

MINUTES OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY FORUM AGM

Held on Sunday 1 October 2016 at 12.30pm

In the Lecture Hall, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum

PRESENT

John Pitt-Brooke (Chair); Jill Horsburgh (Secretary); Chris Barnard; Kate Beckett; Liz Barnard; John Tarrant; Sonia Woolley

Also about 40 members of the congregation and Cathedral community, including Chapter members, Principal Persons and the Vicar of the Close.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the Acting Dean

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Rosemary Allen, Vanessa Coryndon, Colin Smith, Patrick Thomas, (Forum Committee); Caroline & Brian Waldman (Congregation)

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM 2016 & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the AGM held on 2 October 2016 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

4. REPORT FROM THE FORUM CHAIR

John Pitt-Brooke thanked everyone for attending the meeting; also all members of the Forum for their hard work over the year. He emphasised the close link between Forum and Chapter and indicated the principal areas in which the Forum had been involved over the last year. The Forum had been asked for its opinions on Master Plan and Liturgical Plan and had both initiated and helped to deliver the recently launched Planned Giving campaign, with encouraging initial results. The Forum had also continued to recommend charities as beneficiaries of the Cathedral's collections (and decided to place more emphasis on local beneficiaries in future; it also supported changes in the Cathedral's pattern of collections. The Chapter had welcomed the Forum's views on Cathedral services, especially over the Christmas and Easter periods: these services had been both deeply moving and hugely appreciated. The Forum had also been closely involved in selecting gifts for the Dean, who had now left Salisbury to become Bishop of Llandaff, and had considered in depth the qualities required in her successor; this latter process had culminated in a thoughtful and highly constructive open meeting with members of the congregation. The Forum had continued its involvement with Churches Together in Salisbury, and organised the Cathedral's participation in the annual congregational

exchange, this year with St Pauls's Church: it had proved a very worthwhile experience for both parties. The Forum had also considered issues of disabled parking in the Close and disabled access in the South Transept.

John Pitt-Brooke stressed that for the Forum to be taken seriously, it was essential that Chapter should listen to its views: he was especially grateful to Canon Robert Titley for his active participation in the Forum and for ensuring clear, constructive communication lines between both parties. He also emphasised the critical importance of effective interaction with the congregation and his interest in holding further open meetings from time to time in order to elicit wider views.

Finally, the Forum was losing several members this year. Dudley Heather had resigned, and Jill Horsburgh, Colin Smith and John Tarrant were retiring after completing their six years of service (although Colin Smith will remain on the Forum *ex officio* in his capacity of Head Steward). John Pitt-Brooke thanked them all for their contributions, mentioning especially the work of Jill Horsburgh as Secretary and Colin Smith as Treasurer. He also warmly thanked Susan Branch and her team of helpers for once again co-ordinating arrangements for the bring-and-share lunch: as always, this was very much appreciated.

5. ELECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FORUM

Kayode Ejibunu, Sylvia Roseamann and Dame Rosemary Spencer were elected as new Forum members

6. ELECTIONS FOR FORUM SECRETARY & TREASURER

Liz Barnard (2016) was elected as Forum Secretary and Patrick Thomas (2016) as Forum Treasurer.

7. ELECTIONS FOR DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

Following the resignation of John Clipson, John Pitt-Brooke was elected as one of the two Deanery Synod representatives representing the Cathedral congregation. The other representative, Rosemary Allen (2014) was willing to continue.

8. TALK BY THE VERY REVEREND CHARLES TAYLOR (Former Dean of Peterborough Cathedral and now Associate Canon of Salisbury Cathedral)

Charles Taylor expressed thanks to the Cathedral Chapter and congregation for making him so welcome as he joined them to give support during the interregnum period between Deans. He took as his topic the nature and purpose of a Cathedral, which he defined in four ways.

1. *The Cathedral as Cathedra, the seat of the Bishop.* This function is shown symbolically by the Bishop's stall within the Cathedral and functionally by the presence of the Dean on his staff, with other Cathedral colleagues also participating in staff meetings, councils and appraisals. The Cathedral also offers support to the bishop and his diocese through prayer, teaching and training.
2. *The Cathedral as teacher and custodian.* The bishop's responsibility for the continuity of the Christian story, which is still unfolding, is exemplified within the daily prayer and offices of the Cathedral ; also within its education and outreach programmes to schools and communities.

3. *The Cathedral as icon.* The identification felt by both city and wider diocese with their Cathedral; partnership with local councils and other local organisations
4. *The Cathedral as community.* The work of a Cathedral cannot be sustained without the active support of their committed congregation in worship and prayer; also through a myriad of voluntary roles. Through its ministry of hospitality, a Cathedral also incorporates a wider and more eclectic constituent: those in need of mental or physical support, who should be received as though they were Christ himself. It is in these contexts that a Cathedral offers the opportunity to explore and cross the boundaries between the spiritual and the secular, a risk which we should embrace.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Pitt-Brooke asked Charles Taylor for his first impressions of Salisbury: he replied that he was finding it an open and welcoming community, though less diverse than his previous city of Peterborough. There was no further AoB.

10. CLOSING REMARKS (ACTING DEAN)

Edward Probert expressed thanks to the Forum which he regarded as an important organ within the communal life of the Cathedral, although its significance was not really reflected by attendance at the AGM. He had valued its contribution over the past year and anticipated that new members would take a fresh look at the position and challenge Chapter to become ever more honourable in the expression of its calling. While a Cathedral's default position was naturally to operate on precedent; it was also important to take risks and break the mould. The Dean was unlikely to be installed until next summer and the uncertainties of the interregnum period would inevitably impact on the Cathedral's congregation and on its staff. Nonetheless, the Acting Dean was confident that this process would enrich our lives as we continue in our work and mission. He thanked the Very Reverend Charles Taylor for lending such strong support as an associate canon during this period. He also thanked John Pitt-Brooke for all he brings and gives in his role as Chair of the Cathedral's Community Forum.

The Acting Dean concluded the meeting by inviting everyone to enjoy the bring and share lunch, an expression of hospitality and of sharing lives in Christ.