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*St Albans and Welwyn Circuit, Beds, Essex and Herts District*

Minister: Rev’d Andrew Prout | 16 Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL1 4NL | 01727 851834

Church Council Secretary: Chris Kitchin | chris.kitchin@tiscali.co.uk | 01707 332 470

**Minutes of the Annual General Church Meeting held on Sunday 20 May 2018**

**at Hatfield Road Methodist Church**

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **1** | **Welcome and Opening Devotions**  The Rev’d Andrew Prout welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| **2** | **Attendance record and Apologies**  See Appendix One. |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of last Annual General Church Meeting**  The minutes of the general church meetings held on 21 May 2017 and 18 March 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record. |  |
| **4** | **Remembrance of members who had passed away since the last annual general church meeting**  Three church members (Jim Crotty, David Mills and Joyce Blunden) who had passed away since the last annual general church meeting were remembered in prayer. |  |
| **5** | **Appointments**  Nominations had been invited for the appointment of church stewards and Representatives to the Church Council. Where necessary all nominations had been accompanied by a completed Trustee Eligibility Declaration.  In accordance with Standing Order 623(2) of the Methodist Church it was agreed that voting should be by ballot. The scrutineers were Pip Davies and Hilary Moore.  Church Stewards  In accordance with Standing Order 632(1) the following were unanimously re-  appointed as church stewards for the year beginning 1 July 2018:  Val Parker (by a 75% majority), Roy Vivian (to 31 October 2018), Lianne Weidmann and  Denise Willingham.  In addition, the following were also elected for the year beginning 1 July 2018: Angela  Andrews and Tomas Cvrcek.  Representatives to the Church Council  In accordance with Standing Order 623 of the Methodist Church the following were unanimously re-elected as representatives to the Church Council:  Angela Andrews, Freda Gray, Ros Hancock, Chris Kitchin and George Selvarajan.  In addition, the following was also elected for the year beginning 1 July 2018: Graham Danbury.  In accordance with Standing Order 607 (4) of the Methodist Church the following having each served on the Church Council for at least six years were re-elected to the Church Council for a further year by over a 75% majority of those present and voting.  Eric Bridgstock (2010), Chris Haancock (2009), Helen Jeffrey (2005) and Caroline Tough (2012).  Those who had just taken up office were reminded about the Circuit Induction Sessions for managing trustees planned for Wednesday 6 June 2018 at Hatfield Road. |  |
| **6** | **Annual Report 2017-18**  The Annual Report 2017/2018 had been circulated. Since the church became a registered charity it needed annually to provide specified information and this had now been incorporated into the church's annual report. The Church Council as managing trustees would be asked at its 12 June 2018 meeting to agree the formal submission to the Charity Commission. |  |
| **7** | **Circuit Matters including Forthcoming Stationing and Re-invitations**  Andrew informed the meeting that the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) would shortly be bringing forward further proposals in readiness for the June Circuit Meeting in respect of the future financing of the Circuit and the impact this will have on staff numbers and their responsibilities. The June Church Council would have opportunity to consider these proposals. Andrew asked the meeting to hold the members of the CLT in their thoughts and prayers as they work through all the options and implications and drew attention to the significant work they had undertaken over the last year. More work would be needed over the coming months. He also reminded the meeting that he and the Rev Ali Facey would shortly be entering the process of re-invitation with their current appointments both due to come to an end on 31st August 2019. Both he and Ali must shortly make it known if they wish to extend their appointment beyond this date or believe it is the right time to seek a new one elsewhere. It is a process of prayerful discernment and Andrew asked for prayers for himself and Ali at this time. Should an extension be sought a process of consultation follows with a final decision being made at the September Circuit Meeting. |  |
| **8** | **Celebrating 125 and Looking Ahead**  Andrew spoke about the Church’s forthcoming 125th anniversary. He reminded people of the many ideas that had come forward and which were presented at the additional General Church Meeting which had met on 18th March. The worship consultation had agreed to invite past ministers to lead worship at some point in the year. It was hoped to use some of our regular and other events through the year to highlight this significant anniversary. The anniversary itself would fall on the weekend of 8/9 June 2019. Andrew hoped we could have a very public event that would be offered to all the community and invited people to be part of a small group to do the planning.  He underlined that this anniversary must not be about just looking back, but looking forward and thinking about our ongoing work and mission today. He set it in the context of the recent revision of our Church Mission Statement, and the things as a Church we had implemented and were carrying forward as a result of all our thinking about mission following our study of the five practices of fruitful congregations in 2015/16. There was still further work to do and it was important we did not rest on our laurels. |  |
| **9** | **Celebrating our Youth - Voice of 3Generate**  The children and young people at the 2017 3Generate National Methodist Youth Event had produced a manifesto detailing their hopes for the Church, the text of which is attached to these minutes. Andrew drew attention to what the young people had said and commended the manifesto to everyone. |  |
| **10** | **Thanks**  Thanks were expressed to Pip Davies and Hilary Moore for acting as scrutineers.  Thanks were also expressed to Philip Eaton who had served 3 years as the Church Treasurer and to Chris Kitchin who had served 2½ years as Church Council Secretary. Both would be stepping down from 31st August 2018.  It was reported that the nomination of Eric Bridgstock as Church Treasurer would be considered at the next meeting of the Church Council. It was noted that there were currently no nominations for the appointment of Church Council Secretary.  Thanks were expressed to Chris Hancock who currently managed the church website. Andrew reported that a small group would soon be formed to look at the web-site in support of Chris. An offer had been made by Rev Hayley Young of Panshanger LEP offering support to Churches in the building of web-sites and use of social media. |  |
| **11** | **Broadcast**  Jan Kitchin expressed regret at the loss of the church magazine *Broadcast.* Toby Weidmann had undertaken the task most recently but was now away and would be going to university in the Autumn. Denise Willingham reported that the Stewards were looking at communications. An approach has been made to Marlborough Road Methodist Church about sharing a newsletter but this had been declined. An appeal was made to see if someone might take this on. |  |
| **12** | **Closing Devotions**  The meeting closed with Andrew leading us in prayer for the Church and our ongoing work and mission. |  |

