

**344th Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust, held at St Margaret's Westminster on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 11.30am**

**Agenda**

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence  
The apologies for absence received will not be read out, but will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
3. Minutes of the 343<sup>rd</sup> Annual Assembly
  - a) Approval of the minutes for signing
  - b) Matters arising from the minutes (if any)
4. Governors deceased
5. Treasurers' report  
This will include the presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.
6. Chief Executive's report  
This will include reflections on the Trust's recently published Strategy for 2022-25.
7. Keynote talk: The Right Revd Chris Goldsmith, Director of Ministry, Church of England (and lately Bishop of St Germans)
8. Elections and appointments
  - a) New Governors
  - b) Members of the Court of Assistants for the coming year

(see below)

c) Treasurers for the coming year

d) Auditors

9. Date of 2023 Annual Assembly

10. Any other business

Any Governor who wishes to raise substantive business under this heading is asked to notify the Chief Executive at least two days prior to the meeting.

11. The Grace

## Minutes

**GOVERNORS PRESENT:** Dr David Allen, The Venerable C Allsopp, Mr M Beaman, *Mr Paul Bewers, Mr Michael Cartwright*, Mr A Chamberlain, Mr D Cole-Adams, Mr M Cooper, Miss B Dowsett, The Reverend Canon R F Eversley, Mr R D Farmbrough (chair), Dr P Gazard, Mr T Gazard, Mr M Gibbs, The Reverend N Goodrich, Mr J A Hargreaves, Mr P Herbage MBE KStJ, Mr C Hoare Nairne, Mr S Hogg, Mrs J Jordan, The Right Reverend G Knowles, The Venerable D Lowman, Mr L March, Dr M Marcus, The Reverend J Moodey, Mr A Platt, Mr J Prichard, Mr E D Roberts, Mr T Saywell, Mr D Short, Mr S Slack, Mr C Weller, Mr R Westbrook, Mr I Woolf.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Members of the staff of the charity.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J Asbury-Bailey, Mr T Bartlett, Mr M Bithell, Mr J Briggs, The Reverend Canon S Butler, Ms A Brougham, Ms J Bryant-Pearson, The Reverend R Chavner, Ms C Chinhengo, Mr A G Clark, The Reverend N Cocking, Mr M Cornwall-Jones, The Reverend Canon C Davies, The Reverend Dr J Dunn, Mr D Fitzhugh, Mr A Godfrey, Mr G Greenhous, Alderman R Hughes-Penney, The Reverend Canon Dr D Jennings, Mrs A Joyce, Mr P Kennerley, The Reverend Canon W Kennedy, Mr D Mauleverer, Lady Ann Mawer, Mr P Miall, Mr J Morin-Carpentier, The Reverend R Newton, Mr H Pollard, The Reverend Canon D Pritchard, Mr J P Read The Right Reverend D Rossdale, Dr N Rudolf, Mr W Shand, Mrs S Shaw, The Venerable M Squires, The Most Reverend P Storey, Mr S Swift, Dr J Thomson, Mr S Wright.

Mr Richard Farmbrough (Treasurer, on behalf of the Senior Treasurer who was unable to attend) welcomed everyone to the 344<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust. He thanked Canon Ball for welcoming us to St Margaret's Westminster.

### 1. Prayers

Prayers were led by The Reverend Nancy Goodrich.

### 2. Apologies for absence

With the agreement of the meeting, the list of apologies was taken as read.

### **3. Minutes of the 342<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust**

#### **a) Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held in November 2021 were approved for signing by the chair, Mr Richard Farmbrough.

#### **b) Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Governors deceased**

The names of the following Governors whose death had been reported were read out. There was a moment of silence in their memory:

The Venerable John Blackburn CB, The Reverend Prebendary David Burgess, The Reverend Terence Carter, D. I. Cobb, The Reverend Canon Cyril Dawson, Sir Roger Gifford KStJ, Mr John Grenfell, The Very Reverend Derek Hole, Miss Mary Holthouse, The Rt Revd Lawrence Luscombe OStJ, Mr Raymond Mills, Mr John Rank, Mr William Usher

### **5. Senior Treasurer's report, including the presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.**

The Chair presented the Senior Treasurer's report, including the Trustees' Annual Report for 2021, and expressed the Trust's sadness on hearing the news of the death of our Patron, Her late Majesty the Queen and our hope of maintaining a link with the Royal Family.

The Chair drew attention to some key facts and figures contained in the report and paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Trust.

In response to a comment from a Governor on encouraging the involvement of parishes across the country in the work of the Trust by sending literature to them, the Chair agreed and noted the recent appointment of Catherine Cashmore as Head of External Relations, in recognition of the importance of external engagement and outreach.

