



The **Methodist** Church

Louth Methodist Church Centre

Minutes of the General Church Council held on Thursday 7th March 2024 At Louth Methodist Church Centre

Action in Bold

Opening Devotions Were led by Rev Margaret Asiedu

Present: Rev Margaret Asiedu, Kath Adams, Nick Adams, Gwenda Burgin, Nancy Cartwright, Alison Fox, Paul Fox, Ken James, Heather Jeffery, Karen Morris, Jean Pridgeon, Catherine Rolph, Chris Rolph, Bryan Utteridge

Apologies , Elaine Watkinson, ,,

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 124th December 2024, which had already been circulated, were approved and signed.
2. Matters Arising
 - 2.1. **Churches for Refugees.** The meeting accepted with thanks that Bryan will join Ros as a church representative on Churches For Refugees.
 - 2.2. Council agreed, a letter of thanks be sent to Mark Harrison. **KJ**
 - 2.1. Council agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent to Shirley to mark the passing of her husband and valued servant of our church mission, Colin Wooding **KJ**
 - 2.2. **Same Sex Marriages.** Rev Margaret reported that the necessary form has been sent to register the building, but the Authorised Person Form for Rev Margaret to conduct same sex weddings needs to be completed. Margaret to ask two members of the meeting to sign the form. **MA**
 - 2.4. **Facebook Page.** The meeting was pleased to hear that the church Facebook page is now live.
3. **Business Requiring Attention**
 - 3.1. **Safeguarding.** Paul reported that he is due to meet Howard and ensure that those members who need to renew their DBS or attend a training course need to do so. Updates can now be undertaken on line. **All Members**
 - 3.2. **Family Worker.** The amended job description agreed at our last meeting needs to be held with the minutes. As funding for the post will run out in two years, further funding will need to be investigated **Finance & Property**
4. **Our Mission**
 - 4.1. **Future Services**
 - i). Rev Margaret drew attention to the Easter services and our AGM which will be part of the service on 14th April. So far there has only been one nomination to serve on Church Council. Members are asked to consider new members and advise Ken of nominations.. **CC Members .**
 - ii). Council were informed that for the Sundays from 21st July to 25th August only one morning service will be held.
 - iii) The people who gathered for worship meeting on 17th January are considering an act of worship in Westgate Fields on 18th August for all the church. Further conversation to take place at the next worship meeting on 17th April at 7.30.
Elaine leads prayer on a Wednesday at 08.30 in the lounge. As only 3 or 4 attend we may need to consider another opportunity for people to gather for prayer.

Perhaps we also need to consider what we can offer as a resource to help people in their times of prayer. Elaine is also looking at offering a creative prayer opportunity on 18th May. A prayer walk was also mentioned at the worship meeting for the summer months.

iv)The next 5th Sunday month is June, when we may try a zoomed joint service.

4.2. Thanks were accorded to Jean & Nancy for their faithful and beautiful flower arrangements in the church.

5. Learning & Caring

5.1. Heather drew members attention to her report and the work being done each week for our wider community

5.2. Bible Society. An eight week Bible study course starts on Wednesday 1st May, all at 2pm in church and hopefully on zoom. This is a resource from the Bible Society called the Bible Course. It is for those who wish to become members as well as anyone wishing to join in. If this time is not suitable for people, we are looking to hold the course again in the autumn.

5.3. Lent Bible Studies. Paul and Elaine are holding Lent groups, Paul on Zoom on Monday evenings, Elaine on Wednesday afternoons in person. Only a few people are attending. A question to ask is how can we encourage more people to get involved in sharing around God's word?

5.4. Local Church Pastor. Nick reported that he has been out regularly on pastoral matters.

6. Service

6.1. Lighthouse & Easy Cook. Elaine is overseeing the Lighthouse activities & Margaret indicated that the Management group will be meeting with Elaine to review progress. A group called Aspire has been in contact via email outlining the work that they do and enquiring about letting the property. Margaret forwarded the email to council members prior to the meeting. After discussion which raised concerns about the organisation using the premises when the church may need to use them. Margaret agreed to contact them for further information. **MA**

6.2. Stewards. Nancy made a plea for more members to come forward as stewards.

All members

Following a discussion it was agreed that we shall again be taking part in the Wolds Festival on 7/8 September.

6.3. Finance. There were no questions to Jean on the latest finance update, but thanks were expressed by the meeting.

6.4. Property. Kath reported that we still await information on the party wall.

Plans to update the kitchen with new equipment and floor were discussed in detail. The meeting agreed to go ahead with the plans as proposed and repurpose the old units where possible. Users to be advised of dates when our facilities and rooms would not be available.

Property

The meeting approved the updated risk assessment.

6.5. Circuit. Bryan had prepared a report on the work of the circuit for the meeting..

7. Evangelism

7.1. Purple Cow. Margaret shared with the meeting that this is going well. That it offers a space for people to share topics of faith in an informal way.

7.2. The Easter Saturday family event. Plans are underway but more support is required.

7.3. Lighthouse. It is good to see four people who come to Lighthouse are now attending some acts of worship. It is important to build relationships and ensure that they are made to feel welcome.

7.4. Communication. Gwenda continues to seek contributions for the Newsletter Members were remindd that the website is up and usable..

Catherine advised that the electronic display proposal is being actioned.

8. **Churches Together.** Nick asked for volunteers to help with the preparation and distribution of hot cross buns which will be prepared at Generations Church, Good Friday 29th March from 09.30. There will be an act of worship at 10.30 prior to the start of distribution.

All Members

The meeting agreed to donate £50 towards the cost of serviettes & buns. **Finance** Nick outlined the current position of the Executive and Council of Churches Together. Church Council members were encouraged to consider two options that Nick outlined and members to let him know what they think would be the best way forward. See below for details of Nick's notes.

9. **Future Meetings.** The meeting agreed 13 June, and 5 December, but the September date is subject to further consideration.

10. Members joined in the grace to close the meeting

Notes by Nick on the future of Churches Together structure.

1. **Continue as a registered charity** and encourage if possible, lay church members to sit on an executive committee (minimum 8 people) and so continue to administer the fund. In addition, CTLD to continue to draw member churches together to find ways to work together in worship, witness and service in the name of Christ. To vote for this option, may I ask if you would be ready to serve on an executive body, as this readiness among members is the basis of being able to pursue this option.
2. **Dissolve the Charity.** and identify another awarding charity who may undertake the distribution of grants from the fund. CTLD will continue to draw member churches together to find ways to work together in worship, witness and service in the name on Christ. We will still need representatives from the churches to form a council which will help guide any initiatives we may have, but there will be no added burden of administering the charity.