

# *Crisis Centre Ministries*

**MINUTES  
of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**8 October 2007**

**Trinity Tabernacle, Easton, Bristol**

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## People

### *Present*

Alan Faulkner (St Mary's, Henbury)	Julie Summers (CCM/St Mary Magdalene)
Alan Goddard (CCM)	Keith Frobisher (Clevedon Baptist)
Alan Patterson (Christ Church, Clifton)	Kelly Wilkins (BCF)
Alex Drew (Clevedon Baptist)	Kris Gaydon (Clevedon Baptist)
Andy Luxford (CCM)	Linda Dyson (CCM)
Andy Paget (Trinity Tabernacle)	Lisa Mannion (BCF/CCM)
Ann Banks (CCM)	Louise Bale (St Luke's, Brislington)
Anni Davey (St Mary Magdalene)	Louise Lacey (Vineyard)
Barbara Goddard (Clevedon Baptist)	Lyn Mitchell (CCM)
Beverly Richardson (St Mary Magdalene)	Margaret Hughes (Clevedon Baptist)
Brian Richardson (St Mary Magdalene)	Marianne Collins (BCF)
Chris Thomas (St Mary Magdalene)	Mark Wood-Robinson (Woodlands)
Claire Collins (CCM)	Martin Horton (CCM)
Clive Richards (Trinity Tabernacle)	Mary Sparkes (Clevedon Baptist)
David Conolly (BCF)	Pamela Reed (Elim@Bristol)
Eileen Frobisher (Clevedon Baptist)	Paul Collins (BCF)
Ellie Collins (BCF)	Paul Hazelden (CCM)
Gerry Burns (Scunthorpe)	Richard Hill (Christ Church, Clifton)
Gill Luxford (Wellspring)	Sara Wadsworth (Christ Church, Clifton)
Gillian Donald (Christ Church, Clifton)	Shirley Wood-Robinson (Woodlands)
Graham Donald (CCM)	Stuart Murray-Williams (St Mark's Baptist)
Graham Sparkes (Clevedon Baptist)	Tony Richmond (Alabaré)
Hazel Roden (St Luke's, Brislington)	Trudie Lane (CCM)
Jemma Mack (CCM)	Val Bryant (Clevedon Baptist)
Jim Davies (Elim)	

### *Apologies*

Andy Street (Highgrove)	Paul Stuart (Highgrove)
Dave Wiles (CCM)	Ro Spada (St Luke's, Brislington)
Gerry Summers (CCM)	Simon Bale (St Luke's, Brislington)
Korky Davey (OAC)	Stephen Brown (CCM)
Leadership Team (BCF)	Sue Hazelden (One25)
Maria Stuart (Highgrove)	Val Moore (Christ Church, Clifton)
Mark Restall (Christ Church, Clifton)	Wayne Massey (Christ Church, Clifton)
Mary Barrett (Network)	

# Celebration

## ***Introduction***

Graham Donald welcomed everyone to Crisis Centre Ministries' celebration and annual general meeting.

## ***Worship***

Transition led the meeting in a time of worship.

## ***Coffee Shop Manager's Report (Alan Goddard)***

Alan began by saying thank you and how much he appreciates all the volunteers. He has been involved with CCM for some time: in the role, six years ago, of Duty Manager, and since May this year as Coffee Shop Manager. He referred everyone to a testimony from Mark Giddings, who is one of dozens of people we have recently helped, which was on the chairs and also available at the back of the hall.

Alan asked the question: "How do we measure success?" In the job here, this can be difficult. The Polish man he recently emailed people about for their support has been temporarily living between Jeff and Alan's homes but has been assessed for primary rehabilitation at the Salvation Army. He was due another assessment on Thursday and we are praying that he will be taken. Whatever happens, they are not willing to let him go homeless and will continue supporting him and trying to give him as much help as possible.

He felt an important aspect of his job was to train people to work with this client group and also to see clients being brought to God. As well as providing food and friendship he emphasised that one of his main aims was to witness to them about Jesus and asked all volunteers to be doing the same.

Alan brought to everyone's attention a fund raising event on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at St Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop. The Bristol Male Voice Choir has been booked and tickets are £10.

## ***Training Manager's Report (Andy Luxford)***

Andy said that the highlight of one of this year's LITE courses was running a Bible study session called Sorted. This group had started following discussions in a LITE coffee break about heaven. This group was supported by other members of staff and ran for approximately sixteen weeks. One man who came along became a Christian and went on to be very involved in Jesus in the City.

Andy shared with everyone the scripture:

**2 Corinthians 2:14** – *"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him."*

Finally, we were shown a Power Point presentation, including pictures from recent LITE sessions which were encouraging and also fun.

