

The Cathedral, Collegiate and Parish Church of  
St Mary, St Denys & St George in Manchester

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held Sunday 11th May 2014 in the Cathedral

Chairman: The Dean

Secretary: Jennifer Curtis

**1) Minutes and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting on 28th April 2013 were signed by the Dean as a true record. Margaret Williamson pointed out that an election of Cathedral Council members should have been included in the 2014 AGM. The Dean agreed and said this would be dealt with later.

**2) Election of Officers**

a) *Deanery Synod Members*

The Dean explained that the cathedral lies geographically within the Hulme Deanery but that, as the mother church of the diocese, it does not align itself with the activities of any one deanery. However, it does send three representatives, each elected for a three year term, to be members of Hulme Deanery Synod. He invited Sylvester During, as an existing member, to explain briefly the work of the Synod.

One nomination had been received for the vacancy. As there were no further nominations Basil Fox was declared elected for a three year term.

b) *Cathedral Community Committee Members*

The Dean thanked Jennifer Devans and Nick Johnson for their work as chairman and secretary for the past year. Jennifer was standing down as chairman but he was pleased that she would remain a Committee member.

Agneta Koenraads and Anthony Williams were not seeking re-election to the committee. The Dean thanked them for their valuable contributions to the work of the group.

Four nominations had been received. As there were no further nominations forthcoming, John Acaster, John Brodrick, Barbara Evans and Ian Simpson were declared elected.

**3) Reports from Organisations**

Attendees had received printed copies of the reports, so the Dean briefly introduced each report, asked representatives of each organisation if they wished to add anything and then invited questions.

a) *Dean's Report*

The Dean described the new heating system as in an "adjustment phase". The intention was to keep the temperature at a constant 19°, which was still slightly too warm for the organ. In a recent visit, Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead and Chair of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) had been impressed by the outcome of the heating project.

The Cathedral intended to bid for a share of the £20 million for repair of public buildings, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to commemorate the centenary of the start of

World War I.

After five years work on the Development Project the Dean was delighted to be able to celebrate a gift of £2.5 million from the Stoller Charitable Trust which meant that the organ was now fully funded. Monies already raised (£0.5M) would go into an organ contingency and maintenance fund. He thanked God for Norman Stoller, who comes from the Jewish community but who has been impressed by the work of the cathedral across the city.

Ian Simpson thanked the Dean and Anthony O'Connor for their enduring legacy in fundraising to secure the future of the Cathedral. The Dean responded by extending his thanks for their generosity to all those who give small amounts regularly.

b) *Administrative Report*

The Cathedral Administrator, Stuart Shepherd, thanked the community for their warm welcome on his arrival. To start with, his principal concern had been with HR matters and safeguarding.

c) *Cathedral Accounts*

The Cathedral Accountant, John Atherden, introduced the audited accounts for the year ending 2012. He explained the various income sources and highlighted music and insurance as two of the largest expenditure heads. The deficit of £17,000 for the year, compared to the profit of £141,000 the previous year, had largely been as a result of the heating works.

Final figures for 2013 would show a deficit of around £2 million due to the heating project. The costs of the project had been covered by a loan from Chapter Estates. This would not be repaid in the short term but is required under accounting rules to be shown as a loss. The capital funds withdrawn from Chapter Estates to provide the loan would result in a loss of income to the Cathedral of around £80,000 per annum in two years time.

The Dean added his thanks to the Cathedral's various corporate sponsors, noting the vital role they play, particularly in support of the choristers.

d) *Archives*

The Dean thanked both the Honorary Archivist, Michael Powell, and Mike Breaks, a volunteer, for their work with the archives.

e) *Bell Ringers*

The Dean thanked all the bellringers. He explained that the bell tower is in need of attention as the bell frame needs replacing. A three year maintenance plan was being devised with the architect.

f) *Booth Centre*

The Dean thanked Amanda Croome and her team for their work in meeting the needs of the homeless in the city. He explained that the centre has now moved to new premises in Pimblett Street, facilitated by a grant of £800,000 from the Holt Trust. The Cathedral had contributed £50,000 towards the restoration of the building. The Dean thanked Nick Rank for his advice and help in drawing up the plans. Jo Hooper had done sterling work in organising support for the Centre's sponsored sleepout which had raised nearly £50,000.

