

Rev Robin Selmes  
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

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## Minutes of the Church Annual Meeting held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Robin opened the meeting in prayer.

**Apologies for absence.** Margaret Baines, Lesterlyn Clarke, Alison Clarke, David Johnson, Mark Frost, Anne Boulwood, Earnest Forsom, Albert Kwakye, Amos Dougan.

**Minutes of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.** These were agreed unanimously.

**Outstanding matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.** None raised.

**Celebration of Church life and Prayer.** Robin encouraged each table to discuss between themselves the issues they were celebrating from the last year, then we had a time of sharing. The following was shared-

- The expanded Mission team,
- The newly established Craft Group,
- The Tea for Two monthly meeting,
- The new name and website of the church introduced at last years annual meeting,
- The Holiday club,
- The church welcome team,
- The world café and all who provide cakes for this mission initiative,
- The Medway wide youth breakfast organised by our Circuit youth pastor,
- The initiative of recycling the church coffee cups and encouraging congregation members to bring their own cups.
- The newly produced bags containing items for our young worshippers during the service,
- The fellowship prior to and after the church service.
- The Big Questions,
- The worship team and their dedication to the church,
- The pastoral team and all the support they provide,
- The prayer team,
- And all who work behind the scene setting up for various events.

**Election of Church Stewards.** Paul and Mark were unanimously re-elected to the role of joint senior stewards.

**Election of Representatives to the Church Council.** With no additional application being received the current representations were unanimously re-elected, with the exception of Sara Crouch, moved to Devon and Lucy Abigail Sayers who resigned. The church representatives are John Amoah, Bryan Clarke, Lesterlyn Clarke, Amos Dougan, Earnest Forsom, David Johnson, Sara Johnson, Sally Murphy, Diana Smith, Steph Smith, Karen Willing.

**Finance.** Carol, our treasurer informed the meeting of the last financial year ending August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. Our income was £135.5k against our expenditure of £139k a 3.5k deficit. Offerings and gift aid totalled £74.5k and rental income of £32k. our Circuit assessment was £54.6k, utilities £13k, building & maintenance £23k. we hold reserves of £25k.

From June 2018 our youth worker post employed by the church, became a youth pastor and was transferred to the Circuit. We are still committed to contributing £6k a year to fund this post.

We are now 8 months into the current financial year and our Circuit assessment is £57.5k. to date our income is £71.5k against an expenditure of £77k a deficit of £5.5k. Our tithes and offerings are £40.5k equal to £5062 per month against a budget of £75k equal to £6250 per month. Our rental income is currently on track at £22.7k. Utilities to date are £7.9k. 18 months ago we applied to withdraw 2 legacies and are still waiting.

Carol thanked Colin Bell, Maurice Elliot, Cyril and Eileen Berry, Alison and Katy Clarke for the work they do in counting, recording and banking the Sunday offering. Robin thanked Carol for all the work she does with our finances.

**Foyer Project.** Robin told the meeting that over the past 18 months he had been approached by several church groups to consider how we could utilise the church foyer space to accommodate existing groups and further our work in the community. The current stumbling block is the heating system because its not zoned from the worship area. Following discussions at the Church Council we are now committed to refurbish the foyer with a view to making it totally independent from the worship area and fit for mission. For the quotes obtained to date it is estimated that the overall cost will be £9k. we have already set aside some money from our reserves and two donations plus the circuit property grant scheme will contribute a small amount. It is estimated that we will have a shortfall of £5k. Today we have launched our Anniversary gift day appeal and all monies received will go to offset the shortfall.

**Charity of the year.** The Mission team recently launched an initiative for the annual meeting to agree a charity of the year commencing at the start of the next church financial year. Congregation members were encouraged to submit the name of any charity they wanted the church to support. The mission team received the following charity requests- Dolphin Ward at Medway maritime Hospital. The Milly Moo Foundation, Medway Street Angels, Christians against Poverty, Carers First. Members of the Mission Team introduced each charity and then all members of the meeting were given tokens to vote for any of the charities. Following a count of the tokens Medway Street Angels will be our charity of the year from September 2019.

**Circuit, District and Connexion update.** Colin Waldock, Circuit Steward informed the meeting that Jason Cooke was to be stationed in Witney nr Oxford and Doreen

our probation Presbyter was to be stationed in Coventry. John Helier, our district chair was moving to circuit work and from September David Hinchcliffe would be our new District Chair. The district had formed a new reconciliation group which was available to any church experiencing conflict issues.

Cox Gardens, Pru's ex manse is now on the open market and the funds realised will assist with the circuit funds after the Connexion have taken their share. This money will be welcome because the circuit funds are running low and recently, they have been using the reserves to back fill the financial holes.

Stationing is now underway, and Bonnie-Bell, Kan and Velma are currently praying about their future within the circuit. Stationing is always a stressful time for all involved and we are encouraged to pray for those involved.

The Connexion recently published a report on the Methodist understanding of marriage and the meeting was encouraged to read the document. All discussions on this issue will be handled with care and sensitivity and what is proposed can and will probably be amended.

There being no AOB issues the meeting closed with grace.

Signed

Date.