

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA
at 3pm on Thursday 16 September 2021
In person and by Zoom

Attendance

Trustees: Rebecca Banfield, Nancy Branson, Brian Evans, Judy Guy-Briscoe, Signe Hoffos, David Jessop, Oliver Leigh-Wood and Lesley Thrift. **Skyline Editor:** Judy Stephenson.

Administrator: Karen Hearn 40 friends in person and 26 by Zoom including Trustee Tony Tucker
There were apologies for absence from Trustee: John Reynolds and four Friends.

1. The online consultation held during July and August 2020 in lockdown was agreed as follows:
 - The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019 were confirmed.
 - The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted.
 - Grateful thanks were extended to Alexey Moskvina and John Wilson who resigned their roles at the meeting.
 - Rebecca Banfield was welcomed to the Trustees, as Honorary Treasurer.
 - Nancy Branson, Signe Hoffos and Tony Tucker were re-elected as Trustees for a period of three years.
 - Keith Raffan and Co. were reappointed as Independent Examiners.

3 The Chairman's Report

This can be found in full on the website following the click the blue link at the bottom of the home page called Annual Review. Here are the highlights reported at the meeting.

The Editor of *Skyline* is coming to the end of her tenure and we are looking for a replacement. The City is beginning to wake up and *City Events* can be found on the website where it is updated every two weeks. Trustee Signe Hoffos is maintaining the website there have been 16,000 visits. We need more IT support, anyone who would be willing to share their skills should email the office on contact_us@london-city-churches.org.uk. The 2020 Carol Service was held at St James Garlickhythe which has the technology to send the service around the world. Thirty people were permitted to attend and many others joined online. We were the grateful recipients of £4,000 raised from 'Carols in the City' recorded at St Anne and St Agnes where Voces8 performed beautifully and (note from Hon. Sec and office junior) our chairman spoke eloquently, holding a copy of Tony Tucker's The Visitor's Guide to the *City of London Churches*. We were delighted with the up surge in sales after this event. Merchandise sales continued despite lock down and we were most grateful for the use our outreach office in N21.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Hon. Treasurer, Becky Banfield extended grateful thanks for the generosity and support of the Friends over the last, very difficult, 18 months. Thanks to them we still have a functioning charity.

Although we have lost money this year we still have the funds to support churches through the small grants scheme and we are eager to continue doing so.

The balance sheet begins to look healthier as bookings are once again being made for the use of St Mary Abchurch.

5 The Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 were received by acclimation.

6 The following Trustees were re-elected for a period of three years Brian Malcolm Evans, Oliver Leigh-Wood and Lesley Diane Thrift. Proposed by Jennifer Shapley and seconded by Diana Tyson.

7 Keith Raffan and Co were reappointed as Independent Examiners proposed by Devon Maserati and seconded Grethe Hague

8 Any other business

Thanks were given for the detail in the Annual Report, but it was requested that papers were put on the website in a more timely fashion next year.

Friends thought it would be helpful to have a distinction between subscriptions and donations. Becky Banfield will investigate.

A question was asked about the number of people in limbo. Karen Hearn described the system of reminder letters. Friends in limbo only receive the May edition of *Skyline* which contains details of the AGM. Jenifer Shapley reported that another society she belongs to regard out of date membership payments as donations.

There was a suggestion that an IT expert be paid to attend the next AGM.

Questions were asked regarding the viability of installing a hearing loop in St Mary Abchurch.

Sonja Judith Guy-Briscoe
Honorary Secretary
September 2021