

345th Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust, held at the Garry Weston Library, Southwark Cathedral, on Thursday 16 November 2023 at 11.30am

Agenda

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies for absence

The apologies for absence received will not be read out but will be recorded in the minutes.

3. Minutes of the 344th annual general meeting

a) Approval of the minutes for signing

b) Matters arising from the minutes (if any)

4. Governors deceased

5. Treasurers' report

This will include the presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

6. Chief Executive's report

This will include reflections on the Trust's recently published Strategy for 2022-25.

7. Keynote address: by The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, Bishop and Principal of Ripon College: "Called on the Mountain to serve on the Plain – Priorities for Ministry Formation"

8. Elections and appointments

a) New Governors

b) Members of the Court of Assistants for the coming year (see below)

c) Treasurers for the coming year

d) Auditors

9. Date of 2024 Annual Assembly

10. Any other business

Any Governor who wishes to raise substantive business under this heading is asked to notify the Chief Executive at least two days prior to the meeting.

11. The Grace

Minutes

GOVERNORS PRESENT: Dr D Allen, The Venerable C Allsopp, Mr M Beaman, Mr P Bewers, Mrs A Brougham, The Reverend Canon S Butler, Mr A Chamberlain, Mr M Cartwright, Mrs C Chinhengo, Mr N Cocking, Dr B Corley, Mr D Cole-Adams, Mr M Cooper, Mr J Dawnay, Mr D Dickinson, Miss B Dowsett, Mrs S Evander, The Reverend Canon R F Eversley, Mr R D Farmbrough (chair), Mr R Foster, The Reverend N Goodrich, Mr J A Hargreaves, Mr P Herbage MBE KStJ, Mr L Hillman, Mr C Hoare Nairne, Mr S Hogg, Alderman R Hughes-Penney, Mrs J Jordan, The Right Reverend G Knowles, The Venerable D Lowman, Mr L March, Mrs Anna McDonald, Dr M Marcus, Mr C Menzies, The Revd R Newton, Mr J Prichard, Mr E D Roberts, Mr T Saywell, Mr D Short, Mr S Slack, Ms I Stone, The Most Reverend P Storey, Mr C Weller, Mr R Westbrook, Mr I Woolf, Dr D Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the staff of the charity.

The Reverend Canon Simon Butler, Senior Treasurer, welcomed everyone to the 345th Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust.

1. Prayers

Prayers were led by The Reverend Nancy Goodrich (Treasurer).

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received with thanks, and accepted, from 121 Governors as follows:

Mr William Aldwinckle, Mr John James 'Jock' Asbury-Bailey, Mr Timothy John Bartlett, Mr Jeremy Beachell, Mr Peter Beesley, Mr Colin Bennett, Dr Robert Bethel, Mr Michael Bithell, Mr Stephen Brooker, Ms Alex Brougham, Mr Nigel Buchanan, Dr Richard M Butler, Mr William Carrick, The Rt Revd George Cassidy, The Revd Robert Chavner, Sir Christopher Clarke, His Honour Patrick Clyne, Mr David Cole-Adams, The Revd D L Collingwood, Mr James Dawnay, Mr James de Sausmarez, Mr David John Dickinson, Mr Stephen Doble, Mr Colin Drummond, The Revd Jack Dunn, The Revd Canon David Eaton, Miss Sarah Evander, Mr Lars Evander, Mrs Kathleen Ferguson, The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher His Honour Richard Foster, The Revd Paul Frostick, Dr Pauline Gazard, Mr Trevor Gazard, The Ven Kenneth Gibbons, The Revd Canon Dr Gordon Giles, Mr Michael Gilham, Mr Alec Robert Godfrey, The Ven K R Good, The Revd Preb John H Good, Mr Andrew Gordon Clark, The Hon Mrs Liz Green, Mr Guy Greenhous, The Rt Revd David Hallatt, Mr William Standish O'Grady Haly, Mr Andrew Hamilton, The Revd David M Hart, The Revd Canon Norman Harvey, Mr David Hattersley, Mr Nicholas Heal, Mr Peter Heckingbottom, Mr Stephen Hicks, Mr Michael Hockney, Mr Tom Hoffman, Mr Christopher C J Hooper, Mr Rowland Hughes, The Revd J C Hutchinson, Mrs Miriam Irvine, Mr Simon Ives, Mr Edward Arthur Jackson, Mr M B H Jeffrey, Mrs Ann Joyce, The Revd Canon Wendy Kennedy, Mr Paul Kennerley, Mr Terry Knight, Miss Mavis Leadbitter, Mr Jonathan James Lewin, The Ven Chris Liley, The Revd D M B Mathers, Lady Ann Mawer, Mr Robert McLean, Mr Colin Menzies, Mr Peter Miall, The Ven John Morrison, Mr Howard Mundy, The Hon Mr Richard Newall, Mr Donald Newell, Commander Michael Norman, Lady Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston, Dr Roy Palmer, The Revd Canon Timothy Reeve Partridge, Sir Idris Pearce, Mr Adrian Platt, The Revd Canon Dr M Powell, Mr Jonathan Prichard,

