

ARCAID

34th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Parish Hall, St Joan's Church, Farnham

Tuesday 26th November 2024

The formal meeting opened at 7.35 pm

1. **Welcome** by Charlotte Woellwarth, who invited Fr Simon Dray to open the AGM with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** received from: Mark Baines, John Dick, Susie Duffy, Sue & Tony Gardner, Gerry & Brian Huggett, Nicola Mountain, Joanna Rendall, Frances Thompson, Andrew Torjussen, Tony Tunstall

Fiona Dick (Secretary) apologised about the lack of a live link to the meeting, but a recent change in Facebook regulations meant that this was no longer possible for organisations with less than 100 followers. But she thanked Richard Fisher for all his ongoing help and support with Arcaid's social media activities. She also took the opportunity to thank Mary Nolan, who now looks after the Arcaid section of the Parish website.

3. **Minutes of the previous AGM** – 28 November 2023 were agreed. Proposed: Michael Maher; seconded: Jane Gates.
4. **Matters arising.** None.
5. **Chairperson's Report – Charlotte Woellwarth**

Arcaid was established in 1989 and 35 years later I am proud to stand here and say that the message and the aim remain the same. To provide support to some of the poorest individuals and communities in developing countries around the world, whose needs do not fall within the scope and remit of the larger aid organisations. Although Arcaid is a small charity, it is important to remember that not only is every single parishioner a member of Arcaid but that the donations received have an enormous and often life-changing impact on the lives of those who we support. As cliché as it may sound, just a few pounds really do make such a significant difference, for the exception of bank charges, 100% of your donations go directly to the projects. Of course, I am aware that probably none of this is new information to you, but I think it is always valuable and exciting to recognise just how special Arcaid as a charity really is.

Over the past year Arcaid has supported 25 projects in 11 countries, enabling communities to develop in their own simple and unique ways. Waving children off to school each morning in their new school uniforms, enabling parishioners to collect clean running water from a borehole, learning all about the skills that the local youth have been taught in tailoring and farming, watching the creation of kitchen gardens or receiving ear examinations at the local health clinic. In short, your donations yet

again this year, have enabled people to access the most basic services that we would all take for granted.

A strong belief around the world is that education is the key to success; if you educate a child, you educate the whole family, in turn creating greater opportunities. This year has been like no other and Arcaid has provided university, primary and secondary school fees for students in India, Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania. With growing youth unemployment rates in developing countries due to a lack of skills and academic education, in recent years Arcaid has found itself both receiving and supporting a number of proposals for vocational education projects. Most recently with the training of 93 teenage and single mothers in Uganda who took part in a 5- day workshop, enabling them to learn the skills of handicraft, detergent making and agriculture, with the overall aim to combat children abandonment, primarily driven by poverty as well as the encouragement of self-sustainability. Similarly, in Zimbabwe, Arcaid supported the establishment of a piggery at a rural residential project for disabled young people whose families are poor subsistence farmers.

Throughout the year Arcaid has also been continually reminded of the fragile contexts in which many of our projects exist, with a number of child feeding programmes, one of which was a preschool in South Africa attended by 78 young children. Arcaid supported with funds to guarantee the children ate one meal a day, purchasing the ingredients from the local store. Similarly, we supported a nutrition programme for infants at a local health centre in Malawi, a programme which prior to Arcaid's assistance had abruptly stopped due to the aftermath of several cyclones in 2023 which meant the usual nutrition funds of the health centre needed to be diverted elsewhere.

Alongside participatory-style projects, Arcaid has also provided funds for the purchase of stationary, clothing and medicine for a children's home in India, a laptop, projector and an internet server in Malawi, otoscopes in Guatemala and furniture for an orphanage in Tanzania.

During 2024 we have spent time as Trustees looking at ways to increase Arcaid's visibility with a cake sale in May, the recent Cheese and Wine Evening and the leveraging of our Facebook page with updates and project photographs, it has been a wonderful to be able to share with both parishioners and non-parishioners the work that we do and how their donations are and can be used.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thanks to our Trustees for their commitment and dedication. They make the decisions, correspond with the priests, nuns and volunteers working on the ground and follow up on every project funded. On a personal note, I am especially grateful to Maggie and Fiona who have really held-down the fort whilst I had a baby this year.

Hopefully I have given you a brief summary of some of our activities over the past year, none of these would have been possible without you. No matter the size of your donation, and whether you give regularly or occasionally, thank you on behalf of Arcaid and the beneficiaries, for your support and generosity.

[There were no questions]

6. Treasurer's Report – Mark Baines (presented by Charlotte Woellwarth)

Our donors have continued to demonstrate the virtue of charity, with generosity and kindness.