**Appendix One**

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| **Present** |  |  |  |
| The Rev’d Andrew Prout \*  Chris Kitchin \*\*  Colin Branch  Eric Bridgstock  Noelene Browning  Geoff Burdett  Betty Burdett  Corinne Cheffers  Richard Cheffers  Tomas Cvrcek  Graham Danbury  Sue Danbury  Alan Davey  Sue Davey  Pip Davies | Paul Duxbury  Victoria Duxbury  Philip Eaton  Helen Fulton  Mary Gotts  Freda Gray  Chris Hancock  Ros Hancock  Eileen Holt  Lesley Kerley  Joe Kinchenton  Jan Kitchin  Gerry Livesey  Margaret Livesey  Carolyn Moody | Tony Moody  Hilary Moore  Cliff Moore  Hilary Moore  David Mullins  Louise Mullins  Val Parker  Sara Rawlinson  Rhian Roberts  Joanna Rose  Colin Rowe  Mary Rowe (Groves)  Evangeline Selvarajan  George Selvarajan | Lesley Saunders  Graham Smith  Angela Spriggs  Caroline Tough  Chris Tough  Jackie Vivian  Anne Wall  Peter Wallace  Ruth Wallace  Lianne Weidmann  Denise Willingham  Napoleon Yorke-Andrews |
| **Apologies**  Marion Eaton, Rosemary Fletcher, Christine Ford, Peggy Liffen, Johanna Mason, John Scott, Diane van de Merwe, Roy Vivian and Sue Devi | | | |

\* Minister & Chairman

\*\* Church Council Secretary

