

**NOTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
HELD ON 17 JULY 2023**

1. Welcome & Opening Devotions:
 - a. Rev Sam welcomed members to the meeting.
 - b. Anna Carrington led the opening devotions.

2. Membership of Meeting & Apologies: (led by Anna C)
 - a. Membership of the meeting was confirmed.
There has been no change since the last meeting.

 - b. Noted that Apologies had been given by: ANDY MEAL, DAVID LANDER, JEAN NORMINGTON, EDMOND TSUI, SAMANTHA CUDBY, and SUE WADDINGTON

3. Minutes of Last Meeting held 6 February 2023
 - a. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.
Typographical corrections:
P1 (Apologies) Norrington should read Normington
P2 Typo heading to Pastoral Report
P2 OFTSED typo in Foundry report.

 - b. Matters Arising (not covered in rest of Agenda):

MA1, P1 of previous minutes: (MA last meeting) – Rev Dr Paul Glass
now registered as an ‘Authorised Person’ for Same-Sex marriage at Trinity.
Noted that this was now complete.

MA2, P2 – Joyce and Allison were not aware they were being tasked with supporting
members who watch on the livestream. Noted this would happen in due course after a
discussion on how best to reach them.

4. Declaration of Any Other Business:
 - a. No other business was brought to the meeting.
 - b. Agreed that the agenda could be closed.

5. Annual Appointments were reviewed.
 - a. Treasurer (Sue Waddell) AGREED
 - b. Auditors (Hamlyn’s Ltd, Horsell) AGREED
 - c. Pastoral Secretary (Joyce Nelson) AGREED
 - d. Pastoral Visitors (Helen Bowerman, Hugh Bowerman, Sheila Card, Margaret Dorrell, Carole Hymers, Allison Jackson, Doreen Lee, Carol McKinney, Marian Nash, John Nelson, Joyce Nelson, Petra Nhamo, Dorothy Nicholson, Liz Penfold, Enid Pullen, Pauline Robson & Sue Wetherell) AGREED
 - e. Communion Stewards (David Broadley – Snr, Ben Annobil, Geoff Eaton, Carole Hymers, Joyce Nelson, Lee Slatter, Ruth Taylor) AGREED
 - f. Extended Communion permission (Allison Jackson) AGREED

- g. Reps to Circuit Meeting (John Nelson – Steward Rep as Jean Normington [Snr] is also Circuit Steward, Sue Waddell – Treasurer, & Hugh Bowerman – Elected Rep) AGREED
- h. Additional Members of Church Council (Ministers – SF/PG, Stewards (note John Nelson also chairs Property and Finance Cttees), Treasurer, Pastoral Sec & Church Council Sec – Ex Officio; Hugh Bowerman – Foundry Missioner; David Broadley – Snr Communion Steward; Simon Che & Edmond Tsui – Representing the Chinese Congregation [Non Voting]; Carole Hymers, David Lander, Denzel Matsaudza & Ian McIntosh – Reps from GCM; Allison Jackson – Pastoral Lay Worker; Sue Waddington – Children, Youth & Families Worker; Graham Warr – LP, Youth Support, Prayer Meeting & IMM Hub. Anna Carrington (Student Minister) and Dan Warr Schori (Church Administrator) may attend, as required/available [Non Voting]. AGREED

Noted – Jean Normington & David Lander (until 31.8.23) Ruth Taylor (from 1.9.23) are also Circuit Stewards. AGREED

- i. Additional Rep from GCM – Jenny Jackson willing to stand now, if CC willing to appoint? AGREED to invite her.

6. Conversation on the Work of God in the Church:

- a. Leadership Team (inc. Eco Church, Worship & Engage Schools work)

ADDITIONAL PAPER no 1 – Rev Sam commented that we’re making progress in lots of areas; exciting and encouraging! Thanks to people for stepping up and helping out; one example being conversations with our Chinese Friends –Simon Che picked up on this in his report and it was discussed under his item heading.

John Nelson raised that Jean referenced SMART objectives in her report. He refreshed people’s memories on what the SMART objectives are!

- Trinity Methodist Church is financially sustainable
- Partnership discussions are held with the Chinese Congregation
- Trinity Methodist Church is committee to evangelism, mission and witness
- Foundry Worship to begin to take an offering at the Service
- Hold a ‘Welcome to Worship’ or ‘Back to Church’ Sunday
- Set up Central Service Team
- Increase volunteers to run different areas of Church life
- Growth of Messy Fun Church on a Friday is recognised by wider congregation

These are reviewed and RAG rated at each leadership team meeting: RAG=Red, Amber, Green

Noted that there was nothing further to say about Eco Church.

