

Salisbury Cathedral Community Forum

Summary Minutes of meeting held by Zoom on June 16 2021

All members attended with the exception of Canon Nigel Davies who sent his apologies. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Canon Robert talked about some aspects of the Cathedral's current strategic planning and described the three ideas behind the new phase - liberty, creativity and eternity. These would lead to a wider perspective and encourage what good things have been learnt during the pandemic to develop and flourish.

Aspects of the pre-Covid 5 Year plan were discussed. The pandemic had put some ideas on hold and other plans had been revised as a result of changes that the pandemic itself had engendered.

Visitor numbers were improving and the new ramp provides an easier and more hospitable welcome.

Use of technology continued to be welcome, and mention was made of the popularity of study sessions on five Monday evenings, the continuing Zoom midday prayers and Daily Reflections. Some concerns were raised about providing adequate pastoral support for those without access to technology and it was agreed to explore this further.

Finance; The amount in the Offertory Fund from all sources in the year ending 31st March 2021 was £141,545.00,

1. Within that figure was the sum of £105,127.00 from the Planned Giving Scheme and just over £23,000 from tax recovered on Gift Aided payments; a significant benefit on the Offertory Fund at a time of reduced giving through Covid-restricted opening of the Cathedral,
2. 5% of the Offertory Fund, amounting to £7077.00, was available for distribution under the Cathedral's Charitable Giving Scheme,
3. The Forum agreed to recommend to Chapter seven charities to receive £1,011 from the £7,077, subject to Chapter approval and completion of the audit of the Cathedral Accounts. The selected charities were:
 - 4.1. Family Counselling Trust
 - 4.2. Salisbury Christians against Poverty Centre
 - 4.3. Salisbury Women's Refuge
 - 4.4. The Footprints Project
 - 4.5. Julia's House – a children's hospice charity active in Wiltshire and Dorset
 - 4.6. Salisbury Food Bank
 - 4.7. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Going for Gold - Eco Church. Canon Robert spoke about the thorough scrutiny by an A Rocha representative, of our efforts to achieve Gold. The result was subsequently reflected by A Rocha's award. The eco questionnaire was especially commended. A report will appear in the Friends' Newsletter.

The Healing Ministry remains impractical with 'laying in of hands' forbidden under Covid regulations.

Choir Parents - maintaining the momentum and initial ideas had been very hard during the pandemic. Up to ten new choristers and their families are expected to join the Cathedral community in September, and it would be beneficial to revisit these ideas, including

contacts with the clergy and information about the cathedral from the stewards and guides. A real effort should be made to establish these links from the beginning of the new school year.