



Minutes of the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting

Sunday 29th August 2021

1. **Opening Prayer and Introduction** was said at 12.00 noon

2. **Attendance and Apologies**
Attendees (12): Tuomas Mäkipää, Parvez Gill, Jane Mayhew-Smith, Ron Peake, Daniel Jack, Henry Rawstorne, Johnson Samuel, Arne Laitinen, Anja Haltia, Humphrey Kalanje, Sarah Tahvanainen, Linda Jämsen (via zoom)
Apologies: David Bullivant & Michael Pegg

3. **Appointment of meeting officials**
 Humphrey Kalanje and Daniel Jack were appointed to check the minutes of the meeting

4. **Adoption of minutes from the 2019 ACM**
 - 4.1 Matters Arising - Joining the Inclusive Church Network was adopted at the last ACM and a formal request will now be made to join the network.

5. **Annual Report 2020, Financial Report 2020 & Auditor's statement**
 - 5.1 The Annual Report was summarised by the Chaplain:
 - The Chaplaincy needed to adapt to the global pandemic and it was encouraging to see the community working together to support the core functions of the Church.
 - Thanks was given to the people at St Nicholas for taking care of each, a sign of the love, respect and care within our community.
 - A vote of thanks was also given to the Sunday School/Youth team for equipping our children to grow as responsible Christians and citizens of our society, and for finding creative ways to ensure our children's ministry continued during the pandemic.
 - Significant efforts were made in our music ministry, streaming of services and managing the office in a more progressive way, as well as expanding the Urdu ministry.
 - During the Chaplain's summer leave the chaplaincy was able to continue without the need for external locums, which was a change from previous years and Father Parvez' support was much appreciated in enabling this to happen.
 - The Chaplaincy has the capability to get involved in more inter-faith webinars, as demonstrated by the successful webinar for youth in Finland and Ireland
 - Our involvement in a webinar on urban planning, led by Humphrey Kalanje, was an example of how we can play an active role in society
 - Henry Rawstorne has helped to raise climate issues and continues to help challenge the Church in making positive changes for the environment
 - Humphrey Kalanje asked for an update on the White Nile Congregation. Tuomas explained that the community is dispersed throughout different parts of Finland and that questions about their future ministry need to be raised in discussion with Father Amos. We heard that Father Amos had been stranded in South Sudan for a considerable time due to pandemic travel restrictions, and that he had since been appointed to the Chair of Human Rights Commission in that area. Father Amos is currently on leave in Finland and the chaplaincy is finding ways to support him in his new role.

5.2 Financial Report 2020 by Johnson Samuel

- The deficit of 11,905 euros was mainly due to loss of plate-giving
 - We received a donation from the Diocese of Europe for 8,802 euros
 - Father Parvez was appointed with a stipend of 15,000 euros, paid for by grants and fundraising
 - Erik Johannes Riekko was appointed as a part-time and now full-time Director of Music
 - The council decided to keep to the requirement that only 40% of annual profit from our principle investments be used
 - Annual profit in investments was higher than that previously gained from the flats owned by the Chaplaincy
 - Various grants have successfully been applied for and received
 - A fundraiser permit was granted on 1 July 2020
 - Handels Bank Account has been used for Urdu ministry and music ministry
 - We now have more personnel – 2 assistant priests, an office manager, director of music, 2 locums
- Daniel Jack thanked Johnson for the useful overview of our finances and added that the deficit was not onerous considering the pressures the Chaplaincy was under during the pandemic and the added costs of setting up streaming of services. He praised the Wardens and Council for a job well done! Humphrey Kalanje added a vote of thanks to the Council and the Chaplain remarked that their wisdom and courage in making hard decisions had led us to this point where we are financially secure. For example the key contribution from Jeffrey Phillips would not have happened without the work of the Council.
- The report was approved, having been proposed by Arne Laitinen and seconded by Henry Rawstorne.