Noted that Jean touched on Worship in her report.

Rev Sam updated on Engage; she receives electronic copy of their newsletter.

Action Rev Sam will include their (Engage) prayer requests in the next Service she is leading here at Trinity.

Anna reported on her work with Engage in Horsell Junior School, which she would be continuing next academic year. Not many children came along to the voluntary prayer sessions, but she had good conversations with the children who did come.

Graham Warr noted that prayer was not explicitly mentioned in SMART objectives.

Action SF/DWS add Prayer into Evangelism and Witness SMART objective.

b. Pastoral (inc. Fellowship Groups)

Noted 114 mentioned in Notes should read 112.

Our membership is now actually 108.

Rev Sam acknowledged hard work of pastoral team, much of which goes on behind the scenes.

Noted that Sheila Davies has now moved away but she is still a member at Trinity.

Rev Sam has made contact with a church near where she is now based, in Oakham.

Rev Bekki Wright is happy to arrange for someone to visit Sheila, and the church does good work in realm of Dementia. Rev Sam would pass info on to Sheila's family.

Action Rev Sam

c. Finance & Property

Noted; huge amount of work done to raise income (inc. towards the kitchen appeal) and reduce outgoings! Noted the expected implications of massive rise in energy costs! Kitchen project underway and other plans...building planning, garden, 'Buddy scheme' for groups; which is so important to fostering relationships with building users.

Discussed; the garden. The LT had received a comprehensive email from Jill Willis.

Noted that any future garden plans would need to be simplified, and easy to

maintain. Noted that IMM were trying to progress a grant application to make a Community Garden, but this was currently stalled.

d. Foundry Project & ROC

FOUNDRY

Hugh Bowerman gave verbal update; he was encouraged by Foundry Worship, approx. 30 regular attendees.

Waymaker Group well attended; and if it grows any bigger it will need to be split into two groups.

Hugh explained that attendees of Foundry Worship were very diverse, with affiliations to Trinity, or other Churches in Woking. Drawing a regular Offering from this community as per the SMART objective might be challenging. He was exploring other ways in which this might be achieved, perhaps through online giving. Rev Sam fed back to Hugh that Foundry Worship had been reported to her as a 'salvation' for a member from Byfleet.

Hugh thanked Graham W, and Rachel from IMM for their work on the Woking Community Music Hub, which has grown so much in size and maturity this year. The plan was for the Hub to resume in October, funding permitting.

Daniela WS reported on a burgeoning relationship with HALOW, a charity working with young people with additional learning needs. This was growing alongside the established relationship with the North West Surrey Short Stay School, which continues every Wednesday morning.

A verbal ROC report was given by Ruth Taylor.

Started with 3 action groups which continue.

Wanted to become a charity but application was rejected by Charity Commission.

Woking Borough Council wanted ROC to support Lakeview community centre on Goldsworth Park.

ROC have 'lent' 3 trustees to Lakeview charity which had floundered a bit.

A fun day would shortly be taking place this Summer. This follows on from a Consultation Day last Autumn.

WBC had wanted ROC to take over lease of Lakeview.

As members of Lakeview community charity this was rejected as the risks were too great.

e. Children, Youth & Families Work

Sue Waddington could not be present at the meeting. She had submitted her 3 year strategic plan to the meeting- the link was given in the Papers pack.

It showed the progression of Sue's role and development of the role/work, especially as we've moved from the major impact of Covid 19.

Graham W reported that Messy Fun Church had stabilised at ~20 children attending. A spiritual element was included in the evening activities.

The children were encouraged to say Grace, as a basic tenant of Christian faith.

f. Chinese Congregation

Page 3/4 of PACK - The fantastic size of the Congregation was noted!

A huge amount of work was being done by the Chinese Congregation Executive team- for all ages and needs - well done!!

Rev Sam said it was great to deepen our partnership and work more closely together towards the 'One Church – Multiple Congregations' model.

Noted that this could be quite a long journey, and quite complex, but would enable us to better support God's work in this place, together.

The Chinese Congregation were thanked for their contribution to the life of Trinity in many areas, for example their continued gracious and generous donations to the Foodbank collection (Carole Hymers).

Noted the Cantata on 17th Dec – the combined Leadership Teams of both congregations would give consideration to our plans for another joint Carol Service and work around this important and exciting event! (24th or a Sat?)

We rely on God's wisdom, encouragement and guidance as we move forwards together!

g. Churches Together In Working/Working People of Faith

Noted that CTIW – Continues its work; looking to re-start the leaders' breakfast prayer times termly, from Sep. SF & HB attend meetings as they can.

