



Annual Meeting of Cathedral Parishioners Sunday 27 April 2025

Minutes

The meeting opened at 10.45am.

Present were:

- The Very Revd Simon Cowling (Dean and Chair)
- The Revd Canon Philip Hobday (Canon Missioner)
- Canon Erik Peeters (Canon Residentiary)
- Mr Andrew Revans (Honorary Finance Manager)
- Canon Alison Dean
- Canon Danny Wilks
- Canon Mandy Shepherd
- Canon Mark Buckle
- Ms Jess Riley (Minutes Secretary)
- 41 members of the Cathedral Community

1. Opening Prayers

The Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened in prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Canon Kathryn Goldsmith (Canon Precentor)
- Katrina Scott
- Pat Mann
- Gerry Mann

3 Election of up to eight Churchwardens to serve from 2025-2026

Nominations had been received for the following individuals to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year:

- Stephen Bennett
- Gerald Mann
- Anna Overton
- Katrina Scott
- Mandy Shepherd

- Susan St Clair Morgan
- Paul Riley

As no further nominations were received, the Dean declared the seven nominees duly elected. A vote was taken and passed *nem con*.

The Dean thanked all the Churchwardens for their faithful service, with particular mention of Mr Stephen Bennett for his hard work in organising the rotas and documentation for the Churchwardens and sidespeople.

4 Date of the next Annual Meeting of Parishioners

To be confirmed.

5 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.49am.

Annual Cathedral Parish Meeting Sunday 27 April 2025; immediately after the Annual Meeting of Cathedral Parishioners.

Agenda

The meeting opened at 10.50am.

Attendance: As for the Annual General Meeting of Cathedral Parishioners.

1 Introduction by the Dean

The Dean introduced the meeting and read out his annual report, highlighting various events and services that took place at the cathedral during 2024. He updated the congregation on the positive progress being made in the medical treatment of the cathedral's Chief Operating Officer, Mrs Rachel Copley. The Dean thanked the cathedral staff for their dedicated work, the congregation for their contributions to cathedral life, and clergy colleagues for stepping up during the COO's absence.

2 Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Mrs Christine Haigh, Electoral Roll Officer, confirmed that there were 114 members on the roll

3 Safeguarding Report

Presented by Canon Philip Hobday, Cathedral and Chapter Safeguarding Lead.

He noted that safeguarding continues to be a national focus.

Four formal incidents were reported to the diocesan safeguarding team in 2024 (the same number as 2023). One incident met the threshold for reporting to the Charity Commission.

Due to increasing demands, Chapter is exploring recruitment of a safeguarding professional, potentially in partnership with another cathedral, with Church Commissioners' funding.

The Dean thanked Canon Philip for his hard work in this area.

4 Appointment of Sidespeople

The following were elected to serve as sidespeople for the coming year:

- Geoffrey Townend
- Christine Haigh
- John Taylor
- John Broadhead
- Tregson Davies
- Margaret Townend
- Natalie Newbound
- Pat Mann
- Danny Wilks
- Gillian Wilks
- Jess Riley
- Yurii Feokritov
- Helen Rhodes
- Jordan Eyre

5 Annual Accounts

Presented by Mr Andrew Revans, Honorary Finance Manager.

He noted that the 2024 accounts were not yet available, pending auditor sign-off, expected shortly.

The 2024 increase in assets due to property revaluation; this will not be repeated in 2025.

A deficit budget is set for 2025, reflecting the high maintenance costs of historic properties and fixed expenses such as utilities.

The Dean thanked Andrew for his work and explained that the COO's long-term sickness absence had affected fundraising efforts.

6 Any Other Business

The Dean highlighted that Canon Erik Peeters and Canon Mark Buckle, with support from Susan Morgan, are leading on eco matters.

Canon Alison Dean outlined the process for selecting the next Dean following Dean Simon's retirement in July 2025.

Representatives from the cathedral on the selection panel will include:

- Canon Jane Evans
- Canon Alison Dean
- Canon Irving Warnett

It is hoped the new Dean will be in place by early 2026.

7 Closing Prayers

8 Date of the next Annual Meeting

To be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 11.29am.