



Notes of the Cornwall Faith Forum Annual General Meeting held on 1st July 2025 at 7.00 pm at the Old Cathedral School, Cathedral Close, Truro TR1 2FQ

Present: Andrew Yates (AY) Chair, Kathy Pope (KP), Malcolm Bowers (MB), Geoff Watson (GW), Eve Salthouse (ES), Gemma Tracey (GT), John Holland (JH), Rosey Sanders (RS) (notes),

Apologies: Loic Rich, Paul Haines, Heather Blacker, Qudsia Ward, Reece Watherburn, Jeremy Jacobson.

1. **Notes of AGM held on 25th June 2024 were approved (viewable on website and circulated at the meeting).** These were approved as an accurate recording of the last AGM.
2. **Presentation of the examined accounts for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (viewable on website and circulated at the meeting).**

All present thanks MB for all his hard work as CFF Treasurer and for preparing these accounts. Also thanks to Barbara Russett for auditing the accounts and for making no charge. MB felt that the past year was a better year with more money coming in through Education via the Hospice and the Council and the potential for more funding to come in from the Council. Also costs have gone down as we no longer employ the Interfaith Development Officer role and the number of volunteers have gone down, thus the insurance is cheaper. There continues to be the website costs.

MB advised that the current figures are: The balance in the bank is £7,544. This comprises of £8,994 DK and minus £1,452 in education, so DK is currently supporting Education by this amount. However, we will have £800 coming in from Cornwall Council for education work done for them. This will bring the deficit on Education down to £652 which is good news.

The accounts were proposed by Malcolm Bowers and seconded by Andrew Yates, and all approved.

3. **Election of Members to Executive**

The results 2025 election of the twenty voting members (aka the Executive) are set out below. Therefore the twenty voting members for 2025 are:

Hindu Faith

Paul Green; Vacancy

Pagan Faith

Eve Salthouse; Vacancy

Bahai Faith

Philomena Clifford; Diana Profaska

Islamic Faith

Naeem Ahmad; Muhammad Abusara

Jewish Faith

Jeremy Jacobson; Adam Feldman

Buddhist Faith

Sophie Muir; Vacancy

Christian Faith

Kathy Pope; Vacancy

Voting Members (6 places):

Andrew Yates, Paul Haines, Qudsia Ward, Rita Stephen, Gemma Tracey, 1 vacancy

4. **Election to the Board of Trustees**

The named individuals below were all re-elected to the Board of Trustees:

Andrew Yates, Eve Salthouse, Philomena Clifford, Kathy Pope, Paul Green, 1 vacancy

5. **Review of 2024/25:**

Sharing for Peace

Signing of the Faith Covenant

On 13 November 2024, during Interfaith Week, faith groups from across Cornwall came together at Lys Kernow in Truro to sign Cornwall's new Faith Covenant. This is a joint commitment between Cornwall Council and Cornwall's faith communities to work together to support Cornwall residents. The Faith Covenant is a significant milestone in our partnership with our faith communities. It highlights our shared values and the desire to help bring communities together and promote a sense of pride in Cornwall's diversity. The full and Easy Read versions of the signed Covenant document can be found here:

<https://dorkemmyrn.org.uk/faith-covenant-for-cornwall/>

Members of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, and Pagan faiths, alongside a representative from the Humanist community signed the Covenant document on behalf of their communities. The Covenant was also signed by Cllr Linda Taylor, Leader of Cornwall Council and Kate Kennally, Chief Executive on behalf of Cornwall Council and Andrew Yates (Chair) on behalf of Cornwall Faith Forum.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On 27th January marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The annual service was held at Truro Cathedral. Kehillat Kernow stated 'A very moving and well-attended service took place in Truro Cathedral on that day under the theme 'For A Better Future'. Kehillat Kernow took a major part in the service and a good number of members attended. A video of the 1 hour event is available here:

<https://youtu.be/o0tJ-TQewno> . A huge thank you to KK member Helen Moreland who made the official recording of the event.'

Dor Kemmyn website updates

The website required some updating which has been undertaken.

Other events held at the Dor Kemmyn Peace Field were:

- Eid-ul-Fitr, by the Muslim Faith Community – 6th April 2025
- Three Holy Days, by the Baha'i Faith Community – 27th April 2025
- Wesak Celebration, by the Buddhist Faith Community – 11th May 2025
- Shavuot, by the Jewish Faith Community – 1st June 2025 where the Biblical story of Ruth and Naomi was enacted by Kehittat Kernow members followed by delicious food.

Building for Peace

During the year we continue to meet at the Dor Kemmyn Field (see details above) around our faith poles. These poles make a conspicuous presence to passers by and we are shortly having 2 notice boards erected giving information about the Cornwall Faith Forum and the poles.

Moving forward a suggestion has been made of erecting a Gazebo/Summerhouse construction e.g. view here: <https://www.crownpavilions.com/> Although smaller than our proposed DK Oval, it could provide shelter and the cost feels as if it could be achievable. We have yet to ask the Penmount staff whether they would approve of such a structure. AY asked the meeting whether this was an idea that would be favourable. All those present agreed that this would be a way forward and were in agreement with this suggestion. AY will now set up a task and finish group to proceed with this idea, subject to agreement of Penmount staff.

Learning for Peace

Currently we are undertaking online Faith literacy training for Cornwall Council staff. KP also kindly met with the Little Harbour, St Austell to provide training for working with different faiths.

6. Any other business

20th Anniversary of the Cornwall Faith Forum

Suggestions of ideas to mark this:

- We have the cleaning of the Faith Poles in August. ? could this be a celebration as well.
- Mark the anniversary during Interfaith Week in November.

Proposal to add a fourth strand to our work as the CFF – to include Hoping for Peace alongside Building, Learning and Sharing for Peace. This suggestion was made by Rita Stephen. As Rita was unable to be with us, it was suggested this was postponed to another date.

RS/August 2025