



## Cathedrals Plus Council (AGM 2024)

**Minutes of the Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> Face to face @ Worcester Cathedral in the Undercroft.  
Time: 6.30-7pm**

**Present:** *Jane Brooke (Outgoing Chair and Chair of this meeting on behalf of Anthony Cane); Jackie Holderness (Secretary); Sarah Page (Web Manager); Laura Arends; Charlie Rowbotham; Phil Stevens; Lisa Power; Owen Towndrow; Kevin Walton; Gillian Bunn; Yvonne Pearson; Jen Stratford; Jane Southward; Daniel Parnell; Zoe Willis; Alex Carton; Sarah Dellar; Victoria Child; Harriet Ellis; Diana Ives; Ruth Kenny; Isabelle Leporte; Katherine Dolphin; Diana Hutchins; Matthew Pollard; Sophie Stanes; Hilary Young; Joanne Wilson; Michelle Brown ; Chay Hall; Janet Buttanshaw; Sarah Clemson; Caroline Ward; Kate Bridge; Louis Parminter; Kryzel Bonifacio; Geoff Pring; Steve Clarke; Sarah Newns; Jan van der Lely; Will Burnham; Ruth Hurren; Hannah Parker;*

**Apologies:** *Anthony Cane (incoming Chair); Tony Austin (Acting Hon. Treasurer); Clark Brydon*

**NB:** *Alison Gagg (former Vice Chair) has retired. Council has thanked her warmly with a book token for her valuable contribution as the longest-serving Council member. We wish her well.*

### 1. Introductions

**Membership of Council:** Alex Carton of Peterborough has been proposed by Laura Arends and seconded by Jackie H. A nomination form needs to be completed. Council can consider /approve the nomination via email.

2. **Finance update and trustees:** Tony regretted he was unable to attend the meeting but the full financial statement and a statement sheet was circulated to Council and all delegates the week before this meeting. Tony had also sent a financial summary which JH read out, explaining the current balance sheet. The current balance and reserves seem healthy but, of course, conference costs still need to be processed.

JH was able to report that membership numbers have continued to grow. We now have 43 members and 22 of these are at the conference. Others will be reminded / invited to join.

3. **Our next conference:** JH has received two offers for 2025 and one for 2026, for which many thanks. Council will consider these and decide soon.
4. **Website update-** Council expressed huge thanks to Sarah Page for working on the website and the members-only and password-protected Resources Hub. We all need to use and support the site and feed useful resources to Sarah. Also respond to -and write- Blogs for the site. **ACTION ALL.**
5. **Regional hubs** – Laura Arends was thanked for her work with the regional hubs and coordinators. One or two regions have already held meetings, online and face-to-face, but others are still setting up their networks.
6. **WhatsApp chat group** Council thanked Diana Ives for her management of the invitation-only WhatsApp group which serves as a very useful mutual support /encouragement chatroom.

7. **Facebook/Twitter etc** Sarah plans to make our FB Page public which will revive our public-facing profile and maintain a positive presence on social media.
8. **Newsletter:** It was decided by Council that the regular blogs would serve the same purpose as a regular newsletter. However, an annual report or showcase for the work and achievement of member sacred spaces might be a good idea, with contributions from each member and a colour printed publication, to help promote awareness of what we do. Members could be asked to submit a story/update when they are reminded about renewing their membership.
9. **AOB:**

Jane Brooke was also thanked for her inspirational leadership of Cathedrals Plus which has helped to revive it after the pandemic.

Jane thanked JH and the planning group for planning and organizing the conference.

Everyone also thanked Jo and Dan, and all the Worcester staff and volunteers, for their brilliant hosting of the conference at Worcester.
10. **Postscript- Feedback forms:** These reflected very positive reactions from the majority of delegates. Only 4 colleagues rated the conference less than 8/10. There were many 8/10's, 9/10s, 10/10's and one 11/10!

**Date of next AGM meeting:** tbc, but it will be at the next January 2025 conference.