

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE ENGLISH CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017, at 2:00 pm**

*Held at St Giles-in-the-Fields, London  
(by kind permission of the Rector and Churchwardens)*

1. The Revd Mark Binney opened the meeting with prayer. Special prayers were said for the late Revd. John Masding and his family.
2. Apologies were received for absence from a number of members, a list of whom is attached hereto.
3. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 having been distributed, it was resolved that they be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record thereof.
4. On behalf of the Council, the Revd Canon Peter Johnson presented the Association's Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2016. The Trustees were keeping the investment costs under review. There being no questions, the Accounts were received. It was noted that the Accounts had yet to be submitted for examination.
5. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Trustees of the Benefit Fund for 2016 were put before the meeting by way of information. The Treasurer explained that the apparent increase in the management fees was because the figure for the year before was for only a part of the year.
6. The Council proposed Dr Peter Smith as Chairman and there being no other nominations and having indicated his willingness to serve, Dr Peter Smith was duly appointed for the following year (ex officio member of the Council).
7. The Chairman thanked his fellow honorary officers for all their help and support in the past year. The Revd. Stephen Seamer had expressed his wish not to remain as a member of the Council and Vice-Chairman on health grounds, but no nomination for Vice-Chairman was received. Proposers and seconders having been received, the following were severally re-elected to their respective offices (the Hon Treasurer and Hon. Almoner being ex officio members of the Council):

The Revd Richard Hall	Hon. Almoner
The Revd Canon Peter Johnson	Hon Treasurer
The Revd. Mark Binney	Hon. Registrar
8. The Revd Philip Corbett had advised the Chairman that he did not wish to stand again for the Council. The Chairman thanked him for his work on the Council. The Chairman also expressed the gratitude of the Council for all that

the Revd. Stephen Seamer had done for the Association over many years as a member of the Council and as Vice-Chairman. His support and advice had been very much appreciated.

9. The following members of the Council were due for re-election. All had indicated their willingness to stand for a further term. A proposer and second having been duly received, all the following were re-elected as members of the Council for a further period of 3 years (to AGM 2010):

The Revd. Mark Binney  
The Revd. Canon Derek Earis  
The Revd. John Hanks  
The Revd Canon Simon Godfrey  
The Revd Alec Brown

10. The Revd. Cassa Messervy was nominated by the Council for election to the Council. The Chairman introduced her to the meeting and a proposer and a seconder having been received, she was duly elected for a period of 3 years.
11. After being duly proposed and seconded, the appointment of Critchley's as independent examiners of the accounts was confirmed.
12. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:25 pm.

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015, at 2:25 pm

1. A Special General Meeting was convened pursuant to clause 11 of the Constitution of the Association to consider the following resolution:

That the Constitution of the Association be altered by

- (a) To be inserted as paragraph 3.6:

'Where there is a finding of misconduct under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 involving sexual abuse or abuse of any other kind of children or vulnerable adults, or a finding of guilt for any such offences in a secular court, a member of the Association or an individual representing a corporate member, shall be deemed to have acted inconsistently with membership of the Association and shall cease to be a member of the Association or to represent a corporate member. The member shall be sent a notice by the Secretary of the Association by registered post to the last known address on the register of members informing him or her of the termination of membership. The

member shall have a period of 28 days from the date of the notice to lodge an appeal to the Council against the termination of membership and the notice sent to the member must state the right of appeal and the manner in which it is to be made. The decision of the Council shall be final.’

(b) To be inserted as paragraph 6 (all subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered by the addition of 1):

#### ‘REMOVAL

Where there is a finding of misconduct under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 involving sexual abuse or abuse of any other kind of children or vulnerable adults, or a finding of guilt for any such offences in a secular court, concerning a member of the Council or body of Trustees of the Benefit Fund, the member shall cease to be a member of the Council or body of Trustees. Likewise, where an office-holder of the Association, including any Honorary Officer, Patron, President or Vice-President, is involved in such abuse, that person shall cease to hold any office or position within the Association and shall be precluded from holding any such office in the future. The member of the Council or body of Trustees or office-holder concerned shall have the right to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association that may be convened specially for the purpose. The member or office-holder shall be sent a notice by the Secretary of the Association by registered post to the last known address informing him or her of the termination of membership of the Council or body of Trustees or the Office held. The member or office-holder shall have a period of 28 days from the date of the notice to lodge an appeal to a General Meeting of the Association against the termination of membership or office and the notice sent to the member or office-holder must state the right of appeal and the manner in which it is to be made. The decision of the General Meeting shall be final.’

(c) References in paragraph 4 of the Constitution to a “Vice-Patron” shall be removed and replaced in the heading of paragraph 4 by “Vice-President”.

2. The Chairman explained that amendments (a) and (b) had sadly become necessary in order to ensure that the Association could be seen to be in a position to remove quickly and effectively any member or office holder of the Association who had been involved in the abuse of children or vulnerable adults. As an association of clergy and laity from within the Church of England it was essential that the Association was itself demonstrably squeaky clean and would not tolerate such conduct. This was consistent with the Church of England’s policy on safeguarding. Paragraph (c) was simply a tidying up exercise where there was an inconsistency in the Constitution.
3. The resolution was proposed by Mr Lee Coley, seconded by the Revd. Richard Hall and was passed unanimously.
4. There being no other business, the Special General Meeting closed at 2:35 pm.

