

# St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Following in the footsteps of Edmund, King and Martyr



## **Annual Report 2017**

To be presented at the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Wednesday 5 April 2017

## Liturgy Canon Philip Banks

The Christian life and all that springs from it in daily living, activity and worship is one which is undergirded by an encounter with the God of love who, in Christ, brings healing, transformation and light into all that we do and are. Time spent recognizing our inner life, and attempting to connect to it, with 'the mind on its knees', is what we simply call 'prayer'. Thus our cathedral's worship is the 'heartbeat' of all that we seek to do. This heartbeat, rooted in Benedictine Spirituality, has nourished people of faith here though all life's changes from birth to death.

As Rachel Clover, our amazing Head Verger, has reported elsewhere, we have hosted again huge numbers of services in 2016, ranging from the stillness and beauty of our early morning Eucharist – where sometimes just 'two or three are gathered together' – to the grand civic worship events, such as the celebration of HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Of all these a few stand out for me: first, Father Geoffrey Smith's Jubilee of priesthood – which was attended by so many who have been touched by his ministry across the diocese and beyond – was a wonderful celebration of faithful ministry. Second, clergy and laity gathering here in February 2016 to welcome Bishop Mike Harrison as the new Bishop of Dunwich: James Thomas and Richard Hubbard joined forces to create an act of worship, with orchestra, soloists and choir, which incorporated the very best of the rich variety of traditions of worship; we received much excellent feedback from all quarters for this.

As the 'county's cathedral', we hosted a variety of services to support different aspects of Suffolk's life, such as Sea Sunday, Prisons' Week, Hate Crime Vigil, HM Courts of Justice Service and the annual County Harvest Festival which links with the Suffolk Show in the Spring.

As the 'mother' of the church families across the county, we continue to host diocesan celebrations such as Ordinations, Reader Commissioning, Education services, the 'Encounter' Youth Event, Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Diocesan Chrism Mass and an annual Diocesan Confirmation.

We have also played host to huge numbers of Christmas shoppers during the Christmas Fair, many schools and charities at their carol services, services for the Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Cursillo, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution at Harvest and Plough Sunday. In addition, many smaller groups have gathered for acts of worship, and we remain a focal point for large numbers of visitors at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and at Christmas and Easter.

Less quantifiable but equally important are the thousands of people who pause briefly in our Cathedral to pray and light candles. Those of us who are privileged to be members of the Cathedral community continue to provide Christian hospitality in the Benedictine tradition of our forebears to people who come as our guests to worship in the house of the Lord.

However, for many in our congregations, these things are not the main reason that they are part of our cathedral family. It is the rhythm of our church year, marked with the beauty of our cathedral liturgy and music, which sustains and nurtures our faith. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemass, Holy Week, Easter and beyond have been the mainstay of our corporate life of prayer.

I want to thank all who have made these things possible – vergers, musicians, servers, wardens, bellringers, administration staff, volunteers, clergy and so many others – without whose skill, devotion and hard work our worship would not be, for the glory of God, of the highest standard that it is.

Finally, a thank you to Richard Hubbard, our Parish Music Development Officer. With the generosity of the Foundation of St Edmund, the 'InHarmony' Music Outreach Project has completed its first year, and Richard has been a fantastic 'ambassador' for the Cathedral and Foundation as he has visited so many of the musicians and clergy across the county. We hope that 2017 will see further flourishing of this important project, which links with the Bishop's 'Enhancing Worship' team in which Richard and I play a significant part.

It is a great privilege to be at the forefront of the Cathedral's ministry and mission through our worship: this is truly a team effort and our thanks go to all who make such excellence possible.

*'The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows'.*

## **The Ancient Library Stephen Dart**

The Cathedral Ancient Library, founded in 1595, contains some 600 books dating from 1482. The *St Edmundsbury Collection Review* of the library was presented to Chapter in October and we have set up training for new library guides so that we can offer more tours alongside the tower tours that have begun this year.

We have had visits from the Suffolk Art Foundation, Ipswich Building Society, the Bury Society, our own trainee guides and a number of smaller groups. Fifty eight members of the public came on Heritage Open Day.

Three professors from America and Australia visited in the summer. Mark Rankin looked at the modification labels in our Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*; Gail McMurray Gibson came to further her research into the 'Macro Plays' in the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington and Rod Thomson, who identified some fourteenth century manuscript leaves of Aristotle in the binding of Pausanias (Venice, 1516).

There have been two exhibitions in the Treasury this year. The first 'Lions in the Library' showed some fine engravings in early books printed in Paris and a very life-like lion peering over the shoulder of St Mark. The second was of six of the 85 books given to the library on 1 January 1631 by the 'Great and Good' of Bury, again with very fine full page engravings.

It is likely that the signature of Thomas Armiger, recently discovered in an early book, is that of one of the two men who obtained the grant of £200 from Edward VI to complete the nave in 1551.

Conferences in Worcester and Cambridge have confirmed that we originally had a chained library and evidence from the Vestry Book of 1778 shows that it was positioned in a north chapel – the present north transept.

## **Cathedral Art Club Maureen Cunningham**

We are a very friendly well-established Community Art Group of all abilities with approximately 40 members. We meet on a Monday morning in the Edmund Room from 10.00 – noon and once a month from 10 – 3pm. We hold about four workshops a year with a professional artist who demonstrates and works with us. For many years we have held our Spring and Summer exhibitions in the Edmund Gallery. At the Christmas Fair we raised almost £600 for the Cathedral from work donated by our members. The year, for the first time, we are holding our exhibition at Moyses's Hall Museum for the month of April in conjunction with The Apex.

We also look forward to outings; such places as Waldringfield on the bank of the River Deben where some of us like to work "en plein air." Our Christmas meal is usually held in Pilgrims' Kitchen and some of us enjoy going there for coffee or tea after our meetings.

If you are interested in the group, you are welcome to pop in or contact Jane Popham on 07702380243 or Maureen Cunningham (01284) 704074.

## **Norman Tower bells Peter Summers**

- Our Suffolk Guild of Ringers membership will show in the Guild Annual report as **26**, of which 15 ring regularly, 5 ring occasionally, and 6 are 'retired' - this represents some losses and gains.
- Six peals and seventeen Quarter Peals have been rung throughout the year. Other special ringing events throughout the year include:
  - Heritage Open Day (~ 110 visitors)
  - Installation of Bishop of Dunwich (QP Cambridge S Royal on Sun 28th Feb)
  - Graduation day - for 2017 we will ring before the Service again as in 2016.
  - "Strike Back Against Blood Cancer" (QP Swindon S Royal on Sun 26th June)
  - Weddings
- **Press Coverage:**
  - We have been featured in the Bury Mercury 'Hidden Gems' series

- A two page article appeared in the EADT on ringing in the Norman Tower.
- The Secretary carried out a live radio interview during the January 2016 national debate of whether 'Bellringing' was a sport – it's not.
- Last month we were recorded and interviewed for the talking newsletter for the blind
- Photos were also taken for the We Love BSE website
- We continue to support the Cathedral for the **Christmas Fair** manning the Raffle ticket sales; it is good to have already discussed for 2017 the return to previous years' location inside the Cloister, where we act as meet and greet. Cathedral identification badges to wear throughout this would be appreciated for 2017.
- **Maintenance**
  - Two new ropes have been fitted in 2016 and two received for fitting in 2017
  - Long term we will need to consider replacing the old bell wheels (circa 1900) that were refurbished in 1977 as the soles are starting to split and several centres are weak, Approx cost £1400 per wheel ultimately 10 required.

