**Association of Christians in Counselling and Linked Professions**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024 (online)**

**Saturday 13 July 2024**

**Members: 47 members attended**

**The meeting opened in prayer led by Chris Williams**

**The meeting was led by Sue Moncton-Rickett (SMR), Chair of ACC**

**Apologies: no apologies were received**

**Minutes of previous AGM held on 15 July 2023**

* There were no corrections to the minutes
* The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. 23 attendees (who attended in 2023) accepted the minutes.
* There were no matters arising.

**Annual Report for 2023**

**Peter Roberts (PR), ACC Finance Director, presented the Annual Report for 2023.**

PR explained that report includes required company information, the director's report, the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the accounting notes and the independent examiner's report

With regard to the company information nothing has changed concerning ACC’s registered office, postal address, independent examiners and bankers.

ACC is registered as a company with company's house and a registered charity both with the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Register. So once the Annual Report has been adopted at this meeting, it will be submitted to the three bodies.

With regard to the director's report, there have been a number of changes to the board. Jim McCrae resigned in May 2023 and in November 2023 Leroy Harley was co-opted to the board. In February 2024 there were two resignations - Peter Barraclough and Janet McNish and then since the accounts have been published Sharon Hastings has also resigned. The resignations have been due to various reasons, pressure of work, family situations and illness. On behalf of ACC PR thanked all those members of the board who have served and resigned during the year and those who continue to serve. Included in the director's report is a review of the year and that includes developmental changes, ongoing activities and plans for the future, which will be addressed later in the AGM.

With regard to the financial position, at the end of 2023 ACC General Fund income was £224,972, which was less than 2022, mainly due to the National Conference in 2022. In conference years there is a large increase in income and expenditure and so comparing one year with the next can be quite challenging. However, there are some common themes that that apart form conference, the vast proportion of ACC’s income (67% in 2023) comes from membership subscriptions and PR thanked members for their financial support. PR encouraged members who are able to gift aid to do so as it increases the subscriptions income by 25% for ACC. Also, payments made by debit card rather than credit cards have lower fees.

Donations and legacies, these are the gifts that ACC receive. PR said that there is a donate button on the new website and that donors can chose whether to donate to for general fund or overseas fund. He thanked everyone who has made a donation.

In 2023 ACC online training events and pastoral care courses provided nearly £9,000 of income.

General Fund expenditure was £242,811 with the majority of costs (67%) being for staff. The other significant cost in 2023 was for website and database development. In total the website development cost is £66,000, with the majority being spent in 2022, and another £10,000 to be spent in 2024 to complete the development. PR said that there were already massive benefits from that new website for ACC members.

Accord costs in 2023 were £16,460, which is a substantial reduction from 2022 due to Accord being produced in electronic form rather than printing.

Restricted funds included monies received from the NHS, Brighter Lives Fund and Garfield Western Trust both in 2023 and 2022 and ACC are very grateful for that income. Most of the funds had been utilised in 2022 and 2023 and the balance at the end of 2023 is £4,794. Liz Neve is helping ACC this year to apply for more funds, which will enable further development of our courses and other plans for growth.

The transfer of £14,425 from Restricted to General Funds is in respect of the NHS work and represents a contribution towards the work that ACC head office team have done to support the NHS staff counselling service.

The balance sheet shows ACC’s assets and liabilities, showing funds as at the end of the year of £125,081 the reduction from the previous year is almost entirely due to the utilisation of the NHS Counselling Service Funds and the use of grants for the development of the website and courses. General Funds decreased by £3,414.

PR said that the Annual Report has been independently examined by Stewardship (report on Page 18) and he thanked Sarah Crispin at Stewardship and Sue Monckton-Rickett and Keith Payne, (ACC bookkeeper), for their help in preparing the accounts.

**Questions from members:**

A question was raised with regard to gift aid. PR confirmed that gift aid can only be claimed on subscriptions if members are not claiming them as a business expense.

A question was raised about the best way to make payments. PR confirmed that the fees for a debit card payment is less than a credit card, so if members are able to pay by debit card, that is best. When renewing membership, payment has to be made on the system to complete the process and so making payments by bank transfer is not a practical option. PR acknowledged that there had been some problems with making payments, for which ACC apologises and has been investigating.

SMR tanked PR for all of his work in preparing this report and also for the regular financial reporting to the Board and maintaining of financial controls.

