

# CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN JERSEY

## Minutes of the AGM 2017 – October 9<sup>th</sup> at St Helier Methodist Centre

**Present:** Rev Graeme Halls, Very Rev Dean Michael Keirle, Mgr Nicholas France, Lieutenant Alice Nunn, Elizabeth Mullane, Sebastien Valax, Katie de la Mare, Gill Carter, Rev Martin & Sue Dryden, Charles Thacker, Sue Jones, Mary Osmond, Rev Martin Shea, Rev Jenny Pathmarajah, Delia Hardiman, Rev Robin Dupré, John Scally, Mike Ruskin, Barbara Coram, Christine Le Marquand, Jen Le Rossignol, David Capps, Rev Beverley Sproats, Deputy Andrew & Kate Lewis, Jackie Edwards, Rev Tony Ward, Malcolm Lewis, Rosemary de la Haye, Constable Michel Le Troquer, Terry & Angela Le Sueur

**Apologies:** Rev Tony Morling, Rev Jane Ilton, Rev Geoff Houghton, Rev Gerry Baudains, Rev Iain MacFirbhisigh, Rev Nico Hilmy Jones, Georgie Meikle, Jean Le Maistre, Maurice Dubras, Maureen Rayson, Carole Jordi

**1. Opening Prayer** was led by Chairman Rev Graeme Halls

### **2. Welcome**

Rev Graeme Halls welcomed everyone, especially clergy new to Jersey, including Very Reverend Michael Keirle, Dean of Jersey. Rev Keirle briefly introduced himself.

**3. Minutes of the AGM 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising:** Housing and Mental Health. Rev Martin Shea said that although all church leaders were very aware of mental health issues there was a need to find out just how often church leaders came across these issues. The church was a 'safe place' but the recent Mind Jersey report did not consult the church. The gap between Orchard House and La Chasse needed to be closed. The States was aware of this too. He had had a meeting with the CTJ Housing Trust to consider the possibility of founding a 'safe' house with trained Christian professionals where people could live and tackle their issues. He wondered if the churches could do this together.

Christine Le Marquand commented that this was an area in which the former Amos Group had worked.

### **4. Purpose of CTJ**

Rev Halls presented the Way Forward paper (**attached**) listing the activities that came under the CTJ umbrella. These were joint activities – but churches undertook individual activities also.

## **5.Appointment of Officers** - the following were re-appointed for a further year

Chairman	Rev Graeme Halls
Treasurer	Mike Ruskin
Ecumenical Officer	Rev Martin Dryden
Secretary	Angela Le Sueur

Jackie Edwards thanked the officers for their work.

### **Need for Deputy Chairman**

As this was Rev Halls' final year as Chairman, a Deputy Chairman was needed to take over from him in 2018. Although the chairman was usually a church minister a lay person could be appointed.

**Mgr Nicholas France suggested that nominations for Deputy Chair should be emailed to Rev Halls.**

## **6. CTJ Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Ruskin**

<b>Opening Cash in hand</b> on Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2017	£954
Income from subscriptions	£1250
Cost of two editions of LINK	(£1461)
Subs to AJC £15 & CTE £175)	(£190)
<b>Cash in hand</b> on 9/10/17	£553

## **7. Christian Aid**

Mrs Jen Le Rossignol gave the report. Since spring she had been employed for 7 hours per week by Christian Aid. She commented that she 'was trying to fill Ed Le Quesne's big shoes,'

A Christian Aid Jersey Facebook page had been set up to encourage churches to share their events and get in touch to access resources.

Jersey was now part of the British Islands Island-to-Island appeal, partnering the Philippines to pray, fund and support them after the 2013 hurricane. Arrangements were in place to ensure that money was channelled in the right direction and went only to the Island-to-Island appeal.

### **Christian Aid Financial report - Mike Ruskin**

<b>Cash in hand</b> on Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2017	£584
Income from donations	£1545
10 Lent Lunches	£6655 ( 2016 - £7285)
Christian Aid Week	£1383 ( 2016 - £3503)
Christian Aid had been given	£8200
<b>Cash in hand</b> on 9/10/2017	£1967

Mike commented that income had decreased – fewer Lent lunches and fewer house-to-house collections in Christian Aid week.

## **8. Jersey Link**

Rev Martin Dryden said that LINK was 'CTJ's shop window'. He enjoyed working on the committee and was pleased that a Methodist member was now to join. A highlight had been interviewing the new Dean. The next edition would be published at Candlemas.

## **9. Other Reports**

### **a) CTJ Housing Trust**

Advocate Charles Thacker, Chairman of the Trust, said that the main focus at present was the development of the Minden Street building purchased in 2015. After a setback, planning permission had been granted to develop 31 units of affordable accommodation on this site near the centre of town for those disadvantaged in housing. Demolition of the existing building would be finished in November and the project would be completed in 2019. It was intended to name the building 'Ed Le Quesne House'.