### **Chaplains Lawrence Pizzey**

Thirty five years ago, Canon Musgrave Brown (retired and living in Bury) invited me to serve as chaplain to cathedral visitors for one day a month from Easter to Michaelmas. I have been doing so ever since. Today's band of chaplains differs from then in that we are no longer exclusively male and ordained. Our ranks now include women and men, lay and ordained; and our average age is rather greater! Last year we had a chaplain on duty, morning and afternoon, most weekdays from May 1 to September 30. Chaplains (usually cassocked or gowned) are on hand to provide counsel, if asked, or simply to be a recognisable part of the Cathedral's welcoming team. Prayers are offered, from the pulpit, at 12 noon and 3 p.m. by the duty chaplain. We are very grateful to all who helped with this ministry last year; with the majority still being able to continue to serve in 2017. Inevitably, a few of those who have given valuable service in the past are no longer able to continue, and we are always pleased to hear from anyone prepared to join the chaplaincy team. If this could be you, please get in touch with me.

### **Christian Aid David Eaton**

Our willing team of collectors at the Cathedral, working as part of the ecumenical Christian Aid group in Bury St Edmunds, did another super job in May 2016 to raise both much needed funds but also raise the profile of Christian Aid in our local community. The Cathedral collected £2,106.78 incl. Gift Aid. New volunteers are always most welcome for Christian Aid 2017 which is almost upon us. A big thank you to the many people who support Christian Aid in a variety of ways.

One of the joys of the Christian faith is the privilege of working with others for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. Christian Aid is a marvellous way of making a practical difference to others. Often though we think of 'fortunate' in material terms only and forget that those who are materially less prosperous may have a generosity and love of life that is humbling to us who may be relatively materially affluent. Many involved in the work have commented how rewarding it is to be part of Christian Aid.

### **Christmas Fair Lorna Brook**

Last November, the Cathedral Fair moved from the cloisters to a marquee on the Garth because of safety concerns about the level of overcrowding experienced in previous years. This experiment was not an unqualified success, as it was cold, damp and too small. In spite of the unpromising surroundings, the stalls which found themselves there manfully traded with the members of the public who found their way inside. However, stall revenues were down, and the slight increase in overall income was due largely to the runaway success of the Pilgrims' Kitchen, which had locations in the Edmund Room and the entrance to the car park in addition to its usual place. Some activity on the Sunday brought in a little more money (the Gardeners sold all their plants and the Gallery did good business with leftover cakes and Christmas Treats).

The managers of three stalls have given notice that they will not run again in 2017: Christmas Treats, Jigsaws and Gardeners. The Gallery may no longer be available to the Cathedral from this year. This has necessitated a major rethink about the Christmas Fair and our part in it – a process which is ongoing as I write. The Fair Committee would welcome suggestions for its consideration as it is essential that we generate sufficient income from the Fair to help balance the Cathedral's books.

### **Discovery Centre Helen Woodroffe**

Another busy year welcoming 60 schools to the Cathedral, working in 30 schools in the Community and supporting 34 parishes and benefices across the Diocese.

We continued to use our **PILGRIM** strategy as the basis of our work within the Diocesan 'Growing in God' initiative:

**P**ayerful activities: leading a Prayer & Worship Adventure Day at Cockfield CEVC Primary School ; Prayer stations at the Diocesan Exploring Prayer Day.

**I**nclusive: recordings of all ages as part of the 'I Wonder' Project; using our 'Values' Labyrinth for training purposes with congregation members at Otley, followed by delivery to young children at the primary school and engaging the Youth club members to consider the outworking of Christian values in their lives.

**L**earning: developing a 'Jesus as an Inspirational Leader' day ; examining the good and bad qualities of leadership at the 2- day Edmund Festival, symbolised by the making of a throne.

**G**rowing in God is at the core of our work and as well as leading a 'Journey of Life' Day at Fressingfield CEVC Primary to complement their pilgrimage school ethos, we supported the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Team at Deanery PIT Stops, promoting *our new Discovery Centre Toolkit*.

**R**elationships between schools and parishes has been evident through the piloting of the four 'Emmanuel' project days at the Cathedral, to be used in parishes from 2017.

**I**nspirational aspect was demonstrated with the successful two week 'Creative Threads' Exhibition in June when we celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and attracted 3000 visitors; 1000 were children.

**M**inistry work: organising craft activities for 1200 children at the Suffolk Show; involvement at Bishop Mike's 'Good News' weekends; Diocesan Training Days and a Teacher Training programme for PILGRIM 2018 (340<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pilgrim's Progress), after receiving monies from grant bids.

We are delighted that Kim Judge has joined our team as Discovery Centre Office Manager.

### **Electoral Roll David Eaton Electoral Roll Officer**

The Electoral Roll presented at the 2016 APCM had 325 names. At the time of writing this report the Roll is currently being revised for 2017.

Whilst the Roll primarily exists to record those eligible to vote at the APCM and who can stand in various church elections, it also naturally comprises most of the local worshipping community (other than clergy who are ineligible for inclusion) of a parish. At the Cathedral we see our Roll as a positive way of demonstrating our belonging to the Cathedral community and the mutual commitment that we have to each other. It is always encouraging to see new faces wishing to join the Roll.

### **Events Marie Taylor**

The 2016 programme for families and children was designed and targeted to open the Cathedral up to new audiences, not based on faith, and targeting non attendees to the Cathedral. Over 1, 500 children and adults enjoyed our high-quality, value for money events which have created a new non-secular audience for the Cathedral to engage with. Themes ranging from discovering mini beasts, snakes, spiders, insects, bugs

and reptiles from all over the world, Space week, Mini worlds, Birds of Prey to LEGO workshops made up this ambitious programme.

We also staged a Mad Hatter's Tea party on the Cathedral Garth linking in with the town's Food Festival working with Bury St Edmunds' Business Improvement District in partnership.

We delivered child friendly storytelling and craft sessions and Edmund trail that explored the Facts, Myths and Legends of St Edmund and were brought to life for visitors in a 'Horrible Histories' style presentation. Many visitors have returned repeatedly throughout the events demonstrating the quality and accessibility of the programme on offer

Incredibly all events were reported on and photographers came to cover the events from not just the Bury Free Press but also the East Anglian Daily Times which was helped by a significant media deal in place for 2016. For adults we organised a 'Sing along the Sound of Music' event which was very successful and brought in income for the Cathedral and excellent customer feedback.

