

Minutes of DABEWP AGM, 15:00 - Sunday 18 September 2016 at St Joan of Arc, Farnham

Present: Ceri Potts, Nick Lamb, Clare Gamble, Mary Fuller, Steven Knowles, Sarah Style, Jim Monaghan, John Russell, Patrick Reeve, Becky Reeve, Louise Chenery, Geoffrey Murray, Maurice Hickman, Francis O'Sullivan, Sue Adilz, Fred Adilz and Anne Alcock.

Apologies: Grace Bradley, Jim Brodie, John Carmody, John Chenery, Tim Davies, Simon Dommett, Chris Dowie, Tineke Hulsebosch, Bruce & Hazel Matheson, Caroline Isted, Susan & Michael McCabe, Jack O'Boyle, Marie Urbancikova, and Alison Webb.

1) Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed; formal approval will take place at the next meeting in January.

2) Review of the Canterbury Pilgrimage: Over 87 were booked for the event!

- a) **Routes & Timings:** John C was of the view that the timings had been a bit slow in the first few days. It is important that sufficient "gathering" time is allocated, particularly for 'public' functions so that pilgrims are not arriving after the start of the event. Some discussion took place as to the walking distances (versus the 15/16 mile guidance) as 3 of the days had been over this yardstick; the consensus was that with plenty of shorter days, there had been no great problems resulting from this and no sense that pilgrims were looking too tired.
- b) **Halls:** Excellent with plenty of space (predominantly) compared to some over the years. Damage was sustained to a toilet seat at Challock so we will not get back all of the deposit on that hall but an additional small hall in both Canterbury and Goudhurst was not needed which saved those potential costs. There were concerns over both the overnight security (main doors could only be locked from the outside but were also a designated evacuation route) and an insect infestation at one hall.
- c) **Churches:** Susan McCabe was not present but had noted that we had stopped at fewer Catholic churches than might have been expected (just an observation). Becky Reeve had noted one Anglican parish at which there would have been the opportunity (with hindsight) to attend an 11am Eucharist.
- d) **Catering:** Excellent once more; new pilgrims very complimentary. There is quite a bit of (tinned) food left. It was agreed that any that will go out of date before either the Reunion or the next pilgrimage should go to a local food bank. Sue Adilz will arrange for this to be done.
- e) **Special days:** The opportunity to visit the shrine at West Grinstead was particularly well received even by those who had been there for the Diocesan "Mercy" pilgrimage though the large numbers present on that occasion may have been a detraction.
- f) **Sundry:** There were a number of comments about the stuff that gets put on the van – particularly the volume of catering equipment (there has been some slimming down in this arena, but there is perhaps still more that could be done). It was suggested that perhaps some standard prayers could be put together for use at prayer stops (both those that are led and those that are "DIY"). Grace before breakfast was somewhat absent (always difficult to do as there is no set start time). Patrick Reeve noted that with photos being posted to the website from a variety of mobile devices, the picture quality is not always the best and there is of course no editing taking place prior to pictures being live; the website is public so there could be some risk of something inappropriate being posted. Patrick further commented that with he and Becky not joining at the start, it was clear to them that there was a good "sense of belonging" with the new pilgrims clearly enjoying themselves.

3) Treasurers Report: Nick circulated the provisional accounts for the year that reflect both the mini "Mercy" pilgrimage as well as the main walk. As usual at this time of the year there are still some people who have not provided details of their expenses, so the numbers are still subject to some changes in this respect.

Thankfully we have avoided additional van costs this year after a couple of bad years although the expected return of excess from last year has not materialised. A good surplus is indicated as the coach booked for the Mercy walk was cancelled in the end giving no cost against a budgeted expense so this has a £350 profit.

On the main walk the bookings were greater than expected but the hall costs were lower as everyone was able to squeeze into the main halls with many additional small halls not being needed, eliminating these costs. Fuel prices were higher at the pump this year so there is a slight increase to these expenses. Food prices were also up but excellent management by the cooks plus the discounts offered by supermarkets kept this in control. Last year we bought a new Urn but there were no significant one-off costs this year.

4) Election of Officers 2015/2016

Co-ordinator: Francis O'Sullivan (1st year).

Deputy: Ceri Potts.

Accommodation: Bruce Matheson.

Chief Route Planner: John Chenery.

Church Liaison: Susan McCabe (week 2); Ann Lavelle (week 1).

Minute Secretary: Nick Lamb.

Chaplains: Fr. David Russell; [Rev Simon Dommett hopes to be along]

Bookings: Clare Gamble.

Treasurer: Nick Lamb.

Communications Officer: Aidan Simons (assumed).

Catering: Bruce & Hazel Matheson (week 1); Alison Webb (week 2).

Drinks Car: Clare Gamble.

Medical: Mary Fuller.

Van driver: John Russell.

Equipment Officer: Sue Adilz (John Russell and Tineke Hulsebosch in reality).

Ecumenical Liaison: Ceri Potts.

5) Progress of Route and Theme for 2017 (12/08/17 to 27/08/17):

Bruce Matheson and John Chenery have already had some discussions in advance of the meeting. Bruce is happy to deal with booking halls on Anglesey. It is suggested that the pilgrimage starts in Bangor with 7 walking days on Anglesey (going clockwise around the island and with a rest day at Holyhead) and 4 days on the mainland with a rest day at Conwy. Jim Monaghan mentioned that he would shortly be meeting with a friend from that area who might know of some suitable halls.

6) **Reunion** – Brendan McWilliams (and friends) to organise at Banstead 21-23 October.

7) **Newsletter / mailing:** - there was some discussion as to whether there should be 2 or 3 mailings – December/January, June (and September – primarily the Reunion).

8) **Next meeting dates:** already proposed at June meeting 15/01/17, 23/04/17, 25/06/17, and 17/09/17.

9) **AOB** - Thanks were given to Ceri for a superb second year as Co-ordinator.

It was noted that Fr. David will turn 80 on 21/1/2017 and there will therefore be a celebration of this event in his parish in Portslade – Alison is happy to provide catering. With the event being just a week after the next planned committee meeting, it might be worth considering having the meeting in Portslade for greater efficiency.