

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

## Held on Sunday 3 May 2015

**Chairman** – the Dean of Manchester, Rogers Govender.

**Secretary** – the Cathedral Administrator, Stuart Shepherd

### 1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting dated 11 May 2014

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Dean.

### 2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

No matters arising.

### 3. Election of the Deanery Synod Representatives

The Dean explained that three representatives of the Cathedral Community attend meetings of Hulme Deanery Synod. This is due to the Cathedral being situated geographically within the Hulme Deanery, but it was important to note that as mother church of the diocese, the Cathedral must not align itself with the activities of any one deanery. Sylvester During and Kathryn de Belle were elected for a period of three years in 2013 and then Basil Fox was elected for three years in 2014. Therefore there were no vacancies this year and the Dean expressed his gratitude to Sylvester, Kathryn and Basil for their continued support and service.

### 4. Election of Community Committee members

The Dean explained how up to ten members of the Cathedral Community can be elected for a three year term to join the Cathedral Community Committee. The Dean thanked Jennifer Devans and Nick Johnson for their past service on the committee as they were stepping down this year and not seeking re-election. The following members' terms were not due to expire this year: John Acaster; John Brodrick; Beryl Cheshire; Pauline Dimond; Barbara Evans; Diana Fletcher and Ian Simpson. Two nominations for the three vacancies had been received and despite the Dean asking for any further nominations, Kathryn DeBelle and Kirk Eckersall were swiftly elected leaving one unfilled vacancy remaining.

### 5. Election of Cathedral Council members

The Dean explained that four members of the Cathedral Community are also elected for a three year term (but may be re-elected for further terms) on to the Cathedral Council. Other members of the Cathedral Council are drawn from many areas of civic, business and religious life in Manchester. The Council meets twice a year and provides help and support to the Dean and the Chapter on issues concerning the Cathedral. The Dean then explained that John Acaster, Graham Curtis, Barbara Evans and Michael Powell were last elected in 2012 and so were now due for re-election unless there were any further nominations. In the absence of such, and given that all four had been duly nominated and seconded by members of the Cathedral Community Roll, they were to be considered duly re-elected. The Dean thanked them for their on-going support and commitment.

### 6. The Dean's Report

The Dean announced that he will be celebrating his 10th anniversary in January 2016 and wanted to give thanks and praise to God for guiding us in our ministry and mission to the city and diocese. Since the last AGM Canon Alma Servant had joined and left the Cathedral as Cathedral Pastor, Jeff Makinson and Lucy

Shepherd had left the Cathedral's employment (and were both married), Geoffrey Woollatt joined us as Jeff's successor and a new Canon for Theology and Mission, David Holgate, joined us with his wife Patricia.

Archbishop John Sentamu had visited the diocese and preached at the Cathedral in October during a service for school governors. The Archbishop is a great ambassador and supporter of our cathedrals and the Dean expressed his gratitude.

The Cathedral's Volunteer Programme (Volition) won Business in the Community at the Be Proud Awards at the Town Hall in November; the programme is now being rolled out nationally with central government funding so congratulations to Anthony O'Connor, Lauren Bailey-Rhodes and Tracy Fishwick for enabling this to happen.

The Dean finished his report by giving a précis of the various fabric developments taking place in the Cathedral over the next year or two and ended by thanking once again the hard work, dedication and support of the stewards, volunteers, musicians, vergers, staff and clergy.

## **7. Reports from organisations and Cathedral departments**

### **a. Administrator's Report**

The Cathedral Administrator was thanked for all of his hard work over the past year in introducing up to date governance at the Cathedral.

### **b. Extract of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

The main reason for a sudden increase of income in the 2013 accounts was the grant received for the under-floor heating project. The Cathedral was closed for the majority of 2013; therefore incoming resources were dramatically reduced.

### **c. Extract of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

The Accountant worked hard this year to ensure that the previous year's accounts were also available for the AGM. It was acknowledged that the accounts were still in draft form and still subject to audit at the time of the meeting, however no changes were anticipated.

When asked if any financial benefits had been realised from the new under-floor heating system, the Accountant responded by explaining how gas expenditure had fallen but electricity costs had risen slightly – it would be hard to predict what the financial savings might look like until the end of the next winter, at which point, there will be sufficient data for a true comparison to be made.

The Accountant was also asked why Gift Aid was showing as 0% for 2013 and 1% for 2014; it was explained that Gift Aid for the two years amounted to £9,570 and £10,277 respectively but against the bottom line, these amounts were still negligible in percentage terms.

The Dean thanked John Atherden for being able to get the accounts up to date so that the previous year's finances could be presented.

### **d. Architect's Report**

The Dean thanked the Architect for his report; in response to a question raised, a précis was given on what might be involved in the west end development of the Cathedral. The standard of the grouting on the new floor was discussed and the Dean agreed by expressing his own personal dissatisfaction – the Architect is currently exploring possible solutions/alternatives.

