

**Cathedral Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2022
at 6.30pm in the Cavell Room at Sarum College**

MINUTES

Opening prayer

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Dame Rosemary Spencer, Paul Smith, Zoe Fletcher and the Precentor, Anna Macham
Rev Nigel Davies opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Colin Smith, Chair; Patrick Thomas, Treasurer, Ros Hepplewhite, Vice Chair, Liz Barnard, Secretary; Odette Amor; Chris Barnard; Angela Ford; Julia Lever; Emily Oliver; Sylvia Roseaman; Sonia Woolley; VoC Nigel Davies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 1 December 2021 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Who does What - ND/RT began the work on this but it remains incomplete; the information needs to be displayed, perhaps in the porch or the Consistory Court. It also needs to be included in the Sunday Notices, and on the website, where it used to appear. Until the new Canon Treasurer is in post, Canon Anna also needs to check weekly the information that goes into the Sunday Notices, as Philippa Parfrey does not have the authority. All items should be attributed with contact details.

- ☀ **Canon Anna to produce accurate up to date *Who Does What?* and check the items in the Sunday Notices. This will avoid out of date or unnecessarily repetitive items appearing. CS to discuss with AM.**

There was some further discussion about identifying visiting clergy/preachers but this is quite complex and the information does appear on the service sheet.

Lighting - CS remarked on the poor quality of lighting in the Quire still and during live streaming, too. The lighting in the nave during Evensong is also too low and dangerous with an elderly congregation, the partially sighted, and given the uneven stone floor.

- ☀ **To be raised with the new Canon Treasurer LB**

Disabled parking - JL told the meeting that this had always been charged, though until recently Blue Badge parking in the town has been free; that was about to change.

The West Door of the Cathedral is not accessible as it is too far for a disabled passenger to go unaided. Funeral cars do park there and the gate is not locked but would need to be opened. JL suggested someone could be tasked with meeting that person with a wheelchair if notified in advance, so that the driver could safely go and park.

4. **New Bishop & Canon Treasurer** - there was a brief summary of information about the two new priests and it was confirmed that the Canon Treasurer would be installed on 12 June, the day of the Open Gardens in the Close

5. **Cathedrals Measure 2021 implementation update**

Drafts have been submitted for approval and given the strict nature of the templates supplied, this should be straightforward, and should go to the Charities Commission without delay. Some minor amendments like having two seats at Salisbury for the Bishop, have been requested.

The next stage is 'the Advisory Body' and hopefully, the Forum will be involved in the consultations.

CS thanked the Forum members for their valuable contributions to the document sent to the Dean and remarked that this might be the penultimate meeting of the existing Community Forum.

6. **Reflect on Christmas/Epiphany,**

RH said that the new nativity figures were universally popular and visitor friendly. There will be additional figures in future.

AF commented on the Stewards approval of the ticketing system, despite some problems with access and the website, and the prioritising of the regular congregation which did not quite work out.

Because of seating larger late families together, gaps were deliberately left, but the numbers were organised for maximum safety and comfort; only a few people booked tickets but did not turn up, and choir parents in particular, often arranged swaps where appropriate.

And anticipate Lent/Easter? No concerns to date.

7. **Welcome to new members of the congregation**

CS told the meeting that the system is still not functioning adequately and a couple who registered on line were still awaiting a contact from the Cathedral.

SR said there used to be a welcome committee rota, and RH described what positive things are done. The Stewards do encourage people to stay for coffee.

The question of the invitations to tea with the Dean seem to have lapsed, though lunch with the Dean has started again for at least some volunteers. ND thought clergy introducing the Eucharist before the service itself needed to emphasise coffee, and ask people to introduce themselves to the clergy. The Stewards need to have copies of the new Welcome leaflets to give to newcomers and this should be featured in the Sunday Notices, in addition.

☀ **LB to ensure Welcome leaflets are given to the Stewards on Sunday morning, and this also to be flagged up in the Sunday Notices.**

8. Safeguarding -

This is prominent on the new website which is admirable but it can be seen as rather negative and aggressive when it precedes everything else; worship is quite a long way down the list, for example.

9. Cathedral website see also above

Amy Sherburn was expecting and welcoming feedback:

- The search function was described as no better;
- There is no longer a list of the Forum membership;
- We need to have a User Experience Group (EO)
- There is no list of Cathedral clergy
- There is no information about Eco church even though we are the only cathedral in the system of awards to have achieved Gold. (RH)

However, information about services is better, and a TODAY list of events does pop up.

☀ **This information to be conveyed to Amy Sherburn LB**

10. Forum Noticeboard (See also MAM)

Despite the number of things going on in the Forum, we do not really showcase this to the congregation RH. We are busy and outgoing and they should know this.

There was discussion about whether a noticeboard is effective, or whether some form of (moveable) display was a possibility

PT felt that we were discussing detail before strategy and needed to decide what we as a Cathedral congregation wanted to proclaim. Then we could put somebody in charge of doing that, rather than trying to work backwards.

☀ **LB to arrange a meeting of the Forum Executive to look at the Forum Noticeboard in consultation with AM**

11. Eco Church - RH

Salisbury Cathedral hosted a three day visit by the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral who talked to Ros and Julian Hepplewhite about various aspect of our

Gold award including planting plans. They are currently at the self-assessed stage of Bronze and looking to progress.

Julian Hepplewhite has produced a digest for Eco Church Candidates.

Our own current initiatives include: more hedgehog boxes, more nest boxes, more planting on a larger scale and getting plants donated for Marsh Close, where we are looking to develop further involvement. The Chapter Clerk attended a meeting recently and was very supportive, especially in promoting and preserving the bio diversity of Marsh Close and Broad Walk. There is still scope for greater scientific and technology initiatives, for example moving towards Zero carbon status.

12. Choir Parents Report - EO

EO gave a detailed account of a number of changes to the organisation as well as welcome news of the acceptance of four boys and four girls as new choir members.

Various points were raised about funding and support in these difficult times but the meeting was united in its continuing belief that music and the choir are of huge importance in the worship of our Cathedral

12. Finance - Planned Giving & Charitable Donations - PT

The treasurer remarked that he had nothing further to add to the papers distributed to all members before the meeting. He told us that there would be no return to the use of collection plate or bags at services but further suggested that because of the massive fall in revenue from the collection, time should be allocated to the next meeting for a wider discussion.

☀ **Ensure that Finance appears with a longer time allocation on the next agenda PT/CS/LB**

13. Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Salisbury - RH

It was reported that the scheduled Deanery Synod meeting had been cancelled, but a meeting for *Churches Together in Salisbury* arranged for April 27 will be attended by our three representatives, and it is hoped that the exchanges will restart this year.

11. Matters raised by the congregation

None

12. AOB

- SW asked what progress had been made on the re-ordering of the Trinity Chapel. CB said that AM had been heard to say that this was 'in hand'.
- Music Scheme is only published for the week rather than the month, and it has to be hunted for. Could there be a return to the pre-pandemic system?

☀ **CS to ask AM**

- RH raised the subject of what we/the Cathedral was doing about the situation in Ukraine. She mentioned empty properties belonging to the Cathedral, and a huge amount of goodwill that could be harnessed, with definite feeling that we ought to get involved in some sort of project or initiative.

Closing prayer

Date of next meeting - Thursday 16 June