

# The Community of the Word of God (Charity No. 269209)

## Minutes of CWG Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th April 2024 at 11.00 am on Zoom.

**Present:** Present: Christine Legg, (Chair), Jenny Brailsford, Peter and Carole Davison Veronica Sharpe, Victoria Coulson, Roy Olowu, (Secretary), Stephen and Joyce Harper, Jane Franklin, Helen Palmer, Julia Popp and May Milton.

1. Opening Prayers – Jenny Brailsford
2. Apologies for Absence  
Liz Varley, Lillieth Martin, Cheryl Geraghty and Margaret Johnson.
3. Minutes of the last meeting  
Proposed by Helen and seconded by Veronica and the Meeting agreed that the Minutes be accepted.
4. Community Report by Jenny Brailsford

Jenny Brailsford expressed her sympathy by the fact that CWG had lost four companions since the last AGM. **Ivy Toms, Keith Griffiths, Jacquie Henry and Wendy Foote.** Jenny also mentioned Liz Varley leaving the 'shared life' household after two years, to take up a post in Peasmarch. Her departure and contribution to the household has had a great impact and CWG are thankful for being able to still manage financially with the common purse.

The pastoral care duty of the community continues in addition to the two meetings on zoom. Annette was commended for her unrelenting role as Companion Secretary in maintaining contact with the companions in various ways.

We were informed that the Bishop of Hackney has initiated a partnership to be developed between St Barnabas Parish and SAINT Church in Hackney. This move has made Veronica's work as Parish Treasurer and Administrator more stressful in trying to merge the two organisational cultures. A Curate from SAINT Rev Toby Thomas has been licenced as the Priest-in-Charge for St Barnabas Parish. Rev Toby has shown keen interest in Annette's welfare visiting her with his young family and taking communion to share with Annette on a regular basis. He will be leaving for another post within the next month.

The community is very grateful for the legacy received in 2023 from Brenda Webb which has allowed the possibility of major works to be carried out on 90 and 92 Kenworthy Road.

Annette is having medical challenges which has given much concern. Veronica continues receiving treatment for her painful hand and neck and Jenny is also feeling effects of passing years. A lady comes in once a week to clean and a friend from Church comes into trim the garden when he can. It seems this year could be a pivotal

year for CWG. Resources and needs are changing. CWG requires new 'shared life' members and companions. Two 'shared life' members are being considered at the moment and your prayers are needed to see that the right decisions are made.

5. Finance:

Accounts were already approved at the pre-AGM Trustees' meeting. Brenda Webb left a legacy of just over £86,500 to secure the future of CWG. This legacy increased the CWG income last year from £6674 to £92,354. Income has previously been standard and has rarely changed. Veronica has been successful in reclaiming gift aid through the universal gateway and this should show in the accounts next year.

CWG gas price rose to £1,229 but will come down this year as new contracts have been made to bring costs down. Another expenditure was insurance of £1279 with Aviva Faith. The other major expense incurred was completing of the building of the website which was £709. The expenses of the roof for the two houses was £19,500. Total expenditure was just over £24,000 leaving £58,000 in the account. The accounts have been approved subject to examination. CWG will ask St Michaels, a fellow church to examine the accounts. Proposed by Steve and Joyce and seconded by Victoria. The proposal was agreed by attendees.

6. Communication Report

Veronica reported the website is up and running but needs updating to remove Liz as a shared life member and also the Community Cat. There is a way messages can be collected when put on the website. May suggested posting a picture showing the companions apart from the shared life members. Jenny explained that the use of pictures has to be carefully monitored. Jane spoke about using artwork on the website to reflect CWG's diversity. Veronica and Jenny took these ideas away to reflect on.

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Date of Next Trustee Meeting

End of April and early May 2025 (TBC)

9. Closing Prayer - Steve Harper