



Joint Christian Science Reading Room UK Annual General Meeting 2025

Held Monday 03.10.25 at 12pm

Location: via zoom

MINUTES

Present:

- Trustees – John Houston - Chair (JH/Watford), Gay Bryant-Flatt (GPF/High Wycombe), Hilary Evans (HE/Poole), John Lardge (JL/Reading), Susan Thomas (ST/Claygate&Esher), Tim Twinn (TT/Nottingham)
- Staff / Team - Annabel Bound (AB/1st London), Helen de Leon (HdL/Poole), Edwin de Leon (EdL/High Wycombe), Margaret Perry Scott (MPS/York)/
- Attendees – Claygate & Esher - Jillie Webb
Dorking – Francesca Simpson
Eastbourne - Jean Whitehead
Godalming - Sarah Gall, Maire Noble
High Wycombe - Alan Holland, Jeanette Wood
Oxford - Sally Lessiter
Sutton Coldfield - Robert Cheshire
Walton & Weybridge - Janet Bland, Bob Longman
Watford - Susan Houston
Welwyn Garden City - Cathy and Marc Pepperall, 'Unnamed 1'
2nd London - Philip Wylie
11th London - Brian Blandford, John Viera
Others – Peter Stephens, 'Rose', 'Unnamed 2'

1. Welcome

JH opened the meeting expressing a warm welcome to all on the zoom call with special thanks to EdL and HdL for co-hosting the zoom call; to all staff, trustees for their work supporting the JCSRUK; and to all church members, Christian Science organisations and trusts around the country for their ongoing support of the JCSRUK and its activities.

2. Opening Readings

ST read from the Bible (Ps 32:8, Ex13:17,18,21, Isa 58:11) and the Writings of Mary Baker Eddy (SH 566:1, 467:13, My 149:31).

3. **Branch Church Representation**

JH acknowledged with gratitude all attendees and asked that each attendee amend their name on the zoom meeting to include their branch church affiliation. Attendees adjusted their names accordingly (see those listed as present above). JH noted this will enable the minutes to reflect those branch churches represented.

It was noted members from a total of 17 branch churches, societies and informal groups were attending (20% of branches in the UK).

4. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies from Marian Hossell (Carlisle)

5. **Minutes of 2024 AGM**

JH confirmed the Minutes of the last AGM had been included with papers announcing the AGM, all emailed to churches (to be distributed to members) and shared online and via the JCSRRUK newsletter.

JH asked if there were any proposed amendments. There were none.

DECISION: the minutes were adopted without amendment.

6. **2024 Chairman and Treasurer Reports**

JH noted both the Chairman and Treasurer Reports had been included with the papers announcing the AGM, all emailed to churches (to be distributed to members) and shared online and via the JCSRRUK newsletter. JH announced both reports were to be taken as read. No objections were raised.

7. **Proposal: “that the 2024 Accounts be adopted.”**

JH confirmed the accounts had been included in the meeting papers, together with the Chairman and Treasurer Reports and also clarified that the Accounts had been independently examined by Geraldine Coates Accounting.

DECISION: When put to the vote the proposal was carried unanimously and the 2024 accounts were adopted.

8. **Election of trustees**

- a) **Proposal: “that existing trustees be re-elected as follows – John Houston, Gay Bryant-Flatt, Susan Thomas, Tim Twinn.”**

DECISION: When put to the vote the proposal was carried unanimously.

- b) **Proposal: “that new trustees be elected as follows – Hilary Evans.”**

DECISION: When put to the vote the proposal was carried unanimously.

9. Q & A and sharing session

JH opened the meeting to questions and comments from all those attending.

- a) **An attendee from 11th London asked where the meeting was being streamed from.** JH clarified it was being held remotely with everyone attending via zoom from their homes or branch churches. JH also shared an overview of the history of how the JCSRRUK had come into being to the online community it is today, briefly referencing its basis in the *Manual* (Article 21, Section 1) and noting it is CSJ-listed.
- b) **ST highlighted with gratitude that the funding from Trust Brit and The Westminster Fund granted to cover lecture livestreaming package costs for in person lectures, would be available again for the 2025-25 lecture year (to the end of June 2026)** clarifying this funding is available via the JCSRRUK team when engaging them to livestream an in-person lecture being sponsored by your branch church. JH and JL also shared further background and gratitude, noting one lecture has already been allocated funding in December: a lecture being co-sponsored by High Wycombe and Watford. It was noted fourteen livestreams of in-person lectures had taken place in the last lecture year, noting the majority of these lectures took place in the spring months. JH encouraged lecture committees to consider sponsoring lectures at other times in the year, which would help spread the concentration of work involved for the team when livestreaming lectures (e.g. meeting with lecture committees to coordinate arrangements, preparing graphics, coordinating the livestreaming of a lecture and editing the recording to be posted and promoted via the various websites and social media channels available). JL, representing Trust Brit and Westminster Fund, gave further background to the reasoning behind the livestreaming funding now available. JL noted JCSRRUK had streamed its first livestream lecture over 10 years ago from the Olympic RR, since which JCSRRUK had refined its expertise, incorporating new technology, and was well prepared to provide livestreaming services during 2020-2022 when all CS lectures had to be given online. Following this there was a drop in lectures being livestreamed as branches moved back to in person talks. However, appreciating that livestreams and recorded lectures have now found a place as a valuable resource to seekers in the UK, Trust Brit and The Westminster Fund agreed to provide funding for the livestreaming package costs with JCSRRUK. As a result, recordings of the livestreamed lectures, with the consent of the lecturer, can now be available for up to 3 months following a livestream on the branch church and JCSRRUK websites and social media pages and these recordings also now feature as one of the resources offered when any seeker searches for information on Christian Science online.
- c) **An attendee from 11th London shared that they have just had a RR screen installed, and asked how many other RR screens had been installed around the UK.** The team confirmed there were now sixteen RR screens installed around the UK, all being supported with content by the JCSRRUK.
- d) **An attendee from Claygate & Esher shared that they would soon be upgrading the current 43" High Bright screen in their RR window with a new 43" Ultra High Bright screen and that the High Bright Screen would therefore be available to any RR that would be interested in having it installed.** EdL clarified that JCSRRUK now only supplied Ultra High Bright screens new as they are significantly brighter and therefore content can still be

seen when the screen is in direct sunlight. However, he noted a High Bright screen would still be usable in a shaded window.

- e) Responding to miscellaneous questions, team members clarified information included in the Chairman and Treasurer's Reports.**

10. Close

Gratitude was expressed by a number of individual attendees for the work of the JCSRRUK as well as by staff and trustees for their involvement with JCSRRUK and for the generous support from the field.

Meeting closed at 1306 with Susan Thomas reading from *Pulpit and Press* by Mary Baker Eddy (p10:27-28 to).