



**Llandaff Cathedral**  
**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING &**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**  
**THE DEAN AND CHAPTER**  
**(Registered Charity Number 1159090)**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00 pm**  
**in the Nave of the Cathedral**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The first part of the meeting was chaired by Dr Mark Rogers (Chair, LCCC)

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Chair introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Dean opened the meeting in prayer.

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:**

Tim Egan  
Sue Smith  
Hefin Owen  
Dr Nick Lambert  
Carol Walton  
Rev Dr Sarah Rogers

**2. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 were approved.

**3. Appointments and elections:**

Prior to the formal election of officers, Dr Rogers paid tribute to retiring People's Warden Ian MacDonald. Reference was made to Ian's commitment and dedication to the numerous offices undertaken by him over many years. Ian was presented with a gift as a token of the LCCC's appreciation of his work.

Dean Jason paid a personal tribute to Ian Macdonald and thanked him for the support and kindness shown by Ian during the Dean's first months in office.

**Dr Rogers was elected People's Warden.**

The Dean appointed Sian Roberts to the office of Dean's Warden.

**The following were elected to the LCCC:**

Valerie Evans-Tomlinson

Geoffrey Morgan

Tony Olavesen

Daniel Palmer

Anne Lambert Rogers

Sue Smith

Jennie Sparkes

Ann Thomas

Christopher J Yewlett

Mark Rogers

David Beard

Ben Jenkins

Gary Howell

Amanda Griffiths

## Canon Ceri Weatherall entered the Chair

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DEAN & CHAPTER OF LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL (Registered Charity 1159090)

#### 1. Chair's welcome

The Chair introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending.

Canon Ceri referred to the [Annual Report for 2024](#) and commended Olivia Moore, Aaron Shilson and Geraint Williams for their work in preparing a publication of such a high standard.

New trustees were introduced – Jo Sheppard, Director of Compliance at Lloyds Banking Group; Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning and Transport at Cardiff Council; Ian Macdonald, former People's Warden; and Sian Roberts, Dean's Warden.

Canon Ceri paid tribute to Canon Paul Bennett on his retirement from Chapter. Reference was made to Paul's kind and generous nature and wise counsel during his time as a trustee. Canon Paul was presented with a token of Chapter's appreciation for his hard work.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

Canon Treasurer Rob Lewis delivered a comprehensive report of the accounts, which have been approved by the auditors.

Reference was made to the tender process which had been undertaken to appoint new auditors. Nine firms of accountants were approached and three submissions were received. Notification of the outcome of the procurement process will be made public in due course.

Canon Rob referred to the progress made at the Cathedral during 2024. Reference was made to the input of the clergy, the music department, and the events team.

It was reported that a net surplus of over £11,000 had been recorded for 2024, which represents the largest surplus since 2017.

It was noted that the total amount raised through donations and legacies was down by £24,000, investment income was up by 9%, and facility income was up by a remarkable 70%.

Reference was made to the financial settlement between the diocese, the Representative Body, and the Cathedral which resulted in the £33,000 grant shortfall on previous years.

The Canon Treasurer thanked everyone who has donated to the Cathedral during the year.

Chapter's gratitude for the work of the staff in delivering such a positive result was expressed.

Canon Rob offered three points of reflection:

1. Generosity in giving is required in order to allow the board to invest in the future of the Cathedral.
2. The organ, which is such a valuable asset, will require expenditure between £300,000 and £500,000 in 10 years' time in order to keep up with recommended maintenance.

3. Chapter's relationship with The Friends of Llandaff Cathedral will be critical in ensuring the capital expenditure which is required for the next phase of the Cathedral's life.

Thanks were expressed to the staff and those who have provided financial support during the year.

The Canon Treasurer closed by thanking the members of the Finance Committee, including Matthew Roberts (who until recently represented the LCCC).

### 3. Questions

The Chair referred to a request for clarification from Sue Smith. It was noted that whilst the reference in the report to the sum of £2,500 which was donated to Christian Aid is correct in respect of the Chapter's accounts, Canon Ceri noted that Sue Smith organised a collection which resulted in direct donations to Christian Aid of over £15,000 from the Cathedral community. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Smith and her volunteers for their valuable contribution.

The following question was posed by Linda Quinn, Chair of The Friends of Llandaff Cathedral:

*How will Chapter amend the Annual Report, given it is factually inaccurate and therefore misleading and contains remarks that could be in conflict with the proper, lawful, arms-length relationship which must exist between the Friends and Chapter?*

Canon Ceri responded by confirming that Chapter had considered the question [relating to page 16 of the Annual Report] but the body of trustees does not consider the remarks were inaccurate or in conflict with Charity Law. As noted in the Annual Report, the Dean and Chapter is the sole beneficiary of the funds held by the Friends and seeks to work with the Friends, as an autonomous charity, closely.

It was noted that Chapter is under a duty to assess risks from all funding streams as part of the 2024 Annual Report. This assessment considered the Benefact Trust, the Listed Places of Worship Scheme as well as the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral, as relevant to the 2024 and future reporting periods.

Canon Ceri noted that the meeting was not an appropriate forum for seeking to address the relationship between the two charities and suggested that a gracious, mindful approach to the restoration of good relations would be sensible.

No other comments were made.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed proceedings.

**Dean Jason closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.**

**The meeting closed at 7.45pm.**