

**Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral held online Tuesday 7th
December 2021 at 6.00pm**

In keeping with government guidelines on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friends Council made the decision to hold the 2021 Friends AGM online by Zoom video call.

The Chair of the Friends, The Very Reverend, Dr David Ison opened the meeting at 6pm and welcomed everybody to the AGM and prayers were said for the Cathedral community.

- **Apologies for absence notified in advance**

Roger Walkington, Helen Johnston, Simon Holden, Malcolm Pomeroy

- **Minutes of the AGM held on 9th December 2020**

There were no matters arising or matters of accuracy from the Minutes of the 2020 AGM.

- **Update from the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral**

The Dean explained it has been an encouraging year so far. The Cathedral is managing on 75% of the pre COVID staffing level. To avoid further cuts, St Paul's spent a portion of its limited reserves but due to the money we have received through grants, this has meant the Cathedral hasn't used as much as expected. In 2020 £5million of the reserves were used. The Cathedral will need to use the reserves to cover our losses as we go in to 2022.

We have had more visitors than expected – 2021 budgeted for 50,000 but to date we have had more than 100,000. The overseas visitors have not increased as much as we hoped for, only small numbers from Europe. American visitors have started to cancel due to the situation with COVID and visitors from China have still to return. The Cathedral is in a stable but fragile position.

The Dean provided an update on the projects the Friends have donated to. The Equal access ramp was completed in May 2021 but will not be in use until the work on the inner portico is completed. There was a slight delay with the portico as the builders discovered the floor was uneven due to bomb damage in the war. They are 1 to 2 weeks behind schedule with regards to the construction of the portico but will have the work completed by the Platinum Jubilee in June.

The Choristers Boarding House was completed in 2020 and the children are very happy. The school can now increase classrooms and as of September 2021 they have become a 2 form entry school.

The Choristers are doing well but there is a national problem with recruitment. The Music Outreach programme in Hackney is working well and we have managed to recruit some Choristers through this work. The Girls' Choir has been put on hold due to COVID-19. We are working on how we can make Girl Choristers a part of St Paul's over the next few years. Schools & Family Learning have a new Head of Department. They are working well with Schools and have encouraging numbers returning for in person visits to the Cathedral.

The Dean explained Nicky Wynne would provide an update on the Whispering Gallery regarding the funding required. However, the Dean explained we are currently at the point where we have three potential designs being considered to make the gallery safe. There are less staff in the Works department at the moment and they are working on several other projects, however we hope to start the work on the Whispering Gallery by the end of 2022.

The Dean updated the AGM on the Safeguarding Audit which had just taken place. The outcome was very positive and the Dean thanked the Safeguarding Officer at St Paul's for her work on the Safeguarding processes used at the Cathedral.

The Dean asked SN as a member of Chapter if she had any comments to add on how the Cathedral is doing. SN replied the Dean had been very comprehensive in his update. SN thanked the Friends and explained their support was very much appreciated during the fragile situation over the past year. SN added that budgeted visitor numbers were thought to be rather conservative but COVID-19 has carried on a lot longer than expected and the Cathedral must be careful in the way they use the funds.

The Dean explained that he was chairing the meeting instead of Canon Jonathan Brewster because Canon JB had moved to a new post in the Lake District. The Cathedral is recruiting for a new Canon who will take on the role as Chair of the Friends in the Summer of 2022.

- **Fundraising update from Nicky Wynne, Director of Development**

NW explained we had expected a deficit of £5.7m in 2021 but are actually only going to face a budget deficit of under £2m. NW explained this is excellent news and means the Cathedral will have an upside of £3.7m which means there is a safety net if necessary.

NW explained the reasons behind the savings were due to using the furlough scheme wisely, making use of the empty Cathedral for filming and also fundraising. The Development department have brought in £7.6m for 2021, which is an amazing achievement. NW thanked the Development department for going the extra mile. NW explained looking ahead to 2022 there is a realistic target of £4m which is achievable.

NW mentioned highlights for 2022 and things to look forward to, the first being a brand new website for the Cathedral, NW thanked Fidelity for funding the work. NW mentioned that we are hoping the website will reach a larger global audience. NW thanked The Wolfson Foundation for funding the Library work. The Library will be opening in 2022.

In March the Cathedral will host the Free, Remember Me memorial concert for all those who have died during the Pandemic.

NW mentioned that The Messiah is now fully funded so we can put this on in March 2022, however, the Cathedral is not wealthy and still needs support so tickets will be sold at £10 each.

NW explained that we now have the full amount needed to fund the work on the Whispering Gallery, thanks to David Pearl and Associates for donating £250,000 and the Friends of St Paul's who have donated £50,000.

St Paul's will be hosting a service of thanks giving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June 2022 and linked to that the Cathedral will have a special Jubilee Exhibition on display in the Crypt.

NW thanked Chapter for agreeing to expand the Development team to include two new roles in the New Year.

DI asked if there were any questions at this point in the meeting.

PR paid tribute to NW and the Development team and commented that the Remember Me article in the Daily Mail in May 2021 was a splendid campaign. PR asked NW what the total amount raised during the campaign was.

NW replied £2.7m was the total amount raised by the Daily Mail campaign and fundraising is ongoing.

PC asked if NW would comment on the support provided by St Paul's Cathedral Trust in America (SPCTA).

NW replied that we have a proactive board in America and they have been very successful in securing £1m over three years from a donor. NW explained that SPCTA hosted an impressive dinner in the Cathedral organised by our Corporate Event Manager. NW explained we are waiting for the outcome from the dinner in terms of fundraising.

- **Financial update, Rachel Taylor**

RT updated the AGM on the accounts for year ending 31st December 2020, The total income for 2020 was £74,000 which is £7,000 less than 2019. RT mentioned there were no income generating events in 2020 and we received less legacy income in 2020 compared to 2019.

