

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 6TH FEBRUARY 2023.

PRESENT:- Rev Sam Funnell (Chair), Graham Warr, Carole Hymers, Joyce Nelson, John Nelson, Sue Waddell, Allison Jackson, David Lander, David Emmerson, Hugh Bowerman, Edmond Tsui (non-voting), Simon Che (non-voting), Ian McIntosh, David Broadley, Andy Meal (Minutes). Dan Warr Schori (invited).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- Jean Norrington, Ruth Taylor, Samantha Cudby, Anna Carrington.

The meeting opened at 19.30. Sam welcomed members. A reading from John chapter 14, vv 1 to 7 was followed by a prayer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:- Edmond asked for an amendment to the Chinese Congregation's report, which should read as "Bank accounts are being frozen by the Hong Kong government in order to try and stop people from leaving". Rev.Sam amended this.

The minutes were then signed as being correct.

MATTERS ARISING:- (Page 4. Other Circuit matters) Papers relating to the addition of Rev. Paul Glass as an Authorized Person certified to be present at marriages, have been submitted to the General Register Office. No reply has been received yet.

DECLARATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-None

CONVERSATION ON THE WORK OF GOD:

Sam thanked those who had submitted reports. (Comments additional to written reports listed here.)

LEADERSHIP TEAM.

The Church's support for Engage would involve upholding them in prayer, making them Sunday coffee's Charity of the month twice a year, and an annual donation of 250 pounds a year. Anna, the student minister, was working with a prayer group at Horsell Junior School.

The Vision and Strategy report sent to Circuit showed all was not well. John was surprised that nobody on Church Council had commented on this. David Lander said that other Churches were not doing as well and struggling. John said Trinity could not continue in its current state, and something needed to be done now. It costs 300 pounds a day just to keep things going. Staff salaries are 50% of the total budget. There were very few older people doing an awful lot of work. Hugh said the report showed lots of opportunities, but needed a lot of work to make things happen. Emails were suggested, but some people do not have access. Hugh felt that people were not aware of the gravity of the situation.

Ian suggested discussing this on Sundays. John agreed, but thought it more for the General Church meeting. Graham said there were implications for mission. Volunteers were needed and prayer was important.

Sam said there was need for better communication. The "profit" we have at the moment is due to the grants received. People were closing their minds to the difficulties.

David Lander thought a “short and sweet” approach would be more effective. The Leadership Team needs to communicate more as to what they are doing.

Hugh suggested a podcast might work instead of the written word. All methods of communication should be used. Ian suggested putting information on the screens in Church. Sue Waddell thought the Trinity rainbow was rather bland, and was there each week. David Lander was not comfortable about financial issues being displayed on the screens as people come into worship

The discussion continued. A sense of belonging needed to be fostered, giving hope. Social events may encourage this. Sue Waddington and Dan would look into the events which could be organized. Sam would look into communication within the Leadership Team, who must communicate with membership.

PASTORAL REPORT:- Joyce and Allison will investigate those who join worship on live stream – there is a need to keep in touch. There are those who attend Foundry Worship, Messy Church, Bible Investigators, Junior Church and other bodies who worship within the Church.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE:- Work needs to be done on the toilets, garden and kitchen. Money is short, but work on the garden needs to be done to fulfil orders of Woking Borough Council (in relation to permission for car parking). A lot of work needed to keep the building in good order. Due to limited funds Church Council agreed to the Property Committee’s recommendation that we ‘renew the kitchen...and create the water garden...[and] try to clean up the toilets’.

Financial – Recent “profit” due to grants and fund raising, otherwise there would be a loss. The energy contracts are valid until December. The final accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022 have been completed by our accountants; Church Council agreed them and Sam will sign them off.

FOUNDRY:- Hugh encouraged by the new people coming to Foundry Worship. There is a need for them to be integrated into the Church family. The Short Stay School has had a good Offstead report, but the Inspector did not come to see the work done here. IMM have a room booked at the Royal Albert Hall for a conference.

CHILDREN’S, YOUTH AND FAMILY WORK:- As well as the usual activities, Sue is involved with having conversations with people, learning about their stories and needs. She sometimes provides breakfast for Junior Church members, so they can chat and feel a deeper sense of belonging.

CHINESE CONGREGATION:-Simon said they enjoyed the presence of many of the English speaking congregation at the Chinese New Year celebrations. A banquet will be arranged next year, and hope for more participation from Trinity members. They hope to become involved with the cleaning team, as well as Wombling duties. As they plan a visit to Wesley’s Chapel, Graham hopes to help them.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WOKING:-Plans are well in advance for the Good Friday Act of Witness in the Town Square. This will be in a new format.

WOKING PEOPLE OF FAITH:- Daphne’s report detailed many interesting events and activities, which have been published.

SAFEGUARDING:- Dan mentioned various webinars on the subject, which are easy to follow and available on the Methodist Church website.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI):- Dan is one of two EDI officers for the district. She explained various phrases and showed a video extract from a recent LGBT+ Safeguarding webinar. We heard from Rev Dr. Augustine Tanner-Ihm, an Anglican Priest serving in Manchester as well as an EDI consultant.

Sam thanked Dan for her presentation. She said EDI involved showing respect for and a welcome to all. We need to hold this in our minds as we travel together. The Chinese congregation are a great example of how to show practical and spiritual support to all.

ALL REPORTS – WRITTEN AND VERBAL WERE ACCEPTED BY CHURCH COUNCIL.

CORRESPONDENCE:- None.

CIRCUIT, DISTRICT AND CONNEXIONAL NEWS:-

9th March Circuit meeting at Trinity.

16th July at Byfleet Methodist Church - Farewell Service to Rev Dave Faulkner.

FUTURE EVENTS:-

4th March - Mission Supper at Trinity. 6pm for 6.30. Rev.Hazel Forecast

LENT AND EASTER:-

Lent reflections Zoom on four Fridays (10th,17th, 24th. 31st March) 5.30pm to 6.

Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae service - Sam asked for readers.

Good Friday - Short service at Trinity at 10am, then to Town Square.

Easter Sunday - 10.30am Communion.

OTHER EVENTS:-

General Church Meeting 23rd April.

Welcome to Worship service at Harvest. Invite people to Church.

Neighbourhood party 16th April; Gambia evening 12th May; Plant sale 20th May –to be confirmed

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS:-

July 17th and 6th November

The meeting closed at 21.26 with the Grace.