Noted WPOF – Report as per page 4/5 of PACK – Lots of good things happening between the people of faith in this area.

Please NOTE – Daphne's comments about being aware of what's going on and joining in! Esp – 23/9 International Peace Day

h. Safeguarding

No report but standing item.

Noted that the team were working hard to keep up to date with DBS and training; quite a lot of training has been completed and another date set for October @ Merrow, when others from Trinity will join in.

Please be aware of our policy (on the website and on the notice board) and, above all, remember your training – SAFEGUARDING is our shared concern, as the people of God in this place, to strive to ensure that Trinity is as safe a place as we can make it, for EVERYONE! If you see, hear or are told about something that concerns you, don't keep it to yourself but speak to Rev Sam, Jean (as our Safeguarding Officer) or Dan (as she supports Jean and Rev Sam with administration and policy advice).

i. EDI

No report but standing item.

Noted– Lots of useful info on the Methodist Church website:

The Inclusive Methodist Church_web link is here:

[The Inclusive Methodist Church](#)

Dan and Dr Deeptima Massey are doing a combination of Zoom training events, and one to one consultancy and training in their joint volunteer District roles as EDI Officers.

j. Any others?

Graham W reported on prayer group, which will resume meeting face to face on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, in the Curtis Meeting Room, 10am -11am. New members welcome. Prayer Tree was a success, not least in encouraging children to pray. Dan WS made sure the prayer team got the prayer tree requests every week and these were included in the prayer team prayers.

Graham thanked Carole H for her continued support of the prayer group.

Rev Sam thanked everyone, report authors and teams of people involved in all areas of church life! She said that without everyone doing their 'bit' or often 'multiple bits(!), we wouldn't be able to 'do' all that we do and 'be' all that we are, so thank you!

All reports, written and verbal, were accepted by Church Council.

7. Correspondence:

a. Letter from Rev Tabraham re Emmanuel donation

Rev Sam read out a letter of thanks for £500 donation from the Trinity Benevolence Fund towards completion of Emmanuel project.

b. John Craig (Margot's son!) email re books

John and Margot's son has offered a number of religious books to Trinity.

Action Rev Sam would go back and see how big the collection was before we decided whether or not we would be able to accept it.

c. BSF email of thanks

Rev Sam read out a letter of thanks from BSF area team for their continued use of church space on a Tuesday & Wednesday in term times.

d. There was no other correspondence to report.

8. Circuit, District & Connexional Matters:

a. 6/7/23 – Recent Circuit Meeting – report in ADDITIONAL PAPERS no. 2

Rev Sam highlighted: Staffing changes - Rev Dave Faulkner's leaving Service which took place on 16 July;

Rev Paul Glass, and a bit of Anna C (!), would be supporting Knaphill,

Rev Sydney Samuel Lake – would be looking after Byfleet and moving on into the stationing process for a new appointment from Sep 2024, Circuit Stewards changes: David Lander & Helen Belsham standing down, Ruth Taylor & Andy Seehusen joining the team.

Next step in Circuit consultation would be Workshops.

Reps to Synod – would anyone like to volunteer?

Action Rev Sam to check whether one had to be a member of Circuit Meeting before volunteering to be a rep at Synod.

b. 14/9/23 – Next Circuit Meeting; noted that the venue now confirmed as Trinity.

c. District issues: Rev Sam reported that she would be supporting the Gibraltar Circuit next year as part of her District role, but that she was delighted to say that Rev Conrad Hicks would be joining the Gibraltar Circuit as Co-Superintendent during the next connexional year.

d. Conference 2023 – The Business Digest is available here:

[Conference 2023 Business Digest \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/conference-2023-business-digest)

Noted that Jenny Jackson would be Chairing the Stationing Committee from September 2023. We believe she may be the first Lay person to hold role.

Agreed that Church Council would send her a letter of Congratulations offering our promise of prayerful support to her. Action Andy Meal

9. Future Events:

a. 30 September 2023, Harvest Afternoon Tea.

b. 'Welcome to Worship' Sunday' with Harvest on 1 October 2023 which is a change of name and date. We will be inviting tenants, and building users, and producing a little flyer/handout for folk to invite neighbours, friends, including a couple of suggestions to bring for Foodbank or York Road Project for Harvest gifts. Action Carole Hymers to make some suggestions to Rev Sam

c. Neighbourhood Party, Saturday 28 October 2023.

d. Big Quiz, date to be confirmed – in November 2023.

10. There was no other business.

11. Dates of Next Meetings:

a. 6th Nov 2023, 7.30pm (as previously agreed);

b. Next – 5th Feb 2024 agreed

12. The Grace was shared. The meeting ended at 21.18