

Heaton Moor United Church

General Church Meeting

Sunday 10th February 2019

Minutes

Attendance (47) and apologies (14) (see Appendix 1). Chair: Raj Patta

1. Deborah Symmons opened the meeting in prayer
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2018**
 - 3.1 Graham Adams pointed out that Paul Brewerton had opened the meeting on 21/10/18. Raj Patta had been in attendance
 - 3.2 Rev Lindsay Kemp has been ill for some time and will be off sick until she has a heart operation later in the spring. This will mean more work for Raj and for Ian Coverdale. Prayers were asked for Lindsay.
 - 3.3 Discussions about obtaining a defibrillator are ongoing.
3. **Report from the Leadership Team (Roy Dudley Southern)**(see Appendix 2)
 - 3.1 Sharon Heginbotham has taken up post as the church administrator. This means that she can no longer be church treasurer. Jim Lowe and Beryl Jones are fulfilling this role on a temporary basis. A job description is being prepared. A volunteer is sought to take up this important role from 1st September 2019. Sharon will continue to do the book-keeping aspects of the role.
 - 3.2 The option of building a small extension for storage purposes is being explored.
 - 3.3 The Leadership Team have asked the Worship Committee to review the hymnbook situation with a view to possibly buying some new hymnbooks and reducing the number used to two or fewer .
 - 3.4 A church membership card is being prepared which will have contact important contact details. It will include the dates of the major Christian Festivals but not of church activities such as the Christmas Fair and Summer Gala.
4. **Family and Pastoral Work (Linda Fleming)**
 - 4.1 Linda has been reviewing the pastoral list. A meeting of pastoral visitors will be arranged in the near future. Raj and Linda are visiting those who are house bound and taking communion to them. Linda asked church members to let her know of any adherents who should be placed on the pastoral list.
 - 4.2 Linda is continuing to visit families who attend Bouncing Babies.
 - 4.3 The Youth Group has not met for some time. They are planning to meet on 10th March and discuss the future of the Group. One possibility is for the group to meet once a month rather than the previous pattern of fortnightly meetings.

4.4 Linda had not attended Brownies for some time. She is trying to do a story with Bouncing Babies each week. There will be no Messy Church during February.

4.5 **Easter:** The Heaton's Churches Partnership is proposing to deliver Easter cards to individual households within the Heaton's. Linda will co-ordinate a team to hand out coffee and hot cross buns to commuters on the Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week, using The Plough as a base. The Heaton's Churches Partnership has hired the Savoy on the morning of Easter Saturday to show the film 'Paul The Apostle'. This will start at 10am. The cost will be £6 to include coffee and a hot cross bun.

4.6 Linda asked for volunteers to help with 'The Big Breakfast' at Tithe Barn School during Christina Aid Week.

4.7 She asked for continuing prayer support from the congregation.

5. Finance committee report (Jim Lowe).

5.1 The Finance sub-committee meets four times a year. Jim circulated a statement of accounts for the year 2017-8 which had been prepared by Sharon (see Appendix 3). £55,000 had been taken out of reserves to cover the cost of the two new boilers and the new tables and chairs.

5.2 Income from letting the manse had helped to cover some of the deficit (However there were also costs associated with maintaining the manse). A letter had been received from the URC saying that they would be taking of the management of all manses in the Deanery from 1st April 2019. There are currently around 70 manses and around 20 will be sold. The Leegate Road manse will be independently valued on 1st April and HMUC will receive 35% of the value (whether or not the manse is subsequently sold).

5.3 Matters were progressing with regards to the loan/grant to 'Connect'. There had been some administrative issues because neither the Methodist nor URC had prior experience of such a large sum being transferred from one church to another. The funds are currently held in a URC account and the body which administers that account had been provided with all the necessary documentation and assurances for things now to proceed.

6. Property committee (Ian Anderson)

Ian Anderson gave the property report (see Appendix 4).

6.1 Two electronics engineers had visited the church and, after adjustment, had not found any fault with the sound system. However some members of the meeting (who use hearing aids) reported that there had been problems with the loop on that day (10th Feb). Beryl Jones wondered whether it was due to the orientation of the mike.

6.2 30 new plastic chairs have been purchased for the coffee lounge. They are currently being stored in the main hall pending the disposal of the old chairs. Peter Williams proposed that the chairs be offered in the first instance to the Health Centre for use in the old URC church building. David Smith requested that at least 10 more new chairs be purchase as U3A classes often had more than 30 attendees. Ian reported that there were plans to purchase additional chairs with arms – with both pink and green upholstery.

6.3 The noticeboard has been repainted. Stuart's name has been removed and it shows the current service times.

7. Lent study course

The Lent study course will take the form of 'Film and Theology' It will begin with a showing of the film 'The Greatest Showman' at 6.30pm on Ash Wednesday (6th March). Subsequent sessions will take place after church on Sundays during Lent (except Mothering Sunday).

8. Worship Group

8.1 Easter Sunday early morning communion with breakfast will take place at St John's, Cheadle Heath. Offer of transport will be requested.