g) *Humphrey Booth Charities*

The senior Churchwarden is a trustee of the Charities and Geoffrey Bamping explained their emphasis on providing help for the needs of the community in Salford. The Dean added his thanks for their support of the Booth Centre.

h) *Music*

The Dean offered his thanks to all the musicians for the world class music they provide. He explained that Chapter had agreed to offer accommodation to the Senior Organ Scholar to help eke out the £4,300 stipend.

i) *Wardens and Stewards*

The Dean again offered his thanks to the retiring Churchwarden Jack Peacock.

j) *Community Committee*

The Dean thanked all members of the Committee for their work.

k) *Deanery Synod*

Sylvester During had already spoken about the work of the Synod. The Dean added his thanks to all three representatives.

l) *Development Project and Fundraising*

The Dean acknowledged his huge debt to Anthony O'Connor in enabling so much of the work of the Cathedral.

Anthony reported a stupendous year for the Development Project and paid tribute to the Dean's vision in working to give the city a building fit for the twenty first century and the 600th anniversary of the founding of the Collegiate Church.

He noted as highlights:

- The Sponsor a Pipe scheme was proving successful.
- The new organ will take two years to build, with the dismantling of the existing instrument due to start in January 2015.
- New lighting for the nave and quire will be installed in advance of the organ, with preparatory work starting soon.
- The Cathedral on the Street will remain for the foreseeable future.
- The annual target for events income has been raised from £80,000 to £100,000.

Anthony Williams queried the zero figure in the report for income from dinners. It was explained that there had been no dinners in the period in question as the Cathedral had been inaccessible due to the heating works.

m) *Education*

The Dean thanked the Education Officer, Pam Elliott, and also the five diocesan churches which had hosted Cathedral education events during the closure: St Ann's and the parish churches of Bolton, Prestwich, Rochdale and Ashton-under-Lyne.

n) *Electoral Roll*

The Dean offered his thanks to Kim Green for her work in maintaining the roll.

o) *Envelope and Planned Giving*

Peter Briggs thanked all the regular donors and stressed the importance of finding new donors to replace those who no longer contributed. He suggested a regular appeal for donations in the notices before the main Sunday Eucharist. The Dean thanked him for his work and felt that such an appeal was appropriate occasionally.

p) *Friends of the Cathedral*

The Dean thanked Pauline Dimond for her work with the Friends and acknowledged their great work in supporting the Cathedral.

q) *Cathedral Visitor Centre*

The Dean acknowledged a successful year.

r) *Visitor Services*

The Dean welcomed the new Visitor Services Manager, Dympna Gould, and thanked her for the progress made already in developing our offer to visitors.

Dympna explained that she was aiming to foster partnerships with other attractions in the city, with a view to sharing visitors. In response to a question from Anthony Williams she cited an example of a group who were coming in June to study our misericords and also visiting John Rylands Library. She emphasised her determination to prioritise worship aspects and to avoid turning the cathedral into a theme park.

s) *Voluntary Choir*

The Dean expressed his appreciation of the work of the Voluntary Choir and congratulated Jeff Makinson and Lucy Shepherd on their recent engagement.

t) *Volunteer Project*

The Dean said he was particularly proud of the Volunteer Project to help people out of unemployment. He saw it as an important part of the Cathedral's mission to "feed the hungry".

In addition to the groups who had provided reports, the Dean thanked both Ian Simpson and the servers for their quiet efficiency and also the flower team. Under their leader, Helen Bamping, they deserved great thanks for their work beautifying the Cathedral Sunday by Sunday.

**4) Any Other Business**

Margaret Williamson again raised the question of elections to the Cathedral Council. She was assured that the matter would be dealt with on another occasion.

The meeting closed with the grace at 1:40pm.

John Acaster gave his thanks to the Dean for a most efficient meeting and thanked the Dean, Stuart Shepherd and the office staff for the professional looking set of reports.

JMC.  
30/05/2014