

**Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting  
held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am  
via Zoom**

**Present:** John Betts, Ann Nicholl, Carmel Gorman, Linda Blenkinsopp, Lydia Groenewald, Karen Williams, Joe Cortis, Kathryn Fitzsimons, Sue Best, Anna Thomas, Tom Chigbo, Wendy Smith, Charlotte Naylor Davis, Anna Bland, Jay Anderson, Nigel Greenwald, Shona Shaw, David Slater, Sarah Hancox, Phill Hopkins, Canon Sam Corley

**In Attendance:** Helen Reid, Miriam O’Keeffe, Rachel Walker (Minutes)

**The Chair:** Ann Nicholl

1. **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting. The Chair also read out a statement from the Council quoting Memorandum 49 of LCI’s Memorandum of Association to approve the meeting through Zoom. Members were requested to vote, propose and second items using the Chat Box. It was also noted that the AGM was being recorded for the purpose of Minutes only.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Helen Reid led the opening devotions
3. **Apologies for absence** – Carol Burns
4. **Minutes** – The minutes of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair.
5. **Matters arising** – None
6. **Report of Council & Auditors** – John Betts outlined a summary of the accounts, as Treasurer, and confirmed they had been issued, audited and approved by Council. John advised a full version of the accounts was available from Miriam and would also be available to view on the Charity Commission website. The following points were noted:
  - The building at 20 New Market Street had been refurbished in 2019. A fire, not caused by LCI, in the building towards the end of 2019 meant the Learning Centre had closed unexpectedly for a period.
  - A very good year: Investments continue to bring in the majority of the revenue and this has increased from 2018. The Learning Centre has covered the costs of running and delivered some income but the turnover was less than 2018 owing to the fire.
  - 2020 will be a very different picture because of COVID-19, including the temporary closure of the Learning Centre, although investments have held up well to date. John advised that members can be reassured that despite the challenges of 2020, LCI can draw on its asset base and continue it’s charitable purpose.

**Proposal** – That the accounts be adopted by the AGM and that Thomas Coombs be re-appointed as Auditors – John Betts

**Seconded** – Jay Anderson and Joe Cortis

**All agreed.**

7. **Election of Council Members & Officers**

Anne Beale, Mark Harwood and John Betts are all stepping down as Council members. The Chair thanked Anne, Mark and John very sincerely for their years of service and expressed a

deep appreciation for all they have done. Helen also thanked those stepping down and advised that two recently published books written by LCI members were on their way as a thank you, with a book token. Lydia Groenewald and Joy Mapanga were appointed as Council Member and Lydia is taking on the role of Treasurer.

**Proposed by** – Joe Cortis

**Seconded** – Sarah Hancox

**All agreed.**

## 8. Annual Review

Helen Reid as Director presented the annual review which is summarised in Autumn CITYtheology which was published and posted out to all members w/c 21<sup>st</sup> September.

- **Events** – owing to a change in strategy aiming for bigger and fewer events, the 30 events had more attendees than the 60 events run in 2018. A particular highlight was an event focused on environmental concerns with Carmody Grey speaking on the Pope's encyclical *Laudati Si*. Leeds pLent Diary
- **Creative Reflection** – The Leeds Listening Yurt provided a creative listening space for pupils and teachers from schools around Leeds. There were a number of key themes including that of Pilgrimage, which offered a rich topic for reflection.
- **Ecumenical Mission** – Events included supporting the launch of the Leeds Lent Diary, hosting Jewish perspectives in the 'Eye as Witness' exhibition in partnership with the National Holocaust Centre and the annual Hook Lecture entitled 'Poets, Prophets and Protestors' hosted by Canon Mark Oakley. The impact has been extended beyond the event dates, leading to the evolution of partnerships, more vibrant content and resources.
- **Publications** – There were 4 editions of CITYtheology and Si Smith's comic book called "Signs".
- **Social Media** – LCI continued to extend the reach of the content from events, research and publications to stimulate debate, reflection and prayer in a growing online audience.
- **City Engagement** – The partnership with Leeds Citizens was highlighted with its focus on building leadership in local communities and the joint employment of a Community organiser.
- **Arts & Theology bursary** – The bursary appointing a theologian and artist to work together was launched in 2019 and will result in an exhibition that is planned to open in November 2020.
- **Learning Centre** – made a significant contribution to such a positive year for hospitality and service.

Ann Nicholl thanked Helen and the LCI staff team for all their hard work, commenting on the development of the work of LCI as having taken a great step forward under Helen's leadership supported by the tremendous work of the team.

## 9. Update on Arts & Theology Bursary

Phill Hopkins, appointed as visual artist for the bursary, outlined his role and the ideas behind the 'House of Questions'. Phill then introduced a short film about the work and thanked the Church of the Epiphany in Gipton for hosting the first exhibition of the finished pieces.



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Dr Charlotte Naylor Davis, appointed as theologian for the bursary, introduced herself and expanded on the ideas behind the 'House of Questions' reading from her recent blog "Why I love questions" as well as reflection on the death of Lazarus. Charlotte confirmed these ideas will be included in writings that will also be part of the exhibition.

Canon Sam Corley, as Chair of the Council, thanked John, Anne and Mark and John for their years of dedicated service as Council members. Sam also thanked all Council members for their work. Sam commented on how different 2020 has been compared to 2019 and requested prayers from members and friends of LCI as the Council face some big and strategic decisions.

Anne thanked Miriam for organising the AGM via Zoom, as well as everyone for attending. The meeting was called to a close.

**Signed..... Date.....**