All tenants had to come from the Gateway which had different levels of need.

Rev Martin Shea commented that he knew people with mental health issues who were not the highest priority on the Gateway.

Rev Halls asked if the rents would be affordable – Adv. Thacker said they were affordable for those unable to afford private housing.

Rev Halls thanked Adv. Thacker for his work which Adv. Thacker said was very interesting – but demanding at present.

### **b) Caritas Jersey – John Scally**

#### **Living Wage project**

John invited people to take copies of the brochure explaining this work. He said that the project was frustrating because companies which had indicated willingness to sign up had not realised that cleaners and gardeners who maintained their work places must also be paid at this level too, - £9.75 an hour. Usually such work was outsourced to gardening and cleaning contractors who had to agree to this minimum before the whole company could sign up.

Deputy Andrew Lewis commented that more pressure was needed to be put on the States to introduce this level of pay to all workers so that they could have a decent quality of life which the current Minimum Wage did not allow.

#### **Prisoners' Families Support Scheme – John Scally**

This scheme had been launched on May 1<sup>st</sup> with the help of one part-time worker funded by The One Foundation. Referrals were received from the Probation Service and Children's Services. Children of prisoners were sometimes bullied in school. John commented on one mother who had originally 'jumped in fright and could not look at me' who now, some months later, was employed and had grown in confidence.

Mgr Nicholas said than whilst he was visiting La Moye a prisoner had thanked him for the scheme.

## **Candles for Venezuela**

This project, in partnership with Caritas Venezuela, was not only aimed at helping people of Venezuela in the desperate circumstances they were experiencing, but also to encourage local Portuguese people to engage in social action for themselves. About half a million Madeirans lived in Venezuela and almost every Madeiran living in Jersey had relatives there or had been born there. So far £4,500 had been raised by selling these candles.

### **c) Christians against Poverty – CAP- Malcolm Lewis.**

Malcolm said that he had become involved when Rev Martin Shea hosted a delegation of CAP in Jersey.

Founded in 1996 by a severely indebted man, CAP aimed to meet people at their point of need. At the end of 2016 CAP Jersey Ltd was set up through the initiative of Rev Shea and Rev Tony Morling. Every church could become a member.

The aim of CAP was to help people get out of debt and manage their budgets.. Two days previously Jo Spybe had run a training day for debt counsellors which was attended by 29 people from 12 different churches.

Malcolm asked those present to channel ideas as to how to contact those not coping financially. CAP's desire was to complement other organisations, not compete. There was a connection with the Community Bank.

### **d) Cinnamon Trust – Malcolm Lewis.**

The Cinnamon Trust had been founded in England by Matt Bird who had recently visited Jersey. A Jersey Advisory Council had been set up. Jean Le Maistre, currently out of the Island, was the prime contact.

The aim of Cinnamon was to look at the good things the churches were doing in the community to see where gaps and overlaps were. CAP was an organisation endorsed by Cinnamon.

Matt Bird had met Chief Minister Ian Gorst who was interested. The Chief of Police also supported the idea.

The first stage was to carry out a Cinnamon audit to record all church-based work in Jersey, work out the benefits to the community and what it was worth financially. The audit would cost £3,600.

Timetable: preparation until Christmas; questionnaire for the audit in January; full report from Cinnamon; then consultation about the way forward.

Rev Halls said he thought the audit was a good idea – the challenge would be what would happen next.

## 10. AOB

### **Prayer Canopy**

**Gill Carter** said that 60 people took part in this, but 168 were needed so that someone was praying every hour of every week. Ministers and their families were prayed for as well as the events published in the Christian Calendar.

**Christian Calendar** at [www.christiancalendar.org.je](http://www.christiancalendar.org.je)

**Gill** asked people to use this service to advertise church events, as well as to avoid double bookings. She would be pleased to have church newsletters emailed to her so that she could add events listed in these.

### **Bright Lights**

**Rev Martin Shea** commented on the success of the recent Bright Lights band visit which had reached over 2,000 young people in Jersey. This Christian band had visited Victoria College, JCG, Les Quennevais and Beaulieu

### **Jersey Retreat Association**

**Christine Le Marquand** said that the last **Quiet Day of 2017** would be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> at St Andrew's Church, led by Rev Mark Barrett.

'Waiting on God in Silence' afternoons happened on the first Tuesday of every month at 2 pm in the Lady Chapel of St Martin's Parish Church.

**Mgr. Nicholas** asked for prayers for the repose of the soul of **Sister Marie-Christiane**, one time teacher at Beaulieu, then chaplain at Hospice, who had died in retirement at Beaulieu's Mother House in Brittany.

**11.** The meeting ended with all saying The Grace.