

Ivybridge Methodist Church Council

Tuesday 3rd May 2016, 8.00 pm at Ivybridge Minutes (version 'b')

Prayers

The Rev Ralph Ward opened the meeting with prayer

Present

Ralph Ward, Miles Allen, Mike Antonio, David Bithell, Sara Bromage, Andrew Lawrie, Robin Duckering, Barry Jury, Val Marriott, Carole Mitchell, David Moulder, Chris Phillips, David Rowe, Alison White, Victor Abbott

Apologies for absence

Jutta Berger, Kate Duckering, Christian Hill, Caroline Hodgson, Dawn Martin, Andrew Phillips, Corli Stanford, Phil Blunt

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2016 were signed

Matters arising from minutes

The minibus

Phil Blunt in touch with Len Skinner; all safety-related work needs to be undertaken first by a professional.

Chris Phillips has identified the replacement and fitting of a gearbox at £1500. He suggested a group to undertake a valet. A respray would cost another £1500.

From the Annual Church Meeting, everybody wanted the Church to have a minibus, seeking to keep it running but working towards a newish replacement.

It is currently uninsured and off the road. The new insurance should be done through the Church itself. It is worth about £500. It will be worked on and if the work can be completed for £500 or less, it will proceed. Otherwise it will be sold.

Action: Respray from Torbay – not going ahead; **action completed**

Vote: If it can be made roadworthy for £500, we will proceed.

Proposed Robin Duckering, seconded Dave Rowe, Carried unanimously

Action: Chris Phillips

Connexional and Circuit matters

Ministers from the Circuit will only cover two Church Councils (November and March). If a meeting is required in May 2017, we will have a lay chair.

Action: Senior Stewards

Finance

Reserves Policy ... It was proposed that our reserves should be set at a 3 months' multiple of our assessment, being £21,500.

Proposed, Dave Rowe, carried unanimously

However, we are currently spending more than our income, reducing our reserves and

therefore we must consider (in particular) the expenditure on the building.

Over three years, Church income has increased but our external donations have decreased from 20% to 10%. Many standing Orders have remained static. On the philosophy of tithing our income, we are currently at that level. An explanation will go into the Newsletter.

The Church Council will continue supporting tithing our income, with a minimum of 10% on our gross income being given to charities external to Ivybridge Methodist Church. There will be further consideration of Methodist Charities and others at another Church Council

Action: Church Council

Church finance

Andrew Lawrie's report was presented:

Church Contribution to Barnabas Fund ... currently £50 per month. Following a discussion on the Barnabas Funds' policy which appears to be anti-Islamic, the Church Council decided not to continue with payments.

Action: Andrew Lawrie – to cease payments to the Barnabas Fund

A suggestion was made to support Open Doors. A review of Open Doors and its activities was presented.

Proposed Miles; seconded Andrew Lawrie, unanimous

Action: Miles Allen to write on Open Doors for the Newsletter

Church Life

Pastoral

Current membership stands at 156 (from 148). No problems for those leaving. There will be training for Pastoral Visitors, initially in June and then again in the Autumn.

Corli Stanford will take on the Pastoral responsibility as Steward

Youth

Christian Hill and Mike Antonio will be Phil Blunt's joint line-managers in the absence of a Minister - not just mentoring but managing and holding to account. No new figures on the YVT shortfall.

Action: Andrew Phillips has an outstanding action on contact to donors

Action: Andrew Lawrie will state the financial requirements to the Church, based on Andy Phillips' figures

Action: Rev Ward to review Phil's work to the congregation

Beach Party

Phil is helped by Elis (Ivybridge Youth for Christ). YFC is looking for a Trustee this year and another next. Finance is OK

Elis has been operating YFC in Ivybridge for 10 years this year.

There will be restructuring of Sunday morning groups and a linkage made between Phil's talk and the Sunday Youth meetings

Programme

- Review of forthcoming programme
- A number of baptisms and renewing of marriage vows before Ralph leaves

4th June, Phil on Core Team for Unity Fest on the Hoe

24th June, Beach Party with Gavin Calver. 450 people last year and hoping for more.

Lots of help required!

