

## Chichester Cathedral Visitation 2016

"The Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission." (*Chichester Cathedral Constitution*, 1) This statement defines a Cathedral in the Church of England as a missional centre.

The Cathedral Statutes provide for a Visitation: "to give such direction...as will, in the opinion of the Bishop, better serve the due observance of the Constitution and Statutes."

This Charge marks the culmination of a Bishop's Visitation that has reviewed the whole diocese. Inclusion of the Cathedral in that process is a statement of its importance in our apostolic life.

The Cathedral anchors us in our history as much as it resources our teaching and prayer, and invites an imaginative use of inherited wisdom when we listen and engage with the contemporary world.

In the perspective of this Charge it is understood that there are not three separate roles in the life of a Cathedral, namely housing the Bishop's seat as teacher and overseer, maintaining worship, and undertaking mission. Rather, the duties of teaching and worship are primary, inter-dependent aspects of Christian vocation that are the means by which we serve God's mission of love and salvation.

A team of consultants from outside the diocese was brought together in order to share the work of this Visitation.

The members of the team were:

- The Bishop of Chichester
- Pim Baxter, Lay Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Deputy Director at the National Portrait Gallery, London
- The Rev'd Canon Simon Jones, Chaplain and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, Member of the Liturgical Commission

- Richard Mantle, Director of Opera North, Member of the General Synod
- The Rev'd John Lee was a consultant to Chapter in the Visitation.

This Charge draws on the observations of the Visitation team and comments made to them during the meetings that took place in Chichester on 27-29 April and 8-9 August. It has also been informed by information about finance and governance supplied by Chapter, and by responses to an invitation to members of the Cathedral Community and the clergy of the diocese to submit comments.

The findings and recommendations of the Charge are given under five headings: mission; governance; financial and property management; public engagement; impact. They conclude with the Visitation Directions to the Dean and Chapter (overleaf). The full text can be found on the Cathedral website: [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk).

*It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4.6).*

### Acknowledgement and Thanks

On behalf of the Visitation team I would like to acknowledge the constructive and encouraging response that we had from so many people in the course of the Visitation.

Above all, the Dean and Chapter have been unfailingly positive, bravely honest, and generously enthusiastic about the Visitation. It has been a pleasure to undertake this work in a spirit of service to them.

## Visitation Directions from the Bishop to the Dean and Chapter

I direct that Chapter should identify an external facilitator with whom to set aside additional meeting time for reviewing its processes and structure, addressing its leadership, collaboration, audit of skills and succession planning, and the formation and implementation of a development plan.

I direct that in preparation for appointing a new Surveyor of the Fabric, Chapter should agree a brief that includes a statement about the Cathedral as sacred space and its other buildings and spaces as extensions of hospitality, and, as a matter of urgency, the provision of an inventory and collections management programme.

I direct that the Precentor should initiate a review of the music and liturgy department and its resourcing, as part of the expansion of the liturgical plan and its development, making recommendations to Chapter.

I direct that the Chancellor should undertake an audit of the evangelistic content and impact of all cathedral communications, making recommendations to Chapter.

I direct that the Dean's engagement with the cathedral staff, volunteers and worshippers, with the diocese, and with the civic, cultural and political life of Sussex should find reference in the implementation of Chapter's vision for teaching and worship by which the Cathedral serves God's mission of love and salvation in Chichester.

I direct that the Dean and Chapter should meet with me in November 2017 to report on this Charge and its Directions.

+Martin Cicestr:

*Feast of All Saints, 2016*



**Chichester Cathedral**  
**The Bishop's Charge**  
**2016**