

**Minutes of the Council Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10.00 am**  
**At Shepherds Drive Baptist Church, Shepherds Drive, Ipswich IP8 3SL**

**Present:** There were 34 members present with 2 present via Zoom.

Item		Action
1.	<b>Linda welcomed</b> everyone and asked Rev Catherine to lead us in a short service of Worship and Thanksgiving	LG/CF
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> Monica Twaits, Margaret Rollins, Margaret Morrison, Sarah Nichols, Susan Wolston-Croft, Janette Wallond, Cathie McGregor, Jane Harrison, Brian and Audreen Lilliestone, Brenda Coe.	BM
3.	<b>Conflict of Interest/ Safeguarding / Domestic Violence</b> - None	
4.	<b>Minutes of meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024</b> , there were no matters arising. These were proposed correct by Jeanette Appleton, seconded by Jane Whight, and agreed by the meeting. Signed by Linda Ginn.	BM
5.	<b>DP Report</b> – circulated prior to the meeting. Linda added that she had attended the Prison Day service at our cathedral a few weeks ago where she had met the new chaplain from Highpoint prison. The Christmas cards made by some of our members are gratefully received and 2 other prisons in our Diocese would like us to make some for their inmates. This would mean making approximately 2600 cards. Sue Norrington asked if more branches would consider helping with this activity. She also asked that we save our cards and give them to her after Christmas for them to be used in the card-making workshops. Linda had also arranged on tables at the front many items from our archive which she has recently sorted through. These require storage, some might be appropriate to be stored at MSH and others could go into the Hold at Ipswich near the University. Linda also made Val Jeffreys and Christine Ward Life Vice Presidents for all their work over the years, especially whilst they were Diocesan Presidents. Linda's report was proposed correct by Jeanette Appleton, seconded by Jane Whight and agreed by those at the meeting. Linda signed these as correct.	LG
6.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> – Amanda circulated her report prior to the meeting. Amanda added that she appreciated the support she had received whilst going through her breast cancer treatment. Amanda also told the meeting that it had been decided that the job of Diocesan Treasurer should be split in two. She would be the Diocesan Finance Officer and Rob Shackleton (Treasurer at East Bergholt) would do the job of bookkeeper looking after the day-to-day transactions, making payments, etc. Amanda would cover for Rob if he was away or unable to do the job due to family commitments. Amanda will be advising on the annual budgeting, reporting strategies and advising trustees. Amanda and Rob will be visiting branches/fellowship groups over the next few months to introduce themselves. Amanda told the meeting that we have a very healthy balance sheet. We still have to pay £7,500 to MSH for subs, Summer of Hope appeal, etc. but this will be done in the next few weeks. Sue Norrington asked if we had changed our bank as this was discussed at a previous trustee meeting. Amanda said this still requires doing but it will depend which bank is easier for both herself and Rob to access they will discuss this. This will be an item for the next trustee	AL

	<p>board meeting in January. There will also be a discussion who is to be the signatories on the account.</p> <p>The Treasurer's report was proposed correct by Catherine Forsdike, seconded by Anna Vessey and agreed by those at the meeting. Linda signed the report.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Vice President's report</b> – Jeanette shared with the meeting that we have to review the Constitution Appendices due to the splitting of duties in the Treasurer's job. Jeanette had slides showing the changes that were required, and these were voted on by those at the meeting and agreed.</p> <p>Jeanette proposed the change in the Constitution Appendices: this was seconded by Clare Thomas and agreed by all at the meeting. Linda signed a copy of the Constitution Appendices showing these changes, and this was filed in the Policies folder.</p> <p>There are no Area Reps in the next triennium so it was decided that hubs were to be created between branches in the same locality, and instead of having a leader they would rotate the chairing of meetings between the leaders in that hub. There would not be any need for Deanery accounts or treasurers. Subs would be sent to Clare as membership secretary, but Diocesan members' subs would go to the Diocesan Rep. Sarah Nicholson.</p> <p>Jeanette mentioned that the theme for 2025 is 'Join us, Join in'. The concept of a Friends of MU has been lunchd by MSH. A Friend can join MU but they do not have to be baptised as long as they support the Aims, Purpose and Objects of the charity. They will pay the same subs as full members, receive all the publications, etc that full members receive but they are not able to vote or stand for office. Husbands and clergy can also join as Friends of MU. A written response will be given to Friends of MU when they join.</p> <p>Jeanette shared with council the names of the new trustees who will take their places with her in January 2025as the new trustee board..</p> <p>Ruth Dennigan has volunteered to be the Minutes Secretary, the new trustees will be Diocesan Chaplain Rev Catherine Forsdike, Rev Alan Forsdike, and Clare Thomas; Officers - Cathie McGregor- Policies; Christine Ward – Clewer/Modern Slavery; Sue Norrington – Christmas cards for Prisoners; Margaret Rollins – over 90's Rep.; Anji Dawkins – Kagera Rep.</p> <p>The positions required to be filled are Diocesan Secretary (Correspondence); AFIA rep – Holidays; Parenting rep. – Budget for school uniforms; Prisons Rep; General Trustee (North Suffolk area), and Communications Lead.</p> <p>Members' Day in 2023 was very successful so it is planned to hold Grandparents' Day on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. 2025 at St Johns Church, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, from 10 00am until 2.30pm. This is an open event so all are welcome. There will be worship, small workshops, reflection on parenting, gender identity and a key speaker Jeanette asked for a Proposer for the new trustee board.</p> <p>The Vice Presidents report was proposed correct by Christine Christian, seconded by Sandra Griffiths and agreed by all at the meeting. Linda signed the report.</p>	JA

