

Registered Charity no.  249726

**Minutes of the Council Meeting 21st July 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**Present**:  There were 21 members present

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Linda** **welcomed** everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer. Linda then told the meeting she had been pleased to be able to give Long Service certificates to several members over the last couple of months. Linda also thanked Rev Brian Lillistone now retired, for all he had done for the MU in our Diocese, he will be greatly missed, and we wish him and Audreen the very best in their retirement.  |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies**: Margaret Goldstone, Rev Canon Ian Wilson, Jean Haste, Margaret Rollins, Jane Drew, Angela Pells, Jean Cobb, Sandra Belton, Margaret Bloomfield, Alison Crockett, Tony Ward, Brian Lillistone, Janice Brett.  |  |
| **3** | **Conflict of Interest -** None |  |
| **4.**  | **Minutes of meeting 7th December 2020**. These were proposed correct by Jeanette, seconded by Jane Whight, and agreed by all. Signed by Linda Ginn |  |
| **5.** | **Matters Arising –** Linda told themeeting she had taken onboard the comment made by Rev M Hatchett at the meeting in December who said she should attend the Mission & Ministry Meetings as this was how MU get noticed in the Diocese. She has attended each one and sends a report telling the meeting what MU has been doing. She thanked Michael for this suggestion. |  |
| **6** | **DP Report**. – Linda’s report had been sent out prior to the meeting. Linda added that she has written 3 letters to the Bishop. 1. Where does he see the MU in the next triennium as he is our Patron?
2. Asking the Bishop’s permission to Val offering days out to clergy and families after the extra hard they had been doing throughout Covid.
3. Introducing the Clergy Packs that are being put together by other dioceses in the Province for new clergy, telling them what MU is about.

Linda said she had tried to attend the Diocesan Synod meeting on Zoom but had a bad connection but did hear part of the Bishop’s address where he mentioned the important role of grandparents in encouraging the young people to acknowledge the Christian way of life. Linda wrote and asked if it was OK to play this clip to the meeting and received the reply at it was on YouTube therefore that was not a problem. This would be played to the meeting after we have our short break. |  |
| **7.** | **Treasurer’s Report** – Clare showed on the screen the last financial report that Keith had done just before his resignation. The report showed that the accounts balanced and that we have a healthy amount in our accounts. The accounts were proposed correct and accepted by Anna Vessey, seconded by Christine Ward agreed by all.Linda went on to say that we would be acknowledging all the hard work Keith had done over his 13years as Diocesan Treasurer by presenting him with an engraved glass plaque and garden vouchers at the Mary Sumner day service on 9th August 2021 at the cathedral where he would be playing the organ for us. Beryl to arrange for a bouquet for Ann.Linda also said that an advert had gone into the Diocesan eNews as well as on our website. She encouraged members to look in their own branches, churches and families to see if there was someone to take on the role of treasurer.  |  |
|  **8.** | **Unit Reports –** These had been sent to branches before the meeting by email, Linda then asked the trustees in turn if they had any more to add to their reports.Christine updated us on Clewer and the meeting she attended involving the Diocesan Networking team. Copy attached with these minutes. Anna – asked Christine if there were any way that MU could offer help to the Clewer/Networking team. Christine to ask and come back to us.Anna also said that a meeting had been held in NSA and they would be continuing with the NSA day on 22nd September 2021, also I-Chameleon in October.Beryl – Nothing to addCathie – Cathie has a new email address catherinemcgregor211@gmail.com Clare – Nothing to addIan – Sent his apologies and has put the 9th August 2022 in his diary for next year’s Mary Sumner day.Jeanette – told the meeting about the Shine a Light event being held at Christmas this year where members make stars (from many types of material) she showed a picture of some on the screen that members at East Bergholt had made. There is a label attached to each one with a message saying Please take me home and hang me on your tree. On the reverse of the label are details of MU in their area.Jeanette also told the meeting that the book For Better, For Worse would be published at the October Healing Service, she is still willing to receive pieces from member to include in the book. She is hoping they will give these booklets to couples getting married in their churches.Jeanette also mentioned the Reimagining MU. Since 2019 there has been a steering group putting together suggestions of how we can Re-image the MU. There is to be a conference in January for 2 from each diocese to attend to learn about this initiative. MSH are suggesting that branches and diocese hold events like a coffee morning where we invite members and non-members to attend. We would then break into groups and have some questions to discuss with the feedback going to MSH Linda asked us to remember clergy in our prayers as they are having a tough time at present as the government have said that couples can have as many guests attend their weddings/funerals and clergy are still wanting guests to wear masks and keep socially distanced to keep themselves and their congregation safe.  |  |
|  **8.** | Jean **–** has been in contact with Linda asking that people contact her with names of those they would wish to go onto the prayer chain, she would also like to be informed when these names can be taken off the list. She hasn’t had any names given her since MayJanice – Linda thanked Janice(in her absence) and Jeanette for their work putting the Wave of Prayer together.Margaret – continues to send cards to our over 90 members Monica- has been writing letters to the indoor members which are gratefully received, makes them feel included although they cannot attend meetings.Sandra – had taken some blankets to Jamie Cann House residential home. While there was able to chat to a resident who is a member at St Mary at Stoke Church, and she passes on her best wishes to all members.Sue – said this is a very changing section of the diocese as there are some members that join from branches that are closing or amalgamating and unfortunately some pass away. Lately she has had 6 new members join from Rattlesden (just closed) and another who is going to join St Andrews at Rushmere.Val – said she had heard of other dioceses giving days out. She has put together a leaflet which she is hoping can go to clergy so that we pay for them and their families to go out for a day. Our leaflet and grant application would be needed to come from the Bishop |  |
|  **9.** | .**DP’s Remarks** – Linda told the meeting that the trustees had met recently and discussed the annual subscription for 2022. This has been set at £23. It now includes the Connected magazine and prayer diary and any other items from MSH.Linda encouraged branches to hold the coffee mornings as requested earlier. She also mentioned the Moving On Service which is being used by branches that are changing and becoming groups of MU members who join together to pray, praise and have fellowship.Linda also said the trustees had got a letter that has come from MSH regarding paying by Direct Debit as an alternative way to pay the annual subscription. This letter had been adapted for our diocese and would be sent out to Branch Leaders and Treasurers in the next few days with the frequently asked questions and the timeline for setting up DD.  |  |
| **10.** | 5 minute break |  |
| **11.** | On our return we watched the clip from Bishop Martins address. Linda will write to the bishop and thank him for allowing us to show this. (Attached with these minutes) There were no questions. |  |
| **12** |

