Badge.

During the summer nights we did sports on the common, trails to follow and a member of the scouts came and did some orienteering with us. In early July eight girls attended a fun day at the Portsmouth Outdoor Centre. They did Paddle Boarding, kayaking, crate stacking and climbing and built a go-cart. Later in the month the girls went out from Eastney Cruising Association in boats called 'gigs'. We had a great evening rowing in little races against each other, hard work but fun. At the end of the month we had our summer camp with twelve Guides and five Senior Section we went to Ferny Crofts Scout Activity



Centre near Lyndhurst in the New Forest. We had a brilliant time with our *Cluedo* themed camp and the weather was very kind to us as well. We did crate stacking and bike riding among the activities. We went to Lyndhurst where we visited the New Forest Centre. We enjoyed Ferny Crofts so much that we are going back there this summer.

Back to Guides in September the girls did more 'Go For Its' in their patrols, for the new girls to get to know everyone. They also completed the Craft Badge. In late September we had Mix and Meet camp, at Lyons Copse, the Scout camp site at Shedfield. This was a great weekend with 200 children completing activities from archery to wood carving in teams. We were very lucky again with the weather. In November we attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Guildhall, my thanks to those who came.

This year three of our girls were presented with the highest award in Guides, The Baden Powell Award, Charlotte Nichols, Elinor Sandells and Olivia Thurlby. Very well done to them all. We finished the year with our traditional pantomime, Cinderella this year. We had a lovely evening performing for the parents. We also showed what the girls have achieved throughout the year with a photographic display.

We have just purchased three new tents with money we have raised through various means, Easy Fundraising, bag packing and The Webb Ivory catalogue to name the major ones.

Judith Burr  
12<sup>th</sup>portscathedralguides@gmail.com

## CHURCHWARDENS

A year full of interest and, sometimes, surprises. Tradition was changed with the change in title from sidesmen to sidespersons; Canon Precentor Jo introduced new patterns of liturgy requiring some modifications to our arrangements at services; our continuing collaboration with the team of Welcomers, led by Gerry Chilton, is much valued and has proved to be a vital resource on a number of occasions; the increasing participation of children in services has given us (and our teams) much pleasure; a particular highlight was the presence of Archbishop Justin Welby in the Nave ladling soup to members of the congregation after the Sisters of Bethany 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary service. Our sincere thanks to all our sidespersons offering duty at the 8.00am, 10.30am and 6.00pm services who meet their respective challenges with their usual mixture of aplomb and goodwill.

Our annual sidespersons meeting was held in November and was attended by 15 sidespersons, wardens and deputy wardens together with, Gerry Chilton representing the team of welcomers, and Canon Jo. The Dean was there to thank everyone for their work as one of the main points of welcome at the Cathedral. A range of important issues were discussed at the meeting including the change in title of sidesmen, car parking and security, logistics of special and regular services.

We look forward to contributing to the progress of the excellent eco-driven annual theme for 2017 “*All things bright and beautiful*”, the impact of the organ stop, improved lighting systems and the recently commissioned sound system. An area of concern for the congregation is the City Council’s decision to reduce parking times in the KA zone which is around the Cathedral to one hour. The churchwardens attend Chapter and Cathedral Staff meetings and are always pleased to represent congregational issues on these occasions.

Since the 2016 APCM Pat Abbott, Roy Brown and Mike Hughes have retired. All deserve deepest thanks for their many years of service, not only as sidespersons but in other areas of Cathedral life. Also thanks to Linda Swinburne and Marian Pottinger who moved to other Cathedral duties. Sheila Picton was elected Churchwarden last year in succession to Sue Ward who retired after two tours of duty as Churchwarden. Sue leaves behind a much valued legacy of good practice and experience and we are delighted to have her on the team as a sidesperson. Carole Wynn retired as compiler of the lay rotas for services rota after many years of service and Claire Hutchinson is welcomed in her place. We are pleased to welcome Sonia Banks as a new sidesperson and Shelagh Salman back to the team. There are, however, still vacancies at the Sunday morning services. Duties involve attendance once every five weeks and training will be given. Please contact one of the Wardens or Deputy Wardens if you feel able to join our 30 volunteers.