**The following votes were taken:**

* **The Annual Report was accepted and the Accounts approved for the year ending 31st December 2023 with 38 votes in favour and none against.**
* **Stewardship was approved as Independent Examiners for period to 31 December 2024 with votes 40 in favour and none against.**
* **The Board were authorised to fix the remuneration of the Independent Examiners with 41 votes in favour and none against.**
* **No proxy votes had been received for any of the above.**

**Appointment and Election of Trustees to the Board of ACC**

SMR said that there were two existing Board members who wished to stand for re-election and two new nominations received.

She explained that trustee stand for a three-year term and can be re-elected twice so serving a maximum of nine years before needing to step down. Both Chris Williams (Deputy Chair) and Peter Roberts (Finance Director) are standing for re-election. Leroy Harley was co-opted onto the board in November 2023, but as a co-opted member has to stand for election at the next AGM. Kate Pozo is a new nomination.

With four nominees standing and ACC Board having more vacancies than that, there will not be competition between nominees, but there would still be a vote for each. If, however, the majority of members were to say “NO” to a nominee, then they would not be elected. The online voting poll that members were invited to take part in was anonymous.

**The voting for the four candidates was as follows:**

* **Leroy Harley: 41 for YES. None for NO**
* **Kate Pozzo: 40 for YES. None for NO**
* **Peter Roberts: 42 for YES. None for NO**
* **Chris Williams: 42 for YES. None for NO**

SMR announced therefore that all of the nominees had been duly elected, and she looked forward to working with them. She re-emphasised that it would be good to have some new board members, especially as, for various reasons, some board members have had to step down this year. She encouraged anyone who was interested to contact her or Chris Williams for more information. She said that ACC members have so many skills and experience from all walks of life that could be valuable, so she encouraged members to reflect whether joining the Board was something that God might be prompting, and/or if already something someone was thinking about, to pray and get in touch.

**ACC 2023 Achievements and Plans for 2024 - Sue Monckton-Rickett (SMR) ACC Chair**

SMR said that she wanted to highlight how much ACC has developed over the years, not just in the last year but over many years. That ACC is always building on the foundations of the people that have gone before.

She highlighted

* the significant development of pastoral care resourcing and training in the last two years and thanked those involved the development and delivery
* the on-going retention of a PSA accredited register and continuing to maintain the standards needed
* the intentionality of trying to become more ecumenical, reaching out to more Christian organisations and denominations and a growing ecumenically diverse membership. ACC wants to be a resource to the whole church, not to just one particular part of it
* the improvement of service given to members and others
* the new website improving services and resources
* the increased recognition in the wider profession

In 2022 ACC changed its name and branding and along with the new website these are intended to show that ACC is very clear about who it is and what is does as well as looking like a modern professional organisation.

ACC wants its’ members (current and new membership streams) to feel that they are part of and represented by an organisation that is both Christian and professional and helps them to develop professionally.

SMR said that over recent years ACC has greatly increased its’ presence and recognition in the professional world. The value that groups like the SCoPEd partnership and the MoU place on ACC was very big. She gave credit for to the people that represent ACC on different committees and coalitions - Kathy, Gillian, Yineng, Chris and others. Such increased recognition is good for ACC as an organisation and also for all of its members.

At the 2022 National Conference ACC launched the acronym **CARE,** which is very appropriate to what ACC does as an organisation but also what its’ members do. The acronym stands for **Connect, Accompany, Resource and Engage** and the AGM presentations would show how this is done in various ways. These four parts of the acronym are what ACC seeks to fulfil in all that it does.

C is connect and there are many connection routes on ACC’s website:

* “Find a Counsellor” - connecting clients with safe trained and accountable counsellors. In June this year there about 8,000 views to find a counsellor. People are using this facility and hopefully members are seeing the benefits.
* “Find an Organisation”- people can look for counselling or pastoral support services,
* “Find a Supervisor”, connects counsellors with supervisors
* Training organisations can also be found connecting them to perspective students

SMR said that another key way that ACC connects people is through training events, forums, support groups for counsellors and pastoral carers and membership groups. ACC want to be an organisation that people feel they belong to and connected to each other through it, learning from each other, sharing experiences and supported by each other.

SMR then introduced representatives for various membership groups to give more information about them.

