

**The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for
THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION FOR SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN
/formerly SCA
Registered Charity No1180881
was held on Saturday 17 June 2023 at 12.00
at St Andrew's, Waterloo**

Present – There were 18 attendees in person and 13 on the ZOOM link (a few more joined in the afternoon.)

The meeting opened with prayer.

1. Welcome and apologies – The chairman welcomed the members to the AGM and the following apologies were received: - Charles Raven, Mary Forticulus, Peter Marshall, Jill Parry, Brigadier Val Bachelor, Mary Brookes and Michael Cowgill

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM – As there were no alterations these were proposed by Wendy Fry and seconded by Sara Taffinder and then accepted unanimously by the members and signed as a record of the 2022 AGM.

3 Matters arising – There were none

4. Chairman's report – The chairman Ian Wallace summarised the year saying that it had been a year of ups and downs a real roller coaster. There was joy at the quality of the leadership of the churches and the way that they are going forward. The Sudanese bishops played a mature part in the Lambeth conference and it was a good to meet up with them in Salisbury. The biggest down this year was the sudden closure of the Barclays Bank account which was an unforeseen event. The account has now been reinstated and we also have an additional bank account with the Co-op Bank. We still rely heavily on Barclays as they are the only bank that will transfer funds to Sudan and South Sudan. We could use the Western Union but they are expensive and only transfer small amounts of money. Ian thanked CASSS supporters for their support and help during this crisis many of whom wrote not only to Barclays but to their MP's. He also recognised the hard work that John Poole did to rectify the situation and thanked him. He assured the members that CASSS continues to support the work in Sudan and South Sudan and have done this through supporting income generating projects. Wendy Fry and John Inglis-Jones went to South Sudan to look at the newly refurbished Guest House and also the Provincial finances. CASSS had agreed to support the office and accommodation block for the ECS but the events of the last few months have not made this possible. In fact a lot of damage has been done to the Provincial offices and Cathedral compound (this became the headquarters for the rebel group) and when peace comes this will need to be accessed and the funding would then be used for repairs. The trustees continue to meet two times a year and the standing committee at intervals in-between. There were no questions.

5. Financial report for year ending 31 December 2022 – John Poole spoke to the financial report copies of which were available on the CASSS website and on the charities commission website and John had some in his hand. He noted that the accounts are very straight forward and made the following comments: -

- Although there was no income in November and December because of the bank problem, income generally has held up. The trustees are trying to quantify the losses.

- £80,000 was donated to CASSS for scholarships and this has been added to the Carlisle Fund. The Archbishops have been asked to nominate students for scholarships. At the moment there are 2 students being supported with the bursary costs being shared with CMS Africa.
- The mint stamps income is down partly because of the Royal Mail strike around Christmas and also because of the introduction of the bar code. Jill Parry who headed up the team in Barnet has now moved so the Barnet team has retired and Jill and her husband are continuing.
- The grant to Juba was increased to £100,000 because of a legacy.
- The investments have been externally assessed and CASSS is acting on the recommendations. CASSS still holds large reserves.

There were no questions but just a comment from Sara Taffinder who said that in the 1980's the chairman at the time wondered if there was a future for SCA (as it was then) and here we still are in a strong position financially.

The chair said that the trustees have approved the accounts and the AGM was asked to accept them. This was proposed by Andrew Persson and seconded by Elizabeth Newport and agreed unanimously.

John Poole was thanked for his hard work.

6. Election of Independent Examiner – John Poole proposed that John Inglis-Jones be the Independent Examiner. It was noted that he is not a trustee or employee but is contracted to do the communications for CASSS. This was seconded by Wendy Fry and agreed unanimously.

7. Election of Board Members - The chair noted that trustees are re-elected on a 3-year rolling basis. He asked the that following trustees: - Ian Wallace, Joanna Hunt, Wendy Fry, Elizabeth Newport and Andy Wheeler be re-elected en bloc. This was agreed so they were re-elected unanimously proposed by Pauline Walker and seconded by Sara Taffinder.

8. Date of 2024 Annual General Meeting – It was agreed to continue with Saturday for the AGM and the secretary was asked to book Saturday 15 June 2024. Proposed by Jo Hunt and seconded by Sara Taffinder and agreed unanimously

9. Any other business – The chair noted that there are vacancies for more trustees. John Inglis-Jones told the AGM that there would be a review of the communications that he has now done for the past 5 years. He asked that members took a couple of minutes to fill in the online survey. Sue and John Inglis-Jones were thanked for their work.