



The Cathedral Church of St Peter in Exeter

Mr Barnabas Hurst-Bannister
Chair of the Cathedral Council

15 February 2018

To: The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener
Dean of Exeter Cathedral

Dear Jonathan,

Re: The Bishop's Charge

The recent meeting of the Cathedral Council had all the hallmarks of a vigorous forward-looking institution. The report of the Cathedrals Working Group raises some sensible question marks over the longer term role of cathedral councils, but for the immediate future the Council continues as an integral part of the governance of the Cathedral. As Chairman of the Council (an appointment which pre-dates your installation as Dean by some twenty five days!) I am writing not only to welcome you once again to Exeter but also to reflect on the progress of the Bishop's Charge.

You and I have taken up our respective tasks at a thrilling time when so much has already been achieved thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Chapter and their colleagues, under the tireless guidance of Canon Mike Williams, the Acting Dean, and Bishop Martin, the Acting Precentor. There is an impressive catalogue of progress: from the re-establishment of a balanced budget to the updating of the business plan, from the improved grip on the management and reporting of the Cathedral's operating finances to the up-grading of communications, from the re-energising of the commitment at all levels to Safeguarding as an integral part of the Cathedral culture to the dedication to Health & Safety. In so many ways the directions from the Charge have, as you reported to the Council, "become embedded in the life of the Chapter and its discussions."

Your report also emphasised that there are two principal pieces of work to complete, namely the Worship Audit, and the Self-Evaluation Exercise. The Bishop has agreed that the Worship Audit will begin in September 2018. A new Canon Precentor, the Revd James Mustard, is to be installed next month, and the Bishop has recognised the need for James to start work and get a feel for the Cathedral's worshipping life before initiating the Audit.

As for the Self-Evaluation Exercise, the Bishop has again agreed that this will begin in the autumn of 2018 (reporting by 30th September 2019) following the installation of a new Canon Chancellor, which is unlikely to take place before July 2018. It is understandable that the Chapter wishes to have the new stipendiary team in place before beginning this exercise, since its purpose is to evaluate and improve governance, which in turn will help to shape and develop the newly-formed Chapter.



You have taken over at a time when the mood of the Cathedral is on a huge upswing. That is not to say that there is not a lot of hard work that lies ahead (mind you, when is there not?), and you set off on your journey with a groundswell of support and goodwill. I hope it goes without saying that the Council will do all that it can to provide whatever assistance you may require of us. Please do not hesitate to ask.

I am very much looking forward to working with you, your Chapter colleagues and the whole Cathedral team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barnabas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barnabas Hurst-Bannister