

Summary of Chapter minutes

October 2020

- The Cathedral Architect, Izaak Hudson attended Chapter to give a presentation on the fabric and works needed.
A quinquennial review is due this year and will be completed during the autumn.
The Cathedral is generally in a good condition, better than many other cathedrals, because of the rebuild in the 1950s, but there is a big backlog of small issues which need addressing. Chapter and its Fabric Committee agreed to work more closely with the Architect in future. On future major projects, perhaps centred on Prebendal House, a masterplan and feasibility study for the whole Cathedral estate would be required. The scale of this might be controversial given the changes required and would cost several million pounds. A Chapter walkaround with the architect was planned so that this thinking could begin, but it cannot take place until Covid regulations permit.
- Chapter were very grateful to JvdL and MP for their work in keeping the Cathedral open and operating during the pandemic, and to the Stewards and other volunteers for everything they are doing. Chapter congratulated the Director of Music for the small group singing now introduced at the 11am service, doing all that was possible within the Welsh Government guidance.
- The agreement with the Cathedral School for the use of the Parish Hall until March has now been signed.
- A letter had been received on the possibility of installing solar panels. This idea was welcomed and Chapter will explore how this might be taken forward.
- The Friends Council met recently and confirmed the annual £25,000 grant for music, the cost of the alarm works, £11,000 towards an audio-visual system and £1,000 for the Prebendal House porch and David Chapel windows. The Friends were grateful for the work of staff in creating videos. Chapter was pleased that there had been a warm exchange of ideas and were grateful to the Friends for their generosity.
- Sunday School has resumed online with videos recorded by the SS leaders. A record number of children are registered and feedback on the online sessions is positive.
- A 'fogger' machine has been purchased to sanitise the chairs after services; this will be a faster process and is operated by a virger, releasing the stewards from that duty.
- The annual vestry meeting has been held in the nave and a full report given on finances and on Cathedral life over 2019-20. The annual report and accounts for 2019 had been approved, and a cashflow forecast for 2021 agreed. The worst case scenario was a loss of £40,000. Chapter resolved to write to all on the electoral roll with the financial summary from the AVM and encouraging more giving by Gift Direct.
- The butterfly garden has been installed in the south churchyard. There has been much interest in the peregrines on the Pritchard tower and a possible nestcam project is under discussion in collaboration with Cardiff University.
- Security bars are to be fitted to the north side David Chapel windows which are vulnerable to breakage.
- The ironwork supporting the cockerel on the Pritchard Tower needs repair and the steeplejacks will leave their ladders in place following the lightning conductor checks in order to complete this work shortly.