The last year's events have lead to some significant partnerships, one of particular note, local social enterprise Kinetic Adventure. Due to a successful summer working together, as Events and Marketing Manager, I have been invited onto the Board of this innovative /local/ social enterprise which will internally fund new events and open up the Cathedral to new visitors.

#### **Fabric Advisory Committee Susan Cockram**

The Committee has met twice in the past year advising the Dean and Chapter on various projects which are currently in hand.

We have seen the final range of cupboards installed by the South Transept for use for the Tower Tours; the installation of two standard lighting poles at the West End of the Cathedral which enhance the Font and also the cleaning of the Reynolds Memorials.

"Discovery Day" held in May 2016 was a great success and this will be repeated again on 7 June so please if you have any questions for members of the FAC feel free to ask! Members of the FAC will join the Congregation at the 10am service and also will be in Pilgrims Kitchen during coffee.

#### **Fairtrade stall Janet Banks**

The Fairtrade stall continues to be held once a month during coffee after the 10 o' clock service, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Buying Fairtrade products means you are supporting an organisation dedicated to fighting poverty through trade, and that is helping to change the way the world trades.

Julie Eaton and I share the work between us, collecting and returning the goods from Just Traid in St John Street, manning the stall and totting up the figures. Sales figures last year totalled £1,756.18, which includes the tea and coffee which we supply to the cathedral offices and for Sunday morning refreshments.

For Fairtrade Fortnight, on 12 March, to coincide with Richard Stainer preaching on Fairtrade, we held an extra large stall with a wider than usual range of gifts at which some of the cathedral's teenage members helped.

We would like to thank all the congregation and choir members who have supported the stall over the past year, and also all those who help us from the car park with the boxes of goods.

The goods on the stall only represent a part of the range of goods on sale in Just Traid in St John St, which also stocks greetings cards, wooden toys, jewellery, clothing and toiletries, so do ask us if you would like to see other items on the stall, or if you need us to bring particular things to the stall one month for you.

### **The Fellowship of St Edmund (Servers) Philip Pitt**

The serving team at the Cathedral continues to effectively support the four main Sunday services together with a significant number of additional services throughout the year to celebrate Saints' days and other red letter occasions. The duties of a server at the Cathedral will always be wide and varied but team members can always be relied on to provide quiet, efficient support to the clergy during worship.

The number of servers on the team continues to fluctuate, with people moving on and new servers joining the team. This has resulted in the average age of the server team falling but the professionalism of members continues to remain high. This year we said farewell to Hilary Elliot who hung up her Alb and Girdle after many years of dedicated service. Her support and advice were always invaluable.

Members of the congregation will notice that the servers' robes have changed this year. After a period of consultation it was decided to simplify the outfit. Servers now wear a plain white Cassock Alb with a girdle matching the Cathedral's colours. Thanks are due to the Head Verger Rachel for assistance in obtaining and dyeing, in the case of the girdles, as well as ensuring that the robes remain clean and Caitlin has continued to manage the servers' rota efficiently and other senior members of the team play their part in ensuring that members develop within the various server roles. The aim over the next twelve months is to train all servers in all roles.

Overall I believe the servers remain one of the quieter, less visible groups during services. If nobody notices us we have performed our role immaculately.

### **The Cathedral Flower Arrangers Susan Cockram and Margaret Woolmore**

We have had another busy year decorating the Cathedral for festivals, events and on many other occasions.

Again, this year we have been helped by the Parishes of the Diocese on many weekends. This seems to be much appreciated by the Parishes and the Cathedral certainly benefits from their many beautiful and varied designs. It will be fun during the next few months working amongst the scaffolding – always ready for a challenge!

This year we have been delighted that three new flower arrangers have joined our team. Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the arrangers and our faithful waterers for all they do each week.

"Fun, Flowers and Friendship" is the motto of Flower Arrangers and we exercise that to the full, adorning our beautiful building, having fun and making friends. We always need lots of help; we have a lot of space to fill and would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us. We all help each other and are always happy to help anyone who thinks they would like to be part of the team.

### **Forum Pam Pitts**

The Cathedral Forum meets four times a year to discuss issues and hear updates on matters affecting the Cathedral community. A list of members is on the Cathedral community notice-board; to raise an issue, please speak to a member of Forum.

There are 14 elected members who are on the church electoral roll of the Parish. The Forum may co-opt up to eight additional members; at any time not less than half of co-opted members are members of the Cathedral Community. The Cathedral Chapter may attend Forum, as can the Cathedral Chaplain, Readers and retired Clergy; six Deputy Wardens are ex-officio members.

The Dean gives a report on Cathedral happenings including Staff changes, details of events and aspects to celebrate or causing concern. Before the June meeting, Mrs Elizabeth Gibson spoke about the 2015 Financial report and answered questions. Canon Dave Gardner gave feedback on the Mission survey linked to the self-evaluation framework. During the meeting Tower tours and the new 10-10 group were mentioned. Information regarding charity giving for 2015 was circulated afterwards. In September Canon Matthew

Vernon outlined aspects of his sabbatical (May – July) and a timeline for becoming registered as an inclusive church were circulated. Richard Hubbard gave an “InHarmony” presentation in November. A draft document linked to Vision and Strategy 2017 – 2020 and the “Growing in God” leaflet was distributed. On 1 February feedback was given from the Vision Day and news that a grant had been given for repairs to the clerestory windows.

Regular updates are given by the Residentiary Canons; there are reports from Deanery Synod representatives at some meetings. This year there are five vacancies on Forum; being a member aids communication with the Cathedral community and is a means of putting forward new ideas. Do consider joining the Forum.

### **Friends of Cathedral Music Judy Chisman**

This year has been a glorious one for FCM, with Diamond Jubilee celebrations across the country and as far away as Australia. I am sure that we can feel very pleased with all that our charity has achieved over 60 years and uplifted by what has been achieved in the cathedral world since our inception in 1956.

Across the country members have met at large and small gatherings. Here, in the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, we held two gatherings for our members, the first in June at the cathedral when our Director of Music invited us into the Song School. We were welcomed at Choral Evensong followed by tea and cakes.

Our second gathering began in Aldeburgh in October. At the church, we were given a very interesting talk about Benjamin Britten’s connection there and something about his music. We visited the Red House, the home of Britten and Pears, and gleaned more knowledge of the famous Suffolk composer. In the evening we attended a concert, at Snape Maltings, of Britten’s Dance Music with ‘Dance East’ appearing which was superb and our own Assistant Director of Music featured on the organ.

The following day, our members were welcomed at Grundisburgh church for our morning service and later we visited Orford church, or attended another concert at the Maltings.

In 2017, we may experience slightly fewer gatherings, but we will continue our work in support of the choral tradition with renewed vigour, particularly through the Diamond Fund for Choristers set up in 2016. Do look at our website, [fcm.org](http://fcm.org), to find out our latest news. New members are always welcome and I will be very pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to join.

