



the Company of Servers

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28th April 2012

1. Chaplain General's Welcome

Fr. Andrew Nunn welcomed the companions to Croydon Minster as the host parish giving thanks to Fr. Boswell for the use of his church and facilities. He asked us to pray for Archbishop Rowan and the selection processes that will be undergone to appoint a new Archbishop later this year. The Church of England is going through an interesting and challenging time with the vote on Women Bishops at the General Synod in July 2012. Fr. Nunn reported that the Anglican Covenant had been 'killed off'.

2. Apologies for absence

London Chapter: David Beresford, John Howard, Anne Mower, Susan Jordan, Andrew Jordan.

Southwark Chapter: Kevin Wostgate, Stewart MacFarlane, Arit Okon, Ify Nbotagu, Isatta Ali-Nnadi, Sue Tanker, Peter Bourne, Lilian Thurgood, Mitzi Isaacs, Ingrid Pile-Gray, Doreen Howard, Leslie Spatt, Zacc Lindsay.

Ripon and Leeds Chapter: June Ayre, Stacy Ayre, Lulle Verrall, Ben Ellis.

Leicester Chapter: Johannes Arens (Priest), Paul Griffiths, Les Mitchelmore, Angela Sansome.

St. Alban's Chapter: Joyce Allcock, Ben Johnson, Rachael Bird, William Strong, Michael Watson, Elsie Hutcheon (Priest)

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Southwark Chapter	25
St. Alban's Chapter	5
London	3
Norwich	2
Ripon and Leeds Chapter	1
Leicester Chapter	1

3. Minutes of the St. Michael's and All Angels, Headingley Annual General Meeting

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

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

5. Chairman's report

The Chairman welcomed all companions to the 3rd Annual Festival at Croydon. He reminded companions that all the committee had served their first three year term of office and elections were to be held later in the meeting. David Warner stated that he was not standing as Chairman for a further term due to his ordination training. Thanks were given to Fr. Geoffrey, Zacc Lindsey and the companions of the Southwark Chapter who had been the hosts for the Festival. The incumbent Fr. Colin was thanked for allowing the Company of Servers to use Croydon Minster for the Festival and Fr. Mark and Denise Mead, London Chapter and their team were thanked for their help in organising the day.

The Chairman thanked the Central Committee for their work over the last three years: John Kitchener, Treasurer, Mark Charlton, Communication Officer, David Stephenson, Companionship Officer, Willy Varlow, Festival Officer, Jack Harding, Youth Officer and Rhona McEune Secretary. As there are elections to be held it is hoped that new people will come forward to serve on the Central Committee. Thanks were given to Fr. Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, Chaplain General for the support he had given Company of Servers since its beginning. Noted also was the role he would play in the selection of a new Archbishop of Canterbury.

The progress of the Diocesan Chapters was outlined with the importance of the Chapter Foundation form as a major way of counting companions and associate companions. It has been very encouraging to see the growth across the country since the beginning of the Company of Servers. None of the growth would have been possible without the help and support of the Society of Catholic Priests who encourage and 'keep the Company of Servers flag flying' in their parishes and areas.

Mark Charlton was thanked for the management of the website and his electronic expertise which has been essential in the development of the website and setting up Facebook as a means of maintaining contact with Company of Servers companions. It is however a struggle to obtain information from Chapters and more needs to be done to encourage Chapter officials to publicise their events and meetings.

During the year a successful Chapter Chairmans meeting hosted by Southwark Cathedral, had been held offering opportunity for the individual Chapter Chairmen to share their experiences and make them feel included in the work of Company of Servers nationally. It is hoped to be able to organise this meeting regularly in order to continue to take the Company of Servers forward.

It was reported that Company of Servers was stable financially and under the treasurer all debts had been paid. Five hundred medals and badges have been sold during the first three years. A relationship with charitable partner 'Life with a View' is developing.

The handbook is still in development and needs to have progress made to publish and circulate it.