RT explained total expenditure was lower in 2020 against 2019 due to no events in the year and no cost for Dome magazine as this has now ceased and communications moved to email therefore saving money.

RT mentioned the grants for 2020 against 2019 were the same. Overall the accounts show a small loss of £1263 for the Friends for the year 2020. The total funds for the Friends were £373,051 at the end of 2020. RT explained the Friends accounts were audited early in the year by West Wake Price and they found no matters arising.

RT asked if there were any questions regarding the accounts for 2020. DI asked if everybody was happy with the accounts.

No questions were raised, the 2020 accounts have been received and signed off.

DI asked RT to explain what grants will be given to the Cathedral, RT responded that out of the £373,051, the following grants have been approved by Council at the meeting in October 2021.

£50,000 to the Whispering Gallery safety project.

£50,000 to Remember Me memorial

£20,000 to the Schools & Family Learning department

£10,000 to Chorister education

Totals £130,000 in grants will show on the 2021 accounts. £35,000 in support of staff costs will continue which is the same amount in 2020.

DI asked if the AGM were content to keep West Wake Price as Auditors for 2021. All were in agreement. DI thanked RT and the Finance team for transforming the performance of the Finance department.

- **Any other business**

DI mentioned that the Council had discussed elections and that the Friends scheme needed to be updated to allow for elections to be held via another format for example post or zoom in case we couldn't meet in person.

DI shared his screen to show the document below and explained who was due to be re-elected for this year due to the fact we cannot hold in person elections at this time.

Friends Council Members as at Friends AGM December 2021:

Two Chapter members:

The Very Rev'd Dr David Ison, Dean from Chapter Chairman
Sheila Nicoll appointed December 2019 from Chapter

Up to six elected members (no more than two 3-year terms):

Samuel Ennis – elected July 2017, re-elected AGM Dec 2020

Yodia Lo – nominated by Chapter 2017, elected July 2019

Mike Tadman – elected July 2019

Phillip Rice – elected 2014 & July 2017, re-elected AGM Dec 2020 Vice-Chairman

Robert Palmer - elected July 2015, re-elected July 2018 Hon Treasurer

Jean Reed – elected July 2015, re-elected July 2018

Up to three members nominated by Chapter (no more than two 3-year terms):

Elizabeth Foy – nominated October 2018

Up to two members co-opted by the Council for 3-year terms:

Niul Dillon Hatcher – co-opted July 2015

Any member of Council may hold the role of Chair or Treasurer

PROPOSAL: to ask Council to re-appoint Phillip Rice, Robert Palmer, Jean Reed and Niul Dillon Hatcher for one year, and Chapter to nominate Elizabeth Foy for a further 3 years and hold elections at an in-person AGM in 2022.

Council makes arrangements to amend the Scheme for the Friends to allow an electronic AGM and email elections in case we do not meet in person.

DI mentioned that the Friends Council have agreed the proposal at the December 2021 Council meeting.

DI asked if anyone had any questions on the election proposal. No questions were raised.

DI asked if everyone was in agreement with the proposal. There were no objections. DI thanked everybody for agreeing and mentioned the amendments to the Friends scheme would be drawn up as soon as possible.

DI asked what time and format would people prefer the AGM to take on going forward.

DI explained there were difficulties with all formats but wanted to find out what the Friends thought.

A Friend mentioned that when the AGM was held in person at the Cathedral the number of attendees was much larger than when held over Zoom. DI agreed.

A Friend mentioned that other organisations hold Hybrid events, where people can attend in person or by Zoom.

DI responded that it could prove difficult in terms of IT.

DI asked what time of year would the Friends prefer to hold the AGM meetings in the future.

A Friend responded that they liked attending in July

Another Friend remarked that they thought the AGM should be held shortly after the accounts were finalised. For example, the year ends 31st December so it should follow a few months later after the accounts are audited.

DI responded that the Cathedral accounts should be ready by June or July as in previous years and asked RT if that was feasible to have them audited by the Summer. RT responded that it she did not see any difficulties having the accounts ready by July.

PR mentioned that July could be difficult for some people and proposed September or October for an AGM.

A Friend asked could a weekend be considered for the AGM

YL agreed the weekend is a good idea to hold the AGM, she also mentioned that July ties in with when the Choristers finish and it completes the year for some Choristers who might be leaving that year.

A Friend mentioned they live out of London so the Zoom aspect works very well for them, an evening AGM could create problems getting home if there are any problems with the trains. They would like to see the Hybrid system put in place.

SN mentioned that an out of hours AGM would not suit any FT workers. SN mentioned that the Council should think about the demographic of the Friends and who we might want to attract in the future, changing the date, time and venue annually could be a possibility. SN gave an example, one year the AGM could be held at the weekend, another year in the evening, another year during the day.

DI thanked everyone for their suggestions and explained the Council would go away and work on it.

DI asked if there were any other questions

A Friend asked is there an update on the Café re-opening in the Crypt.

DI asked if NW could answer.

NW explained that the rent costs from the City were extremely high and we were hoping to drive the costs down in order to open an ethically sourced Café. DI explained the costs of rates in the Café was approximately £30,000 pa on top of fixed costs. The Head of Commercial Services has been looking at various options for the Café.

SN explained there is a lot of competition around the Cathedral in terms of other eateries.

A Friend asked if the Volunteers or Friends ran the Café would it be exempt from paying the rent costs of £30,000.

DI responded he wasn't sure but thought that it wouldn't make a difference whoever was running it.

DI asked LP to note the question and to ask The Head of Commercial Services

DI thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting at 6.50pm.

There were 48 attendees