

SHIRE & SOKE AGM
8th May 2010 at 9.30 a.m.
St Andrew's Methodist Church, Harlestone Road, Northampton NN5 6AB

PRESENT: John Anderson, Dorothy Aslett, Alan Baines, Gilly Beardmore, Teresa Brown, Adrian Coupe, Keith Dragon, Sally-Ann Exton, Lynn Fowkes, Giles Godber, Ted Hale, Peter Hancock, Séan Healy, Janet Jackson, Charlie Keenan, Jean Levell, John Levell, Mark Middleton, Terry Oakley, Malcolm Oliver, Chris Pearson, Julia Pearson, Bob Purser, Steve Starling, Marian Taylor, Philip Taylor, David Tinkler, Margaret Williams, Peter Wilson, Glayne Worgan (and Helen Murphy as Minuting Secretary)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Lynn Fowkes (Chair) welcomed all to the AGM and the first Vision Day, then opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: Valerie Anslow, Paul Arnold, Betty Chalmers, Roger Clark, Cliff Faulkner, Alan King, Margaret King, Eleanor Patrick, Jay Phelps, Andy Sipple, Philip Snelson, Helen Wordsworth, Heather Wilson, David Wiseman.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (20th January 2010 and MATTERS ARISING (if not already on Agenda)

The minutes were accepted and signed by Lynn Fowkes. There were no matters arising.

4. ACCOUNTS FOR 2009

Copies of the accounts for 2009 (bearing the examiner's signature) were circulated, studied and discussed, noting under income that with the exception of East Anglia diocese all the main churches had responded to the request for an increase of 10%. In addition, some had also contributed directly to CONC (supporting Bob Purser's work). Under expenditure, laptop had been bought for the CEO and the new web site had been developed. A balance of £7,725 showed at the start of the year. The budget for 2010 was presented, noting a slight increase in income (with some new contributors) and, under expenditure, a sum of £1,000 set aside for Vision Days and Pentecost 2010, and £700 for the Westgate review and another review in the pipeline. This left a deficit of £3,002, which with the 2009 balance above brought forward left an expected balance of £4,723. It was clarified that reviews were funded by Shire and Soke but this amounted only to travel expenses. The accounts were then accepted.

5. COUNTY ECUMENICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

In addition to her circulated report, Teresa Brown thanked all those who, through their various tasks, help Shire And Soke in its work, especially Fr Peter Wilson for his invaluable accountancy experience; as regards her own work, she found it an inspiring and continual challenge working not only with the recognised churches but also with those who would consider themselves outside the mainstream, such as the Pentecostal groups, whom she had contacted regarding the Pentecost 2010 event. She apologised to any she might inadvertently have 'neglected' through pressure of work, urging them to remind her. Finally, she encouraged all to move forward

together, taking active steps to spread the faith with enthusiasm, and asked for prayers for good weather for the forthcoming Pentecost event.

Lynn Fowkes thanked her for her report, noting not only the quantity but the quality of Teresa's work as Ecumenical Officer.

6. REVIEW

Lynn Fowkes reported that the Westgate review in Peterborough had been completed in February and that she had formally received it at the presentation, since when it had been received by the Shire and Soke Executive Council. She thanked the review team: Revd Glayne Worgan (Methodist, who had co-ordinated the team), Revd Jane Campbell (URC) and Revd Geoff Cook (RC deacon) for their time and efforts. The report had also been discussed by the Church Leaders and the Executive were in the process of responding to the findings of the review team. The review report was then received by the meeting.

7. APPOINTMENTS

Lynn Fowkes thanked all current members of the Executive for their support during her period of Chairmanship and, noting that under the denominationally rotating system, Giles Godber (Anglican) had been nominated. As there were no further nominations, Giles was accepted. At this point, a questioner from the floor requested that a wider spread of denominations could be considered for membership. Teresa Brown responded that the Executive and church leaders would look at this to find a way forward. Adrian Coupe indicated his willingness to stand as Vice-Chair for a further year and was thanked.

Giles Godber then took the Chair. He thanked Lynn for her work as Chair over the past two years and, regarding the above point, commented that a suitable means of enlarging the Shire and Soke membership accordingly would be addressed. He offered his apologies at having to leave the meeting, owing to weddings at his own church.

As there was no further business, the meeting broke up for a coffee break before re-assembling later for the Vision Day programme.

Date of next meeting to be arranged.

Signed.....Date.....