



Registered charity no. 249726

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Thursday 5th July 2018  
at Christchurch, Morton Hall, Lawson Place, Bury St Edmunds

Light refreshments were served before the meeting.

In attendance 69

1. Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised that we had not been able to get in to the hall on time. She thanked the MUe team and those who had brought shoes for the display, reflecting on our theme 'Walking in Mary Sumner's Footsteps'.
2. Revd Canon Stuart Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer.
3. **Apologies:** Beryl Mee, Lisa Cole, Angela Marjoram, Jean Haste, Mary Snape, Ann Bloomfield, Joy Bolwell, Rachel Parsons, Mary MacGilp, Anne Clarke, Pam Ross, Carole Gooderham, Mary Stalley, Sue Norrington, Felicity Stranack, Helen Davy, Helen Pell, Linda Last, Jenny Pratt
4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last A.G.M held on 4th July 2017  
Proposed by Chris Mitchell      Seconded by Anna Vessey  
Unanimously accepted by those present as a correct and true record - signed and dated.
5. There were no matters arising.
6. **President's Report** Christine asked everyone present to hold members who have passed away and their families in our hearts and prayers. Thinking especially of Linda Cadman who had served as Branch Leader, IMPC representative and a Trustee for many years.

She gave her report for 2017 ( attached ) with an illustrated Powerpoint Presentation.

Although the AGM refers specifically to events in 2017 so much has already happened in 2018 that it too deserves a mention. Notably the visit of Lynne Tembey the World Wide President, who spoke at the Lady Day Banner service and had the opportunity to meet socially with Trustees, Officers, and Members. She also visited indoor member Peach and the Seafarers Centre in Felixstowe. After the service and Lunch at Rushmere, Lynne went on to present LSA to Cathedral Branch Members, and take a short tour of the Cathedral after which Bishop Knowles led a special Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel. On Friday Anna hosted a NSA morning to show their activities to Lynne and give her a 'Tastes of Suffolk' gift from the Diocese. An hour was exploring Framlingham and meeting the Archdeacon Ian Morgan and Rural Dean Rev Mark Sanders.

Lynne will be retiring as WWP and it was agreed by those present that as a Diocese we send a donation to the fund for her retirement gift. Our treasurer Keith was asked to organise this.

MULOA is up and running - training/pilot sessions have been held and feedback of our experience has been sent to Mary Sumner House. There is a team who can go out to branches to present a MULOA session for branches who would like to explore it themselves.

Christine and Viv will be attending the MULOA conference at Swanick in July.

We are part of Canterbury Province MU and at present Nikki Sweatman is our Zonal Trustee and the Provincial President. These two roles are now to be split due to the heavy workload.

7. **Treasurer's Report** Keith gave a full and detailed report of the 2017 accounts. Full accounts will be available on the website.

AFIA Fund is not being made use of - those who have referred people for holidays are no longer putting forward recommendations. Branches are asked not to send any further monies to this fund please as they cannot then be used for any other project.

Banks have now started charging fees to charities £5 per month.

Diocesan MUe will no longer be able to offer Branches items on a sale or return basis. Returned unsold items are not always able to be sold on. A new Role Description for MUe Coordinator is being prepared.

There were no questions regarding the accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts Proposed Catherine Kersey  
Seconded Janice Brett

Unanimously accepted..

Keith explained there will be an increase in subscriptions for 2019 to £21 and that Families First subscriptions will now be collected directly by Mary Sumner House who will contact individuals regarding this. He thanked and paid tribute to Branch Treasurers for their efficiency.

Christine thanked Keith for all his hard work in keeping the accounts up to date.

8. **Trustees' and Officers' Reports** (attached)  
Nothing to add to reports except

Catherine Kersey Ipswich Area Rep. Encouraged people to attend the up coming Information Days which would cover a broad range of important issues. Someone from each Branch needs to attend to keep them fully aware of current policies.

9. Instead of a speaker this year we are reflecting on
1. What it means to walk in Mary Sumner's footsteps - using a display of shoes
  2. Our Heroes
  3. Stories from the street.