### **Friends of Cathedral Choir Richard Franklin**

Fundraising remains an essential venture to support the Choirs’ activities and ensure that key events such as tours and recordings can be maintained. The FOCC has had another active year. Our events have included a hugely successful Ceilidh held at Haughley Park with the Suffolk Law Society and the annual FOCC quiz which was another very entertaining evening.

As part of our drive to increase membership and professionalise our offering, we launched a new newsletter featuring topical content as well as gems from the archives. The new publication elicited a lot of positive feedback.

Over Easter we sold the last of the FOCC mugs creating a further 30 members for the Fellowship of the Mug. During the choir term we held the cake stall and also ran the monthly 500 Club which now makes a significant contribution to our annual revenue target.

Throughout the year FOCC provided drinks’ services and cushion sales for the Cathedral’s concerts and events and for the Bury Concert Club series at the Unitarian Meeting House. We have a great team of volunteers assisting with this, providing a highly professional service for the Cathedral, and making an important contribution to our fundraising.

At the end of the summer we held the barbeque on the Garth. The weather was good and the event was a fitting send off for the choristers finishing their time in the choir.

None of the FOCC events would be possible without the outstanding support of the many volunteers that assist with our fundraising activities, ranging from the enterprising girls who run cake stalls through to parents and congregation members who help man stalls, move tables, bake, sell drinks, wash up and sell cushions. I would also like to thank Rachel and her incredible team of vergers who always go the extra mile to support us.

### **Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral David Cockram**

The 74<sup>th</sup> Friends' Annual Day 2016 took place on Saturday 16 July; we were delighted to welcome Bishop Martin to his first Friends' Day. It was an honour to enjoy the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant; Lady Euston later wrote and kindly described the day as "perfect."

Reflecting on the highlights of 2016, we took an enthusiastic group to St Albans in May. We enjoyed an excellent guided tour of the Cathedral, prior to lunch in their Refectory. We had time for a look around the house and grounds at Wimpole Hall prior to our return to Bury.

A party of 27 of us headed to Harrogate and Durham from 20-23 September. The Friends of Southwell Minster welcomed us with coffee before we divided into 3 smaller groups for interesting guided tours. We were impressed by all we saw including a moving set of Stations of the Cross by Jonathan Clarke, the Suffolk sculptor, completed in 2000.

We stayed at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate; on the Tuesday we set off to Pickering to join the North Yorkshire Moors Railway where we struck lucky with a chance arrangement of Ploughman's lunch on the train and a glass of wine. We alighted at Goathland where we rejoined the coach and on to Whitby, with a lovely drive back through the warm and sunny National Park.

Our trip to Durham on the Wednesday had been awaited expectantly and the beauties of the Norman building were well explained to us by the Friends of Durham who provided guided tours. Their impressive finished Lego showed us what is in store for us! We returned to Bury with visit en route to Belton House, near Grantham.

**Saturday 15 July 2017: 75<sup>th</sup> Friends' Annual Day.** Welcome to the Bishop of Dunwich as guest preacher on this special day.

### **Groundforce Alan McAndrew**

It has been a very physical year for the Groundforce Team. Firstly, a large sickly tree in the Remembrance Garden was considered to be unsafe and quickly needed to be felled. However, we discovered it was protected by a Preservation Order and located in a conservation area and heavily wrapped in red tape! Notwithstanding this, permission was granted to fell the tree and this was quickly done before any nesting birds arrived to take up residence. It was hard physical work to restore the area back to a presentable state but very satisfying.

Next was the business of restoring the St Edmund roses' area which has recently been caught up in the builders' site during the Cathedral re-roofing project. A good pruning, feeding and careful spraying quickly repaired and restored this important rose feature. Not before time however because we were then asked to take over the maintenance of the Cloister Garth and, by implication, the brand new lawn labyrinth created as a special project by the Rev Brin Singleton (Rector of Wickhambrook). This has been our major project for the year.

Other items were re-painting the two garden storage sheds, servicing the lawn mowers for springtime and replacing the timbered lawn edging around the Garth, the Remembrance Garden and the PK lawn. The best tasks are always looking after plants; the snowdrops and spring bulbs then all the way through the seasons

to the winter jasmine. In between times, the many visitors are pleased to see the results of our labours but our greatest reward is to simply meet and welcome them to the Cathedral.

### **Guild of St Edmund Geoffrey House**

The Guild of St Edmund, which provides support and oversight of all volunteer groups within the Cathedral, changed during 2016. A new Volunteer Agreement was introduced and all volunteer groups were able to be represented on the Committee and at the regular meetings. The changes were introduced at the AGM and should help to create opportunities for the development of volunteer interests as well as better communication between the Guild and Chapter. In October, 5 Members of the Guild took part in the 4 day Pilgrimage to Kevelaer to collect the Paschal and Kevelaer candles following morning Mass in the Basilica.

### **Home Groups Canon Chris Andrews**

Over the year the weekly home groups have provided a place to grow in friendship with one another, to strengthen our grasp of Scripture and what it means to believe and live the Christian faith. The company and encouragement of fellow Christians meeting regularly in one another's homes is invaluable.

In Lent 2016 there were two Lent groups. Happily the group meeting at John Parr's house drew in mostly new members. After Lent these people joined those meeting regularly in Moreton Hall on a Monday evening. If everyone attends there might be 12 or 13 people, about the maximum for a good dynamic in the meeting. There is a good age range in the group.

Over the year several members have led one or more sessions. Members have been generous in offering their own homes for meetings. We were fortunate to have John Parr with us most weeks until his new responsibilities in Hadleigh meant that he has been unable to continue.

Study material has come from Living Faith in Suffolk, the diocesan resource team who still have available a number of course books for study on the Bible and its themes, on the Gospels, on the psalms and a range of other topics. We have also read together Rowan Williams' "Being Christian" and "Being Disciples", short books which are both written in accessible language which still does justice to the range and depth of the writer's mind and insight. Both are excellent for individual or group study. Each week we read together a key passage of scripture arising out of the study material.

We are always delighted to meet people who are interested in finding out more about the groups or joining. Ask a group member, one of the Cathedral Clergy or me about the meetings if you want to know more.

### **Junior Church Penny Bentley**

Junior Church has continued to support children and young people to develop their faith, enjoy appropriate activities, and have fun together. It is led by a team of 17 adults who work on a rota in teams of three. The leaders meet all together once a term to review and improve their work and to plan future developments. Around fifteen children and teenagers aged from three to fourteen come to Junior Church during the Parish Eucharist on Sundays. They go to the Discovery Centre during the first hymn for stories and activities. Recently, at the request of the children, they have extended their time in the Discovery Centre to share a specially chosen interactive Eucharistic Prayer and the Peace. They return to their families for Communion.

This year three children from Junior Church were admitted to Communion in a special 10 am Sunday service, following a four-week programme of preparation led by Canon Matthew Vernon and Penny Bentley.

