



# the Company of Servers

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> April 2010

St.Saviour's Church St.Albans Hertfordshire

### 1. Chaplain General Welcome

Fr.Andrew Nunn welcomed those attending the first annual festival of the Company of Servers stating it was lovely to see so many people interested and involved in the Company of Servers (COS) since the inaugural meeting at St. Matthew's Westminster in May 2009. There were companions from different locations including: St.Albans, Manchester, London, Wimbledon, Croydon, Chiswick, Chipping Barnet, Salisbury, Leeds, Southwark, Stevenage and Fakenham.

He outlined the Society of Catholic Priests support for the Company arising out the Affirming Catholic organisation for lay people but recognising that servers needed to have a separate organisation to encourage and develop their distinctive ministry in the church. The servers complement the work of deacons and priests, living a rule of life and need to be part of a larger organisation to offer the companionship to promote good practice and have opportunity to gather for festivals. 'We are in heaven a long time make it an enjoyable place.'

Fr. Andrew outlined the situation and the importance of the role affirming catholics can play in the forthcoming changes at General Synod, stressing that those in the middle need to make their voice heard to assist in presenting a balanced aspect to the debate on the ordination of women to the Episcopate. He referred to a section of the Society of Catholic Priests website, 'Include me in' detailing ways in which people can ensure their voice is heard.

He thanked the team who had made the festival at St. Saviour's a successful event.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Bp. Stephen Conway - Bishop Visitor

Michael Whittle           Norwich chapter

Jim Larkin                   St. Alban's chapter

### 3. Minutes of the inaugural meeting

These were attached to the Agenda. No matters arising so accepted and signed.

#### **4. Chairman's report**

These are attached to these minutes. He wished to record special thanks to the Central Committee who had organised the first festival. He thanked Fr. Andrew Nunn for his support. Thanks were also recorded to the Society of Catholic Priests for the donation of the badges and medals. The parish of St. Saviours were thanked, particularly Fr. Peter Wadsworth, Rev'd Dr. Jo Spreadbury for preaching such an inspiring sermon on the ministry of servers - 'walk the pattern as a prayer'. The choir and organists who accompanied the services were thanked. The event was photographed by Richard Botham and pictures were put on the COS website.

#### **5. Treasurer General's report**

The Treasurer General outlined the first year of COS financial activity which would not have been possible without the generous donation from Fr. Andrew Nunn's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. He explained first accounting year was from May 2009-December 2010 to cover the setting up period. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Alison Harding (Norwich), seconded by Andrew Butcher (St. Albans). Unanimously accepted.

The budget for the future was outlined with receipts so far of £100 and an expected £500 to come from chapters subscriptions. The festival cost approximately £350 and the COS website was going to cost about £80 a year to maintain.

He outlined the set up costs that would still be needed: production of the manual but once that had been achieved the running costs of COS would be fairly low. When it became necessary charity status and/or limited company status would be investigated.

Independent examiner: Claire Stephenson Proposed by Stephen D'Silva (St. Alban's) seconded by Jo Kershaw (St. Alban's). Unanimously accepted.

#### **6. Membership Officer's report**

Attached to these minutes

#### **7. Constitution**

It was explained that the constitution had been developed from the Society of Catholic Priests constitution. Each chapter needs to create its own constitution from the Central constitution as a guide. The Central Committee serve a three year term and the company were reminded that the end of the first year had come. A question was raised concerning participation of non-members - they may speak but cannot vote.

The constitution's acceptance was proposed by Jack Harding (Norwich), seconded by John Kitchener (Treasurer General) and accepted unanimously.

The COS Children, young people and vulnerable adults policy was presented and the Chairman explained it had been taken from the central Church of England guidelines and the role of all the committee was to nurture, protect and keep safe all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Acceptance of the Children, young people and vulnerable adults policy proposed by David Stephenson (St. Alban's), seconded by Charlotte Botham (St. Alban's)

## **8. Festival 2011**

The Ripon and Leeds chapter will host the 2011 Festival and Annual General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April at St. Michael and All Angels Church Headingley Leeds LS6 3AW.



## **9. Any other business**

Norwich chapter were having difficulties opening a bank account so advice was sought from other members. St. Alban's offered a way forward.

## **10. Prayer and closing comments**

Rev'd Dr. Jo Spreadbury lead the closing prayer and thanked the Company of Servers for inviting her to preach.