



FRIENDS OF
GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

Minutes of Friends' Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 15th June 2025

Those present:

In Attendance: Yvette Wright - Secretary

Trustees: Joy Allen – Chair, Mike Bishop – Treasurer, Pauline Read, Angela Townshend, Roshan Varghese.

Ex-officio Trustee: Bob Cooper – Dean.

Friends: Pauline Tobias, Shirley-Margaret Lloyd, Greta Willis, Frances Eggo, Barbara Logan, Diana Jones, Cynthia Preston, Clare Chardin, Geoffrey Cumbers, Tim Stannard, Marion Roberts, Trish Lambert, Janet Stubbings, Sue Holroyd, Jonathan Neil-Smith, Yvonne Bishop, Barbara New and Maxwell New.

Welcome by Chairman, Joy Allen: Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joy then presented flowers to Pauline Read and thanked her sincerely for her dedication as Trustee for more than twenty years. During that time Pauline has organised many social events throughout the years as well as several tombola's at the Cathedral Christmas Fairs raising a lot of money for the Friends alongside Shirley-Margaret Lloyd. A hard act to follow. Pauline Read did not wish to be re-appointed as a Trustee at this AGM.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Matt O'Grady – Chief Operating Officer, Mary Morris – Trustee, Muriel Mulvany – Trustee, Valerie Burton, Helen and Michael Carmel, Patricia Cousins, Bob and Jeanette Ellison, Penny and Bill Evershed, Rachel Impey, Sally Kettle, Sheila Kirkland, Philip Moore, Gilly and Duncan Myers, Linda Sharpin, Aileen Stead, Ann and David Wragg.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2024** were approved as an accurate account. These were signed by Joy Allen – Chair.
- 3. No matters arose for discussion** from the 16 June 2024 AGM Minutes.
- 4. Chairman's Report from Joy Allen:** Joy read out her report, which was well received. The report had been circulated in advance of this meeting and is on the Friends' website. Angela Townshend briefly told the meeting the proposal for the Lunch Club. Those interested were encouraged to add their name to a list.
- 5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 from Mike Bishop – Treasurer.** These accounts had been approved by the Trustees, and signed off by Independent Examiner, Helen Lee, ready for this meeting.

The Cathedral is short of money. The Friends' current income pays our day-to-day expenses, but we rely heavily on legacies. Membership fees have not increased for several years, but we need to offer our members more before we can justify an increase. Our Dean, Bob Cooper said that Chapter were working on a provisional Vision and Strategy (V&S) Report, but this will take a couple of years to complete. The report would help to plan future expenses of the Cathedral and will enable the Friends to see where money is needed in advance. On behalf of Chapter, the Dean thanked the Friends for their continuous support. Friends give money to Cathedral to pay end of month bills rather than specific projects.

The Dean reported that a new quote had been received to revamp the toilet block. This was roughly £70,000 - £75,000. A more reasonable quote than an earlier one of £1.7 million. Grants are being sought. The Friends will be asked in due course to help towards this expense. This information was enthusiastically received. Bob was thanked for explaining the Cathedral's financial situation and the provisional V&S report.

The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 were approved. Proposed by Shirley-Margaret Lloyd and seconded by Diana Jones.

- 6. Mrs Helen Lee** was appointed as Independent Examiner for the year ending 31 December 2025 a fee agreed by the Trustees. Proposed by Joy Allen and seconded by Greta Willis.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 JUNE 2025

7. Election of Trustees:

The constitution of the CIO (created on 26 June 2024, after the 2024 AGM) requires that all 9 of the named 'first trustees' of the CIO should resign (and may offer themselves for re-appointment).

The Dean is ex-officio.

Shirley-Margaret Lloyd and Jonathan Neil-Smith resigned in October 2024.

Pauline Read is not offering herself for re-appointment at this AGM.

The Board appointed John Austin in February 2025 but he has since resigned due to ill-health.

The Board appointed Roshan Varghese in May 2025; he is also obliged to resign at the 2025 AGM but offers himself for re-appointment.

The Constitution requires that 1/3 of the Trustees (to the nearest whole number) should retire each year, in our case 2 of the existing 6. The guideline is length of service. To meet the requirements of the Constitution (designed to ensure continuity) it is proposed that for 2025, 2 trustees are appointed for 1 year, 2 for 2 years and 2 for 3 years, as follows:

Joy Allen, Mary Morris (1 year)

Mike Bishop, Muriel Mulvany (2 years)

Angela Townshend, Roshan Varghese (3 years)

The re-election of Trustees was proposed by Angela Townshend and seconded by Clare Chardin.

8. AOB: Jonathan Neil-Smith talked about the Community/Parish Role.

