

## ARCAID

### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

St Joan's Centre, Farnham, Surrey

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

#### The formal meeting opened at 8.00 pm

1. **Welcome** by Mariola Boyd, who opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** received from: Tony Calway, Patsy Clark, Jenny Dorsa, Mike & Christine Evans, Sue Evans, Brian Fernando, Fleur Frew, Elise Hobbs, Gerry O'Donnell, Jim & Jane O'Donnell, Martin Parr, Diana & Michael Patterson, Mark Scanlon, Kate Siebert, Anne Simkins, Andrew & Martine Torjussen, Wally Walsh,
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM** – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, agreed. Proposed: Mariola Boyd; seconded Nikki Matthews.
4. **Matters arising.** None.
5. **Treasurer's Report – Louise McDonald**  
At our year end, 31 October 2019, we had £7,705.26 in the bank, having received income over the year of £36,171.20 and paid out £37,730.61. All of those figures are a little down on last year's amounts.

We have made donations this year of £ 37,310.61, which compares to £40,747.64 last year and £33,560 the previous year – so a pretty steady average. There are some copies here or you can see online on our website a spreadsheet showing that in the financial year we have supported 26 projects in 10 countries.

Our only costs are bank charges, which total this year £420. These costs are specifically covered by a subscriber so that we can once again tell you that 100% of the money that you donate goes to the projects funded.

Last year's income of £39,116 included a number of particular payments, including a legacy. This year too we have received generous donations over and above regular giving – some one-off payments ( although when I say 'one-off' some of these are from people who give regularly as well ), wonderful support from the Arc Band , a 200 Club winner , a prayer group and other random acts of kindness . Of our income of approximately £36,000, approximately £24,000 is from regular standing orders, mostly monthly but some quarterly or annually. We have gained a number of new subscribers over the last months as a result of the 30 at 30 Campaign – figures are still coming in but so far that has increased or will increase monthly income by about £300. Regular income is very valuable as it enables us to plan and also to commit to projects that run for a period of years. I have placed a few copies available at the back of the room of a list of the 'ongoing' projects that we have funded this year, from which you will see that those currently take very roughly a third of our income, & just under half of our regular donations.

£6142 was received as Gift Aid, a very slightly higher amount to that received last year, so you will see that this is a significant element of our income. It is important that our records to claim this are accurate. If you are not sure that you have done so previously or may have changed address or simply to ensure that we have up to date records, please speak to me or look at the Arcaid page on the parish website for forms. If circumstances change so that you are no longer eligible, please let us know that.

For anybody doing the sums, the balance of our income is a tiny amount of interest (60 pence!) and a bank refund following an error made by the bank but swiftly corrected.

In addition to the bank balance at year end of £7705.27, we still hold £100 in a special charity deposit account, so a total of £ 7,805.27 at year end. We have had further income since, and payments have gone out or will do shortly on a new range of projects for the new financial year.

I hope that that is clear & in enough detail but naturally, please let me know if you have any questions [*There were no questions*]

Once figures are finalised and audited – and many thanks are due once again to Brian Fernando for his work in auditing for us - the accounts and annual return will be made to the Charity Commission. Ongoing thanks also to Melanie Feibusch, who is still patiently helping me some years after having handed over, and huge thanks to Mary Nolan who stepped in as acting treasurer when I was away for a few months.

And thanks of course to you and all of the subscribers to Arcaid, new and old, over the last 30 years & many more to come, I hope.

## **6. Chairperson's Report – Mariola Boyd**

It won't have escaped your notice that Arcaid celebrates its 30th birthday this year. We're celebrating 30 years of sending money to projects in developing countries for whom a small sum of money can make a big difference.

Our constitution says:

*Arcaid is established for the relief of persons anywhere in the world outside the UK who are suffering any form of hardship or privation as a result of drought, flood or other natural disaster or war, oppression or other human activity or who, by reason of their social or economic conditions, are in need of such assistance.* In addition, our aim is to fill the gaps in the work of the larger agencies, by trying to reach people who would otherwise be neglected, and Arcaid has been doing just that for 30 years.

Way back in 1989, Kate Siebert, together with Peter Davis, had not just a simple but, in our view, brilliantly simple idea. Kate would have liked to have been here tonight but is away in Cambodia visiting another charity she is involved with. In a nutshell, her idea was to invite parishioners to make a regular contribution to the newly formed Arcaid and a group of trustees would consider applications for grants and decide if Arcaid should send the requested amount. Very little has changed since then except methods of communication and amounts of money sent each year.

