

CARJ AGM 2 November 2019 at 11am at 9 Henry Rd. London N4

Present	Present: Marilyn Alert, Deacon Joseph Baffour Awuah*, Lloyd Booker*, Bill Chambers*, Fay Clarke, Bridget Donlon, Margaret Ann Fiskin*, Malcolm Forster*, Martin Kentish, Suddie Komba-Kono*, Gloria Oham, Nikki Petch*, Ernesto Robertson*, Helena Robertson*, Andrea Robertson, Nayako Robertson*, Fr Joe Ryan, Sue Smailes*, Yogi Sutton*, Protasia Torkington, Sr Monica Tywang*, Tricia Zipfel* and Richard Zipfel*. Those with asterisks were paid-up members.
1. Welcome	Yogi Sutton took the Chair, welcomed everyone and said the opening prayer.
2. Apologies	Chris Beales, Michael Hornsby-Smith, Ian Jessiman, Ann Kelly, Phil Kerton, Melvin Lyons, John Murphy, Fr Derek Reeve, Fr Phil Sumner, Alison Williams and others had offered their apologies.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the previous AGM 3 Novemeber 2018 were agreed without comment or dissent. There were no matters arising.
4. Preliminary matters	The Chair pointed out that those present who were not members and wanted to become members could do this at the registration desk. She also informed the group that some of the sessions would be filmed and if anyone did not want to be filmed they should notify Gloria or one of the CARJ officers. The group was informed that the meeting was quorate. Finally, the Chair explained that all members and friends of CARJ had been circulated with a letter announcing the AGM and alerting recipients that the papers for the AGM were on the CARJ website. Anyone who could not access the website was invited to contact CARJ and request hard copies of the papers. Hard copies were available for everyone at the AGM.
5. Annual Report	The Chair took the group through the Annual Report. She spoke to her Report and then took each section of the Annual Report, allowing time for the section to be read and discussed. Bill Chambers spoke to the Liverpool Report and noted the precarious financial situation of the Liverpool Project. CARJ is committed to supporting the Project and helping to raise funds for its future. Richard Zipfel spoke to the Report on the Schools Project, Urban Network, Travellers Network, Caste Discrimination Network and Submissions to Inquiries and Consultations. The Annual Report was approved without dissent.
6. Financial Statement	The Financial Statement was discussed and agreed. The Chair mentioned that this was a Draft and would go to the auditor for final approval.
7. Election and Appointment of Trustees	Protasia Torkington and Malcolm Forster had been co-opted by Trustees at their meeting on 28 September. The AGM was asked to ratify their appointments as Trustees. Each had been proposed by Suddie Komba Kono and Seconded by Richard Zipfel. Their appointments were agreed. Fr Phil Sumner and Melvin Lyons had stepped down as Trustees as part of the ordinary rotation. They had agreed to and had been nominated for re-election. Both were proposed by Suddie Komba-Kono and Seconded by Richard Zipfel. Both were elected without opposition.

8. Finish of Business Meeting	The meeting was closed and was followed by Mass, Lunch and an afternoon session with a Speaker and Panel discussion on the <i>History of the last ten years</i> and how we move forward in a complex and changing society. See Appendix for a Report of the afternoon session.
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Appendix to Minutes – CARJ AGM, 2 November 2019
Afternoon Session - Speaker, Panel and Plenary Discussion
CARJ 35th Anniversary – History of the Last Ten Years
‘We look back reflectively in order to move forward in hope’

The afternoon session was opened with a brief Power Point Presentation on the *History of the Last Ten Years*.

Fr Joe Ryan, Parish Priest at St John Vianney Church in West Green, and retiring Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace, gave a talk, reflecting on the *History of the Last Ten Years*. He began by saying of CARJ that ‘you have had your finger on the pulse’ and ‘have been reading the signs of times.’ He recalled the story of the sculptor in a small village who was visited by a young boy who sat watching him carry out his work – chipping away carefully and skilfully at a large rock. The boy watched for a while, then got bored and went off home, but asked if he could come back another day. About two weeks later he returned and to his astonishment there was a beautiful carving of a powerful lion in front of him. He asked the sculptor: ‘How did you know the lion was in the stone?’ The master craftsman had a vision, patience and the skills to carve the lion out of a large rock. The lesson for us is that we need to be a people of hope, vision and determination.

Fr Joe reflected on Brexit – a disaster - which has divided the country and communities, families. Before the Referendum there should have been countless workshops. All we saw were a few platitudes – ‘more money for the NHS’, ‘free at last from the shackles of Europe’, ‘concern about migrants’ - very little about the Border between north and south in Ireland. The understanding was that Brexit would all be done and dusted in two years – in fact it is likely to take 9 or 10 years.

Drawing on his experience in Westminster Justice and Peace, Fr Joe discussed ‘human trafficking and migration’. It is estimated that there are 60 plus million people on the move. They leave their homes because of war, ethnic cleansing, poverty or to seek a better life. We are an island nation with more than 11,000 miles of coastline, 3000 airports and 1000 ports. The UN has written a report – *Scaling Fences* - which shows the complexity of reasons behind migration.

Fr Joe went on to speak of the recent Synod on the Amazon. It shows the ministry of Pope Francis in its true colours – how he integrates care for the poor with care for the planet. He sees the ‘Amazon Method’ as a model for future reform and how to interpret the signs of the times.

Finally, Fr Joe closed with the words of St Oscar Romero –
A Step Along the Way.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The aim is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete

We plant the seeds that one day will grow

We water seeds already planted

We are prophets of a future not our own.’

The discussion that followed reflected further on the theme – ‘We look back reflectively in order to move forward in hope.’ The discussion was rich with thoughts about the past and the future, including:

- Too often there has been a failure of political and religious leadership, lacking the humility of St Oscar Romero or the courage and vision of Pope Francis.
- We must take time to discern the appropriate role of CARJ. We are still here, and we can punch above our weight, but only if we are fairly clear about the appropriate role for a small Catholic charity committed to working with others for a more just, more equal more cooperative society.
- We have to use our voice, especially to enable marginalised groups to have their voice, to help people tell their stories and to provide brief, informative and accurate analysis of issues of economic, social and racial justice and how they interact.
- We can draw on Catholic social teaching and catholic social thought. When Pope Francis went to America, he suggested that Catholics there should listen especially to – Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day and Martin Luther King.