A Governor wished to relay a message from an acquaintance about the quality of service "beyond expectation" he received on applying for support. Another Governor congratulated staff and trustees on spending the income of the fund on grants, and observed this was a departure from previous management policy not to. The Chair thanked him and highlighted that in fact the Trust would likely be spending more than its income over the next few years, in line with its strategy to support more households with a wider offer.

In response to a suggestion by a Governor to use a clearer metric to demonstrate our charitable spend to the current KPI featured on page 4 of the Annual Report, which currently gives it as a percentage of total expenditure, the Chair agreed there were alternative ways to do this;

however, there were also issues of compliance with the Charity Commission guidelines. The Chair also took this opportunity to comment on the exemplary stewardship of the Trust's funds by the staff and Court.

There being no further questions, the meeting duly received the report.

## **6. Chief Executive's Report**

The Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls presented his Report to the Assembly, focusing on the charity's future direction in light of considerable change both in the world and within the Church; he suggested that there were important questions around how the Trust might adapt and find the correct balance between continuity and innovation, not least given the Church's desire to become "simpler, humbler, bolder". The Chief Executive then highlighted some reflections on the Trust's recently published Strategy for 2022-2025 and its six key strategic priorities, before inviting questions and comments.

In response to a question about the geographical extent of the Trust's remit, the Chief Executive clarified that there were no geographical boundaries within the charitable objects of the Trust, but that for historical and practical reasons, we supported Anglican clergy within the Church of England (which includes the Diocese in Europe), the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church of Ireland (covering both Northern Ireland and the Republic).

A Governor commented on the Church's inability to match the level of stipends with the rate of inflation, despite its apparent commitment to do so at General Synod, and therefore questioned whether the Trust's strategic development ambitions were detracting resources from clergy's basic needs; the Chief Executive responded that the charity's new ventures were not at the expense of its fundamental work, but rather a case of spending more to do more; but at the core of this lay the fundamental question of the red line between Church and Trust's responsibilities, and the vital importance of partnership and dialogue in finding solutions together.

In response to a question about any thought or work the Trust was undertaking in light of the potential fracture within the Anglican Communion on questions of sexuality, the Chief Executive stated that the Trust was truly inclusive and supported all clergy regardless of churchmanship; but he did recognise the need to hold the necessary conversations to avoid being on the back foot if faced with any future changes within Anglicanism.

A Governor raised a procedural point on receiving and accepting the Treasurer's report, which will be included in the next agenda item.

A Governor congratulated the Trust on the publication of its research on the wellbeing of Global Majority Heritage clergy to which the Chief Executive responded that credit should go to his predecessor, The Revd Jeremy Moodey, and to Sarah Davies, Director of Charitable Services.

Lastly, the Chief Executive thanked a Governor who flagged the existence of a potential partner in the clergy wellbeing space, within Oxfordshire, and noted that the Trust signposted beneficiaries to other sources of help and funding as part of its support.

**7. Keynote speech: the Right Reverend Chris Goldsmith, Director of Ministry, Church of England**

Governors heard from Bishop Chris, who spoke about the Church's current ministry development strategy, and the importance of partnership with the Trust and others.

**8. Elections:**

The Chair began by asking the Governors to receive formally the Treasurers' Report. (received by show of hands)

**a) New Governors**

Mrs Jaspreet Hodsgon, Mr Simon Ives and Mr John Sweeney were elected as Governors. The Chair took this opportunity to ask Governors to encourage others to join.

**b) Members of the Court of Assistants for the coming year**

There are no changes to the Court of Assistants this year. The Court was unanimously elected for the coming year:

The Reverend Canon Simon Butler	Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Mr Adam Chamberlain	Ms Jackie Jordan
Mr Martin Cooper	Dr Oluwamayowa Marcus
Ms Constance Chinhengo	The Reverend Ruth Newton
The Reverend Dr Jack Dunn	Mr Stephen Slack
Mr Richard Farmbrough	The Most Reverend Patricia Storey
The Reverend Nancy Goodrich	
Mr Jeremy Hargreaves	
Mr Stephen Hogg	

**c) Treasurers**

It was unanimously resolved that the following be elected to serve as officers of the charity:

- The Reverend Canon Simon Butler to be re-elected as Senior Treasurer.
- Mr Richard Farmbrough to be re-elected as a Treasurer.
- The Reverend Nancy Goodrich to be elected as a Treasurer.

**d) Auditors**

Buzzacott LLP were elected unanimously as auditors of the charity for the coming year.

**9. Date of 2023 Annual Assembly**

The Chair stated that the date for the 2023 Annual Assembly would be announced at a later date.

**11. Any other business**

There being no other business, the Senior Treasurer closed the meeting by thanking the Governors for their continued support, and invited everyone to lunch.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm with the Grace, led by the Reverend Nancy Goodrich.