

Society of Friends of St.John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

**DRAFT Minutes of the AGM held at 14:30 on Sunday 3rd December, 2017
in the Discovery Centre, Cathedral of St.John**

1 Introduction:

Sarah Davis welcomed the members attending the meeting and Canon Dominic opened the meeting with prayer.

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Previous minutes:

Minutes of the AGM held on the 27th November 2016 which had been previously published on the Cathedral website, were approved, and there were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's report:

Sarah Davis reported that this had been a quiet year for the Friends. However, the sanctuary of the Cathedral had been provided with bespoke choir stalls, and the Friends' Hall had been redecorated courtesy of the Royal Navy. The Friends had made significant financial contributions to both projects.

She also reminded the members that her term of office had now come to an end and that it would be necessary for the membership to elect a new chairman.

4 Membership secretary's report:

GS reported that last year's total of 145 members had fallen to 138. Some existing members had failed to renew their subscriptions, and no new people had applied to join.

5 Treasurer's report:

LJ presented the "Financial Statement for the year ending 31 August 2017", a copy of which was distributed to all those attending. As was the case last year, the current balance indicated that the scope for funding new projects would be limited.

6 Dean's report:

Canon Dominic thanked the Friends for the financial assistance they had provided for the various projects which though small, were very necessary. Updating the bigger picture, he reported that a conservation-specialist architect had been appointed to review the condition of the building and the centre. His brief includes the provision of disabled access to the sanctuary as well as improving the Cathedral's link to the 'square' at the western end. Costs are awaited.

7 Election of the committee:

Canon Dominic proposed Dr.D.Shaw as the new Chairman. He was seconded by GS. The proposal was unanimously carried.

The following were re-elected to serve another year: Lesley Jones as Treasurer, and Gabriel Somorjay as Secretary.

David Shaw proposed a vote of thanks to Sarah Davis for all the work she had done over the last five years in adverse circumstances. He presented her with two books, "England's Cathedrals" by Simon Jenkins on behalf of the membership, and "The Catholics" by Roy Hattersley on behalf of the committee.

8 Any other business: None

9 Next Annual General meeting:

14:30 on the 2nd December 2018, the **first Sunday of Advent** in the Discovery Centre, St.John's Cathedral.

END