

Annual Report of The Mayor, Councillor Malcolm Thomas, 2020-2021

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Mayor of Lancaster in the 2020-2021 civic year.

The Mayor has two main functions, firstly to chair Meetings of Full Council as set out in the City Council Constitution and secondly to represent the City at events in the City and beyond.

The effect of the Covid pandemic changed the way that these functions could be effected.

The meetings of Full Council became virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams. As chair of these meetings it was important to enable individual councillors to fully contribute through questions and debate within the constitution. I am grateful for the way Members and Officers ensured that business was completed effectively.

Many of the usual events were cancelled because of the restrictions on the movement and gathering of people but others adapted using Teams and Zoom to continue events. I was pleased to be able to join the events to which I was invited such as The St John's Hospice executive meeting, The Civic society meeting, two Primary School morning assemblies and the Morecambe Fringe Festival.

Some events continued with limited numbers and social distancing including the VJ day memorial, Remembrance Sunday in the Memorial Gardens, and a festival of nine lessons and carols at Lancaster Priory and Holocaust Memorial Day organised by More Music Morecambe using a Zoom link. I was honoured to open an International online exhibition Learning from the Past Peace Heritage Project which was organised by Global Link and Lancaster City Museum with contributions from across Europe.

I hope that it has been possible to maintain the traditions of the Mayoralty and that we will be able to return to more normal times.

I wish my successor Councillor Mike Greenall a happy year.