

Minutes of CDA Annual General Meeting
held at Westminster Cathedral Hall, London, Saturday 26th September 2026

1. Welcome to the AGM

Shell Roca welcomed all and explained some house-keeping rules re toilets and exits, then wished everybody a good meeting.

Joselyn Taylor welcomed everyone to the AGM. Fr Paul Fletcher SJ opened with a CDA prayer.

2. Prayer (this included a minute's silence for all deceased CDA members):

Margaret Newsham; Mark Burke; Canon Leo Glancy.

3. Attendance

Joselyn Taylor; Frankie Berry; Maria Booker; Peter Booker; Fr Paul Fletcher SJ; Theresa Higgins; Peter McDonough; Martin Schwarzacher; Pauline O'Toole; Nora Milward; Fr David Quiligotti; Dorothy Hester; Patricia Chandler; Aboagye N Kaminski; Maria Buckley; Caroline Norrish; Bernadette Power; Michael Broderick; Angela Broderick; Giselle Ranyi; Yasser McAndrew; Agnes L Dyab; Karla Huggins; Julia Huggins; Mark Huggins; Janet Reade; Angela Davies; Mary McCann; Helen Craig; Mariella Pisani; Paul Farrell; Roslyn Robinson; Maria Plumbley; Denise Armstrong; Anne Hart; Mary Davies; Brian Valerie.

Zoom attendance

No Zoom available because the walls at Westminster Cathedral hall are too thick.

Interpreters

BSL/English: James Fitzgerald

4. Apologies

Cathy Merchant; Eileen Hosie; Sr Maria McCready; Sr Pauline Nolan; Ros Hunt; Jean Lillis; Rachael Bell; Ian Urquhart; Bishop Peter Brignall; John Davies; Fr Ian Byrnes; Sr Marika Rebecsik; Roy Plumbley; Davina Davies; David Morgan.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Minutes of last year's AGM

Fr Paul Fletcher SJ was happy to propose that the minutes of the 2025 AGM be accepted as an accurate record. His proposal was seconded by Bernadette Power.

7. Chair's report

Joselyn Taylor presented her report using a PowerPoint presentation and then invited questions from the floor.

Michael Broderick responded to Joselyn's point regarding the costs associated with signed Masses, including the Wi-Fi dongle, Zoom and Mass paraphernalia. He suggested that a collection be held to help cover these costs. *(A collection was held and given to the Treasurer at the end of the AGM which raised £273.80. A further donation of £26.20 was subsequently made by bank transfer by a person who had been unable to contribute cash at the collection, bringing the total raised to £300.)*

Mary McCann suggested that the Safeguarding Policy should also be made available in a British Sign Language (BSL) version. Janet Reade asked about the Safeguarding Policy in relation to the dioceses. Fr Paul Fletcher SJ explained that each diocese has its own Safeguarding Policy. He clarified that the CDA is separate from the dioceses and is an autonomous organisation, and that the CDA's Safeguarding Policy applies only to CDA events. He further explained that the CDA is accountable to the Charity Commission.

Agnes Dyab asked whether the Constitution specifically mentions Deafblind people. Joselyn Taylor believed that Deafblind people were mentioned in the Constitution but she would check it later.

8. Adoption of Chair's report

Roslyn Robinson proposed that the Chair's report be accepted, and the proposal was seconded by Caroline Norrish.

9. Treasurer's report

Joselyn Taylor explained that, unfortunately, Susan Myatt, the Independent Examiner, was unable to attend the AGM. However, Susan had prepared a short video presentation in BSL explaining several aspects of the accounts. Peter McDonough then invited questions from the floor.

Janet Reade asked why a bank charge had been incurred when her local Deaf Club in Greater Manchester, which uses the same bank, does not incur bank charges. Peter McDonough was unable to provide an immediate explanation and agreed to check this *(it was subsequently confirmed that the bank charge related to the use of a bank card during the year.)*

10. Adoption of Treasurer's report

Caroline Norrish proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and the proposal was seconded by Theresa Higgins.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Joselyn Taylor thanked Susan for her thorough and professional review of the Association's accounts, and she then asked whether the members were happy to reappoint Susan Myatt as the Association's Independent Examiner. Mary Davies proposed that Susan Myatt be reappointed as the Association's Independent Examiner. The proposal was seconded by Maria Plumbley.

12. Election of CDA Council members

There were only four nominations:

- Denise Armstrong from Liverpool diocese, nominated by Maria Booker and seconded by Caroline Norrish.
- Angela Davies from Wrexham diocese, nominated by Sr Maria McCready and seconded by Sr Pauline Nolan.
- Davina Davies from Westminster diocese, nominated by Peter McDonough and seconded by Martin Schwarzacher.
- Martin Schwarzacher from Westminster diocese, nominated by Dorothy Hester and seconded by Peter Booker.

As there were only four nominations for the four vacant Council positions, there was no need for an election. Denise Armstrong, Angela Davies, Davina Davies and Martin Schwarzacher were duly elected as Council members and will each serve a three-year term.

13. Any Other Business

a) Mary Davies asked whether Fr Paul Fletcher SJ charges for the weekly signing Masses. Fr Paul explained that there are no charges or fees and that he volunteers his time and energy to provide the Masses.

b) Roslyn Robinson asked about Terence Harton's Bene Merenti Medal, including where it is currently being kept and whether it might be donated to the Museum at Manchester Deaf Centre - or storing the medal at British Deaf Historical Society? Fr Paul Fletcher SJ explained that the British Deaf Historical Society actually has a room within Manchester Deaf Centre. Joselyn Taylor explained that, following Terence's funeral, his family had given the medal to a member in Leeds, who was keeping it safe. Agnes Dyab said that she would have preferred the medal to be stored at St John's, Boston Spa. As Terence had been a former pupil at the school, she felt that this would be appropriate as the medal would be 'coming back home'. Fr Paul Fletcher SJ explained that there was some uncertainty regarding the future of the Manchester Deaf Centre, as the building is owned by Manchester University and they are seeking to reclaim the building. Mary McCann explained that she had recently visited the school with a friend. Due to safeguarding requirements, it was not possible to visit the school without prior arrangements. If the medal were to be stored there, the school would need to be contacted in advance and a date and time arranged for any future visits.

c) Michael Broderick said that he felt it was important for the CDA to continue organising pilgrimages to Lourdes.

Fr Paul Fletcher SJ thanked Roca Shell for her hospitality and presented her with a bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolate and a card as a token of our appreciation.

Joselyn Taylor thanked everyone for their patience. The meeting concluded with a prayer at 12.25 pm. Members were reminded to be at the Cathedral by 1.45 pm.