**Presentation from Children and Young People’s Development Group (CYP) by Christine Pinder (CP)**

The group was set up a few years ago to be a voice for counsellors that are working with CYP to champion the cause of counselling CYP and to see good standards of practise for this work. Something like one in six young people have diagnosable mental health conditions and accessing help can be difficult. CP said that in the agency, where she is based there have been a couple of referrals from primary school children who have been on NHS waiting lists for four years. So, part of the work of the CYP group is to support and encourage counsellors to work with young people and so increase the availability of help

There is a small core group of members, who meet every few weeks. Members of the group have written articles for Accord, held forums for ACC members, looked at standards for working with CYP and set up a peer support group for CYP counsellors.

The group has spent quite a bit of time thinking about how working with CYP is different from working with adults and what additional specific training is needed. The group has looked at various specific topics:

* how to work with faith and spirituality with CYP – a fascinating and complicated topic. All the things that counsellors would think about in terms of working with faith with adults are even more important because of the extra power dynamic there is with working with CYP.
* working with gender and sexuality, which is a complicated topic, but one that is very common in working with CYP
* the impact of the pandemic on CYP
* burnout in CYP counsellors because there's so much need. Keep boundaries and practising self-care.

Anybody interested in joining was invited to contact CP or Vicky Bell.

**Presentation from Counsellors and Church Leaders Group (CCLG) –by Christine Pinder (CP)**

The group is for counsellors, who are also in a church leadership role, taking quite a broad definition of church leader. The group is led by Neil Blake.

CP said that the group had become quite an important part of her support network, because it is a group that understands both roles and the pressures and dilemmas that having the two roles can create.

Approximately 15 people our part of the group with an attendance of five to seven at each meeting. The group meet every month on a Monday morning for about an hour and a quarter.

The group has two alternating formats:

* one month the group divides into triplets for a kind of peer supervision where counselling, pastoral work and personal impacts can be discussed. It is really helpful to have such a space with others working in similar situations and with similar dilemmas
* one month the group meets altogether to share experiences and resources. The group has discussed various topics including spiritual abuse, spiritual life maps, working with emotions, patterns of rest and self-care, compassion fatigue, the overlap between pastoral care and client work, spiritual direction and managing that in client work, and the Churchill framework.

Anybody interested in joining was invited to contact CP or Neil Blake.

**Presentation from Ethnic Tapestry – Leroy Harley (LH)**

The group started in response to the murder of George Floyd in 2020. One of the founding questions was about what ACC was doing to support black colleagues within counselling.

The group has:

* helped ACC to look at issues with regards to global majority people within the counselling sphere
* written articles in Accord on ethnic related topics
* help to run ACC forums on topics such as “why black men don't do counselling” and racism and it is hoped to hold further forums in the future.

LH commented that at the AGM there were not many people from the global majority and so there was work to do in thinking about how to get them engaging more with ACC. The group also wanted to help navigate issues for people from the global majority about the experience of counselling and to look at how to get more ethnically diverse books and resources into counselling training so that everybody has an opportunity to learn from and take into consideration other ways of working.

The group meets on a bi-monthly basis, primarily on a Friday for an hour and a half.

The group is always looking for new members, and LH encouraged people to contact him.

**Presentation from Couples Counselling Group – by Sean Charlesworth (SC) on behalf of Helen Wightwick**

The group started in July 2022 with 25 people on a mailing list and now there are over 70. Not everyone comes to every meeting, but it is a really great resource for counsellors to come when they can. On average about 30 attend each meeting.

The group meets every other month and discusses various topics including how to help couples with relationships that are spiritual abusive, how to support a partner of a person who is addicted to pornography, etc. Someone from the group leads initial thoughts and then discussion takes place in smaller breakout rooms.

The group provides a very good learning community, and it is especially helpful for counsellors who are doing some work with couples but have found it hard to find a supervisor experienced in supervising couples’ work. The group is also helpful to counsellors starting couples work, with experienced couples’ counsellors sharing their wisdom and insights.

Four smaller groups also exist, one of which SC facilitates, which meet once a month for two hours to look at case studies. There is a hope to expand this work and more facilitators are needed.

Anybody interested in joining of being a facilitator for one a smaller group was invited to contact SC or Helen Wightwick.

**Members Questions**

Do you need to be a qualified counsellor of couples to access the training element or is it open to any all counsellors? SC said that anyone is welcome to join. Some people have couples counselling qualifications, others do not but have years of experience.

SMR thanked all of the groups for the work that they do to support ACC and members. She said that from the reports, it was clear that there was much value in members supporting each other. She also thanked the groups for the Accord articles that have been provided, for advice and experience ACC have been able to draw on when dealing with questions from members or members of the public and also for the help that Ethnic Tapestry have provided with reviewing policies or job adverts.