Junior Church children sometimes present their work at the end of the 10 am service on Sunday. On Remembrance Sunday they presented a poppy wreath they had made. In four services during the year, including Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Junior Church children and young people play a prominent part in the liturgy, reading, leading the intercessions and gathering round the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.

In September children and parents greatly enjoyed a lunch party in the Vernon/Banks' garden. At Christmas children and young people, with adult leaders and members of the congregation, presented a Nativity play,

again with a script written by Bishop Graeme Knowles. The congregation greatly enjoyed the appearance of John the Baptist and the gift of small crosses to all worshippers. And in January fifty-six children, family members and friends enjoyed the Beauty and the Beast pantomime at the Theatre Royal.

### **Kagera Valerie Moore**

Our link Diocese of Kagera in the north west of Tanzania has been facing many challenges in the last year. An earthquake damaged homes and churches. Climate changes have meant that crops have failed to grow with devastating results for the people. Very many people are existing on very little food. The Church in Kagera is striving to support people but they too have very limited resources.

We have been able to give some support this year through fund-raising. We held a very enjoyable Pimms and Hymns afternoon at the Deanery in the summer and the stall at the Christmas Fair raised a record amount. There is also a stall on the third Sunday of the month in the Cloisters. All money raised goes directly to Kagera.

In the coming year we hope to support the Christian Community Mobilisation Project which works in villages to improve agricultural practices, support new initiatives and start Credit Unions. It is helping people to help themselves. Please pray for the people of Kagera; they pray for you.

### **Kevelaer Paul Deane**

We travelled on the overnight ferry from Harwich before driving to Hertogenbosch for a visit to the Bosch museum. There we found a splendid exhibition of Bosch paintings, copies though some were; an exhilarating start to our journey.

The Saturday morning Anglican Eucharist before breakfast in Kevelaer was made special by an order of service printed by Philip, thank you. After a quick tour of the town and lunch, we went to coffee with Ria at Kalkar on the banks of the Rhine. In Kevelaer we joined an evening candlelit procession round the Shrine to Our Lady of Kevelaer before supper and an evening in the cellars of the Priesterhaus.

Sunday was the big day with High Mass in the Basilica and the blessing of the many candles we were bringing home. We nominated Geoffrey, as Chairman of the Guild, to read the lesson, which he did with aplomb, but he was a trifle less certain when he found himself robed up and processing round the square outside!

After lunch we travelled to Ypres, reluctantly by-passing Ghent and van Eyke's 'The Adoration of the Lamb'. We attended the Last Post at the Menin Gate; Desmond Brady had organised the laying of two wreaths at the ceremony. It was short but moving made more poignant by the solemnity of our involvement.

The party was so moved by the short tour of memorial sites the next morning that I found it difficult to move them on. However, we made the ferry, made it home and made the final procession and Candle dedications at Candlemas at the end of January. We had also made it a rather special occasion so far as I am concerned, and I thank the Guild for making my twenty-something pilgrimage so refreshing and stimulating.

### **Lego Hannah Ratcliffe**

Our Lego Project launched on 28 May 2016 to over a thousand people attending our fantastic launch day. There were many volunteers on duty to help manage the crowds, man the two build areas and help with the other fun activities we had on the day. A social event was held in October 2016 to celebrate 10,000 bricks with all volunteers invited for a buffet and guided tour.

The Lego Project has progressed well through the quieter season. Sessions of brick sorting and test building were organised to sort the thousands of bricks delivered for this building phase of the model. The Cathedral floor is now complete and visitors have recently help build parts of the Garth including the stunning labyrinth which really adds a focal point to the model. The module the volunteers are building at the moment is the Pilgrims' Kitchen. The team recently welcomed Abbot's Green school who placed 120 bricks on this module.

Alongside the build, we have also worked with Bright Bricks to commission limited edition kits in small and large sizes. These are available to purchase from the Cathedral Shop. We currently have 48 volunteers on the Lego Team, but do have spaces available on Monday mornings and Saturdays for anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of the project. The Lego representatives on the Guild Committee are John Eborn and Louise Martin. They are helping to plan a spring social event for the group. The volunteers are looking forward to building during the busier half term period and Easter. Please contact Hannah if you would like an informal talk about volunteering with Lego, on [visits@stedscathedral.org](mailto:visits@stedscathedral.org) or 01284 748730.

### **Cathedral (subscription) Library Margaret Hartley**

An encouraging number renewed their membership and there was a pleasing number of new members this past year.

The books available for Cathedral Guides were moved to the library last February in time for those applying to be guides to use them on their training course. The trainees were also given 6 months free membership of the library. Quite a number of the trainees used the library and at least 5 have since taken out full membership for this year which is very encouraging.

Some of the 'old faithful' volunteers have had to give up and our youngest volunteer moved away. We have had two new volunteers but sadly in September we were not able to fill the rota and the library was not open on 3 days. We do need more volunteers.

Special thanks to Alan Broadway who not only oversees the rota but also produces the bi-annual Library Newsletter. The February issue is now available: do please read it. The article by Stephen Dart on the Ancient Library is always interesting and this time James Knowles who is also one of our volunteers has written an article. Thank you to all who support the Library.

### **Mothers' Union (MU) – Cathedral Branch Jane Leung**

A new committee was elected in April. On Saturday 23rd April, a number of MU members attended the commissioning of the new Canterbury President at Canterbury Cathedral.

The Mothers Union were invited in May to afternoon tea and Evensong when the Bishop's Chorister Awards were presented. Elizabeth Nunn hosted the Annual Strawberry tea which raised £463 for MU projects. Seafarers' Sunday was held at the Cathedral in June; a generous congregation raised £226.10 for the Seafarers' Mission.

Lorna Brook and Jane Leung had an MU stall at All Saints Church Fair in June; it raised £80.35.

The Mothers Union AGM was held on 6 July at Hacheston Village Hall. Nikki Sweatman, Provincial President, gave a talk on 'Inspire for the Future 20/20 Vision'. Wave of Prayer was held on Monday 18 July at 2.30pm in the Lady Chapel led by Revd Brian Lillistone and Margaret Ellis.

The 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mothers Union held in the Abbey Gardens was joined by MU members from across the Diocese. Canon Philip Banks led the worship.

Summer outing to Cobbs Hall, Great Saxham, on Tuesday 16 August was a lovely afternoon strolling around Dr Soper's garden. On Saturday 17 September a service of Remembering Together was held in the Lady Chapel. Prison Sunday in October was well attended for the question and answer session. The speaker was Michael Spurr from the Criminal Justice System. Shoe Box collections were for Operation Christmas Child and Mission for Seafarers. The Mothers Union had a Bric-a-Brac stall at the Christmas Fair and also collected Christmas gifts for the Women's Refuge Centre.

Throughout the year some members attend Eucharist at Cross Penny Court and Manson House. Cakes are provided for Chapter 4 meetings and the posies for Mothering Sunday.

