

Registered Charity no. 249726

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 10th April 2019

Salvation Army HQ Stowmarket

Present: There were 60 members present

| Item | | Action |
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| 1. | Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Rev Canon Ian Wilson, our Diocesan Chaplain, to lead us in prayers and readings. Ian then told us some of his life leading up to being asked to be our Chaplain. It was interesting to hear that before going into the priesthood, he was in the Police Force for 10 years, then he was a teacher at Woodbridge School; he then went to Theological College, and at present is the incumbent at Nacton with 8 parishes. | |
| 2. | Apologies: Margaret Rollins, Catherine Kersey, Joyce Courage, Rev Catherine Forsdike, Margaret Goldstone, Margaret Bloomfield, Jeanette Wallond, Rachel Jolly, Margaret Lowe, Lorna Brook, Jane Harrison, Pam Ross, Janice Brett, Rev Elizabeth Corker, Helen Davy, Deirdre Grosvenor, Margaret Rollins, Jane Leung and Shirley Girt. | |
| 3. | Minutes of AGM, 5th July 2018. These were proposed correct by Christine Ward, seconded by Brenda Simmons, and agreed by all. | |
| 4. | Matters Arising – There were no matters arising | |
| 5. | MULOA Update. – Linda asked Christine to update the meeting regarding MULOA. Christine said there was a small group of Trustees that have formed a team to present MULOA to the Diocese. They had held several sessions and have 2 more booked. It was thought that MULOA would be coming to an end in July but at the DP conference last week Linda heard that it was likely to continue as it has been very well received by the members. If any branch would like to see the presentation if they contact Christine, she can help them. Ian asked what size group would be required? Christine said 6 to 20 people would be able to attend. Linda thanked Christine for continuing MULOA in the diocese. | |
| 6. | Treasurer's Report – Keith explained the annual accounts to the meeting. He had slides so all could see them on the screen. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Clare Thomas, seconded by Anna Vessey, and agreed by those present. Mary Addington has agreed to look at the accounts at the end of 2019: this was approved by the meeting. Keith thanked Mary for her time again this year, and as she doesn't have a computer the accounts are printed out by Keith for her to approve. MUE – Keith said some of the branches were ordering their own items from MUE although Clare and Penny are willing to do this for them. Keith | |

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| | asked that if ordering, please do not use a personal bank account but go through the branch Treasurer. | |
| | Cyclone in Southern Africa – Keith has had contact with David A Mchombo, the Finance and Administration Manager in the Anglican Council in Malawi, as the Trustees agreed that as the accounts are healthy we should send £500 to support MU members in our linked diocese. By having direct contact with the Anglican Council of Malawi, it means we are certain that any money sent will go directly to that diocese. He also invited branches to raise funds and send them to him thus enabling us to send more donations later in the year for the second phase of rehabilitation and restructuring programmes. An email has now been sent to branches suggesting this as not all branches were represented at the AGM. He said if each branch donated a £1 per member it would raise £800 and, with gift aid, this amount would increase to £1000. | |
| 7. | Unit Reports – These had been sent to members prior to the meeting and no-one had anything more to add. | |
| 8. | <p>President's Remarks – Linda thanked Christine for all she has done and will continue to do for the diocese. Linda introduced those trustees and officers that were present, and thanked them for taking on the roles for this new triennium. Linda also thanked members for their attendance at the Cathedral for the Commissioning and Banner service, which she said was a very moving service. The same evening Linda told the meeting that Ipswich Deanery had prepared and served food and drinks at the Collation of Archdeacon Rhiannon at Chantry Academy. Linda had prepared tear-off slips of paper for members that do not have a computer of their own, enabling them to ask a relative or friend to help them find and look at the MU website together.</p> <p>There had been a letter sent to each Diocese from our new World Wide President – Sharen Harper - as she took up the post at the beginning of 2019. Sheran will also be at the <i>Thy Kingdom Come</i> service at Coventry Cathedral in May. Linda reminded the meeting that Ian had said in his talk that we must focus our energies in our areas. Linda had attended a diocesan conference regarding the Clewer Initiative which we are proposing to support in the Mothers' Union in our Diocese. It is regarding 'modern day slavery', and she gave each a card with the details of how we can hopefully help stop this by 2030.</p> <p>The Christmas raffle from MSH raised £70,000.00 for MU funds. They are thinking of having one again this year but not at Christmas-time - probably around October. It is a way of raising the awareness of Mothers' Union, and there will be more information on the tickets this year to advise those that buy a ticket what Mothers' Union is all about.</p> <p>Linda has asked for people's opinions regarding holding another Retreat. We do not have sufficient interest in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich alone, but it may be possible that we join up with other dioceses in the Cluster.</p> | |
| 10. | Information regarding Policies and the Website - Clare Thomas told the meeting that Trustees had been hard at work this last 3 months approving the policies for the diocese. Clare particularly mentioned the Photo Policy, as this affects branches if taking photos at meetings or events and putting them on notice boards or sending them to Viv for inclusion in Pathways. Permission must be | |

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| | <p>gained from individuals before any photo is taken, and the person taking the photo is responsible for obtaining a signature from that person whose photo is being taken. A copy of the permission form was on every seat for people to take home and study. As some branch leaders have been having difficulty accessing the MU websites, Clare said if they would like to see her after the meeting, she would happily show them how to do this. Clare told the meeting that MSH had introduced a new website last year, and members needed to register so they could access their own account. Clare, Anna and Cathie are authorised to make any changes.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Mid-day Prayers – Linda asked Anna to take these.</p> <p>Secretary's Remarks – Beryl asked the meeting if there was anyone willing to take on Sudbury Area as that area has no one and branches are closing. If there was anyone, please speak to Linda or Beryl after the meeting.</p> <p>Coventry Outing – The trip to Thy Kingdom Come service in Coventry Cathedral coach is now full. Beryl mentioned the different stops and times for that event, saying travellers would need to take lunch or buy lunch before the Service. Beryl had congratulated Lynne Tembey, our outgoing WWP, when she received her well-deserved OBE, via FaceBook.</p> <p>Diocesan Banner – This has been taken out of the Cathedral at present as it is being repaired. It will return as soon as these are complete.</p> <p>Service of Welcome, Annual Meeting and holiday – there has been a change of date for the holiday as we had difficulty obtaining a hotel, therefore we are now leaving on Monday 16th returning Friday 20th. Cost of the hotel and coach is £346.50. Names to Beryl or Monica asap. We will be staying in Bournemouth although the service and meeting are in Portsmouth.</p> <p>A new Diocesan Directory has been issued today and it is with the Pathways magazine. There is only one copy per branch, and this has to be kept in a locked cupboard or briefcase due to GDPR. Beryl thanked members for sending her the current details, and noted that all branches now have an email contact address. Beryl asked all to contact her whenever there were any changes of details - this will enable her to keep the directory up to date.</p> | |
| 12. | Linda closed the meeting with prayers. | |
| 13. | Date of Next Meeting - 17th June 2019 at St Michael's Church, Martlesham, IP5 3PL at 6.30 pm where refreshments will be available. | |

Meeting closed at 12.15

Signed:.....Date