

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2025 at 1pm in the Cathedral

1. Prayers

The Dean opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Confirmation of the 2025 Electoral Roll

Sarah Mann (Electoral Roll Officer) presented the Electoral Roll Report. Explained that a new Electoral Roll was prepared in 2025 in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, which stipulate that a new Electoral Roll must be prepared every six years. There are currently 362 people on the Electoral Roll, which is a decrease of 24% from 2024, but is the same amount as when a new Electoral Roll was last prepared in 2019. Over 40% of people on the new Electoral Roll are new members who were not on the previous Electoral Roll. Sarah thanked the Electoral Roll Champions who helped encourage the congregation to complete forms. Sarah thanked Charlotte Campbell for her help with IT when preparing the new Electoral Roll, and thanked Michael Rawson and Sharda Rozena for their support throughout the year.

The Dean thanked Sarah Mann for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Cameron, Helen Quintrell and Lesley Black.

4. Minutes of the APCM 2024

The minutes of the APCM held on 19th May 2024 were displayed for four weeks following the meeting and no comments were received. The minutes were approved at this meeting.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

None.

6. Elections

Two nominations were received for the role of Cathedral Warden:

- Linda Hutchinson was proposed Jill Tilley by and seconded by Malcom Baines.
- Kristin Ruby was proposed by Stella Modu and seconded by Paul de Fritaes.

No vote was required as there were two nominations for two vacancies. Linda Hutchinson and Kristin Ruby were appointed as Cathedral Wardens for the next year.

7. Cathedral Stewards Report

Alison Brown (Chair of the Guild of Stewards) presented the Stewards Report. In September, Alison became Chair of the Committee, which comprises of nine other Stewards. There are 41 active stewards and seven new stewards who have been recruited recently. A rededication event took place in January, followed by a social occasion. A training session took place on 5th April and was attended by over half of the active Stewards. On behalf of all of the Stewards, Alison thanked Kathryn Fleming and the rest of the Clergy, the Vergers and Sharda Rozena for their support.

The Dean thanked Alison Brown and all of the Stewards for their commitment.

8. Annual Report and Accounts 2024

The Dean introduced Paul Smith to his first APCM since joining the Cathedral in September 2024 as Chief Operating Officer.

Paul Smith (Chief Operating Officer) presented the Annual Report 2024. Paul acknowledged the work done by Justine Horseman-Sewell and Isabel Merrifield throughout the first half of 2024 to

enable the delivery of many of the activities listed in the Annual Report. The Cathedral Vision was published towards the end of 2024, and this will inform the work at the Cathedral for the next five years. An operational plan has also been developed to ensure that the Vision is delivered.

Ted Halshaw (Chief Financial Officer) presented the accounts. In 2024 there was a surplus of £320,000 before any adjustments, which was driven by exceptional donations. All donations have increased in 2024. The exceptional income from donations has been set aside to create a designated fund which will be used over the next three years to grow income, with the aim to break even by 2026/2027. Two new restricted funds were created in 2024, the Social Justice Fund and the Ian Keatley Music Fund.

The Dean thanked the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Financial Officer.

9. Safeguarding Report

Kathryn Fleming (Chapter Safeguarding Lead) presented the safeguarding report. Acknowledged that 2024 was a difficult time for safeguarding in the Church of England, and that Cathedrals will always be vulnerable places as it can be challenging to maintain an appropriate balance between welcome and safety. Reminded the congregation to look out for one another and to always raise any safeguarding concerns with either Kathryn, other members of the Clergy or the Cathedral Safeguarding Officers. A safeguarding audit took place three years ago, and we are responding to the findings from this. There will be another safeguarding audit next summer. Kathryn thanked the three Cathedral Safeguarding Officers, Helen Quintrell, Jill Tilley and Cherry James, who dedicate their time, wisdom and energy to making the Cathedral a safe place. Kathryn thanked Eleanor Davies and Sharda Rozena for their work in ensuring that DBS checks and safeguarding training is kept up to date for all staff and volunteers, and also thanked the Diocesan safeguarding team for their support.

Vivienne Baines asked whether the safeguarding audit is mandatory and whether the Cathedral has to pass the audit. Kathryn explained that the audit is mandatory and we will need to pass it, which we are likely to do.

The Dean thanked Kathryn for all she has done as Chapter Safeguarding Lead, recognising that it is a very challenging role. The Dean reminded the congregation that safeguarding is not a problem word, but that it is a positive thing to ensure that we are keeping people safe.

10. Stewardship

Michael Rawson thanked everyone for the ways they have given generously to the life and mission of the Cathedral over the past year, noting that donations have increased in 2024. Explained the importance of regular giving, as it allows the Cathedral to plan budgets effectively.

Michael promoted the Parish Giving Scheme and outlined how it works. This is a national scheme set up by the Church of England that allows people to give either monthly, quarterly or annually by direct debit. This direct debit can be changed or cancelled at any time, and there is an option to increase the donation by the cost of inflation each year. The Parish Giving Scheme does not cost anything for the Cathedral to use, and saves on administrative resource as it reduces much of the time currently required to process Gift Aid and reconcile bank statements. Michael encouraged everyone who currently gives via standing order, envelope or contactless to consider giving via the Parish Giving Scheme instead. It is possible to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme by paper form, online or telephone.

11. Questions arising from the Dean's Annual Report

The Dean summarised the Dean's Annual Report, emphasising the gratitude he feels toward the Cathedral.

The Dean explained the operational running of the Cathedral and provided an overview of various groups and roles, including the Senior Leadership Team, Chapter, the Cathedral Wardens, the Fabric Advisory Committee and the clergy meeting.

The Dean thanked everyone in the Senior Leadership Team, in particular Paul Smith and Ted Halshaw who have settled in well and are level-headed, positive and helpful. The Dean thanked the musicians, in particular Simon Hogan and James Gough who have worked hard to maintain high standards of choral music in the wake of Ian Keatley's death. The Dean thanked Chapter and members of Sub Committees for their work at meetings. The Dean thanked the two Cathedral Wardens, Linda Hutchinson and Daniel Chumbley, with special thanks to Daniel Chumbley as he

steps down as Warden after serving in the role for many years. The Dean thanked the clergy for their dedication, support, advice and honesty. The Dean also thanked the congregation and all of the volunteers for providing a welcoming, positive and inclusive tone at the Cathedral.

The Dean encouraged the congregation to continually ask whether the Cathedral is a place that looks like Jesus and whether we embody the fruit of the Spirit, and also to inform the clergy of what they need to develop in their Christian journey.

12. Any Other Business (MO)

George Martin asked what the Cathedral is doing to encourage young people to attend the Cathedral. The Dean acknowledged that this is an important area of ministry which is addressed in the Dean's Report, and also explained that an 18-35s group has recently been established.

Michael Rawson thanked the Dean for his leadership and for developing the new Vision over the past year.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Meeting Closed 13:57