8.2 There will be a 'Super Sunday' (with activities for young people) and Café Church on alternating months from February. The first Café Church will be on 3rd March (in church)

8.3 A discussion took place about evening and 9.30am services.

Various comments/suggestions were made:

- Don't restart evening services now in view of stretched ministerial resources in the circuit
- Neither Pauline nor David could play for an evening service
- No enthusiasm for the traditional style of evening service
- Drop the 9.30am communion service and replace with an evening communion service once a month
- Don't have two communion services on the same day
- If there is an evening service have it earlier (e.g. late afternoon). However it was pointed out that Stuart had tried having non-traditional services on Sunday afternoon and they were not supported

9. Summer Fair

Peter Aspinall and Mark Field have organised the Summer Fair for the last few years – usually on the second Saturday in June. Last year this clashed with events organised by the Heatons Trading Partnership. Peter is not available for that Saturday this year. Peter and Mark have proposed holding a Spring Fair on the afternoon of Sunday 28th April, with lunch at the Fair. The Leadership Team are considering this proposal but wished to ask the membership whether there was any objection to holding the event on a Sunday. This would involve setting up the stalls (inside) on the Saturday – thus not disrupting Dementia Friends. There was some concern that this might detract from Sunday being a day of worship.

Roy Dudley Southern proposed that the Fair be held on a Sunday. Betty Allport seconded. Voting was by show of hands. For: 22. Against: 9.

10. Any other business

There are plans to hold a Church Away Day focussing on renewal for those who hold office or are involved in various activities. Sharon is exploring venues.

11. Date of next meeting

19th May 2019 (AGM)

Signed.....

Date.....

Church Leadership Team Report to the General Church Meeting on 10 February 2019

Much has happened since the last church meeting. I have been asked to present a summary of the matters considered by the leadership team.

Administrator

Noticeboard (Property)

New chairs (to be discussed)

Storage including the possibility of an extension (Property)

Treasurer's role

Hymn books (Worship and then Property)

Church membership card

Summer Fair (to be discussed)

'Connect' loan

Super Sunday and Cafe Church

Easter arrangements

RMDS/HMUC/20190210 LT Rpt to Gen Church Mtg
9 February 2019

Heaton Moor United Church 2017/2018 Accounts

	General	Dementia	Flebone	MF	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals
Paxton						60,840.38		60,840.38
C1100 Donations received	8,893.80	10,489.21	0	0	19,383.01	60,840.38		60,840.38
C1101 Collection Envelopes	11,264.13	0	0	0	11,264.13	7,972.99		7,972.99
C1102 Flowers Donations	810	0	0	0	810	39,363.33		39,363.33
C1200 Gift aid tax claimed	14,210.36	0	0	0	14,210.36	15,605.51	10,489.21	26,094.72
C2200 Bequests and legacies	250	0	0	0	250			134,271.42
C2300 Standing Orders	30,087.00	0	0	0	30,087.00			5,497.50
C2400 Collection Cash	5,278.89	0	0	0	5,278.89	5,497.50		0.00
C3111 Circuit Admin	736.32	0	0	0	736.32			139,768.92
C3201 Family Worker	926.64	0	0	0	926.64	129,279.71	10,489.21	139,768.92
C3202 Coffee	1,429.64	0	0	0	1,429.64			
	73,886.78	10,489.21	0	0	84,375.99			

Activities for Generating Funds

C3100 Fundraising events	5,497.50	0	0	0	5,497.50			
C3300 Lettings	23,990.88	0	0	0	23,990.88			
C3301 Manse Letting	15,372.45	0	0	0	15,372.45			
	44,860.83	0	0	0	44,860.83			

Investment Income

C4200 Interest received	7,972.99	0	0	0	7,972.99			
	7,972.99	0	0	0	7,972.99			

Charitable Activities Income

C5100 Sundries	2,559.11	0	0	0	2,559.11			
	2,559.11	0	0	0	2,559.11			

HEATON MOOR UNITED CHURCH – Church Meeting Sunday 10th February 2019

Property Group Report

There has been one Property Group Meeting since the last Church Meeting. This was held in the Patio Room on Tuesday 28th October 2018.

All the work requirements from the last Quinquennial Inspection Report have now been completed.

A full Electrical Inspection of the building has been carried out, as required by our insurers, Methodist Insurance. There were no major issues requiring immediate attention. The report made a number of suggestions which will be considered and action taken as appropriate.

Our Notice Board has now been updated, with the removal of Stuart Radcliffe's contact details and more appropriate information, better reflecting our current services, added.

The old chairs and tables have now been disposed of.

The URC NW Synod Manse Scheme is to be instigated w.e.f. 1st April this year, meaning our responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the manse at 44 Leagate Rd will cease.

Two electronics engineers visited the church last Thursday. Peter Williams and I met with them. The purpose of their visit was to investigate the problems that we have been having with the P A and sound system in the worship area. After extensive testing and adjustment they concluded that the system is working correctly, including the loop system! It was suggested that many of the problems were because a number of settings had been changed from their ideal positions. We now intend to make it more difficult for other users to meddle! Both Peter and I were able to listen through the loop system, from all areas within the worship area. We found no areas in which it didn't work. We have since received a written report which concluded that there wouldn't be anything to gain by replacing any elements of the current system. Whilst they were here they also adjusted some wiring and settings on the equipment in the Main Hall which should resolve the sound distortion from the speakers.

All non church user groups have now received copies of our new charges and the new payment figures have become effective. It is our intention to review these annually.

There was some minor water ingress in the Worship Area during this last week, but none in the Coffee Lounge. We will continue to monitor.

The treatment of the masonry around the main gates seems to have been effective. Further coats of treatment may be required later this year.

As always I would like to thank those members, who help in many ways to keep our premises, both inside and out, in such good order. It is much appreciated.

Ian Anderson – Chair of Property Group - 10th Feb 2019.