

FRIENDS OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

CONSTITUTION

1 Name

The Society shall be known as "Friends of Worcester Cathedral", hereinafter referred to as "the Society".

2 Objectives

The Principal objective of the Society is to provide financial support for the Cathedral by making Grants to Chapter and other groups within the Cathedral, and to support the work and mission of the Cathedral through voluntary help.

Grants or voluntary assistance may be awarded to:

- (a) Preserve, maintain and enrich the fabric, furniture and fittings of the Cathedral.
- (b) Sustain and enhance the beauty of the building and its setting.
- (c) Maintain and develop the traditions of worship in the Cathedral, including supporting and enhancing its choirs and music.
- (d) Support the conservation and upkeep of the Cathedral Library
- (e) Encourage the Cathedral's educational work and outreach to meet the changing needs and expectations of worshippers, visitors and society at large to make them feel welcome.
- (f) Aid the work and mission of the Cathedral through voluntary help.
- (g) Enhance the Society's interaction with the departments and groups within the Cathedral Community.
- (h) Any other purpose consistent with the agreed objectives of the Society.

A further objective is to encourage the growth of the Society through furtherance of social and cultural opportunities for members, the Cathedral Community, the Diocese and society as a whole by:-

- (a) A programme of events and social interaction
- (b) Communication with members
- (c) Development of the website
- (d) Recruitment initiatives

3 Powers

In furtherance of the above objectives but not further or otherwise the Society shall have the following powers:

- (a) To collect subscriptions.
- (b) To receive donations (whether periodical or otherwise).
- (c) To receive legacies from members or other interested persons.
- (d) To issue appeals for donations and legacies.
- (e) To issue periodical reports of the activities of the Society.
- (f) To organize or cause to be organized events for the purpose of raising money for the Society and for bringing together in a common fellowship of loyalty and devotion all those who care for the Cathedral.
- (g) To assist the Chapter to achieve the objectives of the Society in such ways as the society thinks fit.

4 Charitable Status

The Society is registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners under the title of 'Friends of Worcester Cathedral' with the Reference Number 517009.

5 Patrons

The Patrons shall be the Bishop of Worcester and the Bishop of Dudley and the Archbishop of Birmingham.

6 President

There shall be a President and a Vice President (or more than one at the discretion of the members).

7 Trustees

The Trustees shall form an Executive Committee, which shall meet at least four times a year, and shall consist of up to twelve persons including the following: the Officers of the Society (being the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer), the Dean of Worcester (or the Residentiary Canon appointed by the Bishop to discharge the functions of Dean) and seven members of the Society. In addition members of the Society may be co-opted as non-voting members of the Executive Committee. A non-voting member may be co-opted by the Trustees as a voting member to fill any vacancy in the Trustees until the next following Annual General Meeting, when such a member may stand for election as a Trustee. Any member of the Friends may volunteer to be co-opted on to the Executive Committee, renewable on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting.

The Cathedral Representatives Group may nominate a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be seven voting members which should include at least two Officers.

The Trustees may appoint a paid Administrator to assist with the management of the Society's affairs.

8 Friends and Cathedral Representatives Group

The Officers of the Society will invite nominated representatives from departments within the Cathedral to meet with them on an informal basis at least twice each year. These departments are to include Music, Library, Education, Bellringers, Vergers, Stonemasons, Guides and Welcomers, Flower Guild and Embroiderers.

The Officers will present a report to the Trustees following each meeting.

9 Elections

The Officers of the Society and Trustees shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Each officer shall be elected for a period of three years and thereafter shall be eligible for re-election to the same office for a further period of three years.

The Trustees shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of three years.

Time served as a voting co-opted member of the Executive Committee shall not count towards the three-year limit.

All Trustees, including Officers, must stand down for at least one year after two successive periods in the same position, except that members who have served in more than one position (whether as Officer or Trustee or both) may serve for a maximum of nine years in succession before standing down for at least one year.

Nominations for Officers and Trustees shall be in writing and signed by two members of the Society and countersigned by the nominee and shall be delivered to the Hon. Secretary not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

10 Bank

The Executive Committee shall have the power to open bank accounts in the name of the Friends of Worcester Cathedral with such banks as the Executive Committee sees fit, and shall authorize not more than five persons including the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, & Hon. Secretary, to sign cheques drawn on such account/s. All cheques shall be signed by not less than two authorized persons.

11 Expenses

The Executive Committee shall have the power to determine the amounts paid as expenses, grants and donations.

12 Financial Accountability

The Executive Committee shall be responsible at all times for the financial affairs of the society including investments and expenditure. The Executive Committee shall prior to the Annual General Meeting distribute to all members of the Society the annual accounts of the Society for adoption.

13 Sub-Committees

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint one or more sub-committees with any such sub-committee comprising up to seven members of the Society, or give individual members particular responsibility as it thinks fit, provided always that the actions and proceedings of any such subcommittee or such individual members shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to be ex-officio members of any sub-committee. There are currently three sub-committees – Management, Investment and Social.

14 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on a date to be decided in consultation with the Dean and shall normally be in September of each year. At least 14 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to members entitled to attend.

15 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee or on the request in writing addressed to the Hon. Secretary by not less than twenty-one members entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.

16 Quorum

A quorum for an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting shall be 40.

17 Chairman of the Meeting

The President shall be the chairman at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. If the President is not present at an Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting, then a Vice President shall be the chairman.

18 Business of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall deal with the following matters:-

- (a) Receive a report from the Executive Committee on its performance
- (b) Receive the Accounts
- (c) Elect Officers and Trustees
- (d) Appoint auditors or an independent examiner for the accounts of the Society.

It may also deal with other matters of general interest to the Society.

19 Membership

There shall be five types of membership as follows:

- (a) Life members
- (b) Annual subscribing members
- (c) Corporate members, including parishes, businesses and schools
- (d) Honorary members
- (e) Overseas members who may be life members or annual subscribing members.

Each Corporate member shall be able to appoint one of their number to record one vote on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting.

The subscription for each type of the five membership categories shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting on advice from the Executive Committee.

20 Amendments

Amendments to the foregoing Constitution of the Society may only be made at an Annual General Meeting, or a Special Meeting, with notice of such alterations having been previously given with the notice convening that Meeting and provided that no alterations shall be made which would cause the Society to cease to be charitable at law.

21 Winding Up

In the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution after payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to the Chapter of Worcester Cathedral or if such transfer is for any reason not possible, then to a charitable institution or charitable institutions having objects similar to those of the Society.

22 Coming into Effect

This Constitution shall replace all earlier constitutions and amendments thereto and shall come into effect at the same time and on the date of its approval in General Meeting and for the avoidance of doubt shall govern business to be transacted later at such General Meeting.