 FRIENDS of PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 25 September 2021 at 11.30 pm using the online Zoom service.**

**Present:**

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| Chris Dalliston *Dean* |  |
| David Way *Chairman* |  |
| Derek Lea *Secretary* |  |
| Mary Boyall *Membership Secretary* |  |
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| 14 Members |  |

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| **157** | **Welcome and Prayer** |
|  | David Way welcomed everyone to the meeting in virtual form and said that it is hoped for better things next year. He thanked various people who were involved with the organisation of the meeting. He said that Dave Cramp will give a presentation at the end of the meeting on the new shop.  The Dean said a prayer to start the meeting. |
| **158** | **Apologies** |
|  | An apology for non-attendance was received from Roger Fellows, Christopher Groome, Anne Macdonald, Chris and Stephanie Marsden, Keith and Patricia Randon, Dorothy Woolgar and Bishop John Flack. |
| **159** | **Minutes of Meeting held on the 27 November 2020** |
|  | The Minutes were approved. A note will be added to the file copy that the Minutes were approved at the Zoom meeting. |
| **160** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | David Way said that he was looking forward to the National Friends Day, which had been held in Peterborough last year, in Yorkshire but the event was cancelled and is to be held in May 2022, although no details have been received. He said that whenever it is held, he will ensure that Peterborough is represented.  He said that other matters will be dealt with as part of their Agenda item. |
| **161** | **Chairman’s Report** |
|  | David Way said it has been a strange year in which we have not been able to hold any events. The Council has met but with the use of Zoom.  He said instead of looking back he wanted to look forward with putting the last year behind us.  He gave thanks to John Grubb and Pauline Edwards for their work in producing the Journal. Members were asked for their opinion of the Journal. They liked it in its present format and asked if possible that we continue with it in that format as it is a record of the Friends and the Cathedral community.  It is intended to produce a combined Journal for 2021 and 2022 with a target date for Easter 2022. He and John Grubb are looking at other aspects of the Cathedral family to assist with the production of the wonderful Journal to send out electronically and in a printed format.  One of the burdens for small charities is administration, currently the changes with Data Protection. Discussions are being held with the Cathedral Office about whether they can assist with the administration functions. There will be a charge and we are waiting for them to advise on the duties they can undertake and the cost that we would incur.  He said we have been unable to hold any events for the past year. Looking forward it was considered that coach trips were no longer viable and was looking to hold small events, possibly in conjunction with other Churches and asked for suggestions.  There is no plans at present for Friends Day next year, but he is hoping we can share it with the Old Choristers with various activities and end the day with a joint Evensong. |
| **162** | **Treasurer’s Report** |
|  | David Way said that Stephen Harrap, the Treasurer was unable to join the Zoom meeting.  He said he would read his report.  The Treasurer’s report:  The ten-year strategy that culminated in Peterborough 900 has now run its course. During this period The Friends did much which had the effect if utilising its capital, which was also appropriate in the current low return environment. The support was particularly geared toward generating matched funding, which was a prerequisite of grants.  We now have capital of just over £90,000. This is held in current accounts with the Sottish Widows Bank and Barclays. The combination of funds and the annual surplus is sufficient to enable The Friends to undertake one ‘project’ a year. The current ‘project’ is to facilitate online and live broadcasting of services. This has been requested by The Chapter and they are currently looking into what is the most technically suitable route to follow. We await further details from them but expect anything up to £25,000 which we have agreed to support.  Other than this 2020 has been a fairly quiet year with activities necessarily curtailed by the impact of Covid 19. These curtailed activities include The Friends Day and Christmas cards. Hopefully 2022 will allow a return to ‘normal’ service.  *End of Treasurer’s report.*  David Way said that a request has now been received for £17,000 for the livestreaming project.  David Cramp said that equipment has been received and installed. It is intended to live stream on Sunday and gave details of other parts of the scheme.  David Way said that this has the effect of reducing the balance in the accounts and that he does not consider Friends as a body for generating money but about generating Friends and helping the Cathedral with one project a year and that the Friends are recognised as providing funds to pay for any scheme.  The Dean said that one method for showing the Friends involvement in the streaming scheme is to have some words at the bottom of the screen mentioning that the service was available due to the generosity of the Friends in providing the equipment.  The Dean said that during lockdown many people who had been unable to come to Cathedral services for a long time and that there were also other people from overseas who had been able to watch the services. The Cathedral also found that many of the lectures and other events were viewed by people who were living a long way away. It gives people a way to connect with the Cathedral.  One member said that due to a change in his working practise he was able to view the services. Some Members living on their own said they did not feel lonely with having access to the Cathedral services.  David Way said maybe next year the AGM could be streamed.  No questions were asked about the Accounts and were considered approved. |
| **163** | **Membership Secretary’s Report** |
|  | Mary Boyall said This is my last report to the AGM...... I am really retiring from office this time. Obviously, the past year has been an exceedingly quiet time for the Friends. In the past 12 months we have had no new members and sadly have to tell you of the passing of 4 long-standing members.  I was co-opted onto the Friends Council in February 2013 and was elected at the AGM in September of that year. It has been a great pleasure for me to serve on the Council and to be able to meet so many of you at various events over the time: talking of time. how it goes by! It seems hard for me to realise that I have been Membership Secretary for nearly 9 years. I shall miss the camaraderie of the Friends Council, and I would like to say a special thank you to those past and present members of Council who have been such a pleasure to work alongside.  Let us hope that we will be able to meet together again very soon, my good wishes for health and happiness to you all.  She agreed to assist with the transition of the details to the Cathedral office. |
| **164** | **Elections** |
|  | Derek Lea said there is six positions to fill and because of the current situation caused by Covid-19 it has not been possible to receive official nominations.  He said he has received notification from four members who are interested in serving on Council.  They are Pauline Edwards, Ruth Groome, John Grubb and Edith Laprun.  It was agreed to treat them as elected as the number is less than six. There is in addition a provision for three co-options.  He asked for volunteers to fill the vacancies. In response to a question David Way explained what is involved with being a Member of the Council.  Chapter has put forward three names but three of the names are ex- officio positions. |
| **165** | **Any Other Business** |
|  | David Cramp gave a description of the new shop being created in the Cathedral.  David Way thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting with the saying of grace. |
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|  | Signed…………………………………… Date…………… |