## **Music and Choirs Director of Music James Thomas**

The Cathedral's choirs and music staff continue to the very best of their abilities to provide suitable music to enhance the worship at the Cathedral. Currently the Cathedral Choir numbers 11 Choristers, 5 Probationers, 8 lay Clerks and 2 Choral Scholars. Highlights follow of a year which had at its heart the seven choral services a week provided by six choirs.

April: Tour to Umbria: great success. Masses and concerts in Perugia, Basilica of St Francis of Assisi; Tuoro sul Trasimeno and Siena Cathedral. Sad farewell to Dan Soper in April but he agreed to play the organ until July. An honour to join the choirs of Birmingham and St Paul's Cathedral in St Paul's celebrating the annual Festival of the Sons of the Clergy. Great day out; we acquitted ourselves extremely well. Enjoyable concert given as part of the Bury Festival, including 'behind-the-pipes' demonstration.

June: Matthew Baker installed as Chorister. Sad to dismiss Rafe Elliss, Rory Kettle, Alexander Knock and Henry Skillern in July. Sad to lose three Probationers over the Summer vacation.

After an enjoyable Outward Bound Summer Camp, the new term began with 13 Choristers. Excellent to install Alexander Binns as our new Assistant Director of Music. He and his fiancée, Dora, have already made a great impact. Very pleasing to make Tom Upton Head Chorister; Will Lowden, Sam Vernon Deputies, Ethan Grimwood Choral Scholar.

The Annual Diocesan Choirs' Festival in Eye; the Duruflé Requiem liturgically for All Souls. Our first carol service, for EACH, on 27 November! A really lovely Advent Procession, an excellent *Messiah* and then Advent and Christmas.

2017 so far: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Air Force Regiment; a CD recording, just completed, of Christmas music - the ideal Christmas present!

Huge thanks to colleagues Alexander, Philip, Kim, Philomena, Polly and Katharine and the fabulous army of singers.

## **Pastoral Support Team**

The Pastoral Support Team (PST) oversees various formal pastoral care activities in the Cathedral e.g. Home Communion, hospital visiting, Harvest gifts' collection for Tayfen House and the Foodbanks, a distribution of gifts at Harvest and Christmas to housebound members of the Cathedral, responses to pastoral cases, keeping in touch with people in Residential and Care homes, supporting those recently bereaved and so on. There are also links with Cross Penny Court, where a Eucharist is held monthly alternating with the North Bury Team, as well as at The Martins and Manson House which are led each month by Cathedral Clergy.

Other pastoral activities reporting to the PST include: First Tuesday Lunch, Remembering Together (for those who have suffered the death of a son or daughter, whatever their age), Mothers' Union visitors and the well-attended Young Families' group which meets each Friday morning in the Lecture Room.

The Team, led by Sub Dean and Canon Pastor Canon Matthew Vernon, consists of Margaret Ellis, Margaret Hayns, James Knowles, Pam Pitts, Chrissy Trendall and Cathedral Chaplain, Canon David Crawley. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month and chaired by the Cathedral Chaplain.

We continue to recognise and appreciate the huge amount of pastoral care which goes on 'unofficially' between congregational members and is an expression of our Christian concern for each other.

We are glad to hear of pastoral need which we might help with, including hospital visits or home communions. Please inform the team if someone in the Cathedral community is unwell and would like a visit or is in hospital. Home Communion can be arranged; contact either Canon Matthew, Canon David via the Office (01284 748720) or Pam Pitts (01284 763020) or send to [pastoral@stedscathedral.org](mailto:pastoral@stedscathedral.org). Information can also be left in the "Pastoral" pigeon-hole in the Cathedral Office.

## **Santiago Hayley Collard**

Santiago is produced quarterly and, thanks to our advertisers who cover the production costs, continues to be printed in full colour. Our aim is to produce varied content with something of interest for every member of the Cathedral community, whether it is information and reviews on events, interviews with staff and volunteers, thought provoking articles or simply some light humour. After recent feedback we have decided to revert back to the full page layout rather than the two column style. If anyone else has any feedback on how to further improve the layout or if you have any suggestions for articles, please get in touch.

There have been a few changes to the editorial team. Since Sarah Friswell left and Janet Simmons stepped down, we have welcomed Nicki Dixon and Tony Kimber. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Santiago contributors for your continued support.

## **Cathedral Shop Jane Harrison**

Last year the shop and Tourist Information Point were joined by a knock-through linking the two spaces. Doing this has made a much brighter, lighter space and encourages customers to move naturally from one area to the other, which will hopefully increase sales in both departments. It has also been a good opportunity for both groups of volunteers to get to know each other and benefit from our combined knowledge when dealing with customer enquiries.

Sales in the shop were up on the previous year. This was helped by a very busy Christmas period and the continued growth of the Christmas Fayre. The shop introduced a number of new brands which have proved very popular and we saw the launch of the Lego Cathedral models which were sold through the shop as well as online. The shop also held several book signings for local authors and had stalls at the various children's activity days hosted by the Cathedral.

Simon Puttock was recruited as Sales Assistant. He has been a great addition to the shop team and has proved very popular. We have also recruited several new volunteers which has also made a big difference. The shop relies heavily on volunteers and the time they give so we are lucky to have a great group of people supporting the Cathedral shop.

## **Stewardship David Cockram**

We are starting Lent, and intend to produce another attractive card to draw attention to the nature of Stewardship giving, and to stress the importance of it in trying to balance the Cathedral's Budget.

We are using a well-tried formula to increase the overall total from a figure of £131,000, where it has been holding steady for the past two years, and this will be to ask all those already in the scheme to increase their giving by £1 per week, which it is calculated will produce an additional £13,000 per year of Stewardship income.

It was felt that this approach of a comparatively gentle nature would not cut across the Pentecost Gift Day proposals, which it is hoped will raise an additional £15,000 as a 'one-off' this year.

The Stewardship Committee is not losing sight of the importance of legacies and 'Gifts in Wills', to which it is hoped we shall return as working partners with St Nicholas Hospice during the 2017 Wills Week in November.

We know your help, support and love for the Cathedral comes in many different ways, and the Dean has again asked us to express her personal gratitude for your contribution through Stewardship.

### **Suffolk Historic Churches Judith Hall**

Despite extensive advertising, including two newspaper adverts, we only attracted one cyclist. We know of several intrepid walkers. However on the day we had the most appalling weather with torrential rain all day.

A total of 61 visiting cyclists came to the Cathedral. Let us hope on 9 September 2017 that we have a nice sunny day and more people taking part in the event.

### **Sunday morning coffee Valerie Moore**

Refreshments are provided in Pilgrims' Kitchen each Sunday after 10.00 service. It provides an opportunity to drink Fairtrade coffee and tea and to get to know other members of the congregation. The current album of press cuttings and photos of Cathedral events are also available for browsing.