The Company of Servers has a future and is growing well at parish level. The ethos is to 'do simple things well'.

David Warner reported that it had been a privilege to lead the Company of Servers through the first three years and he was leaving it stable financially with plans for

the future. He commented on the Diamond Jubilee and Her Majesty's stability over 60 years of service to her country and this is an example for the Company of Servers - to serve and be faithful to our aims and constitution, to offer prayer and praise and be a valuable part of the Church of England today.

6. Treasurer General's report

7. Attached to these minutes

John Kitchener encouraged companions to be generous to offset the expenses of Croydon Minster for hosting the Festival. He also reported that Central Committee members were able to claim Travel Expenses and that two Chapters had received financial assistance with their launch events. The insignia, medals, ribbons and badges had sold well and 510 had been purchased. The loan from the Society of Catholic Priests had helped Company of Servers and there was £555 to pay.

A question was raised concerning Chapter launch costs, answered as above, that assistance is available if needed.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by: Andrew Barrett St. Albans, seconded by Clive Watts, Leicester.

Accepted UNANIMOUSLY

Subscriptions are to remain at current levels.

Medal sales will decrease over time since companions would only purchase one.

£600 needs to be found for the Handbook and a donor, or sponsor is to be sought.

The accounts were Independently Examined by Claire Stephenson. It was proposed by Mitzi Isaacs Southwark and seconded by David Vivien St. Albans that she continue this task for 2012-2013. Accepted UNANIMOUSLY

CHANGES TO BANK MANDATE

The members resolved that the mandate given to BARCLAYS BANK PLC.

- 1. Be amended to add DAVID STEPHENSON as authorised person and remove DAVID WARNER as authorised person.**
- 2. Will continue to have full effect after specified amendments**

8. Membership Officer's report

Attached to these minutes - *(DS Please attach a copy for 2011-2012 R)*

Our membership has increased especially with children and young people in some dioceses. There are new areas of growth and the profile needs to be maintained and increased as dioceses found chapters. The ground has been prepared growth this year has been the Leicester Chapter and the Worcester Chapter. Support from clergy is vital for chapters to succeed.

Two chapters have floundered during 2011-2012, York and Bath and Wells.

Issues that need to be addressed include publicity and a commitment to serve and evangelise to encourage parishes and servers to explore Company of Servers.

Two chapters have more than 40 members - Salisbury and Exeter, Southwark has more than 100 and overall there are more than 300 companions across the country. Currently there are 35 Associate members and this level of membership is good in three years.

There issues regarding communication and response needs to be made to the Membership Officer's emails and telephone calls. This will be addressed in the next year.

In the Chichester diocese the Society of Catholic Priests chapter is in talks with some priests and servers who are sympathetic and inclusive.

9. Youth Officer's report

Jack Harding reported the growing number of young people in the Company of Servers and how valuable their contribution is. He said there were 18 young companions at the April Southwark Chapter meeting.

Attached to these minutes.

10. Central Committee Elections

Elections were held for the following positions resulting in:

CHAIRMAN	David Stephenson
SECRETARY	Dr. Rhona McEune

The post of MEMBERSHIP OFFICER did not need an election result: Alex Hobbs.

TREASURER	John Kitchener
COMMUNICATIONS	Mark Charlton
FESTIVAL	Willy Varlow
YOUTH OFFICER	Jack Harding (continue until 2013)

11. Festival 2013

This will be fixed by the new committee.

12. Any other business

Fr. Andrew Nunn mentioned the Society of Catholic Priests conference in Rome and their AGM on 3rd October 2012 on mission and evangelism and Company of Servers are invited. Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, will preach.

Alison Harding Norwich asked that voting arrangements be examined so that companions not able to attend Annual General Meetings are not excluded from voting for the Central Committee members. This will be taken to the Central Committee meeting as soon as possible after the AGM.

A presentation was made to David Warner for his service as the First Chairman of the Company of Servers.

13. Prayer and closing comments

Fr. Andrew Nunn closed the meeting with the Grace.