SMR also said that ACC are always open to ideas about other groups. ACC would not be able to provide resources to run groups but can advertise and initiate a group.

She encouraged people to think about joining a relevant group or starting a new group and to contact the office for more information and / or to be put in contact with the group organisers.

**ACC 2023 Achievements and Plans for 2024 continued - Kathy Spooner (KS) ACC CEO**

KS said as a membership body ACC thought of itself as part of the body of Christ and that accompanying was a key aspect of its work that can be seen in many different ways:

* the groups that had just been reported on showed how members can accompany each other through the process of being Christians in counselling and pastoral care.
* Gillian Stuart as Head of Membership Services and Liz Neve had been working together to create a number of different counsellor support groups.
* the staff in the administration team are committed to serve and help, they know that people really value personal contact and accompaniment whether via the phone or responding to emails. ACC has guidelines but the team try to do more than just point people to them, by listening to concerns and answering them personally.

ACC is keen to accompany students through their training by:

* the new website having ACC training organisations can post information about courses
* individuals being able to search for a training organisation
* helping students find placements

Once qualified ACC then gives the first year of membership at half price for existing students and ACC have provided some forums for newly qualified counsellors.

Although members may not think of it as such ACC believe that practice reviews are also a way in which we accompany counsellors. ACC formally carry out practice reviews on a percentage of counsellor members each year, but we have also made available on the website resources for members to carry out their own practice review. It is a way for members to check that they are working to best practice and up to date with requirements, for example registering with the ICO, having a professional will, up to date contracts, etc.

KS said that there was a real commitment, as part of EDI, amongst the SCoPEd partners to look at paths to accreditation and make them more accessible and offering alternative routes, not just entirely qualification based. ACC is working on new routes to accreditation, through which it hopes more people will feel accompanied in their professional progression.

KS said that the ACC team met each week for prayers and part of that was to pray for members, both generally and specifically if requests are received. She invited members to ask if they had a prayer request.

KS shared a diagram of a Professional Integrity Triad to demonstrate the principles of what makes good practice and how individuals are accompanied to do so:

* the foundation is core training, CPD, developing competence, capabilities and aptitude which is where training organisations and trainers are invaluable
* then supervision – individual supervisors, peer supervision and peer support groups, which help individuals to form as a counsellor and provide support to meet challenges.
* then professional bodies which provide ethics and practice standards and assist counsellors to demonstrate that they are safe and accountable

The R in CARE stands for resource and there are many ways that ACC resource members, the church and the public. Starting with the website, KS demonstrated various area:

The members area, highlighting:

* the profile information that ACC holds about members and how to update it
* the resources area for members to access, including practice review documents, accreditation application forms, guidelines and guidance on various topics, logs and templates, recordings of members forums and previous editions of Accord.
* how to renew membership or apply for new membership
* the personalised list of events attended, or resources purchased

The areas available to members of the public

* the list of training course and training providers
* ACC store, where it is intended to provide more public resources for purchase or for free, for example the Exploring Pastoral Care course.

KS reported that a very good meeting had been held last month with many of the ACC training organisations and there is a desire to gather research thinking about the value of faith-based counselling. She encouraged members who have dissertation that may be of interest to others to consider sharing them with ACC to be a resource in Accord and / or the website. In addition to ACC building up such research there is also the Waverly Abbey Journal, which is free to view and open for anyone (not just Waverley students or former students) to submit papers. It would be good to develop a UK school, thinking about not only the integration of faith and counselling, but the practical application of how to work with issues of faith.

KS said that there was also a desire to address the western domination of counselling theories and approaches, perhaps by forming a group of people and research that looks different models of therapeutic and wellbeing interventions in different cultures and explicitly considering some of the diverse Christian traditions.

KS said that another key aspect of resourcing was the many different ACC training courses and workshops and introduced Yineng to make a presentation on training.

**Yineng Hart (YH) Training and Communications Manager**

YH presented a list of all of the ACC training events held in 2023. She highlighted that the training day on “Supporting and Managing the Risk of Self Harm and Suicidal Ideation” was repeated due to demand and also because of the publication of NHS guidelines. In 2023 there was an ACC Online Conference, which is run alternate years to the in-person National Conference. This was a huge success with very positive feedback. Most of the presenters were ACC members offering their expertise and it was amazing to see the number of specialisms and knowledge in counselling and pastoral care topics that ACC members have. People really appreciate not just the training, but also opportunities to connect and have fellowship with others and to discuss and explore issues together.

