

**The Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury
Portsmouth**

**Minutes of the
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
and
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday, 24 April 2016**

Present: The Very Reverend David Brindley
The Reverend Canon Nick Ralph
The Reverend Canon Peter Leonard
The Reverend Canon Dr Anthony Rustell
The Reverend Canon Dr Jo Spreadbury
Mr John Hill Chair Finance and Investments Committee and Lay Member of Chapter
Mr Jeremy Barrett Lay Member of Chapter
Mr Peter Sanders – Chapter Clerk
The Reverend Dawn Banting – Assistant Curate
44 members of the congregation

In Attendance: Mrs Elizabeth Snowball, Dean's PA, as clerk to the meeting

1. Welcome and apologies the Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from Fiona Alsop (Lay Chapter), Kitty Price (Reader), Mags and Chris Lovett, Gerry and Renee Chilton, Helen Baverstock, Alan and Judith Williamson and Carole Wynn,

2. Minutes of meeting held on 26 April 2015 the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Nomination and election of Churchwardens The Dean thanked Sue Ward, who was not seeking re-election as Churchwarden, for her leadership of the sidespeople in addition for her work in other areas such as Christian Aid, Fairtrade and interfaith. Mike Purvis, also a Churchwarden thanked SW for her quiet way and attention to detail and mentoring and presented a gift.

There were two nominations for churchwarden, Mike Purvis and Sheila Picton who were unanimously elected to serve for a one year term of office.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
(voting only open to those on the electoral roll of this parish)**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2015

The minutes were held to be a true record of the meeting.

2. Report on the Electoral Roll –

There were apologies from Mr Nicholas Speller, Electoral Roll Officer, who was unable to attend due to his Father's Thanksgiving Service. The following report was read by the Dean:

'At the 2015 APCM the Electoral Roll had 294 people registered. Since then 4 have left the roll (2 deceased, 2 moved) and 35 have joined the Roll, making a new total of 325. Following the publication of the 2016 Roll (ie in the last two weeks) a further death has been reported to me and another application has been received – which will be added immediately after the APCM.' The number on the Roll was formally accepted.

3. Election of Sidesmen

The Dean thanked the sidesmen for their work as the first people to offer a welcome at services. The following were appointed:

Pat Abbott	Rosemary Fairfax	Celia Johnson
Clive Arthurs	Mike Hughes	Frances Kay
Sheila Blackwell	Jackie Gauntlett	Chris Lovett
Roy Brown	Shirley Grayson-Smith	Mags Lovett
Julia Bryce	Ann Jablonski	Gita Manohar
Delia Curry	Mike Jackson	Sheila Picton

Colin Podmore
Marian Pottinger
Ronald Rabbetts
Rosamund Robinson
Shelagh Salman

Philip Smith
Hannie Smithson
Elizabeth Snowball
Linda Swinburne
Barbara Sykes

Don Valler
Pat Valler
Val Voaden
Ann Wilson

Deputy Wardens: Shirley Grayson-Smith, Philip Smith, Don Valler, Val Voaden

4. Annual Accounts – Peter Sanders, Chapter Clerk

PMS gave a presentation of the accounts to the meeting. He thanked the members of the Committee and in particular: Caroline Speller who had been the Chair throughout 2015 before coming to the end of her second term of office; Paul Mitchell, the investments specialist and finally to the Finance Officer, Rachel Richardson, for her essential preparation work for the audit.

The accounts were in a new format required by the changes in the accounting regulations. It was not possible to make a direct comparison with last year's figures as presented although the accountants had reworked them to provide a comparison with the 2014 figures.

The deficit of £262,000 is mainly due to Development Plan projects such as the display boards, staging and marketing, the refurbishment of 51 High Street and the purchase of new chairs. This did not include the works to the tower which had been covered by grants.

£2.4 million was held in investments and the value of property (clergy and staff housing plus Cathedral House is £3.1 million) giving a total in funds/assets of £6 million, of which £2.5-3 million was realizable. The reserves are sufficient to cover three years' operational costs but Chapter recognizes that it is not good to run a deficit.

The number of investment managers has been reduced.

Fabric

No significant investments had been made in the properties for over 20 years and the roof of Flat 2 in Cathedral House now needs urgent repair.

The Quinquennial Inspection in 2016 will report on the fabric of the cathedral building including the drainage.

Sound and AV: the current sound system had cost £75,000 but was in need of replacement.

