



AGM and Steering Group Meeting

9.30am, Tuesday 18th July 2017,
Room N, Portcullis House

Minutes

Present: Sal Brinton, Ian Blackford, Fiona Bruce, Mark Harris, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, James Lee, Jeremy Lefroy, Rachael Maskell, Claire Newman, Ian Paisley, Andrew Selous, Maeve Sherlock, Gavin Shuker, Gary Streeter, Desmond Swayne, Stephen Timms, Martin Vickers

1. Apologies

- David Urquhart, David Drew, Paul Butler, Caroline Cox, Donald Allister, Bim Afolami, David Linden, Marsha de Cordova

2. Minutes of last meeting

- The minutes of the Steering Group meeting on Tuesday 31st January 2017 and the AGM on Tuesday 13th September 2016 were presented and approved.

3. Election of APPG Officers

- **Chair:** Gary Streeter
- **Vice-Chairs:** Gavin Shuker, Tim Farron, Ian Blackford, Jeffrey Donaldson, Baroness Brinton, Baroness Sherlock, Lord Farmer, Lord Curry
- All APPG officers were unanimously re-elected.

4. Approval of Income/Expenditure Statement

- James Lee explained the Income and Expenditure statement for the APPG for 2016/2017, which was discussed, approved and signed by Gary Streeter.
- Maeve Sherlock offered particular thanks to Bible Society for their continued support of the APPG.

5. Review of recent events and activities

- **Monday 13th March:** Former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was interviewed by Caroline Spelman on the topic of 'Faith and Politics' and shared insights from her experience of academic and political life.
- **Monday 10th July:** Professor John Lennox spoke on 'Where is God Amidst Suffering and Evil?', which was a very timely topic given recent events.
- **Wednesday 12th July:** Over 50 Parliamentarians joined us for Afternoon Tea, with many good cross-party conversations and new contacts made. Maeve Sherlock commented that it is important to follow-up with new connections from the event.
- Weekly chapel services have continued since January, with a break over the dissolution period, with an average weekly attendance of 20 Members and staff

- Three Bible study groups meet weekly, as well as around 8 people taking part in Life Explored/Christianity Explored courses in recent months.

6. Forthcoming events

- **Tuesday 12th September:** A Celebration of the Power of Song in the Christian Faith with leading songwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty. There will be musical celebration in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft from 7pm-8pm, followed by a reception in the Jubilee Room from 8pm-9pm.
- **Monday 20th November:** An evening event with former MP Jonathan Aitken, where he will share something of his story of coming to faith while in prison.
- **Date for the diary:** The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2018 will be on Tuesday 19th June 2018.
- There is also the possibility of an event on **Monday 23rd October** with the Indian philosopher Vishal Mangalwadi looking at the way the Bible has shaped Western culture and what it continues to offer our public life today.
- A '**Political Theology Reading Group**', led by Dr Anna Rowlands, will be starting in October, with sessions for both Members and staff.

7. AOB

- James Lee noted that a former officer of the House of Commons, Barry Hall, has offered to write a 'Christian Tour Guide to the Line of Route'. He has previously worked for English Heritage and has met with Rose Hudson-Wilkin to discuss the project as well. He is seeking a parliamentary pass from a Member to help him conduct further research. Ian Paisley offered one of his pass allocations for this purpose.
- Rose Hudson-Wilkin informed the meeting that Pat Browne is now on sabbatical until 2018, but that the Catholic Mass at 6pm on Wednesday would continue in his absence led by another priest.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next Steering Group meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14th November** at **9.30am** (Room TBC).