YH encourage people to attend CPD events and also to make suggestions about what training would be helpful.

YH spoke about member forums, providing a list of the 2023 forums, which are run regularly, are free and provide opportunities for people to connect with one another to discuss and explore a specific topic.

YH said that funding received from two trusts had enabled ACC to develop pastoral care training courses and workshops:

* Exploring Pastoral Care was revamped and was now a free to download resource.
* Foundations in Pastoral Care, which is a six-session course covers all the foundational elements of providing pastoral care
* Building Blocks in Pastoral Care is a brand-new course that builds on the foundations course and goes into more depth of some of key issues that pastoral carers face
* Caring for Ourselves course has been updated and should relaunched later in 2024
* Guidelines for Good Practice workshop has been developed, based on the ACC Guidelines for Good Practice in Pastoral Care and explores each of the important topics that it contains. The guidelines document is available free on ACC website.
* Developing Quality Relationships has been a longstanding workshop that continues to be delivered
* Two new workshops “Pastoral Accompaniment at the End of Life” and “Setting up and Running a Pastoral Team”. Both have been very well received

YH said that ACC pastoral care training is not just about raising awareness, as there are many organisations already doing that, and ACC does not want to replicate what they are doing. ACC training concentrates on equipping people to accompany and care for others, as that is where ACC expertise lies.

YH said that feedback on all of the pastoral care course was very positive and that ACC wants to be able to resource the church and Christian organisations, through training and furthering relationships of relationships. YH encouraged members to share information about the resources within their networks and churches. It was hoped that new funding would enable the development of more training workshops and to continue to run forums that are relevant for pastoral carers and counsellors. There was growing requests for pastoral supervision and ACC were looking at how this work could be supported.

YH said that ACC pastoral care courses are being used in Kenya and Uganda, where they have been culturally adapted and are delivered by pastors. ACC is very pleased to be a resource for them to equip those in them if very difficult circumstances to care for one another. She then introduced a video recording by Pastor Stephine in Uganda

**Pastor Stephine Opine (SO) ACC Uganda**

SO said that he is working in areas of Uganda which are hard to reach. Using an ACC pastoral care course he had hoped to train a 1000 people 2023, but various challenges had prevented him from reaching the target. However, he thanked ACC UK for the financial support and encouragement that had enabled them to reach orphans, street kids, young people in sports teams, farmers, leaders, vulnerable women and prisoners. The prisoners who have been trained were very appreciative and many of them are keen to do more. The training had helped restore marriage relationships with those who had been separated for a long time coming back together and staying together.

SO said that in order to reach their target, they are praying for more support – financial support and prayers and they especially needed a printer to print the materials, transport to enable them to get to remote places and bibles that are in much demand.

SO said that orphans who had done the pastoral care course were now living together in one centre, but they needed schooling, health support, good food, education to protect them from teenage pregnancy and training in skills for jobs. So, the community are praying for more help for them. He said that the most important thing is that they have learned to love one another, they know that Jesus is Lord. He asked for those at the AGM to pray for the work in Uganda and for God to bless ACC.

**ACC 2023 Achievements and Plans for 2024 continued - Kathy Spooner (KS) ACC CEO**

KS said how delighted ACC are to be involved with the work in Uganda and how amazing the work is, doing so much in so many places with so few resources. She encouraged members to think about whether they could support the work by giving, praying and encouraging.

E in CARE is for Engagement. KS spoke about how ACC sees engagement including work on the SCoPEd framework, which was published in January 2022 and is being implemented by six professional bodies who all have accredited registers. KS said that she believed that it was opening up employment opportunities for ACC members, as the framework is not based on which membership body someone belongs to, but rather are common across the SCoPEd partners.. She acknowledged that there was a large amount of work to be done in the private sector to raise awareness, for example with employee assistance programmes and the SCoPEd partnership itself is going to work together on this. However, being part of SCoPEd has made a difference with regard to the NHS and employment. NHS England has received additional funding to be used in mainly in two areas:

* to extend the number of sessions that talking therapies can give by up to two sessions as research has shown that this results in better outcomes
* to reduce the waiting list for NHS talking therapies, by employing more counsellors. This will mean opportunities for SCoPEd Column B counsellors to be supported to do NHS talking therapies training and then to be employed by NHS. ACC counsellors will have these opportunities in exactly the same way as the members of the other SCoPEd partners.

