

The Community Forum: meeting on 11 October

The Community Forum met on Tuesday 11 October. The following members were present:

John Pitt Brooke (chair); Jill Horsburgh (secretary); Colin Smith (Treasurer); Kate Beckett; Chris Barnard; Liz Barnard; Vanessa Coryndon; Paul Smith; Canon Robert Titley; Patrick Thomas; the Rev Ian Woodward; Sonia Woolley.

The Chairman welcomed Patrick Thomas to his first meeting of the Forum.

The following issues were discussed

- There was a review of the problems that had occurred with the installation of the new sound system. There had been a number of teething troubles but these were now considered to be resolved and the system was working well.
- There was a lengthy discussion of stewardship and the collections made from the congregation. The Cathedral were considering a new initiative to encourage further giving, and the forum would be involved in deciding how to present such an initiative. Part of this might be to increase the proportion of the regular collection that went to charities. All of this will be considered further.
- Canon Robert Titley brought the forum up-to-date with progress on the master plan. This had now been received by Wiltshire Council who had given it an enthusiastic response. It would now be used as the basis for specific planning applications
- There was a discussion about the profile given to votive candles within the Cathedral. These were seen as being increasingly of interest to visitors
- The Forum received a report recommending which charities should be supported from the Cathedral offertory in 2017. This report was agreed. The following charities were recommended for support: Salisbury Women's Refuge; the church housing trust; Christian Aid; the Sudan link; Practical Action; Blesma;USPG; the Leprosy Mission; Starlight; the Trussell trust; Julia's House; the family counselling trust; the Bridge Project; CAP debt centre.
- There were discussions on a number of important a detailed matters raised by the congregation: the loss of a particular Memorial bench; problems with parking outside the West Front during services. It was pointed out that this last issue in particular needed to be resolved.

Finally, it was agreed that once again Kate Beckett and Sonia Woolley would represent the Forum at the Cathedral Council, and that the terms for which they will be elected to serve there will be arranged so that they do not once again need to be replaced at the same time