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|  The next item was the approval of the meeting for those willing to stand for the next Triennium. These names were shown on the screen.TrusteesVice President - Jeanette Appleton, Ipswich Area Rep Sandra Griffiths, Diocesan Members Sue Norrington, General Trustee – Val JefferiesCommunity of Interest Leads – Policy Cathie McGregor working with Christine Ward (Clewer)Proposed by Clare Thomas, seconded by Janet Walkey, agreed by all.Vacant trustee rolesNorth Suffolk Area, Sudbury Area, General Trustees x 3Vacant Community of Interest leadsFaith, Development, Media & PROfficers appointed by the trustee boardDiocesan Secretary/ Minute Taker – Beryl Mee, Indoor members rep – Monica Twaits, Over 90’s rep – Margaret Rollins, Worldwide Rep – Janice Brett, Prayer Chain- Jean Haste, Chaplin – Rev Canon Ian Wilson, AFIA – Val Jeffreys, MUe rep & Membership/DD admin – Clare Thomas.Vacant Roles Diocesan treasurer, Safeguarding Lead, Data Protection ,  |

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| **13****14.****15.** | **Mary Sumner Award –** This award is for the branch that have enrolled the most new members in the year. This year it goes to The Cathedral Branch and will be presented at the Mary Sumner Day Service on 9th August 2021. **New Banner –** Beryl said this is a work in progress as she is having to hem and insert the poles, hopes that it will be able to be dedicated by Bishop Mike at the Healing Service in October.**A.O.B** **Service on 9th August 2021 –** The Cathedral branch have offered to be sides persons and the service will be taken by Rev Ben Edwards.We were also told that Great Barton and Thurston branches have now amalgamated. They will meet at alternate churches for their meetings.  |  |

Jeanette led Mid-day prayers followed by the closing prayer. Linda then thanked all for attending and their input.

 The meeting closed at 12.00noon

Date of next meeting – **Trustee Meeting 13th October via Zoom**

* **Council Meeting 24th November 2021 at 10.00am Venue –**
* **Sancroft Memorial Hall, Back Road, Fressingfield**

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