



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016: MINUTES

St George the Martyr, London, 29 October 2016

1. Apologies for absence

Trustees' apologies were received from the Rev Ann Coleman. A list of members who sent apologies for absence is appended to these minutes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Old Alresford Place, Alresford, Hampshire on 31 October 2015

Bishop Christopher explained that due to Julia Reading's recent departure, minutes from the last AGM were regrettably unavailable. The minutes would be circulated in due course.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Given the absence of minutes, there were no matters arising.

4. Address from the APR Chair, the Rev Barry Preece

Barry opened by thanking Jane Franklin for nine years of service as a trustee, noting Jane's dedication to attending meetings and the valuable perspective she brought as a retreat leader. Jane had provided particular support during her term as Vice Chair, running one of the trustees' residential meetings last year. Barry presented Jane with a token of APR's appreciation for her considerable contribution to the charity.

Barry moved on to thank Marion Syms for the indispensable role she has played in organising the Spirituality Advisors' Conference (SAC), noting the importance of this biennial event to those who attend. Barry thanked Marion very much for the additional effort she has put in to making this initiative such a success.

Barry also thanked Ben Wilson for the considerable responsibilities he has undertaken over the last year in particular, remarking that Ben had gone above and beyond the duties expected of a trustee.



Barry informed the meeting that sadly, Julia Reading, APR's Administrator, had decided to step down from her role for personal reasons. Barry wished to record the trustees' immense gratitude to Julia for the friendly and efficient way in which she performed her duties and the very considerable contribution she made to the charity's work in her four years as Administrator. The trustees' had sent Julia a card expressing these sentiments.

The trustees' would be considering what shape a future administrative role would take.

Barry moved on to describe a number of highlights of the year, noting in particular:

- The SAC held in April to which almost every diocese of the Church of England had sent a representative, alongside advisors from Germany and Cyprus and the Gulf. This had again been a great success, much appreciated by those who attended.
- The financial support APR had given to an initiative by the Archbishop of Canterbury to lead the bishops of the southern province in a 24 hour retreat in Canterbury. Barry and Bishop Christopher noted the importance of encouraging bishops to take regular retreat. The Archbishops' office had gratefully acknowledged the support APR had offered. Bishop Christopher noted that a comparable grant had been sent to the Archbishop of York for similar purposes.
- The financial support offered to a new online initiative called the Sheldon Hub being launched by the Society of Mary and Martha to help clergy facing particular stress or need for spiritual renewal. The trustees believed that encouraging clergy to seek the assistance of professional help as well as peer support through an online portal was a valuable objective that not only assisted an APR member retreat house with a major project but also indirectly helped encourage reflection on the importance of retreat. Barry explained that the APR would be giving £4,000 immediately to be followed by £2,000 a year for the following three years.
- Barry invited Ben Wilson to update the meeting on the APR's website, launched last November. Ben explained that more than 3,500 people had visited the website since its launch, with more than 5,000 separate visits in total. The most popular pages were



'Why go on retreat?' and the retreat house map. Feedback on the site had been positive and it was now much easier for the trustees/administrator to keep it up to date.

5. Election of Trustees

Ben Wilson and Jacqueline Platt had both reached the end of their second terms in office and were both willing to stand again as trustees. A resolution that both should be reappointed for a third term was passed unanimously.

Despite her desire to reduce the number of long distance journeys from her new home in Scotland for trustee meetings, the Rev Liz Baker kindly agreed to continue to serve for a few more months in order that additional trustees might be identified. Formally, Liz's current term of office ends in 2018.

Marion Syms proposed that Susan Parker, APR Treasurer, be co-opted to serve as a trustee for the coming year. This was seconded by Jane Franklin. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Barry reported that, following his move from Rydal Hall to the Diocese of Chester's Foxhill retreat centre, the Rev Jonathon Green felt unable to continue as a trustee and therefore had tendered his resignation.

It was noted that there were a number of vacancies on the board of trustees and that suitable candidates would be warmly encouraged to approach the Rev Barry Preece with a view that they might be co-opted on to the board. Bishop Christopher suggested it would be particularly helpful if a trustee could be found from among those currently running retreat houses.

Action: All to consider suitable candidates and introduce them to BP

6. The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2016

The Report and Accounts were circulated. Susan noted that membership subscription income had fallen by over £400 but that legacies and donations had increased to almost make up for the shortfall. The SAC had made a small profit. £1625 had been distributed to 15 applicants for bursary funding.



Marion Syms proposed that the Accounts be adopted and this was seconded by Ben Wilson. The resolution was passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jacqueline Platt proposed that Messrs Duncan & Toplis be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner of the Accounts until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. Sally Lowe seconded this resolution, which was passed unanimously.

8. Any other business: thank you to Bishop Christopher

Bishop Christopher reflected upon his nine years as President of the charity. He said that he considered the period as a blessing, in the continual reminder it served of the importance of the need for regular times of spiritual recharging. Bishop Christopher added that the charity's mission to remind people of the need for times of stillness in an increasingly busy world was more important than ever. Bishop Christopher wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to the three Chairs with whom he had worked: the Rev Tim Blewett, the Rev Liz Baker and the Rev Barry Preece.

The Rev Barry Preece responded to offer the thanks and gratitude of the trustees and wider membership for Bishop Christopher's contribution as President. Barry noted in particular the supportive and encouraging role Bishop Christopher had played throughout his period in office, and the generous way in which Bishop Christopher had devoted time to attend key meetings. Barry said that both he and the other attendees were incredibly grateful for Bishop Christopher's presence at the SAC in particular. Barry presented Bishop Christopher with a gift.

Bishop Christopher in turn responded to explain the process for identifying his successor as President. He repeated his gratitude to the trustees for all their work and the support they had offered him during his presidency.

9. Date of the Annual General Meeting in 2017

The date of the next AGM would be Saturday 28 October 2017. Members will be advised should this change.



KB/BW 30.10.16



List of Members sending apologies

Peter Abbot	Geoffrey Mitchell
Angela Ashwin	Marlene Nash
The Rev Bruce Batstone	Shelagh Norton
Hugh Beach	Mary O'Brien
Tony Bryer	The Rt Rev Robert Paterson
Margaret Cadman	David Self
The Most Rev David Chillingworth	Carol Self
David Clark	Rosemary Shaw
The Rev Michael Cleverley	Pauline Shepherd
Sister Diana	Peter Sills
Sister Gerd	Linda Smith
Alison Halliwell	The Rev Canon Carol Smith
John Hall-Matthews	Michael Vooght
Patricia Hall-Matthews	Allan Walter
Anne Horton	Kim Weeks
Araminta Hull	Martyn Wratten
Maggie Le-Roy	Sheila Young
Ann Lewin	
Anne Lindley	
Ann Lloyd	
Brian Maguire	