As you will see from the annual report, found on the St Joan of Arc website, our overall income is just over £42,000, a decrease from £45,000 last year. This includes some very generous additional donations from subscribers as well as other one-off payments. This is simply incredible, in the face of the economic challenges we face.

Of this total, the Gift Aid reclaim was approximately £8,200 and GiftAid continues to make a huge difference so thank you for all donors for completing the appropriate form to allow us to claim.

In addition, we have raised just over £280 from the Easyfundraising programme, information of which you will find on the St Joan of Arc website. This has huge potential, and I would encourage all donors to have a look how this initiative. It only takes 2 minutes & 5,000+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them.

We made grants to projects of over £45,000 across the world, the details of which you will find in Appendix 1 of the annual report.

Our only actual costs are bank charges, which totalled £204, which the Trustees will continue to work hard to ensure we keep this as low as possible.

I would like to thank Sean Collins, for his continued support and commitment to ArcAid, by auditing our accounts. We are extremely grateful for the time he continues to give.

Now finalised, audited and filed, the figures for the year to the end of October 2023 are available for you to see on the Charity Commission website, with the annual return. The returns for this financial year will be available via the Charity Commission, just before Lent.

Thank you to all who contribute in any way and enable us to help so many causes and communities.

[There were no questions]

7. Election to Committee – Maggie Putland

We are losing 3 highly-valued trustees this year – Mark Baines our outgoing Treasurer, Jane O'Donnell and Richard Fisher all of whom have been trustees for the last 3 years. We would like to thank them all very much for all the time and effort that they have put into the projects that Arcaid supports. Their skills and input will be very much missed by us all.

This leaves 3 vacancies on the committee and we are very fortunate to have 3 people who have been proposed and have agreed to fill those vacancies. Firstly, Terri McClure has agreed to become our new Treasurer. Terri has been a co-opted

member of the committee since January this year and has been learning the ropes from Mark.

Terri is proposed by Fiona Dick and seconded by me. If you agree to Terri being elected as Treasurer please can I ask you to raise your hand. (**agreed unanimously**)

Thank you. Terri is duly elected as Treasurer.

Secondly, Niamh Draper has also been a co-opted member of the committee since the summer, having been instrumental with Jo Ellis in the organisation of our wonderful wine and cheese evening and is happy to come on board as a full trustee. Niamh is proposed by Jo Ellis and seconded by Nikki Matthews. Again, if you agree to Niamh being elected as a Trustee please raise your hand. (**agreed unanimously**)

Thank you. Niamh is duly elected.

Thirdly, Monique Limerick has also come forward stand for election as a Trustee. Monique is nominated by Jo Ellis and seconded by Charlotte Woellwarth. If you agree to Monique being elected as a trustee please raise your hands. (**agreed unanimously**)

Thank you. Monique is duly elected.

We warmly welcome all of our new Trustees and thank them very much for joining us.

We also have two existing trustees whose term of office is up for renewal, but we are pleased to say that would both like to stand for re-election again.

We would like to propose that both Jo Ellis and Sarah Marshall elected for a further year. Does anyone want to raise any objection? (**agreed unanimously**)
Thank you.

And now I'm going to hand over to Fiona to deal with any other business.

8. Any other Business –

William Woellwarth asked about the results of the recent Wine Tasting Event. Jo Ellis, who had helped to organise the event, reported that 92 tickets had been sold, raising over £1,600 and bringing on board a number of new supporters. The evening had been extremely enjoyable and it was good to see a lively mix of parishioners and guests.

9. Presentation – Dr Karilyn Collins MBE, Muheza Hospice Care

Charlotte Woellwarth introduced Dr Karilyn Collins MBE, of Muheza Hospice Care, who had last spoken to Arcaid 10 years ago. She gave an inspirational talk about the work of Muheza Hospice Care, in north eastern Tanzania. When she first visited some 30 years ago there was no palliative care anywhere in the country. Muheza Hospice Care now provides in-patient, day patient care and home visits for cancer patients, Mothers' Clubs and Kids' Clubs for HIV patients, and the first

provision of palliative care in prisons. Muheza is now seen as a centre of excellence providing education in palliative care for the rest of Tanzania.

She presented a number of very informative case studies showing the impact of the team's work, particularly the mobile units who are able to provide patients with pain relief in their own homes, which were profoundly moving. More details about the work of Muheza Hospice Care can be found at www.muhezahospicecare.org.

Charlotte Woellwarth thanked Karilyn for her most informative and compassionate presentation, and said that Arcaid would be making an additional donation to help in their work.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm
There were 32 in attendance