



# The **Methodist** Church

## Louth Methodist Church Centre

### Minutes of the General Church Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 At Louth Methodist Church Centre

#### Action in Bold

Opening Devotions Were led by Rev Margaret Asiedu

Present: Rev Margaret Asiedu, Kath Adams, Nick Adams, Nancy Cartwright, Alison Fox, Paul Fox, Ken James, Heather Jeffery, Karen Morris, Catherine Rolph, Elaine Watkinson..

Apologies , Gwenda Burgin, Jean Pridgeon,, Chris Rolph, Bryan Utteridge  
Council noted the resignation of Mark Harrison.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, which had already been circulated, were approved and signed.
2. Matters Arising
  - 2.1. **Churches for Refugees.** Following Gwenda's note in the Newsletter, no volunteers have come forward, but Bryan may be willing to join Ros..
3. **Business Requiring Attention**
  - 3.1. **Safeguarding.** Paul reported that he had recently attended an Advanced training course. He highlighted how procedures and forms are always changing and a new form was released in November 2023 which we will now need to start using. Those members who need to renew their DBS or attend a training course need to do so. There is one active safeguarding situation that is ongoing. **All Members**
  - 3.2. **Finance.** Nancy Proposed acceptance of the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August and the reserves policy. The meeting approved these.
  - 3.3. **Property.** Kath reported that following the discussion on the party wall – see Min 5.2 of 14 September, Our ownership has been clarified. A request to give away the memorial stone in the Cannon Street wall recess was approved.  
On lettings, three big events have been booked in the coming weeks.
  - 3.4. **Church Family Worker** Elaine left the meeting for discussion on her job description., which includes the overseeing and co-ordination of the Lighthouse Project. It was agreed that helpers should provide any shopping required, to free Elaine to supervise activities in the church.  
Catherine suggested that possible grants for the work should be investigated and this was agreed. **Elaine/Catherine**
4. **Mission & Ministry of the Church**
  - 4.1/2 **Review Action Plan and Identify Key Areas of Focus for coming year.**  
Members examined and made suggestions on the five elements of the Action Plan; Worship, Learning & Caring, Service, Evangelism, which Paul noted to make the changes agreed for action in the coming year. **Paul**
  - 4.3. **Focus for Conversations at the AGM.** It was agreed that the AGM would be part of the service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, with the Action Plan as a focus for discussion.

**5. Other Business**

5.1. Newsletter. Gwenda has indicated that she wishes to relinquish responsibility for the Newsletter. Catherine volunteered to collate & publish it, but further assistance will be necessary. **Gwenda/Catherine**

5.2. Same-sex Marriages. Same sex marriages in our church were approved at a previous church council. The necessary papers are now to be submitted to the registrar, with a fee of £64 to be paid.

5.3. Facebook. The meeting noted that the Facebook page for Louth Methodist Church is being looked at in relation to a change in Admin..

- 6. Future meetings.** CC agreed that the meetings for 2024 be held on: 7 March, 13 June, 12 September(provisional), 5 December. All to start at 7pm.  
On the suggestion of Rev Margaret, council agreed that we use the September & Spring meetings to concentrate on the business of our church, with those in December and Summer to review progress.

**7. Members joined in the grace to close the meeting**