KS said that the NHS are also producing a new role taxonomy in which “counsellor” will mean SCoPEd B and “psychotherapists” will mean SCoPEd C. Again, this is opening employment opportunities based on training and competency rather than which membership body a counsellor belongs to. There are currently no plans for the NHS to directly employ SCoPEd column A counsellors, but they could be employed via a commissioned service, for example the NHS commissions a mental health support organisation that does employ SCoPEd A counsellors.

KS said that she believed that ACC’s engagement with the SCoPEd partnership had been very helpful. It had raised ACC’s profile and ACC had built good relationships with partners. The framework should provide more choice about who counsellors join as a membership body and more fluidity and flexibility in terms of how progression through counselling is achieved.

SCoPEd is also seeking to work to deliver different paths to accreditation and ensuring that accreditation processes of the partners are aligned, providing more clarity and equality. ACC is keen to open up new pathways to accreditation, there is specific top-up training at the national conference, and it is hoped that there will be other routes in the future. The top-up training has been written by Dr. Heather Churchill and Dr. Janet Penny and it is probably the first one in the UK. ACC board have agreed a transfer route for people who have got the equivalent of a SCoPEd C qualification to become senior accredited member of ACC.

The SCoPEd partnership is developing a central website, which it is hoped will be very much public facing and help key stakeholders to better understand the counselling profession as a whole. Work is also planned for a SCoPEd framework for working with children and young people, which is something the NHS really want to see so that they can recruit people based on an agreed framework. It is hoped that this framework would take less time than the original one as there are some quite well-established frameworks in BACP and the Association of Child Psychotherapists (ACP).

KS said that another area of wider engagement was the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy). Given that UKCP had withdrawn from the MOU and the continuing prospect of legislation on conversion therapy / conversion practices, ACC board have discussed MOU membership at some depth and decided that ACC should remain a signatory to the MOU because it is a high-level statement of an ethical principle and does allow for client autonomy and good counselling practice.

In terms of legislation, the Scottish government seem to have the most advanced draft legislation ACC board provided a response, as part of the consultation process, and a Scottish government representatives contacted ACC to discuss the response as they had found it to be really helpful and balanced, and it had raised some points that they had not thought about. The key thing that ACC will proactively is to ensure is that any legislation includes anybody on an accredited register within what is called “licenced healthcare practitioners”, because they are normally given certain protections. An important aspect is also to engage with other professional bodies to look at what is good practice and provide richer guidelines. ACC have also been building a relationship with thirtyoneeight (Christian safeguarding organisation) and the Christian Medical Fellowship to understand different perspectives in these complex areas.

Other areas of engagement with the wider profession and church include:

* The Coalition for Inclusion and Anti-oppressive Practice, which has published a “Race is Complicated Toolkit”, which KS encouraged everyone to read and use to think about how things can be done differently when we are looking at diversity related to racial identity.
* Climate Minds, which is focused on the mental health impact of climate change and on which Shirley Sinclair had represented ACC but was now stepping down. KS asked if anyone would be interested in representing ACC to make contact.
* Care for the Family have been very supportive of ACC in the development of the pastoral care resources.
* A counselling professional body is being established in Thailand and ACC have been sharing resources and working with them to develop an accreditation process
* ACC has been in conversations with Safe in Faith, which is led by Nikki Dhillon-Kean and she is planning to develop a framework for responding well to issues of domestic abuse.

**Sue Monckton-Rickett Closing Remarks**

SMR shared that in June 2024 ACC had a Full PSA Review, which takes place every three years and the feedback from that had been received was that there will be some things that need to be put in place, but no major concerns and the PSA had praise ACC for the documentation that had been submitted and the progress that they could see we had made in certain areas. SMR thanked the staff for all of the work that they had done for the review and have done over the last few years to bring ACC to its current position. She also thanked all of the volunteers, who work for ACC in so many different ways and for those who aren't permanent staff but have worked so hard on developing things like the pastoral care training, accreditors, assessors and many others and thanked the board members who give so much of their time.

SMR said that ACC valued members prayers, support and the many ways that they get involved and for just being part of the journey. She said that ACC was seeking to grow not because it wanted to build up its own kingdom, but because it really believed that it is able to equip the church, counsellors and pastoral carers and going forward others in professions like spiritual direction, coaches and mentors. ACC however knows that to grow will involve a lot of prayer and relying on the support of many, many people.

SMR closed by reading the quote from 2 Corinthians ch 9 v 9-14 that was in the Annual Review.

“As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”