## SHOES.

Christine asked everyone to look at the shoes display and the cards explaining how each particular type of shoe said something about following the example of Mary Sumner.

## OUR HEROES

**Mary MacGilp** Linda Ginn paid tribute to Mary who is now almost 94 and became an MU member in 1976. Mary is a wonderful example, using the gift of time to support and encourage other members. Linda, as a young vicar's wife had valued her practical and spiritual help. She knitted Linda an MU jumper to wear when she ran the London Marathon. Mary shows Christian love in action and faithfulness in prayer.

**Peach Connell** Elizabeth Corker visits Peach, who is 96 in her care home in Felixstowe. Peach, a member of the Embroiderer's Guild has made altar frontals, chasubles and other church vestments and has beautiful examples of her work on display in her flat. One of her most valued possessions is her original MU enrolment card from 1954. Peach had been delighted to meet Lynne the WWP, it meant so much to her she can't stop talking about it!

**Margaret Lowe** has recently retired as Woodbridge branch leader and Ann Wright said how much the members there valued all her hard work over a period of ten years. She was tireless in her efforts of fund raising and organising events and outings. Her care for members, particularly those who were unwell or able to attend meetings, was wonderful. Her retirement gift had been well deserved!

**Monica Twaits** has just stepped down as Editor of Pathways after many years. Christine thanked her for the way she had developed the original newsletter into the current booklet which is so valued with it's news and information. Monica, far from sitting back and doing nothing, has taken over as the IMPC rep and joint organiser of the Diocesan holiday.

**Diana Barclay** has been dedicated, reliable and hard working as our MUe rep for many years. Val Jeffreys said it was hard to appreciate just how much Diana did and how much time it took up - attending so many Branch, Area and Diocesan events and keeping such excellent records and accounts. She expressed the sincere thanks of all MU members. Christine presented Diana with flowers and a retirement gift to spend on something of her choice.

## STORIES FROM THE STREET - making a difference in your community

Pop up shop : Anna Vessey gave an illustrated talk about the North Suffolk area's involvement in the i-chameleon shop in Halesworth. MU had taken on the shop for a week selling goods they had collected from members from all over the Diocese. The aim was to raise funds and the awareness of MU, about who we are, what we stand for and what we do.

It was an enjoyable experience and the money raised had been donated to a wide range of projects both in the UK and abroad. The shop will be running again this year and Anna encouraged all those who were able to visit it and donate items to be sold.

Tudor Primary, Sudbury:

Christine said she had some good news regarding the MU Passionate About Parenting. Heather Hann from the MAT team had asked if MU could help with a parenting course at Tudor Primary School in Sudbury. Heather Hann, Christine and Rachel Parsons met together for discussions and as a result a course will start in the Autumn term - with seven candidates at present.

Extra funding of £500 was needed for this and any donations from members would be appreciated.

10. Nominations for Trustees

Christine asked people to consider if they might be able to fill any of the vacant roles. Nomination forms are available and election will be held at the November Council meeting. Vacancies; Action and Outreach

AFIA - there is a potential volunteer

Diocesan Members - there is a potential volunteer

Faith and Policy Co-Ordinator

Secretary/ Administrator - There is a potential volunteer

Sudbury Area Rep - There is a potential volunteer

The MUe role is to be re - assessed and it may be possible a job share would be the way forward.

11. Election of the new Diocesan President. 2019/21

Linda Ginn had received 11 nominations and was elected unopposed.

Christine congratulated Linda and said she looked forward to taking her along to the Provincial Conference later in the year to introduce her there.

12. A.O.B Keith Foulds raised the issue of the date of the AGM. In July it is so late in the year and Keith suggested it could be late March which would allow time for the accounts to be inspected for adoption. The meeting supported his request to the Trustees to review this matter.

The Revd Canon Stuart Mitchell closed the meeting with prayer and members joined in with saying the Grace together.

Christine thanked everyone for their tolerance with the difficulties we had experienced that evening and wished them a safe journey home.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....