Saturday play, 'Who Let the Dad's Out' ... with liaison outside of this meeting by Phil

3rd July, Ralph will present Phil's work; Andrew Lawrie will present the financial position

Sunday 24th July, Ralph's final Service at Yealmpton

Sunday 31st July, Ralph's final Service at Ivybridge

Sunday 9th October, Harvest ... and Gift Day

- Focus for Gift Day (at Harvest time) ... possibly the minibus will be the focus, dependent upon intervening actions and outcomes with the maintenance and operation of the minibus
- Arrangements for Interregnum
- For the Lord's Supper, there must be a Minister. There are other Ministers and retired Ministers who will support. Dave Martin of Central Hall is pleased to come too. The Reverend Ken Bromage will also run Communion Services. Usually 1st Sunday of the month (except where we depend upon Reverend Bromage)
- Safeguarding responsibilities will come under Sara Hladkij. She is authorised as a Verifier of DBS checks.
- Val Marriott will looking after the annual statistics
- Simon Leigh will act as the Registrar though others may officiate at the ceremony
- Any member may officiate at baptisms and funerals but local preachers are the first choice
- The point of contact for phoning the Church will change to ...
- The Church email account will become more general with the Senior Stewards and the Administrator as points of contact. Sara Bromage offers being the phone contact but not the email. Val Marriott will be the email contact. Tony Merriman to be asked to set up a new email address that will create and auto-forward to Val's account
Action: Ralph to ask Tony Merriman
- From September, there will be two worship leaders; Paul Courtney and Carla Ricardo. The leadership, as stated on the plan, needs to be updated.
- Work in Primary Schools and the College will have to be put on hold.

Needs to be a graduate who can work to the National Curriculum. They want a Minister if anybody.

- Home Communion ... Val Marriott, Christine Moulder and Judy Jago
- Information to the Congregation ... any inquiry through the Stewards and the Carol, Pastoral Secretary. A regular feature on the back page of the Newsletter

Bittaford

Nothing new

Sunday 17th July, Ralph's final Service at Bittaford

Congregational Representatives

The Minutes of the Church Council have been posted on the Noticeboard.

Four people came last Sunday to ask about Jeff Stephenson – he's not an authorised local preacher but he is very able. He's preaching on Ralph's authority. It is within the rights of the congregation to comment upon the preaching.

Property

Report attached.

Street Pastors

This work is still valuable, being Fridays, 20:30-00:00.

The Management Committee to be reformed and is still awaiting a new Chair – suggestions sought. It is not an onerous role and does not require them to be a Street Pastor, nor a member of the Church, nor to be a Christian.

It is financially solvent. A County Councillor recently gave a grant of £1000 from his budget.

There is a request for new people to act as Street Pastors.

Action: David Bithell to promote the work to the Church

Bridge Project

This had a grant from the Town Council, recognising the work of the Project and its value to the Town. Two attendees have also gone to School and Church activities.

David May funded repairs to a vehicle.

Any other business

Welcome Desk ... a diagram of the proposed desk was circulated. It includes storage.

Date and place of next meeting

Church Council, ~~13th July, 19:30~~ to be set in consultation with the new Minister

~~November meeting date to be set after consultation with the Circuit Ministers~~

The meeting was closed with prayer

Actions

Chris Phillips

To lead the resurrection of the minibus or to sell it on ...

Senior Stewards

To support the running of the November and March Church Councils; to arrange a Chair for the May Church Council if it is required ...

Church Council

To consider the donation of monies to Methodist Charities and others ...

Andrew Lawrie

To cease payments to the Barnabas Fund

Miles Allen

To write for the Newsletter, supporting the charity, Open Doors

Andrew Philips

To contact regular givers to YVT, asking them, i) whether they might increase their giving, and ii) whether payments could go straight into the YVT account ...

Andrew Lawrie

To state the financial case to adequately support Phil Blunt

Rev Ralph Ward

To review Phil's work to the congregation

To ask Tony Merriman if he would set up a system forwarding email from the Church email address to Val Marriott's email address.

David Bithell

To promote the work of the Street Pastors to the Church ...

Victor Abbott

To make contact with the new Minister, Rev Mark Lawrence

To contact Chris Crouch to book the Cafe ...