This annual report gives us an opportunity to thank our volunteers and many other (often unacknowledged) supporters and to Canon Jo for introducing us to different and interesting challenges in the delivery of services. In particular we wish to thank our Deputy Wardens: Val Voaden, Shirley Grayson-Smith, Don Valler and Philip Smith for their unfailing forbearance and for placing their substantial experience at our disposal. Thanks are due to the team of Welcomers for additional assistance. Head Verger Malina Wyzkowska has provided calm response to our sometimes anguished requests for help. Overall we feel blessed with our engagement in the Cathedral and the steadfast support of the congregation over the past year.

*Mike Purvis and Sheila Picton*

## **SERVICE WELCOMERS**

The Welcome Team continues to make a big difference to the welcome received by worshippers at the Cathedral.

We held an informal lunch provided by Canon Peter Leonard, when we were able to share any points that have arisen during the past year: an important one, that we do need an extra Welcomer to be around the north door entrance. So far this is being covered by Terry Ward and Gerry Chilton, when possible. With one new member, we continue to look out for potential Welcomers.

We do know that we are making a difference when we not only receive thanks for the 'welcome', and the opportunity of showing newcomers to a seat, but when we see them return on successive Sundays.

A hymn we sang a few months ago sums up what our welcome is all about; here are just a few lines. 'Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone, to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. .... All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.'

*Gerry Chilton*

## **DUTY CHAPLAINS**

The number in the ranks of the Duty Chaplains has sadly decreased in recent years but last year two Readers were welcomed.

The work varies as it does for many other volunteers and sometimes it is not busy which gives the opportunity to enjoy some quiet space, something not always possible, in the busy lives many of the chaplains lead. The visitors vary, some coming from the other side of the world, some from this country, while others are more local, seeking solace in times of trouble or perhaps just seeing what does go on in the building!

For those among us who are ordained, there is an opportunity to celebrate the Holy Communion at one of the Midday services during the week whilst Lay Chaplains sometimes assist at these services.

We are hoping some of the Readers who have shown interest in this ministry will join our ranks this year. May I appeal to some of the retired clergy to consider undertaking this very rewarding ministry, thereby providing a human presence with the other volunteers as we welcome visitors to our Cathedral.

*Hilary Spurgeon*

## **THE FLOWER GUILD**

The Cathedral Flower Guild is 'underpowered'! We would love to have more arrangers - could this be you? If you are interested in joining us, or just investigating, you would be most welcome. Training can be given. We usually arrange on Friday morning and on duty approximately once a month. Arranging is a satisfying and peaceful way to spend a morning in the Cathedral. Please contact one of us or the Cathedral Office if you are interested.

We enjoy creating arrangements for weddings and, fortunately, following the upturn in the economy, requests are coming in again. We can also create arrangements, with flowers chosen by you, either in memory or celebration of a special event.

This summer we are intend to repaint our flower stands and would like volunteers willing to wield a paintbrush.

Thank you for your continued support and comments which are much appreciated.

*Rosemary Fairfax*

## **HOLY DUSTERS**

Little has changed since last year's report. We are the same group who meet at 8.15am on Monday mornings. We sweep, dust, vacuum and polish in our own particular area but, in the absence of one of our number, we cover that area as well.

Our aim is to keep the Cathedral as clean and tidy as we are able for the benefit of the many visitors and the congregation.

It is not all hard work. We are a friendly bunch and meet for coffee and lunch on occasions. If you are reading this and would like to join us we could certainly do with extra pairs of hands and you would be assured of a very warm welcome.

*Sally Farnfield*

## **FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL**

2016 was another good year for the Friends with the membership numbers holding up well and our events programme being well supported. The Council met three times during the year and we held our AGM during the Cathedral's Patronal Festival in October. The main aims of the Council are to provide an interesting programme of events for the members, to encourage new membership and to support the work and mission of the Cathedral, both financially and by other means.

