

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 19.30.**

**PRESENT:-** Rev. Sam Funnell (Chair), Jean Normington, Allison Jackson, Carole Hymers, Graham Warr, David Lander, Hugh Bowerman, Simon Che (non-voting), Edmond Tsui (non-voting), Anna Carrington (non-voting), Sue Waddell, Samantha Cudby, David Broadley, David Emmerson, Ian McIntosh, Andy Meal (minutes)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-** Ruth Taylor, John Nelson, Joyce Nelson, Sue Waddington, Rev. Paul Glass.

The meeting opened at 19.30. Sam welcomed members.

Devotions were taken from the Methodist Church's Prayer Handbook, and St. Matthew's account of the Greatest Commandment. The prayer was written by Vicci Davidson, Superintendent of the Thames Valley Circuit, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Sam explained that the membership of the meeting had been adjusted. Helen Belsham no longer represented the Circuit Stewards. An email from Helen was read out. Jean Normington was representing the Circuit team, as well as her role as Steward from Trinity.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** were signed as being correct. Thanks to Dan for sending out the packs.

**MATTERS ARISING:-** None not covered in rest of the agenda.

**DECLARATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-** None.

**CONVERSATION ON THE WORK OF GOD.**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT:-** Jean Normington would take any questions.

David Lander remarked that there was a lot of life in the Church, but the responsibility was being carried by fewer, frailer shoulders, and the financial status was reduced.

A lively discussion took place. It was recognized that there were legal and professional issues with the use of volunteers. The needs of the regulatory bodies and those of the Church needed to be recognized. It was important to have enough local people to do the work. There was a lot to learn from the Chinese Church, and partnership conversations were important. Edmond was confident that people would commit.

There were two resolutions to be voted on.

**RESOLUTION 1.** The Church Council authorizes and supports the Leadership Team to press ahead and explore the creation of a "Central Services Resource" (Working Title), consulting with others as necessary, reporting what might be possible and at what cost, to the next Church Council meeting. This was passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2.** Church Council authorizes the Leadership Team to continue conversations with the Chinese Church expressing our preferred option is to be fully integrated as one Church with multiple congregations. This was passed unanimously.

Graham thanked the Leadership Team and other Committees for all their hard work on behalf of the congregation. Sam encouraged us to step out in faith when God's work is being done.

**PASTORAL CARE:-** There are 113 members with 35 official adherents, plus a wide range of people coming through the building in all the different groups.

Messy fun Church growing in attendees and volunteer helpers. Food bank donations were a sign of goodwill within the Church's congregations

Sam said there was a need for mental health support. It would be helpful to find a speaker for training, or contacts for websites. The welfare of a Church member was of concern to members and prayers were needed.

**FINANCE AND PROPERTY:-**The first draft of the accounts was received the morning of the meeting. Information within the report was accurate.

The end of the report mentioned concern about sustainability and was very challenging. There was gratitude for a District grant. Hugh mentioned some external work may not be possible, and we may need more concentration on Church matters. Some times in the week were very busy, without time for routine work.

Sam remarked on the financial viability during this year. It was necessary to seek funding from other sources, and people should look for other possibilities.

It was thought that some people in the Circuit think that Trinity is a big wealthy Church. Also, grant applications had changed very much since COVID.

Sam thought there may be a possibility of asking for a grant from the Connexion for the work of the Foundry. Edmond knew of some successful grants from the Connexion.

There were votes on 4 resolutions for work on the property:

- The first was to have limited repair work on the stained glass window for £5000 – agreed.
- Work to develop the kitchen and toilet areas at the back of the building if finance available – agreed.
- Work to plan and develop the water garden, based on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm – agreed.
- To seek retrospective 'Certificate of Lawful Existing Use' permission for the change of use of the bungalow for lettings to Woking Council.

Property report has been submitted as part of the online annual report.

**FOUNDRY AND ROC:-**report taken as read as part of the Leadership Team report.

**WORSHIP:-** Information in the Leadership Team report. Graham was changing the Prayer board, introducing a prayer tree and keeping it up to date. Prayers could be used in Sunday worship, but permission would be required, indicated by a 'tick' on the reverse of the prayer request slip.