Email has transformed communication - tonight's speaker, Barry and I were both members of that first group of trustees and well remember Kate and Peter writing long

letters to applicants on blue airmail tissue paper, waiting for replies, sending more letters if there were additional questions and so on - it could take a long time to gather the necessary information and then process an application. These days, with email and text messaging facilities, information can be exchanged quickly and simply. Receipts, reports and photographs from recipients often arrive promptly and efficiently.

In Arcaid's first few years, the amounts of money we were able to send were between £9,000 - £13,000 per year but this has grown steadily year by year and this year, as Louise has said, we have sent over £37,000, last year £42,000. You may be interested to know that in the 30 years of Arcaid's existence, very nearly £800,000 of your generous donations has been given to people who have badly needed our help. It goes without saying that Arcaid wouldn't exist but for the kindness and generosity of our subscribers.

To mark our 30th year, we had the idea of aiming to increase the number of subscribers by 30 and we are very nearly there! 24 individuals or families have signed up in the past 12 months to become regular Arcaid subscribers - that is simply wonderful. Thank you to them and to you who have been giving for many years. Sincerest thanks also to all the trustees who give of their time to keep the Arcaid show on the road, with a special mention to Fiona our secretary and Louise our treasurer, both of whom spend many hours working on Arcaid business, and to our auditor, Brian Fernando.

So much for how we work, but who have we given to this year?

### **Garden Project at St Vianney Junior School, Uganda**

We received a request to help fund the development of a Garden Project at the school to increase nutritious food production and serve as a demonstration garden to teach pupils, parents, grandparents and carers how to increase food production for themselves.

St Vianney Junior School is a Christian Community funded school established in 2011 near Kampala, to provide free education, protection and support to orphans and other vulnerable, underprivileged children in the local area. Arcaid sent the requested £900 to the Parents' Association at the school.

**Attach-a-Leg Grenada** is a charity which provides prosthetic limbs to amputees all over Grenada. Grenada is very beautiful, but very poor. Unemployment stands at about 33%, and many people live below the poverty line. The island has a particularly high rate of diabetes, and many of the amputees have lost limbs as a result of diabetic complications; others have been victims of criminal attacks or traffic accidents. There was no prosthetic service until Attach-a-Leg was set up in 2013 by a prosthetic specialist originally from Iceland. With extremely limited facilities for disabled people on the island, anything that improves mobility and helps a person get back to a more normal life is very important. Some patients are able to fund themselves, but most cannot. Attach-a-Leg depends on charitable contributions to enable them to treat those who cannot pay. Arcaid sent £1200, the equivalent cost for the supply and fitting of one new leg.

Another project Arcaid has supported this year is '**Sew for Life**', in response to a request from Sr Theresiah, of the Little Sisters of St Francis of Assisi and principal of **Bake for Life College in Uganda**. Bake for Life College was established by the sisters

in 2012 with the objective of providing young people, many of them orphans and / or with disabilities, with skills to achieve independence by becoming qualified and competent bakers. Bake for Life has recently branched out into 'Sew for Life' and approached Arcaid for help to buy sewing machines and accessories to train students in tailoring and fashion. The college provided the trainer and Arcaid sent £1,450 for equipment. The last photograph shows how elegantly Sew for Life has supported Bake for Life students!

The **Norwich-Dedza Partnership** is a small UK-based charity which Arcaid has supported in the past. Umbwi is a mixed boarding school in Dedza Township, Malawi. It was originally a boys' boarding school but in 1999 began to take girls. There are now 240 girls and 300 boys at the school. The school has a good academic reputation and pupils obtain good results in the national exam at the end of secondary schooling. In 1999 there was a boys' dormitory but not one for girls. To accommodate the girls, the school was forced to use an old hostel that was built to house migrant workers before they were sent to the mines in Zambia. To say that the conditions in this hostel were inadequate would be a huge understatement – 240 girls sleeping in 260 square metres of floor space; 6 pit latrines and no running water in the showers. Earlier this year, Arcaid received a request for funds to build a girls' dormitory at the school.

Arcaid sent £3,000 towards the construction of a proper girls' dormitory following an assurance that the remainder of the costs would be come from other sources. A recent report from our contact reads as follows: *All the construction work, plumbing and electrics have been done. I had a report about a month ago that they were putting in the ceiling and glass in the windows and hoped to move the girls in at about this time. There is painting to be done but this will be done during the Xmas holiday. There are 20 bedrooms with 4 bunkbeds for 160 girls. However, the school has decided to put all 240 girls into the new building by having two to a bed in the bottom layer of the bunks. Then they all get to use the new facilities. There are inside toilets and showers including one of each for disabled students. There was an overspend on the costs, but the school has arranged for two contractors who are ex-pupils to do the finishing work and wait to be paid until the school has the funds. The school puts a supplement on the fees paid at the beginning of each term that will cover part of the overspend and we have put in an application to a funder for some extra. The photos show various stages of construction. I will let you know when I get a report that the girls are in. Please thank everyone at Arcaid for their support.*

#### **Fees for 4 seminarians in Uganda**

This is an example of one of our 'ongoing' projects - ongoing in the sense that Arcaid is likely to pay the fees for all 4 seminarians for the 4 years of their training. Our contact is Father Paul Wandera who has been to Farnham on 2 occasions on his way back to Uganda after doing holiday cover in a parish near Nottingham. One of the Seminarians was recently ordained a deacon while the others continue their studies for the priesthood.