The outing to Greenwich in March, attended by nearly 50 members, proved very popular and was a great success. We first visited the National Maritime Museum and in particular the excellent Pepys Exhibition, before going onto the Old Royal Naval College. Here we were welcomed in the Chapel by the Reverend Pat Mann, before being given a fascinating tour of the Chapel. We also visited the beautiful and famous Painted Hall. Later visits included two trips to Mottisfont Abbey near Romsey in September and December, the latter one to see 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' presentation. Other activities included a Strawberry Tea to celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday attended by over 70 members and parishioners, plus support of Cathedral events. Our 2017 programme has already started with an interesting and fun visit to the Bombay Sapphire distillery near Whitchurch. Future visits include Uppark House near Harting in September and Hinton Ampner for their Christmas event. In addition, Members received a copy of the Friends' Yearbook, Newsletters in advance of Easter and Christmas and we sponsored a popular Christmas card that was sold through the Cathedral Bookshop.

In 2015 we paid for an outside Notice Board for the Lombard Street corner and this is now finally in place. We have also provided a Baby Change Table for Cathedral House and continue to fund the running of the very popular Children's Workshops held throughout the year. Council are currently discussing with Chapter various projects for the future, including the installation of a Kitchenette within the Cathedral.

Membership of the Friends is open to all who wish to support the Cathedral by their prayers and interest in its life and ministry. For further information about the Friends or details of membership please contact Liz Snowball (Membership Secretary) (Tel 023 9289 2963), pick up a Membership Brochure in the Cathedral or see the Friends' section of the Cathedral website (<http://portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/get-involved>).

*Andrew Slater*

## CATHEDRAL GUIDES

This has been a busy guiding year with organisational changes, training sessions and several social events. The new coloured Welcome Leaflet - the work of Christine Richardson & the Research Group led by John Friars - with its excellent map provides a most helpful introduction to visitors as do the two new models of the Cathedral, gifted by the Men's Shed.

There are four aspects to guiding. We act as welcomers and watchmen - the first smiley face visitors see - also on the lookout for those in distress. We are Vintage Volunteers - neither pressed nor paid. Most are retired. All are knowledgeable about the Cathedral or specific aspects of it. Guides may not know everything but they do know where to research. This learning is an on-going process.

Thirdly, the guides really do their bit for travel & tourism in Portsmouth. Over 14,000 visitors - a conservative estimate - were recorded in the Guides' Log in 2016. In July alone, there were 1,778 - including local residents, visitors from 58 areas in the UK plus 30 countries worldwide - as far away as Fiji and Venezuela! Over the weekend Feb 25-26 2017, there were visitors from Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Holland, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

The fourth aspect is that we are pilgrims. The church dedicated to St Thomas Becket began life in the C12<sup>th</sup>, grew in the C17<sup>th</sup> and was transform into a cathedral in the C20<sup>th</sup> but it is still what it was intended to be - a sacred Christian place. There is a timelessness here and its gentle weight makes pilgrims of all who come here. As so often in life, in helping others, we come to realise what is really important.

In spite of illness, surgery and grandchildren, the Guides are in good heart. They have continued to provide 75% cover - an improvement on last year. We would not want to be complacent - there is still room for improvement! Nevertheless, this represents a considerable commitment. We aim to offer three sessions daily Mon-Sat, two on Sundays. At present, we are operating on a hardworking core of 26 guides. We are a self-supporting group. The more experienced guides train the new guides. Two potential guides are training at present. The future looks bright. Jolly well done all!

*Margaret Wilson*

## RESEARCH GROUP

The group met six times in the last year. Pat Abbott and Jonathan Collins joined the team in April.

Three new booklets have been produced:

- The Baptismal Fonts of St Thomas's
- King Charles II and the Tangier Plate
- A Brief History of the Cathedral

Suggestions for new booklets are welcome.

