

**THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA
at 3pm on Wednesday 20 September 2023**

In attendance, Trustees: Judy Guy-Briscoe, David Jessop, Oliver Leigh-Wood
Lesley Thrift and Tony Tucker.

Administrator: Karen Hearn. **Skyline Editor:** Judy Stephenson
22 Friends in person and 10 by Zoom.

1 Apologies for absence. Trustees Rebecca Banfield, Nancy Branson, John Reynolds and five Friends

2 The minutes of the General Meeting on 3 July 2023 were confirmed.
Propose by Mark Williams and seconded by Ian Shaw.

3 Chairman's Report

The Corporation have approved the furniture from the two restaurants in Abchurch Yard and now need to obtain back dated payment.

Q Who will raise the money for the refurbishment of St Mary Abchurch?

A The Guild Church Council not the FCC

Q Who are the GCC?

A OLW and DJ plus others, more are needed.

4 Treasurer's Report.

The 2022-2023 Accounts have been passed by our auditor, Keith Raffan and Co.

5 **The Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement** for the year ending 31 March 2023 was received. Proposed by Mark Williams, seconded by Liz Chalmers.

6 To elect Trustees and Officers:

Brian Evans died in August 2022. We are grateful for his sterling work as a Watcher, Watching Coordinator and Trustee. We miss his wise council.

Rebecca Banfield resigned at this AGM and was thanked for the work she has put in.

Michael Normington was elected as Honorary Treasurer and will take over with effect from 1 April 2023. Proposed by Ian Shaw seconded by Felicity Brown.

Nancy Jane Branson and Tony Tucker were re-elected for a term of three years.
Proposed by Paul Simmons and seconded by Felicity Brown

7 Keith Raffan and Co were reappointed as Independent Examiners.
Proposed by Ian Shaw, seconded by Sally Phillips.

8 Any other business.

Finance

Michael Normington proposed the following dates for the FCC financial year:

End of financial year – 31 March.

Draft accounts presented to the Trustees – the Trustees meeting in May.

Accounts to the examiner - end of May.

AGM - end of September or the beginning of October.

Q Why do the FCC hold such a large reserve?

A OLW explained the Melba Coombs fund. MN explained that our expenditure may increase when the Bishops Mission Order expires and we become tenants at St Mary Abchurch and reported that the maximum 'Small Grant' is now £10,000.

Payment to Watchers.

A suggestion was made that Watchers were paid a fee of £10 per Watch. The meeting was warned that this was not in line with our charitable status. Most Watchers at the meeting disagreed with the idea but some Friends reported that travel costs were preventing people from Watching. This suggestion will be discussed by Trustees and Watchers.

St Mary Abchurch

Splitting the FCC from the Guild Church council

Ian Henderson has bequeathed the City Towers picture to the FCC. What shall we do with it?

9 The Illustrated lecture by Jill Finch was postponed due to technical difficulties but Trustee Tony Tucker filled the breach and gave us an impromptu tour of St Mary Abchurch.

10 The meeting ended with cake, tea, wine and conversation.

Sonja Judith Guy-Briscoe

Honorary Secretary

September 2023