

Minutes- Brighton Covenant of Churches AGM

Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 11am

St Stephens Church, Brighton

Chairperson	Rev'd Paul Carr
Secretary	Elaine Bolitho
Apologies	Reverend Jonathan Chamberlain (St Peters), Julia Charleston (St Peters), Carole Cheng (St Joan of Arc), Elisabeth Jahshan (St Joan of Arc), Anne Martin (St Andrews), Pastor Brendan Smith (Crossway Brighton), Rev Kim Cain (St Leonards)
Attendees	Gerardine Boyack (Trinity), Reverend Kevin Kim (Trinity), Reverend Ian Morrison (St Andrews), Maurice Phipps (St Finbars), Jenny Raper (St Leonards) Heather Sanderson (St Andrews), Eleanor Villani (Trinity)
1.	Opening prayer and welcome Gerardine and Paul
2.	Treasurer's Report Presented by Maurice : Opening Balance 16/11/2022: \$676.51. Closing Balance 15/11/2023: \$422.21 Full report attached.
3.	Summary of Events from 2023 1. Lenten & Advent Studies: Thanks was given to Paul for enabling the study to take place at St Stephens. It was well attended each week and expertly conducted by David Noble. 2. Good Friday Pilgrims' Walk: The event attracted parishioners from member churches and included a new shortened route this year around the streets adjoining St Andrews Church. Thanks was given to Ian and Jonathan for organising the event and to St Andrew's parishioners for providing the traditional morning tea of hot cross buns. 3. Ecumenical Prayer Group: The group is most grateful to Glen Deacon for hosting the monthly group which includes: organ music played by Merrowyn Deacon, gospel readings from the following Sunday, a sermon prepared by Glen, special intention prayers and prayers for Christian Unity. Attendees from most of the BCC Churches enjoy the monthly event and fellowship. During the winter months the prayer group is conducted online. Many thanks also to Elisabeth Jahshan for advertising the event to members and to Kevin for welcoming the group to Trinity each month. This has been a stand out success for the BCC and an excellent example of people coming together in prayer for the unity of the churches. Action: The group will resume on the first Wednesday of February at Trinity Church at 7.15pm.

	<p>4. Founders' Memorial Lecture: Reverend Kim Cain encountered difficulties in trying to arrange for a suitable guest speaker. Paul has arranged to host a special ecumenical edition of SOS (Service on the Sofa) on the 26th November 2023 at 5pm at St Stephens. Action: Elaine to provide details to members to advertise.</p> <p>5. Bethlehem In Brighton For many years the Christmas event for children had been run at St Andrews and more recently at Trinity. The dedicated team of BCC volunteers led by Julia had been most successful in bringing the real meaning of Christmas to families in Brighton. It was decided to no longer hold the event in its current form and the committee has now retired. New alternatives for a Christmas event will be considered for next year.</p> <p>Ian offered to consider plans for an event at St Andrews due to their prominent location in Church St. This was welcomed and acknowledged that there is great interest in a united Christmas event and gratitude for how Trinity Uniting hosted and maintained momentum. Action: No 'Christmas event' in place for 2023 at this stage – to be organised for 2024.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Schedule of Events for 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lenten & Advent Studies Action: Ecumenical studies to be hosted at St Stephens and open for ecumenical leads to come forward and lead. 2. Good Friday Pilgrims' Walk Action: Ian and Jonathan to coordinate the event. 3. Ecumenical Prayer Group Action: Elisabeth to notify clergy and reps prior to next meeting for advertising purposes. 4. Founders' Memorial Lecture Lecture to resume next year. Action: A lead to be allocated by the new chair. 5. Christmas Event Ian offered to review hosting a Christmas event in 2024. Action: Ian to discuss with fellow clergy. No committees required, unless organised into 2024. 6. AGM to be determined

<p>5.</p>	<p>BCC Structural Changes</p> <p>1. <u>New Leadership</u> Thanks was given to Paul and Elaine for their service to the group over many years, both stepped down from their roles today. Paul advised that Jonathan Chamberlain volunteered to be the new chairperson in 2024 for a period of 12 months. We also welcomed Jenny (St Leonards) to the group, and she volunteered to be the new secretary.</p> <p>Jenny will commence as secretary after Easter as she has previous commitments. Ian Morrison kindly volunteered to provide administration support and interim secretary until Jenny takes the role fully.</p> <p>Many thanks to Jonathan, Jenny, Ian and Angela (secretary of St Andrews) for supporting the new arrangements.</p> <p>We are most grateful to Maurice who offered to continue as treasurer in 2024. The role and purpose of the treasurer is necessary for audit and governance processes and will stay in place.</p> <p>2. <u>Committees</u> It was agreed by the group that the current structure of chairperson, secretary and treasurer will continue and to keep administrative arrangements simple, this will be the only organisational / administrative structure and committee group to progress into 2024. The group decided that this approach gives people a break and allows for new ideas going forward.</p> <p>Clergy will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the year to coordinate the key events. Lay representatives would continue to support the clergy in their respective parishes when hosting BCC events.</p> <p>3. <u>Request for Initiatives</u> Paul encouraged all members to contribute to the development of new and interesting BCC activities in the Brighton area.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin has offered to host World Day of Prayer on the 1st March 2024 at Trinity Church. Action: Gerardine will provide advertising details to Angela for distribution. Jenny introduced the Five Leaf Eco-Awards program to the group. St Leonards Church has recently received two awards. The ecumenical program is designed to encourage churches to take action for the environment in the areas of: buildings, worship, encouraging congregations, outreach events and community leadership. Action: Further details are available at: fiveleafecoawards@gmail.com <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Closed</p>