**CHINESE CONGREGATION:-** The majority of members had been part of the congregation for only a year. Pastoral care is difficult, due to the differing church backgrounds and lived experience of the people. Bank accounts are being frozen by the Government. Newcomers are arriving every week, each with their own problems. It takes time for relationships to be forged, due to the different backgrounds. There is a great need for counselling and mental health care.

Sam praised the wonderful work which is being done and hopes the partnership between the congregations continues.

Donations towards the renovation of the stained glass window from the Chinese congregation have been handed over.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WOKING:-** There will be new arrangements for Good Friday 2023 worship in the town Centre; the format will be different in the future. Mark Wallace is the new Moderator.

**WOKING PEOPLE OF FAITH:-**Verbal report by David Lander. Interfaith week is 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November, when other places of Faith can be visited. A walk of Faith took place in Byfleet, involving representatives from a number of faiths. There are various other activities, such as Ladies' coffee mornings. Daphne Lander to be asked for reports in future.

**SAFEGUARDING:-** The model Church policy was revised in February 2022 to include bullying but our policy encompasses this. Mention is made of a leaflet being issued annually offering guidelines for work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Sue Waddington (children) and Joyce Nelson (adult pastoral) would be asked to direct people to look up the latest information on the Methodist Church website. Trinity's Safeguarding Policy was agreed by Church Council, as issued, and this should be updated around the premises and on the website.

The final report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has been published. There are 20 recommendations and we await instruction as to their impact on us at a local level. More information is on the Methodist Church website.

Safeguarding Sunday is 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**EQUALITY, DIVERSION AND INCLUSION. (EDI):-** No report available as Dan unwell. More information is available on the District website or feel free to talk to Dan as occasional mailings are issued.

No further reports. All reports accepted as presented. Church Council always happy to receive reports.

**CORRESPONDENCE:-** Estate agents have contacted the Church, wanting to buy the Trinity site, so that the buildings could be demolished and a retirement complex built. Sam will respond to say the Managing Trustees had considered the request and are not interested.

**CIRCUIT STRATEGY:-**Appendices 4 and 5 come from the September 2022 circuit meeting and are for consideration. Please pass on comments to Jean Normington or David Lander prior to the Leadership Team meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Responses are being gathered from all circuit churches to shape our way forward together and will be brought to the March 2023 circuit meeting.

**OTHER CIRCUIT MATTERS:-** Jean Normington is currently undertaking 2 roles at Circuit meeting; firstly, she is a Church Steward, and secondly is a Circuit Steward. A further person is needed to ensure we have our full representation. John Nelson agreed to be the Steward Rep and Hugh Bowerman our Elected Rep.

The Church Council has been asked to vote on the following resolution:-

The Church Council of TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2022, a) resolves that PAUL STUART GLASS be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as an additional Authorized Person to be present at the marriages between a man and a woman in accordance with Section 43 of the Marriage Act 1949 and of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH situated at BREWERY ROAD, WOKING, GU21 4LH, and b)authorizes JEAN NORMINGTON and JOHN NELSON, being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

Agreed.

**FUTURE EVENTS:-**

**19<sup>TH</sup> November.** Tear fund Big Quiz from 5pm.

Advent zoom reflections lasting 30 minutes at 5.30pm on Fridays in Advent. (Sam)

**11<sup>th</sup> December.** Nativity morning service & Foundry Christmas praise party @ 6pm

**18<sup>th</sup> December.** Carol Service @ 5pm with Chinese Congregation.

**24<sup>th</sup> December.** Christingle @ 5pm with Chinese Congregation children & Communion @ 11.15pm

**25<sup>th</sup> December.** Christmas morning celebration 10am.

**1<sup>st</sup> January.** New Year's Day Service with Rev Paul Glass (live streaming around the Circuit)

Deadline for Trinity News and Views November 19th.

The dates of the next meetings are 6<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 2140.