

THE
**PRAYER
BOOK**
SOCIETY

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*A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England: Company No. 04786973 and Registered
Charity: No. 1099295*

Isle of Man Registered Charity No. 952

Registered Office: The Studio, Copyhold Farm, Lady Grove, Goring Heath, READING RG8 7RT

MINUTES

**of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 18th August 2023
at Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD**

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Prayer Book Society, Mr Bradley Smith. The minutes of this meeting were taken by the Company Secretary, Mrs Fi Rosen.

The meeting commenced at 11.30 a.m.

1. The Chairman, Mr Bradley Smith, welcomed those present to the Annual General Meeting and opened the meeting in prayer. He welcomed all who were in attendance and said what a joy it was to see everybody and how much we were enjoying all that we had experienced at Conference in Liverpool so far. He expressed special thanks to Mrs Rosemary Hall, the Conference Organiser, for all that she had done, and was continuing to do, to make this Conference so enjoyable and memorable.
2. The Company Secretary reported the number of apologies received prior to the meeting and also stated that 39 proxy votes had been submitted. No additional apologies were taken from the floor. It was noted that the requirements for a quorum had been met, by reference to the number of members present and represented by proxy.
3. The minutes of the AGM held on 9th September 2022 at Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD were noted, and it was noted that last year's AGM had been very short due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen having occurred the previous day. The minutes were agreed by those present, with one abstention, and signed as a true record.
4. The Treasurer, Mr Paul Meitner, presented the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Mr Meitner reported that there was one small error within the Accounts relating to the section number of the Companies Act referred to in the auditors' opinion, and this will be corrected before they are signed and filed. The Accounts had been audited by Messrs. Richardson, Chartered Accountants, who had found them to be in good order. Mr. Meitner

reported that the Society's finances generally are in good health and so we are able to look into carrying out new activities and events in the months ahead, some of which would be discussed further later in this AGM. The Chairman moved that the Accounts be received and the motion was carried *nem con*.

5. The Treasurer proposed that Messrs. Richardsons be appointed as auditors for the next financial year. This was carried by all those present, with one vote against submitted by proxy.

Election of Trustees

6. The Reverend Christopher Hancock and Mrs Fi Rosen were due for re-election and were duly elected for a further four year term of office by all present, with one vote against submitted by proxy. It was noted that there is one vacancy remaining, as the Reverend Dr Daniel Newman has come to the end of his term of office and he is now resident in the United States of America. He is, however, prepared to continue until such time as a replacement can be found, and he is still able to participate in Board business via Zoom. It is ideally hoped to be able to appoint a person from the conservative evangelical tradition of the Church and although two potential candidates have been identified, neither are able to stand for the Board for this coming year. It was therefore PROPOSED to re-elect the Reverend Dr Daniel Newman, on the understanding that he will resign from office when a suitable replacement is identified.

This was PROPOSED by the Chairman and SECONDED by John Dearing.

The proposal was agreed *nem con*.

The current list of Trustees is as follows:

Mr Bradley Smith (Chairman)
Mr Paul Meitner (Treasurer)
Mrs Fi Rosen (Company Secretary)
The Reverend Dr Stephen Edmonds
Mr Iain Milne
The Reverend Dr Daniel Newman
Mr Jon Riding
The Reverend Adam Gaunt
The Reverend Christopher Hancock
The Reverend Canon Rebecca Swyer
The Reverend Canon Dr Theresa Lawton

Chairman's Business

7. The Chairman, Mr Bradley Smith, spoke of a really exciting time in the life of the Prayer Book Society, with many people, especially young people, coming to an appreciation of the Book of Common Prayer and its timeless pattern and rhythm of life and worship. Membership of the Society is rising as so many people are seeking authenticity in worship. It was reported that there were 26 new Corporate Member churches last year and this year, there are 38.

He invited Mr Jon Riding to the floor to speak about the exciting new partnership between the Cranmer Awards and the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The Chairman and Mr Riding have held meetings with the Director of the RSCM, Mr Hugh Morris. It had been noted that there is a need to broaden the opportunity and scope of participation in the Awards. The RSCM's *Voice for Life* programme is to work alongside the Cranmer Awards and candidates are now to be able to enter the Awards on-line where there is no local heat for them to participate in. The Society has also commissioned a new Anthem for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity, which is to be performed for the first time next week and it will also be performed at the Society's Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 7th October.

Mr Riding stated that judges and time-keepers are needed for the Awards and members were urged to think of anybody within their parishes who might be prepared to do this for the on-line heats. Contact should be made either with him or Mrs Jo Clark, the Cranmer Awards Administrator, about this.

The Chairman then spoke about the Prayer Book Mission Church in Exeter, which is beginning to flourish, and another church in another part of the country is also keen to take this on. He reported that we are now very close to being able to advertise a role, sponsored by the Society, for a Prayer Book Missioner to lead and teach on the BCP within a church in the Diocese of Norwich.

He also reported that the East London Evensong Choir is a growing initiative and two more similar initiatives are now attracting many young people to participate in choral evensong and matins, with much enthusiasm being generated for choral and Prayer Book worship. A total of 47 children are currently singing matins and receiving teaching on the BCP. In addition, a similar evensong project is also beginning in Brighton.

The Prayer Book Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which is taking place between 31st August and 10th September this year, aims to bring about a Rule of Life, and this will be reported on further at next year's AGM.

The Society's 51st Anniversary celebrations, postponed from last year, are to take place at St. Margaret's Westminster on Saturday 7th October.

The Chairman concluded his Report by thanking all members for their continued commitment to the work entrusted to the Prayer Book Society. He noted that the BCP is essential for a sense of unity in a fractured church.

At the conclusion of the Report, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the members of the Board was PROPOSED by Mr Charles Barton and SECONDED by Miss Prudence Dailey.

Amendment to Articles of Association

8. The following SPECIAL RESOLUTION was discussed:

THAT, with effect from the conclusion of the Meeting, the Articles of Association of the Society be and hereby are amended by deleting Article 10 and replacing it with the following new Article 10::

“A general meeting is not valid unless a quorum of members of the Charity is present in person, or by proxy, or, in the case of a corporate member by its duly-appointed corporate representative throughout the meeting; the quorum is 15 members of the Charity or if the number of members is less than 30, then 50% of that number shall be the quorum”.

This was PROPOSED by the Treasurer and SECONDED by Mrs Joanna Comer and was AGREED by those present, with one vote against from the floor.

Date of Next AGM

9. This is still to be agreed and will be communicated to members as soon as possible after this meeting.

Any Other Business

10. There was no further business.

Closing Prayer

11. O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for Trinity XVI).

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 12.13 p.m.