The Revd Preb P Rapsey, Mr John Ray, Mr John Read, The Rt Revd Nicholas Reade, Mr George F Renwick, Mrs Judith Mary Rich, Mrs S F Richards, The Revd John Rick III, Mr R W Rokeby-Johnson, The Rt Revd David Rossdale, Mr Martin Gordon Rupp, The Ven N A Russell, The Revd Canon Andrew Sage, Ms Jill Sandham, Mr William Shand, Mr Leslie Smith, The Ven Malcolm Squires, Mr John Stace, The Revd J W Staples, Mr Kenneth Stern, The Revd D W G Stocker, Mr Tony Frank Robinson Stockwell, Sir John Stuttard, Mr Roy Sully, Dr James Thomson, The Revd Canon Charles Richard Truss, The Revd A J Turner, Mrs Diana Uff, Dr Bruce Varley, Lady Zoë Verney, Mr David A Wakefield, Mr Timothy Watts, Mrs Susan P Webb, Mrs Christine White, Mr Peter Worlidge and Mr Stephen Wright.

3. Minutes of the 344th Annual Assembly of Clergy Support Trust

a) Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in November 2022 were approved for signing by the chair.

b) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Governors deceased

The chair invited those present to read the names of those Governors whose death had been reported during the past year and to remember them in a moment of silence and prayer. They are as follows:

Mr D Ansell, Mrs M G Bacon, The Ven M Banting, Sir D W Brewer, Mr G K Buckley, Mr N Carter, Mrs G R Connock, Brigadier G B Curtis, Mr W H Dove, The Revd P K D Evans, The Revd H F G Floate, Mrs J M Godfrey, Mr H E Harrison, Mr Peel Holroyd, The Ven W F Johnston, Lt Col M E Jones, Mr J Passingham, Mrs A Plumptre, Mr M Sherlock, The Revd J A Slater, Mr J C Smith, Mr W B L Steinthal, The Revd Preb P Tuft, Mrs S C V Usher, Mr H R Walduck, Mr T Waller, Mr R F Wallis, The Revd G Woolveridge, Mr S Young.

5. Senior Treasurer's report, including the presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Chair presented his fifth and final report as Senior Treasurer, including the Trustees' Annual Report for 2022. The Chair drew attention to key facts and figures contained in his report, in particular the huge increases in the number of households helped (up 44% in 2022) and in our charitable spend (up 53% in 2022) and other support activities. He highlighted the continued positive feedback received from those we have helped and paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Trust, at a time of rising need from our beneficiaries; he noted the increase in staff numbers and scope of work this required, in order to help maintain our level of support. He ended his presentation by proposing a vote of thanks to the three outgoing trustees – The Reverend Jack Dunn, Alderman Robert Hughes Penney and Stephen Hogg – for their hard work and dedication.

After his report, Richard Farmbrough, as Treasurer (and incoming Senior Treasurer subject to election by the Governors), thanked Simon for his five-year tenure at the helm of the Court of Assistants, during which he noted the Trust had moved from being a responsive organisation to a proactive one.

In response to a request from a Governor for further information on the strategic reinvestment item listed in the Statement of Funds (note 15 of the Annual Report), the Chief Executive clarified that this referred to the £8m transferred from our investment portfolio to cash, in order to cover planned growth in grant expenditure, and confirmed that it sat in a high interest cash account.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting duly received the Trustees' Annual Report.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls began his presentation by congratulating The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley on her appointment as Canon Librarian for Southwark Cathedral, and thanking her for enabling us to hold our meeting in her library. He observed that the Trust had continued to see considerable change since the end of the 2022 Annual Report, and reminded the Assembly that we were approximately halfway through the current 2022-2025 strategy, and therefore, also wished to draw Governors' attention to some key highlights of 2023, against the Trust's six key strategic priorities. Highlights of recent activity included:

- continued growth in both the breadth and depth of grants allocated, and on track to reach our objective of 3000 households supported by 2025, as outlined in our strategy.
- developed work on third strategic objective, which focuses on resources, by beginning to curate a range of help and information services accessible via our website, including signposting to other sources of support.
- launched our Wellbeing Workshops as part of our fourth objective; this is a training and development project offered to dioceses, half a dozen of which have already taken advantage of it.
- Visiting Caseworker service: our two visiting caseworkers had helped over 100 families over the last year, delivering a range of support to those families whose circumstances are most complex. Their success demonstrates a shining example of working in partnership with statutory services and achieving income maximisation for clergy families from other sources.
- Research: we have just appointed a team from Bournemouth University to lead our second research project, this time looking at the wellbeing of disabled clergy; the project will be overseen by the Trust in partnership with the Church of England.

