



# ALL SAINTS METHODIST CHURCH

**General Church Meeting  
Sunday 17th May 2026  
Church Hall**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome & Devotions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting (*attached*)
4. Conversation on the ministry and witness of the church
5. Financial Affairs
6. Appointment of church stewards
7. Election of representatives to Church Council
8. A.O.B.
9. Closing Prayer

If you are unable to join the meeting but would like to make a comment please contact one of the Stewards.

**ALL SAINTS METHODIST CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Present:**

Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair)		
Sue Russell (Secretary)		
Martin Appleyard	Helen Appleyard	Mike Appleyard
Eileen Appleyard	Derek Bold	Pauline Sykes
Richard Matthews	Ann Matthews	Alan Grist
Gareth Hawkes	Dawn Tyrrell	Maurice Tubb
Jenny Pooley	Derek Pooley	Beryl Manners
Paul Williams	Margaret Ellwood	Kate Jones
Joanne Phipps	John Orchard	Marion Orchard
Pam Guthrie	Colin Bartlett	Sarah Hill
Chris Caddy	Jenny Caddy	Menna Hull
Sue Butler	Karen Wesson	Val Grist
Carol Foyn	Richard Foyn	

**1. Welcome and Devotions**

Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson welcomed those present to All Saint's Annual Church Meeting. Opening prayers were followed by prayers in memory of those listed In Memoriam, which included Sue Harmsworth, Myrtle Hodgkins, Margaret Long, Bob Smith and Ed Peacock.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from;

Dcn. Selina Nisbett	Alistair Batey	Tricia Evans	Maureen Douglas
Rosemary Stanbury	Mike Brown	JPB	

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting on 28th April 2024 were agreed and signed, pending the amendment that Derek Pooley had become a Circuit Rep for All Saints.

**4. Conversations on the work of God and Ministry-Annual Report for 2024/2025**

**Annual report-** Georgina commended the report to the meeting and thanked those who prepared it. Thanks were given to all who had contributed items.

**Vacant roles** - Georgina mentioned that several important roles needed to be filled and that job descriptions of these would appear in the newsletter soon. These included: help with LA services, Prayer Group, Bookings liaison officer, Treasurer, Church Council members, Property lead person, become practically involved with mission, become a church member and any other role God may be calling you to do. People were asked to sign a sheet with contact phone number and what they could offer. (See list at the end of these minutes)

**Update from the MMEG Group** – The Mission Action group at church oversaw fundraising in All Saints and a new group has been set up - Mission, Ministry, Evangelism & Growth (MMEG) and from that meeting the key points to bring to the ACM were

- the need for PRAYER. Could we set up a Prayer tree? As a church, how could we organise ourselves for prayer? Would people join a WhatsApp group? Names volunteered: Richard, Anne, Margaret, Sue, Dawn, Beryl, Pam. This needs to be sensitive to GDPR regulations on confidentiality.

**AGREED ACTION:** *Create a corner of the church into a prayer corner with chairs/table/cross for prayer before the service.*

Georgina gave an update of two main areas of discussion when the MMEG (Mission Ministry Evangelism & Growth Group) met.

a) Key Ideas

- PRAYER: Prayer underpins everything we do. See suggestions for prayer (above)
- PUBLICITY: Advertising activities and events on social media is essential. A personal call/visit would invite people to initiatives rather than leafleting
- Find out community needs and plan accordingly. We need to be intentional! Be relevant to actual community needs i.e. Foodbank, Homelessness, Loneliness
- PARTNERING GOD IN MISSION: Where can we see God at work? What is God doing in this community? What are others doing to support the needs of the community? Can we partner with them? Find out what other churches/community groups are currently doing. Can we partner with them?

b) Practical Ideas for Mission Suggested

Support for specific groups, ie: loneliness, local community to have use of garden, light lunch club with board games, etc. Parkinsons group on a Wednesday. Supporting local schools by asking what their needs are? Friday coffee mornings have slowly picked up but those who attend are from church. Could we have garden ones in the summer? Monthly board games or a Saturday coffee time? Could a Men's group bring a guest or have a pub meal? What could be planned for young people? Could there be a summer fruit festival or BBQ?

**Mission Statement:** At its Spring meeting, the Church Council agreed that the mission statement needs to be reviewed. Larissa reminded the meeting that should this be changed then the registered documents with the Charity Commission would also need to be altered. Georgina suggested that the MMEG could start working on reviewing it. The Church Council would ratify any changes. The main church also needs a voice on any changes.

**AGREED ACTION:** *The MMEG would review the current mission statement, and the Church Council would discuss and ratify it. Church members would also be able to contribute to the process. Georgina noted that it is important for the whole church to own the mission statement.*

**Bible Month:** Georgina told the meeting about Bible Month. "Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together... Typically, churches engage with Bible Month during June. It is possible, however, for churches to choose a different month in the year in which to engage with the materials if that works better for their local calendars and needs."

