



Joint Christian Science Reading Room UK

Annual General Meeting 2024

Monday 15th July 2024 at 7pm

MINUTES

1. Overview of business meeting

Edwin outlined the agenda of the business meeting:

- Election of trustees
- Adoption of the accounts
- Invitation to share comments, feedback and any questions.

2. Election of trustees

John Lardge proposed electing trustees collectively unless there were any objections. No objections were raised and an online zoom poll detailing names of all trustees and 'yes' or 'no' vote was offered.

The poll resulted in a unanimous vote to elect John Houston, John Lardge, Gay Bryant Flatt, Susan Thomas, Tim Twinn and Edwin de Leon to serve as trustees for the JCSRRUK for the next year. A total of 25 votes were made by those present and voting.

3. Adoption of the accounts

Noting Helen de Leon's financial report shared in the recorded reports John Lardge invited any comments or questions.

No questions were raised and a poll was offered to all attendees to adopt the accounts.

The poll resulted in a unanimous vote to adopt the accounts by all present and voting (24 in total - representing a selection from multiple churches around the UK).

4. Invitation to share comments, feedback and any questions.

Margaret Chaplin (Bedford - MC) shared gratitude for the reports shared and for the particular way in which the JCSRRUK approaches their work and for the value of the work being done. Similar thoughts and gratitude shared by other attendees - and gratitude expressed in return.

A question was raised - noting the free shipping now being offered by the CSPS, JCSRRUK were asked if we were receiving this free shipping, and if so, were we passing it on. Annabel Bound shared that we were now receiving the free shipping, however because of the extra measures we are needing to take to receive shipments (and the needed HMRC paperwork) with each shipment we were incurring our own additional shipping costs amounting to £150-£200.

Margaret Chaplin also asked why a CSRR would come through the JCSRRUK to order its products - given that it reduces the margin a RR can make on products sold. The team shared the value of the support other RRs provide when ordering from the JCSRRUK - enabling us to maintain this online 24/7 RR for seekers all around the UK to find, ask questions of and order CS literature from.

RR Screens:

George Chaplin (Bedford) queried if there have been issues with the RR screens being on through the night. The team shared not notably. Branch churches were sensitive to their communities / fellow residents on the street and were adjusting the screen times to go off at unsociable hours where it might be considered too much light on the street. There are also areas where planning needs to be awarded - in residential areas etc. To check this a branch church would be in touch with their local planners who will be able to provide the proper guidance. It was noted the RR screen has proved so helpful as a tool for community outreach whether the church or RR is open or not - initially during lockdown (comments have been received in many churches with these screens appreciating the screen content when 'passing by') and continuing in the same vein since.

Sarah Gall (Godalming) thanked everyone for everything they are doing - and noticed their RR is getting a lot more traffic in the last few years. And she appreciated the competency of the team. She also shared the work they are doing sharing rolled up quotes as nuggets to share... she had noticed they never find them dropped anywhere.

Sally Lessiter (Oxford) thanked the team for all their work and also specifically thanked Margaret for her colourful designs on screens or websites. She shared their work to do chalk designs on the pavement outside their RR and that this was catching the eye of passers by on the phone. She then requested the

JCSRRUK designs produce simple pdf's of her designs and re upcoming livestream lectures - that could be downloaded and used in people's windows.

ACTION: Margaret agreed to produce posters for each livestream lecture - to attach as pdf's to each newsletter sent out to the field.

Margaret Chaplin asked how long it takes to properly produce and post content from branch church social media. Margaret answered saying it would be as much or as little time as available - however she emphasised the importance of being consistent - i.e. if you post something, keep it simple and regular, over in depth and rare. She recommended posting something once a week, a thought, or a quote with an image, and about the way you are working with Christian Science in your own life, with your own community etc. Helen shared there is also the option to add to your own posts (key to have your own posts) by reposting spirituality4.me posts, and TMC posts etc. A cautionary note not to let this drown out your own posts was important. Social media was about connecting with your own community directly etc.

Sarah Gall shared her appreciation for other churches sharing who they are, with pictures and details of their clergy etc and the church team/community. Margaret encouraged handling the concern about promoting 'personality' by sharing pictures and names of the officers of their churches. Instead to see the value of sharing insight into that there are a variety of people in the church and being able to recognise who is a part of this church community. Just need to be clear that this person is not 'the pastor' and keep the representation of the church community clear.

Helen de Leon shared an update on the livestream funding Trust Brit has agreed to provide for up to 10 hybrid lectures to be provided to the UK field. This is achieved by a branch church sponsoring a lecture in the usual 'in person' way and allowing the JCSRRUK to come along and livestream it (including providing all the services within their livestream package such as producing the graphics etc). The JCSRRUK side of the bill is then covered by Trust Brit, leaving the church to focus their funds on the in person lecture costs.

The JCSRRUK team encouraged everyone to complete the feedback form - noting our deep value hearing ideas and suggestions from the field as well as feedback on our current activities. John Lardge thanked all for all their support of our work.

Gay Bryant -Flatt thanked all the trustees and particularly Edwin de Leon for all the extra work he does providing all the technical support and services, on top of his full-time day job.

Gay Bryant-Flatt closed the meeting with a reading from MW 150.