You may think from the photographs I've shown that we focus on projects in Uganda and Malawi - in fact Arcaid has sent money this year to South Africa, Camerons, India, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania, which we'll hear about from Barry in a few moments. The projects have, broadly speaking, been medical, educational or agricultural; we sent a one-off donation through the SVP following devastating floods in Kerala, India and another to Zimbabwe and Mozambique after an equally devastating cyclone.

Thank you again to all our subscribers and contributors whose generosity directly helps those whose needs are so great. We hope Arcaid goes from strength to strength in the years to come, for another 30 at least!

**7. Election to Committee – Nikki Matthews**

We have a rather unusual situation so I hope you will bear with us. We are definitely losing 2 trustees tonight, but we are likely to be losing a third. However, we have not had formal confirmation of this. So we would like to thank the two trustees who are definitely leaving us for their work with Arcaid. Firstly, Mark Scanlon who we thank for his invaluable input this year. We have also lost Mel Whytehead who was instrumental in the design and printing of our 30 for 30 leaflet, which I'm sure you will agree looks very professional and has been very effective, so a big thank you to her too.

We are lucky enough to have 2 parishioners who have volunteered to be new trustees, which is great. These are Mark Baines and Jo Rendall. Would you mind standing up so that everyone can see who you are please? As I said, there are 2 spaces on the committee and 2 candidates we don't need an election with a ballot; we can elect the new trustees with a show of hands. So please raise your hand if you agree to Mark Baines and Jo Rendall being elected as Arcaid trustees. Thank you.

That's carried. A big welcome to our new trustees.

With regard to the possible third vacancy, we would like to propose a third trustee to take the place of this person if and when we have confirmation of their retirement from the committee. We are delighted to propose Jo Ellis to be a trustee if the opportunity arises. Again there is no need for a formal election so please may I have a show of hands if you agree to Jo Ellis becoming a trustee of Arcaid should a further vacancy arise.

Thank you and welcome to Jo.

**8. Any other Business**

None

**9. Presentation – Barry Huggett OBE** Mariola thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and then introduced Barry Huggett OBE, a founder trustee of Arcaid and former Headmaster of More House School. He talked about the support which ARCAID and More House School, Frensham, where he was previously Headmaster, had given to some specific projects undertaken within a very small area on the lower slopes of Kiliminjaro in NE Tanzania.

These projects included the paying of fees to train two doctors, one nurse and supporting a young man through his studies to obtain a degree in prosthetics as there have been people coming into the country from Rwanda where there were horrific injuries both from the civil war in the last century and still some landmine victims in more recent years, as well as domestic accidents in Tanzania.

Additionally, support has been given to two schools in Shia, where More House Sixth Form students had done building work and in Mdawi, where heavy rains in the spring of 2019 had undermined some of the buildings. Pictures were shown of the considerable improvements which a relatively small sum of money had enabled the local people to achieve by their enthusiastic hard work.

Barry also told the story of the formidable Mama Lucy who runs First Chance and Second Chance and who both ARCAID and More House had supported. First Chance is a nursery and first school for deprived children, which does much more than schools usually do. Mama Lucy sends out minibuses in the early morning to collect children who village elders say need her help because of the state of their families. The children stay with her until dusk when they are transported home. During the day they are taught, fed and helped to have fun and enjoy life. The younger children have a sleep on mattresses after lunch. ARCAID replaced all seventy mattresses which were destroyed during the 2019 floods, and More House funded the redecoration of the buildings. One former First Chance child is now an IT teacher at Mdawi School.

Second Chance does what it says - it gives a second start to girls, often victims of rape, whose families have disowned them. They are helped with accommodation and especially with education so that they may go on to meaningful lives.

Barry peppered his talk with stories of the people who he and his family have as friends in the villages in the area and showed how he admires their positive way of dealing with problems and their infectious enthusiasms.

There were a number of questions which focussed not just on the substance of the talk but on the politics of Tanzania and the way the country is developing.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**  
**There were 35 in attendance**