(Methodist Website)

**AGREED ACTION:** *To use the Bible Month resource for services in June next year.*

**Eco church** - Georgina commented on the Bronze Eco Award that David Perrow had promoted, and the church held, asking for volunteers to oversee and promote environmental issues in the church and, perhaps, work towards the silver award. Dawn, Martin and Gareth volunteered.

**Report from Spring Church Council** - Circuit Futures - Georgina updated the meeting on two of the Church Council's responses to a questionnaire from the CLT on Circuit Futures once the circuit reduces to two presbyters in September. The following two questions are relevant to our mission and ministry:

**CLT Question:** Where do you need help?

**Church Council Response:** With how to carry out our mission: Training.

**CLT Question:** From September 2025 what should our church's core focus be?

**Church Council response:** SURVIVE! Loving people into the church with inspiring worship and making community connections. As Christians we need to be more visibly and practically involved with community social justice issues for e.g. Asylum Seekers, Homelessness as well as our commitment to the Abingdon Foodbank.

**5. Financial Report.** – Richard's report to the ACM was accepted

Georgina expressed grateful thanks to Richard and his team.

**6. Election of Stewards to serve 2024-2025 and Re-Election of Representatives to the Church Council**

Georgina thanked the stewards for their work over the past year. She also thanked Chris Caddy who was standing down as Bookings Officer and Gareth Hawkes who was retiring from the Church Council post. She told the meeting that Martin Appleyard had agreed to take on the role of Health and Safety officer. The meeting thanked Martin.

**The elected team of church stewards for the coming year would now be**

**Sue Butler                      Dawn Tyrrell                      Margaret Ellwood                      Helen Appleyard**

The current chairs of the various committees and action groups were confirmed as representatives to the church council. In addition, the following were elected/ re-elected as representatives of the ACM to the Church Council.

Alistair Batey                      Derek Pooley                      Jenny Pooley  
Joanne Phipps                      Margaret Ellwood                      Paul Williams

The composition of the Church Council is for the next year therefore.

Minister (Chair)	Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson	
Secretary	Sue Russell	
Acting Treasurer	Richard Matthews	
Stewards	Margaret Ellwood	Dawn Tyrrell
	Sue Butler	Helen Appleyard
ACM Representatives	Selina Nisbet	Mission Action
and other office holders	Helen Appleyard	Safeguarding
	Sue Butler	Junior Church
	Judith Penrose Brown	CFC & Youth Forum
	Richard Matthews	Finance Committee
	<i>VACANT</i>	Property Action
	Martin Appleyard	Health and Safety
Church Meeting Appointments	Alistair Batey	Jenny Pooley
(Up to 15)	Joanne Phipps	Derek Pooley
	Margaret Ellwood	Paul Williams
	Margaret Hoskins	

All Saints Reps to Circuit meeting

Anne Matthews                      Sue Butler                      Paul Williams                      Derek Pooley

## **7. AOB**

- Eileen Appleyard thanked all knitters of the Fish and Chip tops for Nasio and announced the next project would be V necked jumpers for Future Pillars
- Anne Matthews thanked the CFC team for all their hard work behind the scenes at every catering event during the past year and the amazing effort involved in planning the successful Nasio evening where Nancy, Moses, Rajab and Eunice were speakers. She also mentioned the Easter Breakfast which was a lot of work but not well attended so an analysis of NEED needs to be done but Helen was thanked as single handedly organising the event.
- Georgina passed on thanks from Trinity Church to All Saints members who had participated in their 150th Birthday celebrations.

Georgina mentioned a letter of thanks should be sent to David Gray who does the following - regularly maintains the church lawns, property electrical overseer and PAT tester and also keeps a general eye on the property for issues and reports back or fixes issues.

AGREED ACTION: *Secretary to write a letter of thanks to David.*

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Date Sunday 2026 TBC

## **9. Blessing**

The meeting closed communally with the Grace.

**Sue Russell**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

#### Agenda Item 4 – LIST

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HELP WITH...</b>
<b>Margaret Ellwood</b>	Local Arrangement in worship; WhatsApp prayer group
<b>Jenny Pooley</b>	Local Arrangements; Church Council
<b>Karen Wesson</b>	Evangelism; Prayer Group; Daytime Bible Study group; (One day Church Council?)
<b>Gareth Hawkes</b>	Local Arrangements
<b>Alan Grist</b>	Local Arrangements
<b>Valerie Grist</b>	Local Arrangements
<b>Sarah Marie Hill</b>	Member
<b>John Orchard</b>	Property
<b>Marian Orchard</b>	Property
<b>Anne Matthews</b>	WhatsApp prayer group; Local Arrangements
<b>Richard Matthews</b>	WhatsApp prayer group
<b>Larissa Richards</b>	Might be interested in joining Bible group (Wed, if room?)
<b>Martin Appleyard</b>	Local Arrangements; Environmental/H&S; Property; Mission
<b>Eileen Appleyard</b>	Knitting prayer group
<b>Sue Russell</b>	Local Arrangement; possible Bible study group; Communion Steward
<b>Carol Foy</b>	Bible Study Group (start); Church Council; Prayer group