



AGM and Steering Group Meeting

5.30pm, Tuesday 17th July 2018,
Room Q, Portcullis House



Minutes

Present: Gary Streeter, Fiona Bruce, Stephen Timms, Rachael Maskell, Paul Girvan, Ian Paisley, Mark Harris, Claire Newman, James Lee (*6 Voting Members present*)

1. Opening Remarks

Gary Streeter invited Mark Harris to open the meeting in prayer.

Gary Streeter congratulated Maeve Sherlock and Mark Harris on their recent ordination, and noted a particular highlight of this year was seeing so many MPs in attendance at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast.

2. Apologies

- Raymond Hylton, Pat Browne, Jane Sinclair, Caroline Cox, Janet Daby, Donald Allister, Jonathan Reynolds, Christopher Cocksworth, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, David Drew, Ian Blackford, Detta O’Cathain, Ian McColl

3. Minutes of last meeting

- The minutes of the Steering Group meeting on Tuesday 29th November 2017 and the AGM on Tuesday 18th July 2017 were presented and approved.

4. 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 (Proposed by Paul Girvan, seconded by Rachael Maskell)

5. Approval of Income/Expenditure Statement

- James Lee explained the Income and Expenditure statement for the APPG for 2017/2018, which was discussed, approved and signed by Gary Streeter.

6. Review of recent events

- **Parliamentarians Afternoon Teas (21st February and 11th July):** Over 50 Parliamentarians joined us for Afternoon Tea on each occasion, with many good cross-party conversations and new contacts made.
- The **Christian Tradition and the Practice of Politics discussion course** has been running since October 2017, with a group for Members and a group for staff, led by Dr Anna Rowlands. It has been appreciated by those attending, particularly the Members group, and will continue until the end of 2018.
- **Weekly chapel services** have continued to be well received, with a weekly average attendance of 26 and 175 different Members and staff attending in total since October 2017. Paul Girvan commented that he very much enjoys the services, especially the talks.
- Two Bible study groups for MPs and the Peers’ Fellowship Group continue to meet weekly, as well as various staff study and discussion groups as well.

- An **Easter Service** was held this year, with around 70 in attendance to hear Dr Tanya Walker speak on the resurrection of Christ.
- **National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2018**
 - This year's Prayer Breakfast saw a record attendance from MPs, with over 140 attending (including the Prime Minister and 6 Cabinet Ministers), and around 25 Peers. 75% of MPs attending came with a church leader/constituent who had invited them along.
 - Tim Keller's keynote address was very well received, with good tone & content and a memorable theme. The video of the talk has been seen over 75,000 times on YouTube.
 - Keith & Kristyn Getty and their band were excellent as well.

7. Forthcoming events

- **Monday 8th October:** A half-day event for Members looking at lessons for being a Christian parliamentarian from the book of Daniel, final details TBC.
- **Monday 29th October:** Evening event with former Borough Commander of Southwark, John Sutherland, on faith, policing and mental health.
- **Monday 26th November:** Evening lecture with theologian James K. A. Smith
- **Spring term:** Possible future events with sitcom writer James Cary on Comedy and Faith; a panel event on AI and ethics; an Easter Service; and a music evening.

8. Christians in Parliament/House of Lords Review

- Gary Streeter and Claire Newman have been meeting with various Peers to discuss CiP's work in the House of Lords and will have further meetings after summer recess.

9. AOB

- **New CiP Appointment:**

James Lee is leaving Parliament to start training for ordination in the Church of England from September. After a highly competitive recruitment process, Alison Hill has been appointed and will start work as a full-time Parliamentary Officer at the end of August.

- **Christian Heritage of Parliament Project**

Barry Hall has been working to develop a Christian Heritage-themed tour and guide to the Line of Route, which is hoped to be offered to a range of different groups. It was agreed that Christians in Parliament is happy to give some funding towards the project for the production of a guide book, however funding should be sought from other groups, such as the Church of England, for the next stage of his research project.

- **CiP Report on 'Being a Christian in Britain today'**

This is a new piece of work, chaired by Jeremy Lefroy MP, that will seek to take evidence from a wide range of stakeholders to gain an understanding of the experience of Christians engaging in public life in Britain today.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Steering Group meeting will take place on **Tuesday 27th November** (Room TBC).