The Friends of the Cathedral Choir have a first Sunday cake stall, Kagera has a third Sunday stall and, on the fourth Sunday, Fairtrade goods are on sale. This time also becomes a Box Office for social events. We have a very good team of volunteers to serve drinks but new recruits are always welcome. If you haven't been to coffee after a 10.00 service, please come and see what it has to offer. We do have plenty of biscuits as well!

### **10:10 Support and encouragement for faith in action Caroline Baker**

In May a change of oversight was agreed, due to Matthew's sabbatical, enabling Peace and Justice to have a new name and remit agreed by Chapter in June. My thanks to Frances, Matthew and to Catriona Brinkley, Valerie Moore, Janet Simmons and Tony Kimber for their valuable partnership.

Dean Frances shared her passion for a biblical name and proposed John chapter 10 verse 10. 10:10 feels a little challenging, it invites question and witness. The name 10:10 is Christ centred, adaptable to peace, social justice, compassion and care of creation.

The role to advise Chapter on missionary and charitable giving continues. 5% of stewardship income is given annually. In 2016, the Diocese of Kagera, Jachie Eye Clinic, our link in Ghana, Bury St. Edmunds Citizens Advice Bureau, Focus 12, Freedom from Torture, Church Urban Fund, United Society Partnership in the Gospel (USPG) and Christian Aid each received £500. Donations were suggested for Bury Drop In, Kagera Relief and Famine Appeals.

As news came of hunger in Kagera, Valerie and Catriona brainstormed. Dean Frances offered the Deanery Garden to host Hymns and Pimms, which was lots of fun and raised £1250. A huge thank you to *Thorpe and Bailey* for leading the music and to Abbi Thorpe for coordinating.

From September to December, Valerie and Caroline were part of the Diocesan team who devised the contents for the Kagera Lent Appeal. Advent brought Christian Aid's LIGHT THE WAY campaign into the Cathedral: Simon Snell inspired people to ask to join 10:10 and we ended the year with a recruitment supper. Grateful thanks to Head Verger, Rachel and her team. Thank you for your generosity and support. Gifts to the Haiti, Mosul and Yemen appeals raised £1,344.

### **Tourist Information Point Stephen Moody**

The Tourist Information Point is manned by a group of over 30 volunteers who give their time and energy to welcoming the thousands of visitors who arrive in Bury St Edmunds each year, as well as providing information and advice to locals. We provide a comprehensive array of leaflets, 'What's On', bus and train times, accommodation and general information about Bury and the surrounding area, as well as selling a small range of giftware. During the Christmas Fayre, the TIP welcomed over 1000 visitors with queries ranging from the inevitable car parking and 'facilities', hotels, restaurants and shops through to the history of Edmund and the Abbey.

When the Tourist Office on Angel Hill closed in 2014, it was felt to be hugely important for visitors to have access to information; Bury St Edmunds is now fortunate to have information points located in the three key areas of the town: Cathedral, Apex and Moyses Hall.

We promote Suffolk and East Anglia and try to have a selection of attractions and up to date information whatever one's taste. The 'TIP' is open the same hours as the shop and the team work together to ensure that, at busy times, there are always two staff on duty. We have a great team of volunteers who man the desk and provide a positive experience for visitors.

The knock-through to the Cathedral shop has enabled the two areas to work closely together, with many visitors now browsing both ends.

So many of our visitors comment on the fact that it is their first visit and that they didn't know much about Bury St Edmunds but then come to tell us that they want to come back for longer as we live in such a beautiful place .... something we know already!

### **Vergers' Team Rachel Clover**

2016 was a year of joy and sadness for the Vergers' department. I joined the team in January as Head Verger and Estates Manager: a new and exciting role. Matthew Kemsley, after many loyal years, left in August. Melanie Takáč joined as a part-time verger in October, and Ian Mack started part-time in January 2017. With the help of Honorary vergers Ginny, Paul and Keith, the team is up to full strength again.

Vergers are custodians of the Cathedral. Part of our role is to enable the Cathedral to stay open up to 11 hours every day for 52 weeks of the year and this we have done. We have prepared for, and assisted at, more than 1335 services from the Installation of the Bishop of Dunwich to Courts of Justice, Christmas Day, Easter Day, as well as the daily services such as Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and Evensong. Congregations can vary from 2 to 1100. We have also covered many different events, concerts, lectures, dinners and the first Diocesan *Gather* event for young adults when all the pews in the nave were removed and replaced with a football cube!

We look after the fabric of the Cathedral using many of the talents the department has. We have undertaken some of the maintenance work, repairing locks, cleaning, setting rooms to be used for meetings, scrubbing floors. We polished the wood flooring by hand (and knees!) and assisted our artist in residence, with his varied needs. We changed 840 light bulbs to energy-saving LEDs, thus not only saving a day each month changing conventional light bulbs, but significantly reducing the Cathedral's power bills and impact on the environment.

I have had an amazing year and would like to thank you all for helping me to settle into my new life in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. I may seem to be rushing around and busy but am always willing to listen.

### **Wardens' Team Stewart Alderman and Liz Steele**

It has been another busy year for the Wardens' Team in their role of welcome to our congregation and visitors and support of our clergy and vergers at the Cathedral's usual round of Sunday services, civic services, special services and when we welcome schools and organisations particularly throughout December. The team has also covered three weddings and a number of funerals throughout 2016 and early 2017.

At the APCM in 2016 we said farewell with grateful thanks to Marian Shaw and Barbara Pycraft who had both completed six years' service as deputy wardens. Their time, commitment and support were greatly appreciated. In their place we welcomed Susie Sloane and Catriona Brinkley who have settled in brilliantly and are great assets to our team.

We remain eternally grateful for the support we receive from so many people to ensure that, as Philip puts it, front of house always runs smoothly! Thank you to all those who volunteer to be sidespeople at the 10am service on Sundays and to those who act as Stewards at Choral Mattins and Sunday evensong services.

We are also grateful to those who do the readings and carry the offertory. We are sure that there may be people out there who aren't currently being asked to do these things but who would like the opportunity. Please, if this is you, do speak to Liz or Stewart as we would be delighted to hear from you.

And finally well done and thank you to the Deputy Wardens: Terry Stark, Shirley Warrington, Susie Sloane, Catriona Brinkley, Alan Dodds and Keith Elliott who do an amazing job week in week out.

### **Welcome Stewards Jacky Radford and Liz Rowlands**

During the first three months, together with November and December, the rota is limited to 3, two-hour sessions on Wednesdays and Saturdays and 2, two-hour sessions on Sunday afternoons. In October we drop the last 4pm to 6pm session. We also cover every day in school holidays, at Christmas and at half-terms in October and February. Although several members of the stewarding rota choose not to take part in the winter months, the sessions are reasonably easy to fill, apart from the very hectic days of the Christmas Fair when personnel are stretched in many different directions.

