

**Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the  
Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers held  
at The Offices of Manchester Diocese, Bury**



**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**

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|           | <p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b><br/>Livia Velicu, Chair of ACAT Board of Trustees, welcomed all delegates. Attendees were reminded not to vote if attending online.</p> <p><b>Present:</b> approximately 95 members, directors, staff, sponsors and guests were in attendance. All were thanked for attending the Conference in person.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>1.</b> | <p><b>Apologies for Absence.</b><br/>Apologies were received from Nick Donaldson and members from around the country.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>2.</b> | <p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b><br/>The minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 19th October 2024 were approved as a true record by a show of hands.</p> <p>There were no matters arising or any questions arising from the minutes from last year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Chair's Address:</b></p> <p>Livia Velicu introduced herself as the current chair of ACAT taking over earlier this year. Livia has a long association with ACAT and highlighted that she feels that we are in exciting times for ACAT, really moving towards the future.</p> <p>Highlights included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACAT's plans to become a CIO are progressing after discussion at the last year's Conference. Making this move is a governance shift making us more future proof. It does not affect benefits we offer or training. And we can pass on our experience of making this move.</li> <li>- Desire to offer more on-demand training – make available when you need it. The initial offering being around becoming a CIO and the New SORP.</li> <li>- Development of the Board, thanking existing directors and looking forward to welcoming new directors. The skills and expertise of our directors was acknowledged as a great mix, extensive skill set.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks were offered for the work and support and expertise of the staff team – Ashley Ellis, Cath Fox, Joy Spencer, Peter Young, Nick Fox, Robin Jones and Robert Scott-Biggs – essential to the continued operation of ACAT.</p> <p>Thanks, were also offered to the Trainers – all volunteers –their support and commitment was acknowledged and our gratitude for their time.</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b></p> <p>Attendees and all members were encouraged to read the annual report and accounts, which is available on the ACAT website, the link to which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Ashley emphasised the importance to focus principally on the report rather than the accounts, highlighting that the figures don't talk about the mission and ministry of what we do.</p> <p>If we look at the numbers, they reflect that ACAT is a slim organisation in terms of staff, membership fees and costs kept low etc.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|    | <p>Ashley briefly outlined the figures, income and expenditure, highlighting the main elements of each. Emphasising that we offer training, resources and support to 17,000 people for £162,000.</p> <p>Ashley brought the focus back to the report beyond the figures to talk about the work of ACAT, noting that direct training and support has been provided for nearly a thousand people whilst acknowledging that more needs to be done to reach the further 16,000 members – spread the word of how ACAT can help.</p> <p>Particular thanks were given to Cath and the training team. Trainers are volunteers and give freely of their time and expertise which is essential and greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Similarly, the development of the Newsletter over recent years has been significant and thanks were given to Robin and Robert for all they have done.</p> <p>Particular acknowledgement and gratitude were expressed for Peter Young in his role managing the ACAT Helpline – he goes far and beyond in his responses to questions.</p> <p>Peter would like to retire in February, and we will be advertising to cover the role on the website.</p> <p>Acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending was proposed by Carolyn Smith and seconded by Sally Maybridge. Approved by a show of hands by those in attendance.</p>                                              |
| 5. | <p><b>Member approval of the appointment of Directors of ACAT Trustee Company.</b><br/> <b><i>(Manny Kemp (vice-chair) took the chair for this item)</i></b></p> <p>Information relating to the re-election of 1 Director and the election of 2 new directors had previously been made available on the ACAT website.</p> <p>Re-election: Livia Velicu<br/> Election: Jacob Power and Helen Armstrong</p> <p>Livia has completed 3 years as a director and is willing to stand for a further term.</p> <p>Confirmation of Livia's re-appointment to the Board was proposed by Errol Vassell and seconded by Robert Scott-Biggs and approved with a show of hands.</p> <p>Confirmation of appointment of Jacob Power as director was proposed by Nigel Davies and seconded by Samantha Amsden and approved with a show of hands.</p> <p>Confirmation of appointment of Helen Armstrong as director was proposed by Mark Heaton and seconded by Peter Young and was approved with a show of hands.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed for the essential contribution, time and commitment that these and all the Directors have contributed and continue to give.</p> <p>Particular thanks were given to Nick Donaldson as he steps down from the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Also, to Errol Vassell who stepped down earlier in the year.</p> <p>Thanks for their support and contribution were sincerely expressed.</p> |
| 6. | <p><b>SORP Update – Mark Heaton (ACAT Director)</b></p> <p>Having anticipated the publication of the New SORP it was published on Friday prior to the Conference so there has been no time to fully digest the implications.</p> <p>But it was important to give a brief outline of changes and how these might affect churches operating accruals accounting.</p> <p>Mark gave a whistle stop tour through the changes – the slides for which are available on the ACAT Website.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Mark for pulling this together at such short notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| 7. | <b>Any Other Business which has been notified at least 5 days prior to the day</b><br>No further items for inclusion had been offered. |
|    | <i>The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM which then closed.</i>                                                             |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT