**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**18th May 2015**

**All Saints Church, Canterbury**

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| **Item** | **Discussion** |
| **Attendance** | 25 |
| **Apologies** | Terry & Maureen Smith, Insp. Sharon Adley (represented by Acting Insp. Chris Gurney), Chief Insp. Mark Arnold, Bryn Price – Safer Kent, Sally Waters, Michael Northey, Paul Chandler, Doreen Laven, Mark Jennings |
| **Welcome** | Hannah Thompson, welcomed everyone to All Saints Church, read from Isaiah 52:7 and opened the meeting with prayers |
| **Introduction** | Simon Redman, outgoing Chair, thanked Hannah Thompson for hosting the AGM and invited all present to stand and introduce themselves: 14 church groups were identified.  SR highlighted the key issues in his report which was included in the papers distributed on arrival. He commended all Street Pastor volunteers for the many hours of ‘unconditional care’ and support they offer – a wonderful ministry of love.  He drew attention to the financial alert early in 2015. The committee had prayed and debated the issues and God had provided generously. SR thanked the Treasurer for all his work and David Clegg and the rest of the committee for driving through a much stronger model of governance.  In thanking Gemma Traquair for all her work, SR invited her to address the AGM and outline the work she had been doing in respect of redeveloping our website after it ‘crashed’ last year and for the introduction of Apps. She gave a brief demonstration of some of our web pages and reported strong growth in social media outreach.  SR commended on the fantastic cross-community, cross-denominational partnerships which Street Pastors are delivering and he concluded by proposing a massive vote of thanks to Lorna Bedford, our ‘engine of collaboration’ who works very long hours to ensure that Street Pastors keep on delivering. |
| **Minutes of 2014 AGM** | The minutes had been posted on the Canterbury Street Pastors web site. The Secretary invited comments but none arose, so he proposed them as a correct record and they were accepted *nem con*. |
| **Treasurer’s report** | This was included in the papers distributed on arrival. Will Howe, Treasurer, confirmed that current balances total in excess of £11,000, slightly ahead of his proposed 2015/16 annual budget of £10,500. He commented that funding streams were currently good. The overall budget had been increased by £1,700 to accommodate extra activity as numbers of street pastors increase. 12 people had registered for the new ‘100 Club’, agreeing to give £5 per month in support of our work.No questions were raised. |
| **Election of officers** | The current Management Committee was willing to continue, but David Clegg and Simon Redman had agreed to exchange roles. The meeting approved the Management Committee for 2015/16 on this basis. |
| **Any other business** | The new Chairman, David Clegg, spoke about the importance of having a robust system of governance to support the work of our Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors. Although much had been achieved in the preceding year, Ascension Trust, the national parent body of Street Pastors, had recently made significant changes to its model governance documents: this would entail more work for our local committee to bring our constitution into line with the national one. This would also enable our local Street Pastor team to obtain formal charitable status.  Rosemary Patton, a Street Pastor, offered thanks for the help which Herne Bay SPs give in Canterbury and she hoped that the reverse would apply.  On behalf of Insp Mark Arnold, Kent Police, Insp. Chris Gurney warmly thanked Street Pastors for their invaluable work for the community, |
| **Witness** | The final part of the meeting focused in some detail on the work of Street Pastors.  In presenting her report which had been tabled. The Coordinator, Lorna Bedford, explained how the regional, rolling training programme was expanding. It was hoped that the next Street Pastors celebration and commissioning event would be Kent-wide: a date was being sought. LB paid special thanks to Gemma Traquair for her technical skill and support.  Geoff Farnham spoke about the Prayer Pastors’ report, distributed earlier, and expressed massive thanks to all who had supported this part of our mission; they normally commit to 6 hours a night, often praying for people separated to be reconnected. Although 5 teams had been lost, he was confident that God is involved in this work and he hoped that more members of the church family would become involved in this crucial aspect of our work. He paid special thanks to Richard Groombridge who, with his wife, had been called to minister overseas.  Margaret Northey and Niall Greathead and Lorna Bedford gave testimony of practical successes on the streets of Canterbury. |
| **Conclusion** | The Chairman thanked everyone their attendance at the AGM and for their continuing support of Street Pastors.  Geoff Farnham closed the meeting with prayers. |