The revision of the Guides Guide continues, with corrections, amendments and updates. Discussion topics have included the new Welcome Leaflet, the Cathedral archives, volunteers, and the storage of, and access to, the Memorial Books. Preparations are in progress for the 2017 Heritage Open Days (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September).

I would like to thank all the members of the group: Pat Abbott, Jonathan Collins, Mike Jackson, Mags Lovett, Pat Valler, Diana Villar and Margaret Wilson. A special word of thanks to Di and Mike for their hospitality, to Chris Lovett for his computer skills, and Christine Richardson for her help and encouragement.

*John Friars*

## **THE CATHEDRAL SHOP**

There were many unexpected events around the world in 2016. Some people may be surprised to learn of the ways in which international happenings can affect a small Cathedral Shop in Portsmouth, but they did!

Prior to the BREXIT referendum, people were cautious as they listened to the predictions of the “experts”. They spent less on items they liked, but did not need, and we noticed the difference in our takings. After the vote we had more visitors from Europe because of the good exchange rate for them. More British people decided to holiday in England and discover new places and buildings in their own country. As a result, our takings improved in what are usually quiet months and we were much busier – which is always more enjoyable. There were, however, disadvantages as suppliers who bought their goods in Europe, e.g. icons and serviettes, had to pay up to 18% more for their goods. A similar, but smaller effect, was caused by the election of the new President of the United States, after which the exchange rate of the dollar, also used in China, where some items originate, caused prices to be higher and spending to become lower, too. This, we had the joint effect of increased prices for purchases and later in the year we had to pass on some of these additional costs to our customers.

In spite of this we had a good year and pre-Christmas sales were much better than anticipated. Although people did not buy as many stamps, the sale of the range of Christmas cards available was very satisfying. Visitors explained that other shops in the area did not have such a selection of cards, particularly religious Christmas cards, which was very pleasing.

The system of our “Honesty Box” envelopes introduced last year is being used increasingly by both visitors and congregation. Our Loyalty Card has also been popular and visitors have been delighted to have money off when they complete their card!

During the year I have been learning about how the shop developed from using a table to its present size. As the shop developed, there was no shortage of enthusiastic volunteers to help in the shop and welcome visitors. Betty Arkinstall who died this year was one of these older, regular volunteers. Unfortunately, in the eight years since I took over we have lost seven of our older volunteers and it has been difficult to replace them as we discover there are now many interesting activities available for people with spare time. So, if you could spare a morning or afternoon each week, or fortnightly, you would be most welcome to become part of a team of committed and welcoming volunteers who have learnt new skills and interests whilst they raise money for the Cathedral.

*Christine Richardson*

## **HANDBELL GROUP**

The Handbell Group are a happy friendly group. We had to have a few weeks off in the summer due to Cathedral building work and the bellringers’ holidays. We played for the ladies group of St John’s Catholic Cathedral at their Christmas meeting which was enjoyed by all. We meet on Monday mornings 9.30-10.30am in the Song School in Cathedral House. Please come along and join us.

## **CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP**

Craft and Chat is a Friendly group. Some like to come and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and some to knit or sew or practice other handicrafts. A lot of work is done at home, but we discuss various crafts and new ideas pass back and forth. We meet on the first Thursday afternoon of the month 2pm-3.30pm. Just come along you will be warmly welcomed.

*Barbara Sykes*

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

This year we have seen an abundance of flowering spring bulbs in our Memorial Garden as a result of the donation of many bulbs from last year. The mass of daffodils, snowdrops and primulas has been a sight to behold as the accompanying photo shows. Thank you everyone for your generosity.



We would encourage everyone to visit the garden and take a rest in this haven of peace and quiet. For some, they will refresh cherished memories, as many of the bulbs have been brought to the garden after they have finished flowering in homes. Have some precious time for yourself, just relax and enjoy the flowers, scents and birds around you before you need to move on.

