

**SOUTHWELL CATHEDRAL CHAPTER:
WHAT IT IS & WHAT IT DOES.**

The modern-day Chapter was redefined by the new Constitution and Statutes which came into effect on 19th. March 2000, in accordance with the Cathedral Measure 1999. This admitted lay members to Chapter, which had a new role, taking over from the former Cathedral Council the responsibility for directing and overseeing the administration of the Cathedral and the Parish-----the latter having formerly been delegated to a Parochial Committee.

The present Chapter, the new Cathedral Council (chaired by a lay person) and the College of Canons were inaugurated on Michaelmas Day 2000, when members of Chapter undertook their new responsibilities, which include worship & mission as well as administration and finance. Other duties include:

- To prepare an annual report.
- To formulate, after consultation with the Bishop, proposals for the direction & mission of the Cathedral, and to submit them to the Council.
- To submit to the Council any reports which it requests.
- To keep the statutes and constitution under review.
- To hold the Common Seal of the Cathedral.
- To acquire/ dispose of property on behalf of the Cathedral.
- To exercise the functions of a Parochial Church Council.

Chapter meets a minimum of nine times a year; in practice, more often.

Its membership is set by the constitution. It consists of:

- The Dean, who is Chairman.
- The Residentiary Canons.
- One person in Holy Orders.(Canon Tony Evans).
- One lay person with financial expertise (David Wilson).
- Two lay persons elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting (Liz Rose & Andy Arrowsmith).
- Three others, of whom two are lay appointed by the Bishop (Rev. Professor Myra Shackley, Robert Ridgwell, Dr. Christine Kent).

Except the Dean & the Residentiary Canons, everyone is appointed for three years but are eligible for further terms of office.

HOW DOES THE CHAPTER ACTUALLY WORK?

The Chapter took over the tasks of the Cathedral Council and has more direct responsibility for parish matters. The former Parochial Committee ceased to function and this has created a challenge: to be a Parish Church Cathedral rather than a Cathedral which also has a parish.

The Chapter meets monthly except for August and Lent, and also twice or more on Saturdays to consider single issues.

Every member has specific responsibilities.

The Dean, as well as having overall responsibility, is concerned with Mission, the Music Foundation and the Minster School.

The Canon Pastor's area is pastoral, & includes Lowes Wong School and Youth.

The Precentor's responsibility is Liturgy & Worship, the Ministry of Welcome and the Guild of Stewards.

The Priest Vicar (Rev. Prof. Myra Shackley) works closely with the Ministry of Welcome area, and chairs the Visitors' Committee and the Leaves' Committee.

Father Evans chairs the Education & Library Committee, and is responsible for Time Travelling!

David Wilson, a chartered accountant, chairs the Finance Committee, and is a member of the Finance and Investment Committee.

Andy Arrowsmith manages the Visitors' Centre, but its Management Committee is chaired by Robert Ridgwell, a solicitor.

Christine Kent chairs the Shop Management Board, and is a member of the Soundings & Sightings Steering Committee.

The Chapter Clerk (David Jager) clerks Chapter Meetings and many of the committees.

Liz Rose chairs the Salaries Sub-Committee, but her main area of responsibility is Parish matters and she chairs the Community Forum, which meets three times a year.

Liz Rose is also on the Soundings & Sightings Steering Committee. Many have participated in this new venture, and the Steering Group is ready to move towards action, and to develop an Enabling Group. They would very much like suggestions for membership of this. Liz also meets monthly with the Churchwardens and the Canon Pastor.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE IN A TYPICAL CHAPTER MEETING?

The committees report to Chapter, making recommendations and taking Chapter's views back to their members. This occurs regularly. We have also had a visit from the Bishop; the Cathedral Architect also comes once a year; the Health & Safety Committee, the Mission Committee & the Rector Chori all report on their work.

Financial constraints must also operate. The Minster achieves an enormous amount on an amazingly small budget; without volunteers, this could not be done. Its income in 2002 was expected to be about £366k, of which £118k was forecast to come from regular pledged giving, tax recovery and collections. The rest was to come from rentals, investments, the Shop, visitors and the Church Commissioners; only about £11k from such things as wedding fees, concerts etc.

Our budget just balanced. The costs included services and music including the Rector Chori, the Assistant Organist, the Choir, laundry, organ and piano tuning; the Vergers and the upkeep of the Minster interior, the precinct and gardens; office expenses including secretaries, the Chapter Clerk, equipment, materials and insurances. The Minster is liable for some VAT. The Minster also funds some Education and Outward Giving, including Mission. Also included are clergy expenses, excluding salaries; Council Tax, insurance, hospitality etc. We are fortunate to have had some help from outside charities in meeting the costs of some work related to the fabric of the Minster.

Chapter tries hard to make the money which people give to the Minster work hard and efficiently. Above all, we try to ensure that all who serve this Cathedral Church shall seek by their work and worship to advance the Kingdom of God, and bring people to the knowledge and love of God and the service of His Church.

h.

(Any steward who would like to have a full transcript of Liz Rose's talk may obtain one from the Committee, price 50p to cover the cost of photocopying.)