<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Trustee Reports</b> - these were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Linda asked the trustees for any updates as this would be the last report for the triennium.</p> <p>Val – Said she had done many roles over the years and thought it was time to hand over to someone else. She had enjoyed the jobs she had done. She told the meeting that her last AFIA occasion was to send a family who had recently lost their mum on a much-needed holiday to Norfolk. Instead of the usual caravan holiday she had contacted a lady whose cottage she had rented before, and when she told the lady about the family’s circumstances, she reduced the rent for the half term week by a considerable amount. Val has since heard that the family enjoyed their week away.</p> <p>Sue – Told us there are now 85 diocesan members and said that the newsletter is enjoyed by them each month. Sue is taking on the Christmas Cards for Prisoners and would like members to save the fronts of their cards and give them to her early next year as they are used when making the cards for the prisoners. She has appealed for more branches to help with the making of the cards as the number required could reach 2600 next year. Linda thanked Sue for all that she had done for our MU.</p> <p>Sandra – said she had enjoyed visiting branches when she was the A &amp; O trustee giving talks and meeting the members. Sandra thanked members for supporting her as both Area and Deanery Leader. She reminded us that there is the Ipswich Area Coffee Morning in 2 weeks’ time at St Micheal’s, Martlesham at 10.00 am and all are welcome.</p> <p>Sandra would still like to be the contact with the Women’s Refuge in Ipswich and Jane (Cathedral Branch) is willing to help by delivering things to the Refuge at BSE. They are giving vouchers to the value of £300 to each Refuge for Christmas as they have for the past few years, with biscuits/sweets for the workers in the Refuge. Linda said thank you to Sandra and Jane.</p> <p>Clare – is still willing to work on the website, membership secretary, safeguarding and MUe stall. Linda thanked Clare and Penny for consistently turning up at meetings and branches to sell MU merchandise which has been very successful.</p> <p>Christine – was pleased to tell us that there should be an appointment for someone to lead Clewer in our diocese - there are great hopes that it will become a charity in its own right next year. Linda said that our strategy of ABC (AFIA, Befriending, Clewer) has been in the forefront over the past 6 years, and this includes Modern Day Slavery and thanked Christine for all her effort in raising the Clewer/MDS profile.</p> <p>Janice – thanked Rev Catherine for all her help this year compiling the Wave of Prayer and she in turn was thanked for her many years of service on the World Mission Board, and keeping us informed of the diocesan work overseas.</p> <p>Catherine – nothing extra to report. Linda thanked Catherine for her support over the last year, especially during difficult times. She has been a great encourager.</p> <p>Cathie – unable to attend but Linda thanked her for her all her innovative work with craft initiatives and overseeing the policies in this last year.</p> <p>There was a break for 20 minutes for coffee and viewing of the archives table and also an opportunity to buy items from the MUe stall. Jeanette had organised the “Love Matters” booklet into bundles for branches to take back with them for their members.</p>	
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10.	<p>Linda and Jeanette then asked the retiring trustees and Beryl to accept a letter and gift thanking them for the years of hard work they had given to MU in St Eds &amp; Ips. Linda gave Jeanette a Bag of Love and inside was the Diocesan President's gold necklace (badge of office) specially commissioned by former DP, Joyce Starling on her retirement, and which has been handed on to all the DP since the Millenium to wear on special occasions. when they take up their tenure of their new job. Jeanette presented Linda with a comprehensive photo album of events many of which Linda had been involved with over the last 6 years. She was very appreciative and thanked everyone for their love, support, encouragement and friendship over the last two trienniums, and wished Jeanette and her new team God's richest blessings as they continue to build the kingdom of God in our diocese through the work of MU, and for the last time as DP, reminded us of our calling to "praise God, rejoice and give thanks" at all times.</p> <p>Rev Catherine closed with midday prayers and the Grace.</p>	<p>LG/JA</p> <p>CF</p>
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The meeting closed at 12.45

Signed:.....Date .....