

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

The Very Reverend Dr Anthony Cane BA MPhil PhD
Dean of Portsmouth

14th June 2019

Dear Cathedral Congregation,

Last Sunday I promised an update on forthcoming staff appointments at the Cathedral, two of which are currently being advertised in the *Church Times* and elsewhere. The first is for a new **Chapter Clerk and Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, as Peter Sanders – to whom we will express our grateful thanks in due course – is retiring next month. The intention is to retain the traditional title for this role ('Chapter Clerk'), while also using a job title well understood in the wider world: 'Chief Operating Officer'. This is the term favoured by the Cathedrals Working Group, a national body which has made a whole series of recommendations about best practice in the running of Cathedrals. The closing date for applications to this post is Monday 24th June, and the interviews will be held on 11th July.

The Chapter Clerk and COO is a Cathedral appointment, and the successful candidate will have a particular charge to work on the financial sustainability of the Cathedral, and to help us ensure that we use the resources we have to fulfil our strategic aims. The second *Church Times* advertisement is a Bishop's appointment, made in consultation with Chapter. This is for a **Canon Chancellor and Vice Dean**, following Peter Leonard's new role as Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. The idea for a Vice Dean, so that it is clear who is deputising for me in my absence, comes from Bishop Christopher, and I see the wisdom of his suggestion.

The information for applicants (available via the Cathedral website) says that 'we are seeking a prayerful, collaborative and imaginative priest who will relish the particular opportunities that Cathedral ministry represents'. The word 'collaborative' is included because of the importance of the new Canon Chancellor being able to work effectively as a member of a team, especially with the Dean and Canon Precentor.

The purpose of the role is described as follows: 'to play a full part in Chapter's responsibility for the governance and strategy of the Cathedral, exercising particular executive responsibility for learning and discipleship, volunteers, community engagement, safeguarding, artistic installations and exhibitions, as well as playing a full part in the liturgical and pastoral life of the Cathedral.' It is worth noting here that for the first time we will be having a Canon with overall responsibility for the volunteers who do so much to enable the mission of the Cathedral.

The Chancellor's job description says something important and new about pastoral care: 'To work with the Precentor, who [will] lead on pastoral care, in ensuring and enabling excellence in this area.' Effective pastoral care is another area that depends on team work, with both clergy and lay people involved, but also needs clarity about who has oversight of all that is done in caring for and building up the body of Christ. I am grateful to Canon Jo for taking on this oversight role, and ask for your prayers as we move forward in this way.

Finally, we are exploring the possibility of funding from the Church Commissioners for a **Head of Fundraising and Events**, following the departure of Tim Sledge (who did excellent work for us, achieving a number of grants for such things as *Cathedral Sing*, and the work of our Education department). I will keep you posted.

I write this in the days following the feast of Pentecost, so it seems appropriate to invite all members of the Cathedral community to pray with me for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making these appointments.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Anthony Cane

