

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Sunday 8 May 2016

Chairman – the Dean of Manchester, Rogers Govender.

Secretary – the Cathedral Administrator, Stuart Shepherd

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting dated 3 May 2015

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Dean.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

No matters arising.

3. Election of the Deanery Synod Representatives

The Dean explained that three representatives of the Cathedral Community attend meetings of Hulme Deanery Synod. This is due to the Cathedral being situated geographically within the Hulme Deanery, but it was important to note that as mother church of the diocese, the Cathedral must not align itself with the activities of any one deanery. Basil Fox was elected for three years in 2014. Sylvester and Kathryn were elected in 2013 and were now due for re-election. Nominations were therefore invited for the two vacancies and both Sylvester and Kathryn had been duly nominated and seconded; in the absence of any other nominations they were both elected for another three year term. The Dean thanked them for their on-going support and commitment.

4. Election of Community Committee members

The Dean explained how up to ten members of the Cathedral Community can be elected for a three year term to join the Cathedral Community Committee. The Community Committee exists to provide a link between the Chapter (the governing body of the Cathedral) and the various Cathedral communities. It meets approximately six times per year after the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist. The following are members whose term did not expire this year: John Brodrick; Kathryn DeBelle; Kirk Eckersall and Ian Simpson. The following members were, however, due for re-election: John Acaster; Beryl Cheshire; Pauline Dimond; Barbara Evans and Diana Fletcher. The committee carried one vacancy throughout the past year. Nominations for six vacancies were invited. Those nominated, proposers and seconders must all be members of the Cathedral Community Roll. Nominations were received from: Beryl Cheshire; Pauline Dimond; Barbara Evans; Judy Walsh and Anthony Williams. All had been duly proposed and seconded; as such, they were duly elected onto the Community Committee for a three year term. One vacancy remains. The Dean thanked them for their on-going support and commitment.

5. Election of Cathedral Council members

The Dean explained that four members of the Cathedral Community are also elected for a three year term (but may be re-elected for further terms) on to the Cathedral Council. Other members of the Cathedral Council are drawn from many areas of civic, business and religious life in Manchester. The Council meets twice a year and provides help and support to the Dean and the Chapter on issues concerning the Cathedral. The Dean then explained that John Acaster, Graham Curtis, Barbara Evans and Michael Powell were last elected in 2015 and so no further nominations were necessary this year. The Dean thanked them for their on-going support and commitment.

6. The Dean's Report

The Dean presented his report by opening with an important reminder of our central calling, which is to be a community of prayer and worship. We express our love for God in this way and this must always be the most important thing we embrace as a cathedral.

The clergy team have been careful to take time and be alone together with God; focusing our corporate life on prayer is at the heart of all Christian ministry and has been central to the lives of the clergy team. Jane Walker (Cathedral Curate) led an excellent Lent course on prayer. New icons in the north aisle were dedicated as a focus for prayer for the world. Reader-Emeritus Raylia Chadwick has been leading sessions on meditation.

Throughout the year and well into 2016 Cathedral colleagues have been working on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the West End development. This has included working on a vision and business plan for the next decade. The Dean expressed his gratitude to Mrs Marion McClintock for assisting with this work and briefly explained the concepts of the development to all those present. The Dean confirmed that any development of the west end would certainly consider accessibility issues and improved toilet provision. A more formal consultation meeting will be arranged for the congregation in the next few weeks so that the Cathedral Community is given every opportunity to comment on architects' designs.

Fundraising for our various projects continues apace. The Dean thanked all those who have supported the Development Project and sincere thanks to all donors, whose contributions in cash or kind have enabled the Chapter to carry out some significant improvements to the fabric of the Cathedral.

The Dean thanked all members of the clergy team for their spiritual leadership and ministry to the community: Canon David Holgate has led the Pilgrim Course as a way of encouraging discipleship; Canon Phillip Barratt has provided us with good liturgies for our regular and special services; Revd Jane Walker set up Kid's Club which is the monthly session for children (Sunday School).

The Music Department has struggled to recruit new choristers over this past year so Charlie Corkin has been appointed as Chorister Recruitment Officer to work with local schools to set up a much larger Manchester Children's Choir (in the hope that we could also identify potential choristers through this scheme).

The Dean finished by thanking all members of the staff team who do great work for God at the Cathedral and then thanked all volunteers, without whose help we cannot engage in God's mission in this city.

At the end of his report, the Dean was presented with Humphrey Booth Elder's and Grandson's Charities Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2015, which were then duly signed.

7. Reports from organisations and Cathedral departments

a. Administrator's Report

The Cathedral Administrator was thanked for his endeavours over the past year working on areas around safeguarding, health and safety, security and counter-terrorism.

b. Extract of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

The Accountant worked hard again this year to ensure that the previous year's accounts were available for the AGM. It was acknowledged that the accounts were still in draft form and still subject to audit at the time of the meeting; however no substantial changes were anticipated.

Total incoming resources for 2015 amounted to £2,535,501 compared to £1,753,560 in 2014. The main reason for the increase in income is the substantial grants from Manchester Cathedral Development Trust for capital works on the new organ being undertaken by the Cathedral. In addition the Cathedral received a grant from the World War I Cathedrals' repair fund of £225,000 towards roof repairs on the South side of the Cathedral.

Within Resources Expended on Mission, Ministry costs were similar to 2014 but the total for Cathedral Upkeep was considerably higher due to the work on the organ, on the roof and on the refurbishment of the toilet facilities. Education and outreach costs were higher than in 2014 but were matched by a similar increase in grants received in the year.

