

The Chairman

Welcome to the 87th Annual Report and Accounts of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral for the year April 2016 to March 2017. I am pleased to report another successful year for your charity in achieving our aims and objectives, increasing membership and meeting all grant requests from Chapter. Our working relationship with the Cathedral and associated organisations grows stronger and more effective each year and we are very grateful for all the kind co-operation and support we enjoy.

The Council keeps a close watch on matters concerning the Charity Commission and in the past year we have created and adopted a volunteers policy and application form as well as a financial reserves policy. Our revised Constitution was approved by the members present at last year's AGM and all members should have received their copies.

Last year's Annual Report "Spire" and the Christmas and Spring Newsletters have been successfully mailed out using a direct mail company, as opposed to using our volunteers to help with stuffing envelopes and delivering, and posting via the Cathedral franking machine, both of which were time consuming, heavy duty tasks. The cost effective solution using a direct mail company was approved by the Council in February this year following these successful trials and we look forward to continuing with this efficient method of mailing to our members.

As reported last year, an Events sub-Committee was formed in 2015 and introduced a diverse programme of monthly events from January 2016. This continues throughout the current year and proves to be a great success. With Keith Millman as Chairman the team



have devised a varied and interesting programme that attracts strong support and has the desired effect of engaging with our members, encouraging new members, raising our profile with the public through articles about events in the press, thanks to Katherine Shearing, and raising a modest income to boost our funds for grants to the Cathedral.

The additional workload on our staff and volunteers has been generously accepted and we have been very fortunate to have additional staff support from Julia Lever to help us cover this. I believe the increase in membership, income and public profile bears proof that we are succeeding in our aims and achieving more for our charity. We are very fortunate to have such strong support in all we do. This clearly extends to the Cathedral Staff in Wyndham House, the Refectory and the generosity of Kevin Osborne, the Manager, as well as the Dean's Verger



Friends at Kelmscott Manor

and his team who make many of the events possible. Grateful thanks to all who support the Friends and all we achieve for our wonderful Cathedral.

A year ago we were most fortunate to be selected by the 756th Mayor of Salisbury, Councillor Derek Brown OBE, as one of his Mayoral Charities and have benefitted greatly from this unique opportunity to work closely with the Mayor, the City and its Guildhall. We have participated with the Army Benevolent Fund and Horatio's Garden, the other Mayoral Charities, at a number of events and we even took part in the Salisbury Carnival, thanks to the Clerk of Works, Gary Price, who, with the Friends team, built and drove our "Bad King John" float in an impressive procession through the City in November. You will have seen several photos of this event in our Christmas Newsletter, but I can't resist another one. It looked so good!

In our Spring Newsletter you would have read about the Mayor's intrepid climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, with his wife Penny and family members, to raise funds for his chosen charities. This amazing feat raised over £8,000 which will be shared equally between the three charities together with the proceeds of street collection during the Carnival and

other events. We are extremely grateful for all the public awareness the Friends have gained by being a Mayoral Charity, as well as the generous amount of funds raised on our behalf. Three cheers for the Mayor!

At our last AGM in September 2016, we said 'farewell and thank you' to two trustees; Mark Bell and Keith Millman, and we welcomed Michael Joseph as Archdeaconry Representative for Dorset to the Friends Council, together with Colin Colston and Dudley Heather as elected members. Thank you all for your generous support and wise counsel. The Friends governing body is now at full strength and works hard to achieve the best for our wonderful Cathedral. Special thanks to Keith who continues as co-opted leader of the Events Committee.

At this year's AGM we will be sorry to see the retirement of Nigel Salisbury as trustee, whereas Katherine Shearing, having also completed her three year tenure as an elected trustee, will continue on our Council as the Archdeaconry representative for Wiltshire. Very many thanks to both for their great help.

I am sure you will find all the information you require about the Friends charity, our events, finances and grants in the following pages and I hope that many of you will attend our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16th September



2017 in the North Transept of the Cathedral. Please accept my sincere apologies for being absent from the meeting this year! An unfortunate clash with a very special family wedding has occurred and our President, The Dean, has kindly agreed to my place being taken by our Honorary Treasurer on this occasion. Chris Dragonetti will do a wonderful job and I do hope I am invited back to the Chair thereafter!

In the audited accounts our Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties as contained in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011: to have due regards to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. Please see the Treasurer's Report and Summary Accounts on pages 43-46.

It is with mixed emotions that we learn that the Friends President, the Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury, will soon be leaving to become Bishop of Llandaff. June came to

Salisbury as Canon Treasurer in 1995, a role that placed her on the Council of the Friends as Chapter Representative. In 2005 she was elevated to President of our charity when she became Dean and has, therefore, been closely involved with the Friends for more than twenty-two years. During this time June has been unsurpassed in her commitment and contribution to the Friends charity and a great deal has been achieved through our grants to the Cathedral. So while we are so pleased to see her made Bishop of Llandaff, we will surely miss her leadership and guidance as President of the Friends. We wish her and family every happiness for the future.

In conclusion may I extend my grateful thanks to our trustees, staff, volunteers and members for their steadfast support and generous commitment that makes the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral such a success and a great pleasure to part of.

Duncan Glass