



AGM and Steering Group Meeting

9.30am, Wednesday 10th July 2019

Room P, Portcullis House

Minutes

Attendees: Gary Streeter (Chair), Ian Blackford, Sal Brinton, Don Curry, Andrew Griffiths, Jeremy Lefroy, Steve Pound, Caroline Spelman, Maeve Sherlock, Eleanor Smith, Andrew Stunell, Michael Tomlinson, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Mark Harris, Claire Newman, Alison Hill, Timothy Cho *(12 Voting Members present)*

1. Prayers

- Mark Harris opened in prayer.

2. Apologies

- Pat Browne, David Drew, Catherine McKinnell, Jane Sinclair, Stephen Timms

3. Minutes of May 2019 Steering Group Meeting and July 2018 AGM

- Addition to the July 2018 AGM minutes: Sal Brinton was in attendance.
- Following discussions in the May 2019 Steering Group meeting, a letter is being drafted requesting provision of worship space during the decant of the Palace of Westminster.
- The minutes of the Steering Group meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2019 and the AGM on Tuesday 17th July 2018 were approved.

4. Election of APPG Officers

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

5. Approval of Income/Expenditure Statement

- Alison Hill explained the Income and Expenditure Statement for the APPG for 2018/2019 which was discussed and approved unanimously.

6. Review of recent events, including National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

- National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2019
 - It was well-attended, with a record number of Members: 138 MPs and 42 Peers. The Prime Minister would have liked to have been there. Jeremy Corbyn attended.
 - Feedback from both Members and church leaders has been very positive.

- Bishop Sarah's address was well-received, Carrie and David Grant led the music very well, and the prayers were appreciated.
- Suggestions for improvements were discussed, including how to make the invitation letter and ticketing process clearer, and how to increase the number of Catholic church leaders attending.
- Regular meetings and services have been continuing this term:
 - Bible study groups have been growing in attendance and numbers.
 - Tuesday lunchtime chapel services have been continuing and provide a good respite from the busyness of Parliamentary life.
 - Wednesday Holy Communion and Roman Catholic Mass services continue to go well.
 - The number of Members and staff meeting to explore the Christian faith has been encouraging.

7. Forthcoming events

- Claire Newman presented ideas for forthcoming events which were discussed at the May 2019 Steering Group meeting:
 - **Parliamentarians' Afternoon Tea (10th July 2019):** termly afternoon tea for Parliamentarians in the Attlee Room in the House of Lords.
 - **Parliamentarians' Afternoon Tea:** termly afternoon tea in the Autumn.
 - **Music event:** a thought-provoking event with music from Hayden's Creation and reflection on the themes. Maeve Sherlock and Claire Newman have met with Revd Dr Sam Wells of St Martin-in-the-Fields to discuss this.
 - **Jonathan Bryan:** an event in Speaker's House with a 13-year-old boy who has severe cerebral palsy and who has a strong Christian faith and amazing testimony, along with his mother.
 - **Carol Services (December 2019):** annual evening and lunchtime Carol Services. The idea of having an informal Carol Service in the Portcullis House Atrium was also discussed.
- The idea of running an Alpha Course group for Members was also suggested.

8. AOB

- Claire Newman closed the meeting in prayer.