Alan, Andy, Chris and Sergio, Hoppy and Don have found the winter months rather flat. Now we all suddenly find ourselves so busy we only just have time for the coffee and cake that Andy and Terry Monaghan have so generously continued to provide at stand easy.

So what do we do on a Tuesday morning? Alan (the turf) mows the grass while Andy (the shed) collects rubbish and gets rid of it - but we don't enquire where it goes to. Chris (the plant) spends his time on his knees seeking divine guidance but he calls it planting and weeding. Sergio (the silent expert), our newest recruit, actually really does know what he is doing and puts the rest of us to shame by the amount of work he gets through. He knows what to do with shrubs and bushes, keeping them looking ship shape and Bristol fashion. Hoppy (the elder) does the roses and also chats to any visitor who happens along. We think he was a PR consultant in a past life. Finally Don (aka compo) looks after the compost bins and does the watering while offering advice which no one seems to take.

In short the Lord has smiled upon our labours and we all enjoy ourselves enormously. We are so grateful for the support we get from the ladies of Craft and Chat and also from the visitors that pass through, even if they only stop for a minute or two. So a big thank you from us is in order.

Once again - Please do visit and enjoy.

'The Adams'



## CATHEDRAL CLUB

We have had nine meetings on a roughly monthly basis since March last year, plus Christmas lunch at The Clarence. With interesting speakers, the talks have been on: a holiday in Nepal, Stansted House, Canon Anthony Rustell on the Reformation, the Reverend Dawn Banting on her chaplaincies, the work of the WEA, weather vanes, "My road to Damascus", the outside of The Cathedral, and the history of Portsmouth.

We have a regular core of loyal attendees, but would welcome other members of the congregation or their friends to join us – at present, there is no charge or membership fee for attending, and just a donation requested if staying for tea/coffee.

*Ronald Rabbetts*

## **PARISH LUNCH CLUB**

The Lunch Club continues to provide a tasty two course meal with a cup of tea or coffee to follow for £4.00 a head, cost unchanged, each with an experienced cook to lead them once a month. They usually cook the same menu but as that is only once a month that is not a problem. We are delighted that one team is now preparing two meals each month meaning that a full service can continue. Being as the labour is freely given a small profit is made each week which is used to subsidise the excellent Christmas menu, also our annual Summer Outing to Acres Down Farm for a cream tea and drive round the New Forest, plus replacement equipment. We are also still frequently entertained by Eric, a gifted pianist with a very wide repertoire of much loved oldies.

It all began the best part of 35 years ago when Sarah Stancliffe and Joan Eddings went house to house in the parish asking people what service they thought would be useful and suggestions included a Lunch Club and a volunteer car service for such things as hospital visits. The car service lasted a while but gradually faded away but not the Lunch Club which continues to be a popular success attended by about 45/50 people from across the city on a regular basis.

*Joan Eddings & Maureen Cole*

## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRISING EVENTS**

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

An amazing number of volunteers worked really hard to make another successful Christmas Fair which raised a magnificent net profit of £4,443. Several changes were made to the stalls and all were wonderfully decorated which enticed more people to visit this year. Santa's Grotto looked great and seventy children enjoyed meeting Santa. The fair was a little later this year and provided lunch and refreshments for longer which proved a great draw.

The post-fair meeting and comments always allow everyone to share the experience of the day and each year more tweaks are made to encourage more people to attend. Reminders will be included in the pew sheet through the year for everyone to make marmalade and jam in season, save jewellery, crockery and accessories and think of cake making closer to the event.

Thank you to everyone who made the day such fun. Save the date for XXXX and encourage your family, neighbours and friends to support the event.

**FISH AND CHIP QUIZ NIGHT** Thank you to Ann Jablonski for again organising another fun evening in January which raised funds for Foodcycle Pompey. John provided more challenging questions which were given out by the Quiz Master, Richard Wilson, and again tasty fish and chips were supplied from Portchester (if you can remember the name can you add it here). This popular event will be repeated in January 2018.

