

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting on 22nd October 2020

1. **Welcome** by Canon Mark Preece. All attending were reminded to complete a Track and Trace form.

The Dean continues on sick leave and we all wish him well for a speedy recovery.

The meeting opened with **Prayers**.

2. **Apologies** received from: Zinnia Lewis, Alan and Jan Biss, Jenny Barton Greenwood, Mark Edwards, Michael Grensted, David Cassidy and Amanda Cassidy.

3. **Minutes of the AVM 29th April 2019**: Proposed by Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards, seconded by Ian MacDonald, agreed by all. Accepted and signed by Canon Mark Preece.

4. **Electoral Roll**: the current Electoral Roll has been checked for accuracy and new names added. All present agreed to approve the Electoral Roll.

5. Reports:

5a) The life of the Cathedral since the last Vestry Meeting (given by Canon Dr Jan van der Lely)

Things have been different for all due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Canon Graham Holcombe retired in March 2020 but has not yet been able to move to his new home due to the pandemic restrictions. Canon Jan thanked him for his ministry with us and this was agreed by all present.

Thanks given:

to Dr David Cassidy for his work as People's Warden

to Dr John Kenyon for stepping into the role of Vicar's Warden following the resignation of Charlotte Davey

to the PCC members who have agreed to continue until the 2021 Vestry Meeting

to Mrs Kate Bates for taking on the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator and for reviewing all the documentation

to Philippa Hallinan, Mark Edwards and the editorial team of the Majestas Magazine. Two more editions have been published this year

to Mrs Katharine MacDonald and all the volunteers on the Education team who welcomed so many children for visits before the pandemic lockdown

to all who volunteered for the project looking into a cafe for the homeless, working with members of St John's Church in the city centre

to the committee arranging the Cathedral's 900th anniversary celebrations. Sadly the events planned had to be cancelled this year but it is hoped to take some of the ideas forward next year

to all those who volunteer in support of the life of the Cathedral: the Parish and Cathedral Stewards, the Parish Breakfast team led by Jane Willey, the Shop volunteers led by Mary Madsen, the Guides and Welcomers, and the members of the Flower Guild. Special thanks to Sue Rayner for organising a rota of Stewards and to all those volunteering which has enabled the limited opening of the Cathedral during this most difficult time

to the Parish Choir and to David Thomas as Choir master and organist. They are very much missed at the moment and it is hoped that they will be able to resume singing soon

to Stephen Moore (Director of Music) and the members of the Cathedral Choir. Practices have been taking place virtually and it has been possible, with careful Covid planning, to have two choristers singing at the 11:00 am Sunday service

to Ged Bates and the team of Sunday School leaders for their support of our Sunday School children by providing engaging activities on-line. At this present time the 9:00am service is an all age service where all generations are welcome

to Christopher Preece and Stephen Moore for their professionalism in producing the on-line videos for services and music at this time when our on-line presence is so important. QR codes are available for the Orders of Service, the Weekly Notes and for Track and Trace

to the Saturday working group for their hard work over the summer with external cleaning and painting

to the members of the new Chapter who have taken up their posts following the 2019 change of Governance and restructuring: Canon Steven Kirk, Canon Paul Bennett, Canon Ceri Weatherall and Mr Richard Bacon (co-opted). Following the retirement of Canon Graham Holcombe in March, Archdeacon Peggy Jackson has now joined. Especial thanks to Canon Gerard Elias for his hard work and dedication as Vice Chair of Chapter. Due to the current situation, difficult decisions have had to be taken and subsequently two members of staff, Isabelle Moore and Rachel Davies have left the employ of the Cathedral. Thanks were given to them for their work.

Other points of note:

a new security alarm system has been installed and the fire alarm system improved.

the Gift Direct Scheme has proved invaluable at this difficult time as so much income has been lost without the plate collections and special services. All are asked to consider signing up for this scheme and should speak to a member of the clergy team if they wish to do so.

5b) The Accounts for 2019 - (given by Canon Richard Bacon, Treasurer)

The Annual Accounts are available on-line

This year has proved challenging due to the pandemic. The accounts were ready for publication in March but have been re-assessed following the lockdown and subsequent substantial drop in income due to the closure of the Cathedral. There were necessary additional costs in 2019 for the publication of our new Guide Book, the recording made by the Cathedral Choir and increased salaries, including the appointment of a cleaner, which has proved advantageous at this time. Chapter has been meeting regularly to review the financial situation in order to avoid bankruptcy. Thanks were given to the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral for their continued support. Thanks also to Helen Patterson for all her work in overseeing Gift Aid.

In planning for the future, there is a need to make the Cathedral more sustainable. Grants will be applied for and facilities will be put in place to broadcast more services as the Open Day broadcast was so successful. It is hoped that the present level of support through giving will continue.

Questions:

1) David Jones asked about the viability of the Cathedral in these difficult times. Richard Bacon replied that Chapter is continuing to look carefully at the financial situation and find ways in which we can move forward.

2) Linda Quinn asked how the salary bill of £129,000 is to be reduced. Richard Bacon replied that Chapter was undertaking an ongoing review of all Cathedral costs in order to make the Cathedral more viable.

3) James Laing asked about plans to improve the use of technology, the relationship between Chapter and the PCC and about the implementation of the Diocesan plan for Faith. Richard Bacon replied that plans are in place to install cameras. The Friends are supporting this and it is hoped to have live streaming in place for Christmas. Weddings could also be filmed / streamed at a cost.

Unfortunately, the meeting between Chapter, Greater Chapter and the PCC was postponed due to the pandemic but there is a positive attitude to go forward.

Both Chapter and the PCC regard the Diocesan "Where Faith Matters" vision as very important and will be working towards implementing this. So much good has been shown in our community during this pandemic.

5c) Appointment of the Auditors

This was duly noted and agreed by the meeting.

6. Appointments and Elections:

a) People's Warden: David Cassidy has retired from this post and was thanked for his hard work and dedication. Ian MacDonald was the only nomination and was duly elected.

b) Vicar's Warden: Dr John Kenyon was re-appointed

c) Parish Church Councillors: due to the current difficulties, the existing PCC will continue until the next Vestry meeting: Mark Edwards, Richard Inkin, Ben Jenkins, Tanya Johnson, Anne Lambert Rogers, Ian MacDonald, Mary Madsen, Tony Olavesen, Ben Staniforth and Judith Thompson.

7) **A.O.B.** Nothing was notified to the Clergy in advance of the meeting and no points were raised.

Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards gave a vote of thanks to Canons Mark and Jan for all that they have done during this most difficult of times and a round of applause was given by the assembled congregation. He also asked the meeting to have faith in the new Chapter as they work to the good of the Cathedral.

The meeting closed with **Prayers**.