## ***Client Support Coordinator's Report (Trudie Lane)***

She spends her time with people showing them we care and giving them time and love and encouraging others to do the same. She said that most of the one to one work, chatting to people, giving time and showing care at the Crisis Centre is undertaken by volunteers. She then went on to introduce Lisa Mannion, a volunteer and Thursday Duty Manager.

**Lisa** – She explained how they get the food prepared and organised and then are there for the clients to talk, help etc. She started volunteering in January 2007 and since then has been able to build good relationships with many clients. She finds that the teams she works with enable clients to be relaxed and are able to help those who come in who aren't well, who are homeless, or who just need someone to talk to.

**Trudie** – She wanted to more able to pray for people much more specifically, by name. A volunteer, Alex Drew, has been getting more involved and running with this vision.

**Alex** – She is a mum of three. She said she believes in the power of prayer and was pleased when Alan asked her to pray for the clients. She quoted Rinehart Bonke as having said that 'prayer is a detonator.'

**Trudie** – Trudie mentioned going along to meet people in Brunswick Square on Wednesday afternoons. She said she wanted to show God's love and interest to people in this area. Those going out have been supported by prayer. If there is anyone else wanting to pray, to be involved in more specific prayer, then please let her know. She mentioned Di & Keith and their baby, Alicia, being one particular prayer request. The good news is that it was Alicia's first birthday today, and overall this little family is doing well through support.

## ***Office Manager's Report (Claire Collins)***

Claire joined last December. She is employed to do general administration which is possibly a rather unglamorous but important aspect of the ministry. She does banking, prayer emails, newsletter, general enquiries etc. She has been looking at bettering quotes for insurance and water rates and in fact was able to cut the annual cost of insurance by £2,000.

Claire started with a zero knowledge of the ministry and as she has learnt more about what goes on here it has been good to impart that to other people, giving them a fresh point of view. In addition to office tasks, she has sat in with LITE, meeting the students and chatting over coffee. It has been inspiring to see people change. It's also good to be in the shop sometimes during the day and talk to clients and get to know them.

She has been going along with Trudie and Andy to Brunswick Square which was initially scary. They started taking to groups of people and took coffee and cake, which was a mistake. Another time they took chewy chocolate bars but the clients didn't have enough teeth to eat them. Now they just give give friendship. Someone recently commented that people become more peaceful when the team arrive. There have been good conversations with people and there have been opportunities to pray with people in the street, which feels very natural. Most people have had tragic childhoods and she questioned what God can do! She would like to see people healed of mental health issues like Legion in the New Testament.

Finally, she thanked people for volunteering and supporting CCM and giving to us at Christmas and harvest.

## ***Worship***

Transition led the meeting in another time of worship.

## ***General Manager's Report (Paul Hazelden)***

At recent meeting of the *Community Safety Forum of St Pauls Unlimited* they were discussing the problems in Brunswick Square. There are large numbers of our people gathering there to drink, and they pick this particular area because it is not covered by the non-drinking ban and there is nowhere else for them to go. Many local residents and businesses are very unhappy about the problems being caused by these people. In a discussion lasting some forty minutes, the outreach we are engaged in was the only positive activity identified as something being done to help these people.

Lasting change in our client group can only come from within. This is always a work of God, whether people give their lives to Jesus or not. Those who change the most are almost always those who accept Jesus into their lives, but even in the lives of those who don't respond we can see God working – because He loves them, just as much. God can give them a new life and hope without their responding to Him, but it will be a fuller life with Jesus.

The heart of the ministry at CCM is for us to be present and available, allowing God to work through us. It is our willingness that God works through. It happens mostly through the volunteers, dozens and dozens of them giving their time. Clients do appreciate the volunteers more than paid staff because it's generally not so good or effective when someone is paid to be nice to you. It helps clients realise there must be something worthwhile in them that people are willing to give up their time for.

It's also beneficial for volunteers to be used by God – often, this is life transforming. God has a purpose for volunteers, making their Christian experience exciting – living on the edge, full of amazing surprises, because he is a loving God. The church needs Christians to be mobilised, not just saved: if we want to see something happening, then we need to get out there and make ourselves available in a place where God wants to work.

Paul finally mentioned some prayer needs. We need more volunteers so we can open the coffee shop more frequently, and we want to employ a part-time cook/coffee shop assistant for 20 hours a week. He asked that people pray we find the right person.

## **AGM**

### ***People***

Please see page 3 for a list of the people present and the apologies received.

### ***Minutes of the 2006 AGM***

These were available for those who wanted a copy. The 2006 minutes were approved and signed.

### ***Election of Trustees***

Ann Banks was stepping down after 7 years. Paul expressed our great appreciation for everything she has contributed over the years and wished her every success for the future.