5.3 Auditor's Statement

- The Chaplain read out the statement approving closure of accounts in Finnish, and translated it into English. Correct and adequate information about the Chaplaincy's financial situation was received by the Auditor, as required by existing legislation and rules.
- Daniel Jack raised an issue that the Auditor's statement should be provided in English, and if this cannot be supplied by the current company then the council should consider appointing a new auditor. Anja Haltia reiterated the importance of having the document in English and suggested a certified translator could also be employed by the company next time.
- The statement was approved following a proposal by Jane Mayhew-Smith, seconded by Humphrey Kalanje.

6. **Approval of the Church Accounts from the fiscal year 2020**

The meeting approved the Church accounts from the fiscal year 2020

7. **Discharging the Council from the liability for the Chaplaincy Accounts from the period 1.1.2020-31.12.2020**

The motion was passed, having been proposed by Jane Mayhew-Smith and seconded by Humphrey Kalanje.

8. **Confirmation of Electoral Roll**

It was noted that there are 49 names on the Electoral Roll as of 29th August 2021

9. **Election of church officials**

- Johnson Samuel and Arne Laitinen were elected as Churchwardens
- Lara McCoy, Henry Rawstorne, Ron Peake & Ameena Noel were elected to the Chaplaincy Council
- Linda Jämsen and Humaira John were elected as Deanery Synod representatives

10. **Deciding on number of elected members in the Council for 2022**

- The meeting approved the number of elected council members to be kept at 4. If necessary, the number can be changed before the next election.
- The next council can consider whether paid members of the chaplaincy should also be council members, in which case advice should be sought from the Diocese. The Chaplain emphasised how important it was to have sufficient lay members in the council.

11. The Budget for 2020 was noted

12. Draft Budget for 2022

Arne Laitinen reported that we are in a good position, especially given the lack of income from the cancelled Bazaar and loss of plate giving.

- The Chaplain added that the Parish Federation is looking to save a considerable amount of money but there is no clear roadmap for how this will be achieved. We cannot assume that we will receive future grants or that we will be able to continue to use the premises at Mikael Agricola for free. If we are asked to pay rent then we need to consider whether that will lead to greater freedom in our use of the building and facilities – or whether an alternative solution should be sought.
- Assuming we continue with the status quo we can manage some level of change but we may need to prioritise and remove items on our budget. We have had verbal assurance from the Parish Federation that our budget for 2022 will be similar to 2021 but we have no confirmation of what to expect beyond 2022.

13. Any other business

The Chaplain thanked Daniel Jack, who has stepped down from the council, for his wisdom and valued contributions in helping move the Chaplaincy forward in the right direction.

13.1 New Vision & Mission Statements were adopted

13.2 The decision regarding appointment of a candidate for Board of the Finnish Ecumenical Council will be transferred to the new Council

13.3 Election of at least three trustees (board members) for the St Nicholas' Foundation will need to be appointed at the next ACM. In the meantime, potential candidates can be suggested to the Council.

13.4 Update from Humphrey Kalanje on behalf of the St Nicholas' Foundation Trustees

- Humphrey thanked the Council and Church as a whole for their support. He reported that some fundraising events such as concerts had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but that the Trust was in a stable and good position. Their investment portfolio has grown but more expertise in growing funds and active fundraising is needed. Humphrey welcomed any new ideas on fundraising from members of the congregation
- The Foundation is open to receiving grant applications and ideas from the congregation on how to spread the Anglican mission in Finland
- The Foundation's website is a work in progress and any comments or advice are encouraged.

13.5 Getting back to 'normality'

The Chaplain gave reassurance that local and Diocesan rules regarding Covid safety continue to be followed and that the work of the Chaplaincy continues to be forward looking, with upcoming events shared via the weekly newsletter. It was acknowledged that there are Church members who do not yet feel safe to return to church and that reliance on public transport during covid has added to this. The role of Verger has been a positive outcome from the pandemic and is set to continue.

14. Thanks & Closing prayer

The Chaplain gave thanks to all the volunteers who enable our Chaplaincy to thrive. The meeting ended with a time of silence and prayer for Joan Eriksson, who was remembered with much affection.