

CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES 2000

Our new Constitution and Statutes came into effect on the 19th March 2000 and the preamble to the legal document sets out clearly the intention of the Transitional Council in drawing up the new Constitution and Statutes according to the Cathedrals Measure 1999.

The Diocese and Bishopric of Southwell were founded under the Bishoprics Act of 1878 by an Order in Council of Queen Victoria on February 2nd 1884. The then Parish and Collegiate Church of St Mary the Virgin at Southwell was declared to be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese.

Under the provision of the Cathedrals Measure 1963 a new Constitution and new Statutes were framed with the following intention:

...."that the Cathedral Church may offer day by day, so far as in man lies, comely and acceptable Worship to Almighty God, that it may be a fountain of inspiration to the clergy and laity of the Diocese in their study of His Holy Word, and that out of it may flow a stream of devotion and zeal which, passing into the parishes of the diocese, may spread His Kingdom and Glory both at home and abroad".

It is the purpose of the compilers of the new Constitution and Statutes under the Cathedrals Measure 1999 to continue and enhance this intention.

To this end, all who serve this Cathedral Church, in whatever role or ministry, shall seek, by their work and worship to advance the Kingdom of God in this place and this Diocese; to bring people to the knowledge and love of God and their Cathedral Church. Furthermore, it is the duty of the Cathedral Council, the Cathedral Chapter, the College of Canons and all who serve this place, to afford the Bishop of the Diocese counsel and support in matters relating to the Cathedral and the Diocese; to foster and strengthen the ties between the Cathedral and the Diocese; to enhance the worship, the spirituality and the education of those using the Cathedral facilities, to offer hospitality to visitors and pilgrims; to pray daily for the Bishop, for the Dean and the Chapter, for the furtherance of the work of the Church in this place and this Diocese, and to live in unity one with another.

In bold type in the introduction to the Constitution we read:

"Every person or body having functions under the Constitution or Statutes shall, in exercising those functions, have due regard to the fact that the Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and a centre of worship and mission".

As we set up our new structures we must keep this aim before us.

David Leaning, Dean.

Present organisation of the Minster

The Minster's affairs have been in the control of the **Cathedral Council**, headed by the Provost and composed of the Residentiary Canons, 5 members elected by the Chapter, 4 lay members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the Churchwardens at present), 4 lay members appointed by the Bishop and 3 lay members elected by the Diocesan Synod.

The Chapter is a body of honorary canons from amongst the diocesan clergy who occupy the stalls named after the prebends of the ancient foundation.

As the Minster is a parish Church as well as a Cathedral, the Cathedral Council also has the functions of a Parochial Church Council. Most of these are delegated to a committee known as the Parochial Committee, chaired by the Canon Pastor and composed of the Provost (as Rector of the Parish), the Residentiary Canons, the Churchwardens, the Deanery Synod Representatives, a representative of the the Readers, members elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting and members (such as youth representatives) co-opted by the committee itself.

New organisation

The present Cathedral Council, and the present Chapter are superceded by three new bodies. Rather confusingly, the two old names are perpetuated although the composition and functions of the new bodies differ completely, as shown in the following extract from the Constitution and Statutes.

THE CHAPTER

There shall be a Chapter which shall consist of:

- i the Dean, who shall be the chairman and shall have second or casting vote;
- ii all the Residentiary Canons;
- iii 1 person in Holy Orders appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean and the

- College of Canons;
- iv 1 lay person with financial expertise appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean;
- v 2 lay persons elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- vi 3 members (of whom two shall be lay persons) appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean and the Bishop's Council;

The members in categories iii to vi shall hold office for three years but shall be eligible for membership for further terms of office.

THE COLLEGE OF CANONS

There shall be a College of Canons consisting of:

- i the Dean
- ii every Bishop Suffragan;
- iii every Archdeacon;
- iv every Canon (14 clerical Canons and 6 lay Canons)
- v a Canon Theologian

THE COUNCIL

There shall be a Council consisting of:

- i The Chairman (Lay person appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Chapter);
- ii The Dean;
- iii Three other members of the Chapter chosen by the Chapter;
- iv Two members of the College of Canons chosen by the College of Canons;
- v Three lay persons not being members of the Chapter representing the interests of the Cathedral Community and comprising two persons elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and one person elected by the employees of the Cathedral;
- vi Ten other persons appointed by the Bishop:
 - One Rural Dean of a Deanery in the Diocese;
 - Two persons after consultation with the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, one having financial expertise;
 - One person after consultation with the Church Leaders of Nottinghamshire;
 - One person after consultation with the Chief Officer of Nottinghamshire County Council;
 - Four other persons after consultation with the Dean having experience in connection with the work of the Cathedral or the ability to reflect Local, Diocesan, Ecumenical, National and International interest in that connection, and who are able to support the role of the Cathedral as a Centre of Worship, Mission, Education and Pastoral Care.

Effect of the new Constitution and Statutes on the year 2000 Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Parochial Committee

Parochial Committee

When the new Constitution and Statutes came into force the current Parochial Committee (being a committee of the old Cathedral Council) lost its status. The new Constitution transfers the powers previously held by the Cathedral Council in relation to the Parish to the new Chapter. The Constitution states that the Chapter may establish committees as it may determine and may delegate function, powers and duties to any committee. It may be assumed therefore that a Parochial Group/Committee in some form will be established. For the time being it is proposed that the Parochial Committee will continue in its present form until such time as the new Chapter sets up a body to supercede it.

Churchwardens

There is no mention of churchwardens in the Measure and therefore no mention of them in the new Statutes. However, in view of the length of time that the office of churchwarden has existed in the Minster it is proposed to make provision for them in the Bylaws or Standing Orders to be made under the new Statutes. They will be elected, as in any parish, under the provisions of the Churchwardens (Appointment and Resignation) Measure 1964.

Elections at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Four churchwardens

2 nominated by the Dean

2 nominated by the meeting to serve for one year

Elections to be held at the Annual Parochial Meeting

1. Two members of the Chapter - to serve for three years.
2. Two members of the Council - to serve for three years.

Brian Whitehouse

A Historical Comment by the Dean

Someone has suggested that to lose the title of Provost is to lose part of our links with the historic past. Southwell cannot claim to have used the title Dean or Provost for any lengthy period of time. Indeed Southwell is unique in that its medieval Foundation, and indeed right through until 1844 when it ceased, there never was a Dean or Provost. The Honorary Canons or Prebendaries took it in turn to act as the Canon Residentiary and he presided at the Chapter and lived in the Residence during his 3 or 4 months of Residence every 4 years. It is true that Bishop Ridding the first Bishop of Southwell in 1884 assigned to himself the office of Dean and appointed the Rector of Southwell as Sub-Dean but research seemed to show that this was a practical arrangement for the Bishop to chair the meeting of the Canons who were reconstituted under the new Foundation and was not a legal entity. We have only had the office of Provost since the new Statutes of 1936 and the Archdeacon of Nottingham, James Coneybeare, became the first Provost in 1938. I am therefore only the 5th Provost of Southwell - and indeed the last! But I become the first Dean. My task is set out very clearly in the new Constitution and Statutes and that I can spell out at a later date too! At the moment I have to say that I am still David Leaning and don't feel any different!