Once April arrives, we are back to the full rota of 4 sessions every day apart from the first sessions on Sunday mornings. The rota becomes more difficult to fill and inevitably there are some sessions left blank (usually 1600 to 1800) in spite of our best efforts, and extra times undertaken by many of our volunteers. Other problems arise particularly when other major events are taking place and again everyone is fulfilling several roles within the Cathedral community.

We have welcomed several new members to the team and hope that this year will bring a few more as we are short of volunteers, especially in the summer months.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers for their time and effort. The Cathedral would be a much less friendly place without a steward and their welcoming smile and conversation.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer Margaret Ellis**

The Women's World Day of Prayer takes place annually on the first Friday in March in churches all over the world. It begins when the sun rises over Samoa and goes round the world until the last service as the sun sets over Samoa, having travelled and been used in many languages in every country. The service on 3 March was written by the women of the Philippines under the theme " Am I Being Unfair to You? " Services in Bury St Edmunds were held at 10.30am at St.Peter's Church and at 7.30pm in St Edmund's Church. The service next year will be by the women of Suriname on the theme of " All God's Creation is Very Good " It is an international and ecumenical day of prayer to which all women or men of faith or no faith are welcome.

Reports compiled by Forum Secretary: Pam Pitts

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on 26 April 2016 at 7pm.**

The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral.  
The Dean opened the meeting with a welcome to all.

**Present:** There were 65 members of the Cathedral community (names on file)

**Apologies:** There were 20 recorded (names on file)

**Minutes:** The Minutes of 29 April 2015 were approved as correct after the insertion of "team" in the Cathedral reports linked to pastoral support.

**Electoral Roll officer:** Thanks were extended to David Eaton who was re-appointed.

**Election of Churchwardens:** Stewart Alderman and Elizabeth Steele were elected.

Thanks and gifts were given to Barbara Pycraft and Marian Shaw standing down after six years as Deputy Wardens.

**Elected members of Forum:** Thanks were given to Debbie Bowles, Chris Dexter-Mills, Paul Elkin, Gray Elkin, Richard Franklin and Barbara Emmett after three years.

Catriona Brinkley, Susan Cockram, Richard Franklin, Jane Leung, Valerie Moore and Robin Turner were elected.

**Vice-Chair of Forum:** This year, Stewart Alderman.

**Lay and Clergy observers to Thingoe Deanery Synod:** Lorna Brook, Elizabeth Elliott, Margaret Ellis and Paul Elkin were appointed plus a member of Clergy.

**Representatives to Churches Together:** Geoff Birkby Elizabeth Elliott Christine Trendall.

**Representatives to Women's World Day of Prayer Committee:** Margaret Ellis and Trish Pullan.

**Cathedral reports:** These were highlighted by the Dean in groups and questions/comments offered. Thanks were given for those involved with the Ancient Library.

More Chaplains are needed; Lawrence Pizzey oversees the list. In his absence, a report was read from David Eaton: there are currently 325 members on the electoral roll, an increase of 19 from a year ago. On 19 May there will be a Cathedral Friends' trip to St Albans; to see David Cockram if interested. Profound thanks were extended to Penny Bentley and the Junior Church Team for all they do. There has been crop failure in Kagera so difficult times there. Thanks to Dan Soper who has left but is still playing the organ until July; Alex Binns will take over in September. Caroline Baker will oversee the Peace and Justice group while Canon Vernon is on sabbatical. David Spark is the new Stewardship Recorder. Judith Hall has taken over the Cathedral organization of Historic Churches Ride and Stride. More volunteers are needed for Sunday coffee. Awareness of passing on information from the Cathedral community to the Pastoral Support Team was highlighted. There is a need for the Chaplains' signing book.

### **Verbal report on 2015 Accounts (ahead of Accounts being received by Finance Committee and approved by Chapter in June)**

David Cockram said 2015 had been a "challenging year" with a small deficit of £11,250.

Donations were lower but there was an increase in income from special services/weddings.

Some repairs and maintenance, which had been planned for this year, were able to be done in 2015; further work was done on Cathedral properties in March.

Sarah-Jane Allison answered a question linked to the living wage. All Cathedral Office staff receive the living wage; some working for Enterprises are on a zero hours contract and are under 25.

Canon Chris Andrews said he was disappointed not to be looking at accounts at the APCM; others in the room agreed with him. The Dean gave an understanding that they will be available next year; the Head of Finance will be asked to attend and give a report as HoD.

**Dean's report:** The Dean highlighted the arrival of two Bishops in the diocese and listed names of new Staff in the Cathedral Office including the new Chairman of Cathedral Council. Thanks were given for the work of Canon David Crawley as Chaplain.

Canon Matthew Vernon explained that "Mindfulness and meditation" is the theme of his three month sabbatical with visits planned to Italy and Ireland as well as 2 weeks away on retreat. He will preside at the end of school service for St James' Middle on 21 July.

The Dean said there will be another "Festival of Ideas" this year; Mark Cazalet is producing 153 images which are being exhibited in the Cathedral. Jessica Martin spoke during Holy Week and the Duke of Gloucester visited in July. The Lego Cathedral project will be launched on 28 May; there will be a discussion linked to the referendum on 21 June. The Cathedral is undergoing a self-evaluation process which will be reported on in September.

**Head of Department:** Helen Woodroffe gave a presentation on the work of the Discovery Centre highlighting various exciting events which will happen through the year.

It was noted that next year's HoD input should be by Elizabeth Gibson, Head of Finance.

**AOB:**

- It was asked when the parking spaces for disabled people would be available for use. A recommendation that one should be opposite the Office, one in the Staff car park.
- The launch of the Tuesday evening lectures has begun; the next meeting on 10 May.
- A suggestion Annual reports are made available in the Cathedral before the APCM.
- There were issues with sound at the "Any Questions" which were highlighted.
- A request to acknowledge the ministry of Rev Carl Melville who had left the Cathedral last year. The Dean replied that Carl has settled in well at Cockfield.
- A query regarding whether "Young Families" was represented in the Annual report; it is part of the Pastoral Support Team report. Canon Vernon explained how it is being organised at present and thanked the volunteers involved for overseeing each week.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Wednesday 5 April 2017  
at 7.00 pm in the Lecture Room, Cathedral Centre after a Eucharist at 6.30 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. To note apologies for absence:
2. To approve Minutes of the APCM held on 26 April 2016
3. To appoint an Electoral Roll Officer
4. To elect one member of Chapter
5. To elect two members of Council
6. To elect two Churchwardens pursuant to the Churchwardens Measure 2001

7. To elect five members of Forum and appoint a vice-chair of Forum
8. To appoint lay and clergy representatives to the Deanery Synod
9. To appoint representatives to Churches Together
10. To appoint two representatives to the Women's World Day of Prayer committee
11. To receive a report from the Dean
12. Finance report 2016 by Mrs Elizabeth Gibson and Mr Tony Kimber
13. To note the reports of Cathedral life as seen online – paper copies on request

Any other business

Date for the diary: **The APCM will be on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 7pm**  
**following a Eucharist in the Quire at 6.30 pm**