**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE ENGLISH CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

**HELD IN THE DICK SHEPPARD CHAPEL OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS**

**AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2023**

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| 1. | The Revd Cassa Messervy opened the meeting with prayer. |
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| 2. | Apologies were received for absence from a number of members, a list of whom is attached hereto, together with a list of members present at the meeting. |
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| 3. | The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10th May 2022 having been distributed, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record thereof. |
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| 4. | The Chairman reported that the proposal by Mrs Margaret Marshall at the Annual Meeting in 2022 that the Caleb scheme be supported by the Association had been examined. There had been a mixed response and some concern that a one-year training scheme was insufficient and was detrimental to the standing of ordination. |
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| 5. | The Hon. Treasurer, The Revd Canon Peter Johnson, presented the Association’s Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2022. The accounts reported a deficit of around £600 for the year which would have been greater had there been the normal expenditure on Parson & Parish. The Treasurer commented on the need for more members to avoid consistent yearly deficits of around £1000. The Accounts were approved with The Revd Cassa Messervy proposing and The Revd Canon Derek Earis seconding. |
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| 6. | The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Trustees of the Benefit Fund for 2022 were put before the meeting by the Hon. Treasurer by way of information. He reported that the Benefit Fund has given out about £30,000 for the year divided between 52 recipients. About ¾ of its assets are held in stocks and shares by GHC and ¼ held at CCLA. The value of our Portfolio is some £980,000. The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement was received by the meeting. The Chairman on behalf of the meeting thanked the Treasurer for all his hard work and diligence on behalf of the Association. |
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| 7. | The Council proposed Dr Peter Smith as the Chair and The Revd Cassa Messervy as Vice Chair. There being no other nominations and having indicated their willingness to serve, Dr Peter Smith and The Revd Cassa Messervy were duly appointed for the following year (ex officio members of the Council). The following were unanimously re-elected to their respective offices (the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Almoner being ex-officio members of the Council).  The Revd Canon Peter Johnson Hon. Treasurer  The Revd Richard Hall Hon. Almoner |
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| 8. | There were no proposals for membership of the Council, existing members having been elected until the AGM of 2024. The existing members are listed in the Report of the Council approved under item 5 above. |
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| 9. | There were no candidates proposed as a Vice-President |
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| 10. | After detailed explanation and discussion, the Meeting AGREED unanimously to amend the Constitution to permit notices by electronic means and to allow meetings to be carried out electronically. This was proposed by Dr Peter Smith and seconded by The Revd Canon Derek Earis. A copy of the agreed amended Constitution is available on the Association’s website. As well as allowing more flexibility these changes would save the Association a considerable sum each year in postal charges and bring it in line with most other organisations |
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| 11. | After being duly proposed and seconded, the reappointment of Critchley’s as independent examiners of the accounts was confirmed. |
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| 12 | A Campaign sub-committee had been established and as part of this it is hoped to communicate with members by email and through the website to discern their concerns more accurately and report on progress.  It was envisaged that electronic means would be increasingly used by the Association, including the presentation of talks. The first would be the talk after this meeting given to those present at the AGM by The Revd Marcus Walker, Chairman of Save the Parish.  Mrs Margaret Marshall commended the Bursary work of the Association and suggested this be publicised by case studies with appropriate permission.  The Revd Roger Knight suggested a greater use of emails to communicate with members and the Chairman undertook to test the system. |
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|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.45pm |