**e. Booth Centre**

The Dean thanked Amanda Croome and her team for their continued work with the homeless – they are now dealing with an average of 220 people each week in their new premises. The last Sleepout proved extremely successful and raised £40,000; the Dean also thanked Cathedral staff for their work in organising a successful sock appeal.

**f. Manchester Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers**

The Dean thanked the bellringers for their efforts. A new set of bell ropes have been fitted in the tower but there is still much urgent repair work needed. The Dean congratulated the bellringers for winning the annual Lancashire 6 & 8 bell striking competitions for the second year in succession.

**g. Cathedral Community Committee**

The Dean expressed his gratitude to all those members serving on the Cathedral Community Committee and reminded all those present at the AGM about the forthcoming events being arranged by the Committee, namely the Whit Walks (and the need for volunteers to carry banners) and the Cathedral barbecue.

**h. Churchwardens' Report**

The Dean thanked the Wardens and Stewards, without whom, many of the events and services would struggle to take place.

**i. Deanery Synod**

The Dean thanked the three representatives of the Cathedral Community for dutifully attending, and reporting on, the meetings of Hulme Deanery Synod.

**j. Development Project**

The Dean expressed a huge debt of gratitude to Anthony O'Connor for his endeavours to help sustain and improve the building fabric – he has yet again managed to raise an enormous amount of funds during difficult economic times. The Dean also thanked Anthony, along with Peter Mellor and Stuart Shepherd, for their support in working at concerts and dinners, which mitigates a £100k expenditure incurred by the Chapter in running the Cathedral.

The Dean and Anthony both expressed their thanks to the Lord Lieutenant for his personal support of the Development Project.

**k. Education Department**

Petra Wilcockson was thanked for her efforts in keeping the Education Department running during Pam's maternity leave; Pam and Petra were both congratulated for their achievements of the year.

**l. Electoral Roll**

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

**m. Envelope Scheme and Planned Giving**

Having already heard from Peter, the Dean thanked him, Barbara and Jo for their sustained efforts.

**n. Flowers**

The flower arrangers were thanked for their sterling efforts; their achievements are substantial given their limited resources. They were especially thanked for their flower work during Easter and the BBC transmissions and Songs of Praise.

**o. Friends of Manchester Cathedral**

On behalf of Chapter the Dean thanked the Friends for their continued support, particularly in part-funding the areas of Education and Choristers.

**p. Music Department**

The Dean thanked the department for their hard work and dedication and explained how all are looking forward to the arrival of the new organ. The Dean reported that chorister recruitment is at a crisis point but the Chapter is doing all it can to ensure the continuity of the choir – the Chapter has agreed to resource a Chorister Recruitment Officer who will be responsible for promoting and recruiting to the Cathedral Choir.

**q. Servers**

The Dean thanked Ian Simpson and the servers for their support each Sunday and saint's day.

**r. Verger Department**

The Vergers were thanked for their work over the past year and for undertaking training in health and safety. Gareth Screeton has left the Cathedral's employ; the Dean thanked Gareth for his service and wished him well for the future – the vacancy will be advertised in due course.

**s. Visitor Centre**

The Dean thanked Peter Mellor for his report and for ensuring the Visitor Centre continued to run smoothly. It was explained to members that the Visitor Centre is a separate corporate entity in its own right; as such, its accounts are not presented at the AGM but are registered at Companies House should anybody be interested in them.

**t. Visitor Services**

Dympna Gould was thanked for her tremendous work in increasing visitor numbers and the volunteer body. The Dean also expressed her personal thanks to all volunteers.

**u. Volunteer Programme**

The Dean congratulated the Volunteer Programme for its successes and explained how heart rendering it has been listening to the personal stories of the programme's participants.

**8. Any other business**

Under any other business, Jane Walker was thanked for her hard work on resurrecting the Sunday School and the Cathedral Kids section of the website – Jo Hooper and Stuart Shepherd were thanked for their efforts in responding to the website development requests. All were asked to keep Jane in their prayers as she approached ordination to the priesthood on 20 June 2015.

**9. Closing remarks, Prayers & the Grace**

The Lord Lieutenant offered the words of a Sister Aloysius from St Francis House, who always used to say: 'never let money get in the way... if God thinks it's right then it'll happen... God will provide.' He concluded with a reflection on how well the Cathedral was doing – there are lots of positive things happening and there is much to celebrate – we're certainly doing something right. The Lord Lieutenant feels privileged to be a part of the Cathedral's history, particularly at this point in its development history and wished to thank all members for their support of the Cathedral's ministry, mission and work.

The meeting closed with a period of silent reflection ending with the Grace.