Trustees are elected for a five year period. Four trustees were continuing – Stephen Brown, Linda Dyson, Gerry Summers and Julie Summers.

There were two trustees who were standing for re-election: Dave Wiles and Graham Donald; and three new trustees: Jemma Mack, Alan Patterson and Andrew Street. All present at the AGM voted and the election of these five nominees was passed without opposition.

### ***Treasurer's Report (Martin Horton)***

Martin said it would be a talk in two halves. The Annual Report to 31 March 2007 was available at the rear of the hall for anyone who wanted it, and the accounts could be seen in the back section. The most important section was the SOFA – the Statement Of Financial Activity.

***First Half*** – Overall it has been a good year. Last year, financially, was bad, but additional funds started to come in following last year's 2006 AGM. Graham Donald wrote to many people, friends and businesses, with the result that Martin's prayers were answered and there was finally a healthy balance in the account. There was an income last year of £141,000 compared to £116,000 in the previous one. Wages were the main item of expenditure and this can be clearly seen in the accounts. Martin pointed out that we had received a mixture of restricted and unrestricted gifts. The former can only be spent in the area for which they were donated, such as the LITE course, kitchen etc. Unrestricted can be used in any area of the ministry.

***Second Half*** – The last six months. Things got a bit boring at the beginning of the year as there was too much money(!), but now it has become more interesting as we are running out again. Paul reminded him last year of God's faithfulness and grace and so Martin asked everyone to pray for more funding. He has been the CCM treasurer for 9 or 10 years and God has always provided. We were owed money from Gift Aid and have had about £3,600 from Gift Aid this past six months. Martin asked that people Gift Aided everything.

***Questions*** – None

### ***Chairman's Report (Graham Donald)***

***Thanks*** – Graham expressed our thanks once again to Trinity Tabernacle for hosting the AGM. He gave thanks also to the musicians, to those who prepared the food, to our volunteers and to those who have supported us financially either directly or through their church, trust or charity. He said it would be good to have more than one month's money in the bank, and if anyone knew of a source of funding or if they would like to increase their giving then to please get in touch.

***Prayer*** – This has under-girded much of what has happened in the past year. He talked about the Recoverer's group that Alan and volunteers are running each Friday night. He also mentioned the monthly prayer meeting at Anni Davey's home, and asked people to give it their support.

***Questions*** – Tony Richmond mentioned that the Gift Aid income is due to drop soon due to the change in Income Tax, and it was suggested that we ask people to increase their giving to make up for this shortfall. It was also noted that inflation reduces the real value of unchanged giving each year. These points will be made in the next newsletter. Martin also mentioned that one-off gifts can be Gift Aided.

## ***Changing the Constitution***

Paul introduced this item. At present, CCM is both a registered charity and a registered company. This creates a number of difficulties as we have to comply with the rules made by two different bodies, and they are not always compatible. To overcome this fairly common problem, the Charities Act 2006 established a new form of constitution, called a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or 'CIO'. The trustees are planning to convert CCM into a CIO, and hope to bring a proposal concerning this to the AGM in 2008 if the Charity Commission produces the necessary secondary legislation in time.

As part of our preparation for this change, we are reviewing our 'objects' – essentially, what we are seeking to achieve, set out in terms the Charity Commission can recognise. We do not need approval of any revised objects at this stage, but a draft text was printed on the agenda to help our members and supporters understand what we are considering. Paul invited anyone who had any thoughts or suggestions about the new wording of our objects to let him or Graham know, either after the meeting or via the office.

The following text was recently sent to the Charity Commission for their consideration.

The objects for which the Association is established are the advancement of the Christian faith and the relief of poverty, sickness, disadvantage and distress, particularly by:

1. Meeting the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all persons affected by life-disrupting problems such as physical or mental ill-health, homelessness, unemployment, alcohol abuse, use of non-prescription drugs or other addictive behaviour ("the client group");
2. Provision of a coffee shop at which meals may be served to the client group and others in need;
3. Provision of educational facilities to develop the skills, confidence and potential of the client group and others in need;
4. Provision of education and training for supporters of the Association, including its staff and volunteers;
5. Provision of informal advice, guidance and support and of formal counselling on personal, financial and welfare matters;
6. Provision of opportunities for the client group to engage in Christian worship, education, bible study and prayer .

## ***Any Other Business: Farewell to Ann Banks***

We were pleased to give Ann a gift of a book and flowers in appreciation and thanks for her support over the years. She has faithfully attended Trustees meetings, helped with LITE in the shop and her input with the staff too has been invaluable.

## ***Close***

The AGM finished at 9 pm and was followed by a buffet.

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