Organ Stop: The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England had rejected the proposal put forward in 2015 but a new design will be submitted later this year.

Environmental Stewardship: Mike Purvis was the main lead in the environmental agenda. LED lighting was being investigated for both the Cathedral and Cathedral House.

Landscape: The bid for funding through the HLF for the landscape had been unsuccessful and a decision on whether to submit a reduced bid or revised larger scheme had yet to be made.

Running Costs and Income Generation

The Cathedral costs between £10,000-12,000 per week to run. Churches rely on legacies and the Groves' Legacy was generating income. Some cathedrals were looking at options such as pop concerts or corporate dinners in their naves and Chapter will be considering income generation opportunities in addition to core business.

The investment in additional work through the Development Plan was drawing in new people and expanding the life of the community and congregation.

Questions

June Purvis asked what was being done to address the problems with the sound system which was so important for worship and events. An estimate of over £200,000 for the replacement of the system had been received but Chapter was unwilling to invest such a large amount before more consultation. Any replacement will need to speak to the architecture of the building. It was hoped to replace the system during the year and a fundraising appeal will be launched. Richard Wilson was concerned that not all of the deficit had been explained and challenged that there were more people. The Dean noted that the worshipping community was growing and that because people were not in church on Sunday morning did not mean they are not members of the congregation. Messy Cathedral was the first

regular offer of its kind and gave people who would not come to traditional services a way into church. David Price also commented that Messy Cathedral was vital and those attending are not visitors as had been suggested. The Toddler Group was thriving and Canon Leonard was looking at other ways to develop it and Becket's Bunch. Families also came to the Cathedral through the choirs and recently one family who had not worshipped before their child became a chorister had asked for all their children to be baptized.

The Dean argued that with £3 million in the bank it would be wrong not to spend money provided a proper plan was in operation and expenditure was responsible.

The accounts were received.

5. Reports

The Dean introduced the reports by saying that they represented the enormous range of work by so many different people and a deep Christian commitment not just in worship but in expressing God's love and love to people. He thanks the Chapter Clerk, Peter Sanders, his PA, Liz Snowball, Chapter colleagues and all the volunteers, particular Graham White and Anne Leach for their work in Gift Aid and Christine Richardson as Shop Manager who was in effect a full time volunteer.

6. The Dean's Review

Tower works

The Dean then gave a brief illustrated presentation on the current works explaining how steels had been cut into the timbers in the early C20th, the steels and wooden beams had become corroded and rotten and had now been replaced. It was hoped the work would be complete by the end of July. The work had been more complex than expected and had taken up a great deal of the Chapter Clerk's time.

The welcome received by those coming to the Cathedral was directly because of the people connected to it, and it was very important to ensure that all who came were aware that it was a place of God where everyone was welcome.

Questions

Jazz Mass Ronald Rabbetts asked why the Jazz Mass commissioned in 2015 was set with Latin text. He felt that English should have been used. The Precentor responded that the composers were given the option of using the modern English of Common Worship or the traditional Latin and chose Latin as it was more poetical. The Liturgical Commission, which she chairs, was hoping to develop a modern English form of words which would be more attractive to the composers. Graham White agreed with Ronald Rabbetts and noted that not all the congregation found the Latin accessible. David Price commented that the removal of Latin settings would narrow the options to Edwardian or early C20th compositions. The majority of anthems were sung in English and the Thorne congregational setting which is in English is used on a regular basis.

The Dean noted that Cathedrals are the only continually growing part of churches and the reports explain why that was happening. There were a number of reasons why: volunteers add greater value; the quality of music is excellent and everyone should be deeply proud of the 80 or more members of the choirs including 50 under the age of 20. Pompey Chimes had covered the story of the 103 gap year scholars who had been at Portsmouth in the 25 years since the scheme was launched. Five had been ordained, one was employed in the West End and all had received a deep experience of a Christian Community. People continued to be drawn in by music and Chapter was committed to ensuring that continued.

Social Fundraising Events Ann Wilson commented that the reports did not include mention of the Jazz evening, skittles and quiz nights. She thanked those who had helped organise them noting that it was good to meet with the congregation of St John's Catholic Cathedral.

7. Any Other Business

Canon Ralph observed that the Cathedral is a diverse and busy organization. He thanked the Dean for his leadership and for promoting the Cathedral in the wider community.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 30th April 2017.