The Chief Executive also flagged the planned six-week closure to applications over the Christmas 2023 which will enable the Trust to replace our application processing software, which is no longer fit-for-purpose, with a more streamlined and user-friendly system. This is a crucial step in improving the quality of our service delivery, both for our beneficiaries' application experience and also from an administrative point of view. In closing, Ben alluded to the Trust's need to look at alternative sources of income, including fundraising, owing to the extraordinary growth in demand for our grants and services; he appealed to Governors' generosity in considering supporting us in funding exciting new projects such as Life to the Max. Governors were invited to share any questions and comments.

In response to a question from a Governor about giving grants to members of the Anglican Communion worldwide, Ben clarified that though the Trust's charitable objects did not define our geographical boundaries, for historical and practical reasons, we supported Anglican clergy within the Church of England (which includes the Diocese in Europe and the Isle of Man), the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Church of Ireland (covering both Northern Ireland and the Republic). However, we also gave a regular donation to the Personal Emergencies Fund, a charity within the Anglican Communion Fund which provides health support to deacons, priests and bishops elsewhere in the Communion.

In response to a query about the geographical distribution of our diocesan engagement, Ben explained that any gaps were due to staff capacity (noting that the entire External Relations function was less than 3.5 people FTE), rather than any particular regional bias, but that he was very much looking forward to a planned tour of southern Scotland and the Northeast in 2024.

In response to a question regarding our relationship with the Lord Crewe Charity based in Durham, the Chief Executive explained that it was one of a number of other local sources of help and funding we signposted beneficiaries to, as part of our support.

In response to a question about whether it was the first time we had supported a project such as Life to the Max, the Chief Executive clarified that it was indeed the first specific project of this kind that we had worked with; however, the wellbeing of clergy children was at the heart of our work and this project was an extension of the range of support we have offered in the past.

7. Keynote Speech: The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, Bishop and Principal of Ripon College - Called on the Mountain to serve on the Plain – Priorities for Ministry Formation

The Chief Executive introduced the speaker, The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, who spoke about the challenges faced by ordinands and the role of ministerial training in an increasingly pressurised Church. Bishop Humphrey offered his reflections on some of the key priorities for the formation of ministers. (The full text of his speech forms part of this meeting document bundle). A short discussion followed on the difficulties of IME2 and the first incumbency, which means some curates are perhaps less-well equipped to face the challenges of early ministry. The Senior Treasurer thanked Bishop Humphrey for his thought-provoking address and encouraged further discussion over lunch.

8. Elections:

The Chair began by asking the Governors to receive formally the Treasurers' Report. (received by show of hands)

a) New Governors

Dr Gianetta Corley, Mrs Anna McDonald, Mr Christopher Pownall, Dr Wendy Scott and Dr David Wright were elected as Governors. The Chair took this opportunity to ask Governors to encourage others to join.

b) Members of the Court of Assistants for the coming year

The Chair asked the Assembly to formally elect the Court, as listed below. The Court was unanimously elected for the coming year, including new trustee Anna MacDonald:

The Reverend Canon Simon Butler	Ms Jackie Jordan
Mr Adam Chamberlain	Mrs Anna MacDonald
Mr Martin Cooper	Dr Oluwamayowa Marcus
Ms Constance Chinhengo	The Reverend Ruth Newton
Mr Richard Farmbrough	Mr Stephen Slack
The Reverend Nancy Goodrich	The Most Reverend Patricia Storey
Mr Jeremy Hargreaves	

c) Treasurers

The Chair commended Mr Richard Farmbrough as his successor as Senior Treasurer, as well as Mrs Constance Chinhengo as Treasurer to be appointed by the Governors. The following were unanimously elected to serve as Officers of the charity:

- Mr Richard Farmbrough elected as Senior Treasurer.
- The Reverend Nancy Goodrich re-elected as a Treasurer.
- Mrs Constance Chinhengo elected as a Treasurer.

d) Auditors

Buzzacott LLP were elected unanimously as auditors of the charity for the coming year.

9. Date of 2023 Annual Assembly

The Chair stated that the date for the 2023 Annual Assembly would be brought forward to 10 October 2024, in order to avoid the clashes with General Synod and Remembrance Sunday services which frequently occurred in November.

11. Any other business

There being no other business, the Senior Treasurer thanked the Governors for their continued support, and invited everyone to lunch. He invited Bishop Humphrey to close the meeting with a blessing, in place of the usual Grace.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.