



ALL SAINTS METHODIST CHURCH

**General Church Meeting
Sunday 28 April 2024 11:45am
Church Hall**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Devotions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting (*attached*)
4. Annual Reports & Accounts (*separate document*)
5. Stewards
6. Election of any reps from this meeting to the Church Council (currently elected are Alistair Batey, Margaret Ellwood, Gareth Hawkes. Joanne Phipps, Jenny Pooley, Derek Pooley, Paul Williams)
7. 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 26th March 2023

Present:

Rev.Ian Griffiths	(Chair)	Sue Russell (Secretary)
Martin Appleyard	Helen Appleyard	Mike Appleyard
Eileen Appleyard	Rosemary Stanbury	Pauline Sykes
Larissa Richards	Derek Bold	Judith PB
Valerie Grist	Alan Grist	Maurice Tubb
Jenny Pooley	Derek Pooley	Mike Appleyard
Mike Brown	Margaret Ellwood	Kate Jones
Richard Matthews	Ann Matthews	Dawn Tyrrell
Beryl Manners	Gareth Hawkes	Paul Williams
Tricia Evans	Joanne Phipps	Diane Livesley
Laurel Symons	John Orchard	Marion Orchard

1. Welcome and Devotions

Rev. Ian Griffiths welcomed those present to All Saint's Annual Church Meeting. Opening prayers were followed by prayers in memory of those listed in In Memoriam, which also included Mike Ellwood and Menna Hull's mother, Joanne's Nan and Mike Caton.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from;

Dcn.Selina Nisbett	Chris Caddy	Trudy Hall	Jenny Caddy
Ruth Coward	Tim Coward	Alistair Batey	Margaret Hoskins

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting on 8th May 2022 were agreed and signed.

4. Conversations on the work of God -Annual Report for 2022/2023

Annual report- Ian commended the report to the meeting and thanked Eluned for preparing the report. Thanks were given to all who had contributed items and mentioned that there was a lot to celebrate.

Financial Report. – Richard thanked his team and highlighted that the budget had been set with a planned deficit but with the pre school moving to a new site in September there would be a significant shortfall in income of £11000. A yoga group now rented the premises and this would show an income of £500 and incidental income could be recouped from parties and other bookings but that daytime bookings would be available from September.

He also reiterated that he holds the role of Acting treasurer and that of Chair of the finance committee and that the church needs to seek a new treasurer. Four people are now sharing Brian's role that he carried out so competently.

Ian expressed grateful thanks to Richard and his team.

5. Election of Stewards to serve 2023-2024 and Re-Election of Representatives to the Church Council

Ian thanked the two stewards for their work over the past year

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

Sue Butler Dawn Tyrrell Margaret Ellwood

Dawn acknowledged the invaluable work and support of the worship stewards, who opened the church, set out items ready for the service, welcomed people in the foyer and then cleared away and locked up. Sunday services could not function without their support and with only 2 stewards.

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	Gareth Hawkes
Paul Williams	Ellwood	

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

Minister (Chair)	Rev Ian Griffiths	
Secretary	Sue Russell	
Acting Treasurer	Richard Matthews	
Stewards	Margaret Ellwood Sue Butler	Dawn Tyrrell
ACM Representatives and other office holders	Selina Nisbet Helen Appleyard Margaret Hoskins Sue Butler Judith Penrose Brown Richard Matthews VACANT	Mission Action Safeguarding Communion Steward Junior Church CFC & Youth Forum Finance Committee Property Action
Church Meeting Appointments (Up to 15)	Alistair Batey Joanne Phipps Margaret Ellwood Gareth Hawkes	Jenny Pooley Derek Pooley Paul Williams

All Saints Reps to Circuit meeting

Anne Matthews

Sue Butler Paul Williams

6. From the Circuit Meeting *PLUS*

Ian commended on the circuit meeting that had been held at All Saints on 4th March to

discuss plans for when, in September 2025 the numbers would be reduced to only 2 presbyters. Several plans for worship were shown.

The 1st preaching plan showed quarterly coverage using the two presbyters, the super numerary preachers and the local preachers: a shortfall of coverage of 19 services. Every church would need to include between 2 and 3 Local arrangement services. Organising this is not possible at all churches.

The 2nd preaching plan assumed that churches would be willing to change the times of the services with one starting at 9.00am and the other at 11.00am. This would cause issues with any elderly who required care/medication prior to a service not being able to be present at an early start and Worship stewards would need to be in church by 08.15 to prepare. Ministers would have to rush between one church and another and would not be able to engage in casual after service conversations.

The 3rd preaching plan assumed that churches would be willing to unite on one service each month. This would leave a shortfall of 10 services not covered by a minister. Although church members would receive information about combined services the general public may not have the information and messages to the wider community would be negative if doors were found to be irregularly closed.

The 4th preaching plan looked at best deployment of limited resources leaving a gap of 19 unfilled services.

The 5th radical preaching plan reduced the number of centres to Wantage, Wallingford and Abingdon only.

Anne explained that she had collated the messy data and that feedback on the day had been that 5 of the groups had feedback that reducing the number of churches was the way forward. One group had focussed on improvement to IT and technology to enhance worship. Fewer churches would simplify admin tasks and provide time to focus on mission.

Realistic use of the buildings would need to be discussed. There will be more meetings as these are not decisions. The All Saints stewards plan to meet with elders from Trinity to discuss thinking together about moving forward and the results from the meeting will influence this. The circuit leadership team will be open and transparent.

Points raised were: (I) the issues of Trinity being linked to the URC church. Ian clarified advice on the appointment of a URC minister within the timescale, (II) issues of future spending on building projects but Dawn assured the meeting that pipeline decisions were on hold and (III) that Didcot, as a church within the circuit had not been considered as one of the three worship centres despite the town growing and community chaplains in place.

Anne informed that All Saints was under represented at circuit meetings and should anyone wish to stand as a rep then 2 more could be accommodated.

7. **Date of Next Meeting: Date Sunday 28th April 2024**

8. **Blessing** The meeting closed with a prayer.

Sue Russell
26th March 2023