**SKITTLES EVENING** The annual event at the Royal Maritime Club continues to be popular – a good way to socialise and meet new people. This year the challenge was against Gunwharf Residents and 46 signed up to play. The Gunwharf Residents won ending the long running success of the Cathedral team. A good supper of fish or scampi or chicken was provided. This is a fun evening and not intended as a fund raiser however £110 was raised which goes to The Roberts Centre. I hope as many people as possible will support future events and thank all the volunteers for making them successful.

*Ann Wilson*

## QUIET AFTERNOONS

These informal Quiet Afternoons, which started in September 2014, are a recent addition to Cathedral life.

They are held three times a year (Spring, Summer & Autumn) in the Emsworth home & garden of one of our congregational members. A guest speaker leads us in the afternoon's theme and the short talks are interspersed with plenty of free time for quiet meandering, sitting, reflection, reading & prayer in the charming garden & conservatory.



Transport from & to the Cathedral can be provided. Tea/coffee & biscuits are available throughout the afternoon.

*Delia Curry*

## MESSY CATHEDRAL

Messy Cathedral continues to go from strength to strength thanks to a fantastic band of volunteers under the leadership of the Reverend Dawn Banting. Anything between 40 and 60 people of all ages gather together on the last Saturday of each month for an hour of crafts and games based around a biblical story or theme. This is followed by a short service bringing together all that has been done and then a delicious tea is enjoyed by all present supplied and served once again by our team of helpers.

In addition this year we have introduced some physical activities and games thanks to some Cathedral parents who are PE teachers and some additional seasonal activities including wreath making, glass etching and a rock pool encounter by The Blue Reef Aquarium. New members of this worshipping community and volunteers are always welcome.

*Peter Leonard*

## BECKET'S BUNCH (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

After a number of years working at the Cathedral and organising Becket's Bunch Brigid Mc Govern left us in February. We now have six trained teachers, including Canon Peter, who are able to lead the group each Sunday. However, we are not able to operate unless we have an additional adult with us who has a current DBS certificate and so we would be glad to learn of anyone willing to help.

Our numbers are variable and can go from four one week to twenty four the next of all ages. This year we are following the Cathedral's annual theme of *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and have mapped out a programme to give some continuity to the sessions. We have prayers, games, stories and craft activities, and the value of having different teachers is that we all bring our own strengths to each session. We aim to operate every Sunday apart from special occasions like Mothering Sunday. In this way we hope we can enable the parents to concentrate on the service while the children are nourished in the faith in an enjoyable way.

*Carole King*

# The Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury

*as at April 2017*

## The Dean

The Very Revd David Brindley

## Residentiary Canons

The Revd Canon Nick Ralph  
The Revd Canon Peter Leonard

The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell  
The Revd Canon Dr Jo Spreadbury

## Assistant Curate

The Revd Dawn Banting

## Reader

Kitty Price

## Lay Members of Chapter

Fiona Alsop

John Hill

## Chapter Clerk

Peter Sanders

## Dean's Personal Assistant and Office Manager

Liz Snowball ext 220

## Shop Manager

Christine Richardson ext 232

## Administrative Assistants

Stephen Crookes x 239

Sarah Lovatt ext 222

Seonaidh Woad ext 225

## Organist and Master of the Choristers

David Price ext 228

## Sub-Organist

Oliver Hancock

## Choir Matrons

Catherine O'Leary, Vanessa Fenton and  
Kathryn Moffit

## Cathedral Sing Administrator

Adrian Green

## Education Officer

Sarah Page ext 221

## Marketing Coordinator

John Bolt ext 234

## Head Verger

Malina Wyzykowska ext 230

## Assistant Verger

Graham Kidd ext 230

## Maintenance and Cleaning

Bradley Hill, Tina Cartright and Scarlett Robertson-Yeeles



The Cathedral Office, Cathedral House,  
63-68 St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HA  
023 9282 3300 [info@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk)  
[www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk)