The Dean thanked John Atherden for his presentation of the accounts and for his diligent work.

c. Architect's Report

The Dean thanked the Architect for his written report and in particular, for his hard work on the south aisle roof and toilet refurbishment.

d. Booth Centre

The Dean thanked Amanda Croome and her team for their continued hard work for the homeless of Manchester – they are now dealing with an average of 100 people each day at their premises. The last Sleepout proved extremely successful and raised £60,000; the Dean also thanked Cathedral staff for their work in organising another successful sock appeal and for spending a day volunteering at the Booth Centre last summer.

e. Manchester Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers

The Dean thanked the bellringers for their hard work and Malcolm Murphy for his report. The tower is in need of urgent repair work. A new set of muffles for the bells have been purchased at a cost of £420 and donated to the tower. The Dean congratulated the bellringers for their repeated success in the six bell striking competition.

f. Cathedral Community Committee

The Dean expressed his gratitude to all those members serving on the Cathedral Community Committee and to Ian Simpson for acting as Chairman. All those present at the AGM were then reminded about the forthcoming events being arranged by the Community Committee, especially the Whit Walks and the need for volunteers to carry banners and help with stewarding/marshalling.

g. Churchwardens' Report

The Dean thanked the Wardens and Stewards, without whom, many of the events and services would struggle to take place. Geoffrey Bamping was thanked for his report and it was noted that Geoffrey did not stand for re-election as a Churchwarden this year. Geoffrey has been a Warden since 2006 and so was presented with a small token gesture of appreciation from the Dean.

h. Communications and Marketing Report

Joanne Hooper was thanked for her report and for all her hard work on ensuring that the numerous stories of success and praiseworthy endeavours by clergy, staff and volunteers are captured on the website and via the various social media platforms.

i. Deanery Synod

The Dean thanked the three representatives of the Cathedral Community for dutifully attending the meetings of Hulme Deanery Synod and for capturing the essence of each meeting so diligently.

j. Development Project

The Dean expressed a huge debt of gratitude to Anthony O'Connor for his detailed report and for yet again managing to raise an enormous amount of funds during difficult economic times, which will help sustain and improve the building fabric. The Dean also thanked Anthony, Peter Mellor and Stuart Shepherd for their continued support in delivering concerts and dinners, which mitigate the significant costs incurred in running the Cathedral.

k. Education Department

Pam Elliott and the small team of volunteers were all thanked for their efforts in providing learning sessions for almost 4,500 pupils of all ages, backgrounds and abilities during 98 visits to the Cathedral.

l. Electoral Roll

The Dean offered his thanks to Kim Green for her work in maintaining the electoral roll over the previous year. As this was Kim's last year volunteering as Electoral Roll Officer, Kim was presented with a small token gesture of appreciation from the Dean. Daphne Green has kindly agreed to take on the role.

m. Envelope Scheme and Planned Giving

Peter Briggs has been very unwell in recent months and the Dean wished to thank him for all of his past efforts on overseeing the envelope scheme and planned giving. Diane Johnston was thanked for agreeing to take on the role of Gift Aid and Planned Giving Secretary; she was presented with a small token gesture of appreciation from the Dean and asked to pass this on to Peter Briggs when she sees him next.

n. Flowers

The flower arrangers were thanked for their sterling efforts over the past year; yet again their achievements have been substantial given their limited resources. Helen Bamping was thanked for her report in which, the congregation was also thanked for the generous contributions towards flowers at Easter and Christmas.

o. Friends of Manchester Cathedral

The Dean thanked the Friends for their continued support, particularly in part-funding work of the Education Department, supporting the Cathedral Choristers and providing contributions towards new liturgical furniture.

p. Music Department

The Dean thanked the department for their hard work and dedication and for sustaining an excellent provision despite reduced numbers. The Dean reported that chorister recruitment is still at a crisis point but the Chapter is doing all it can to ensure the continuity of the choir by employing the Chorister Recruitment Officer. All are looking forward to the arrival of the new organ, which will start being built from mid-July onwards.

q. Project Manager's Report

The Dean thanked Dooley Associates for their report.

r. Servers

The Dean thanked Ian Simpson and the servers for their continued dedication and support each Sunday and at other major cathedral services.

s. Verger Department

The Vergers were thanked for their patience and hard work over the past year and for submitting their departmental report.

t. Visitor Centre

The Dean thanked Petra Wilcockson (newly appointed Sales, Marketing and Conference Co-ordinator for the Cathedral Visitor Centre) for her report and for her new ideas and interventions for the smooth operation of the business. The Visitor Centre has since been experiencing a dynamic period of growth and development.

u. Visitor Services

Dympna Gould was thanked for her tremendous work in increasing visitor numbers and the volunteer body and for the recent visitor awards and positive statistics. The Dean also expressed his personal thanks to all volunteers for their endeavours.

8. Any other business

Under any other business, the Dean was asked if the Chapter would consider flying the transgender flag for the forthcoming SPARKLE weekend. The Dean responded to say that the request would be given due consideration.

9. Closing remarks, Prayers & the Grace

During the meeting, the Canon Precentor had collated the comments from the collected during the Easter Vestry and kindly presented, in a spirit of prayerfulness, a summary of those things that Manchester Cathedral was grateful for over the past year, namely: friendship; fellowship; kindness; love; support; feelings of belonging and togetherness; loving Christians; place of peace and prayer; a place to come to during times of busyness; prayerful experiences; successful Lent Group; the Labyrinth; beautiful building; excellent liturgy; beautiful music; involvement in city, civic and commercial links; the staff who successfully lead and guide; vision and hard work; the volunteers, welcomers and guides; God's presence and God's help.

The meeting then closed with a period of silent reflection and ended with the words that Our Father taught us, and the Grace.