

Ivybridge Methodist Church Council

Wednesday 25th January 2017, 7.30 pm at Ivybridge Minutes (version 'b')

Prayers

The Rev Mark Lawrence opened the meeting with prayer

There was a vote on the appointment of new Stewards: Paul Courtney, Reg Marriott, Lois Stephenson

There was a welcome to the two new Stewards present this evening, Paul Courtney and Reg Marriott

Present

Rev Mark Lawrence, Paul Courtney, Helen Martin, Sara Bromage, Kate Duckering, Andrew Lawrie, Andy Philips, David Bithell, David Moulder, Chris Phillips, Jutta Berger, Reg Marriott, Val Marriott, Carole Mitchell, Dawn Martin, Alison White, Miles Allen, Tony Merriman, Phil Blunt, Victor Abbott

Apologies for absence

David Rowe, Carmen de Pablo, Sara Hladkij

Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes (version b) of the Meeting of 13th September 2016 were corrected and signed

Matters arising from minutes

Reviewing the Actions (Listed on the final page)

Connexional and Circuit matters

District wide boundary review may report back by the end of Easter.

There are a series of courses to help us work in and through conflict

Finance

Church finance

Sign off 2016 Financial Accounts, agreed, signed

2017 Reserves Policy, agreed signed

Youth Vision Trust finance

Balance at end of year, £28,000

Since September 2016, there has been a significant change in personal contributions. Current funds are still expected to support Phil's outgoings until 2021/2022, with an annual deficit of £5,000

Action: Stewards to encourage new people to contribute via the Church Newsletter (and Tony Merriman completed)

Action: Tony Merriman to encourage new people to contribute via the Church website (completed)

Funding for lighting for Youth Services

We lost the music-support lighting on Ralph's departure but they remain important for youth work.

LED lights cost about £30 each and with some moving heads there is a proposal to budget £500 to their purchase. They will be used in Church (Engage, Wired) and on The Net (in town)

Action: Paul & Phil to spend up to about £500 from Church Funds

Action: Final approval to be obtained from the Stewards

Action: Phil to submit formal receipts for lights and costs

The use and insurance of private cars is agreed, as and when required

A YVT Grant was requested for Tim Stephenson to support him on a Project, 24/7. It will be supported by a bursary of £250

Proposed: SB; Vote: Unanimous

Church Life

Pastoral

There have been two meetings of the Pastoral Committee since the last Church Council. Membership numbers are reported as a) 156 with 1 gain, and b) (ie the most recent figures) 143 with 14 losses

Action: by The Minister to write an article for the next Newsletter, encouraging new people to join as members

There are 39 pastoral visitors

Youth

Party in the Park/ Church outside the Box

Phil presented a plan for the year (electronic copy may be included in version 'b')

Proposal for a (beach) Party in the Park! This will consist of a normal Church service in the Park in the morning and a different style in the afternoon.

Provisionally 17th September 2017

Other churches to be invited; they will be brought into discussions

Budget discussions included possibilities of £700 (stage & escapologist) to £7000 (Rap Band)

Action: Phil to lead a team

Sara H: To get permission from Town Council

Phil: To ensure all other Church Leaders are contacted

Men's Ministry

To start the Men's Breakfast on 2nd Saturday of each month

Meeting this Friday of Men's Fellowship

June 10th & 11th – team activity on the Saturday and then participating on the Sunday morning

Healing on the Streets

A discussion took place on the current operation of Healing on the Streets

Current Church Leadership is by Jeff Stephenson

Safeguarding policy needs to be ensured

Need to ensure accountability/ authority/ DBS/ insurance/ inappropriate contact

To be reviewed (and has consequences for other joint church initiatives)

Action: The Minister with Jonathan Bell and Sara Hladkij

Safeguarding

Sarah left note that she is dealing with Safeguarding Records

Programme

Review of forthcoming programme

Women's Ministry

Volunteers are requested to support Mothering Sunday instead of Helen Martin. Discussion on posies or an alternative to be completed with the Stewards

Maundy Thursday 13th April, Passover Meal with Joan Bullman

No children's workshops on Good Friday but Dawn will do activities on Easter Sunday

No Lent Course (individual house groups instead)

Annual Church Meeting ... to be Monday 19th June, 7.30pm It will include a vision for the Church and relaunching children's ministry. Members and adherents will be encouraged to attend through the house groups. Some music will be developed. It will be publicised soon and towards the time itself

All agreed

Action: SB to put the date into the Newsletter

Action: SB to inform the House Groups

Action: The Minister to develop publicity

Action: PC to develop a music programme

There was a discussion on rental income

Bittaford

Jutta reported that all was progressing well. Sundays are covered, and the finance is working.

There was good support at Christmas Eve

The building is OK with ongoing small repairs

Congregational Representatives

David Bithell reported on an email (to be dealt with by the Minister and Stewards) including the date of the ACM and the Sound System

Robin Duckering is encouraged to update the photo board

Action: The Minister to respond to Members through the Congregational representative

Action: Kate Ducking to advise Robin of the request

Church Heating

Thanks were expressed to Chris for keeping it going through the winter

Property electronic copy will be attached with version 'b'

Health & Safety

David Moulder was injured in the operation of the portable stage. It is to be secured with a padlock and there will be safe operating instructions and required training

Action: CP to arrange security, notices and training

Annual Gas Safety Check passed but there is a small leak in the extreme

cold. May require re-routeing in the future
Southern lift (at the back of the Church) is not in use; it will not be repaired for the moment; the northern lift (Entrance Foyer) is fine
Heating issues – newer, blown air heaters depend upon the unreliable kitchen boiler. The 'Kestrel' heaters are all obsolete with no diagnostic instructions. One in the sanctuary has failed. The most recent quote for a replacement boiler was £7000.

Proposal to get in further specialist help
A completely new system could be £50,000

Action: Paul Courtney to ask through the Anglican Diocesan Offices

The minibus has been disposed of

Action: Chris to review previous usage and write a report

Proposal that Phil is trained to drive a minibus, financed by the Church funds. A set of lessons and tests to be investigated with approval from Church Council prior to action

Action: Phil to propose a budget for lessons and a test

Barry Jury has been ill

John and Pam Montgomery are conscientious at undertaking the bookings

David Bithell

The Sound Desk will be raised to give a view over the congregation

Sara Hladkij (by email)

No to future purchases of microwave ovens or other devices

Mural - not yet

Street Pastor Report

Started new rota with every Friday covered; it is relatively quiet at this time of year.

The AGM is due shortly and there is an encouragement to Church members to come along. There was good attendance from the Town Council.

New recruits needed – and a slot at ACM was suggested

Action: The Minister to include the work of the Street Pastors at the Annual Church Meeting

Bridge Project

The activities were reported in a local magazine

YFC are the managing organisation

Budget is £1000 a year but there is no dedicated funding stream. It does attract external funding in lump sums. It is not only a Christian work and so there is a wide range of contacts

Date and place of next meeting

Tuesday 9th May at 7.30

Actions

The Minister

To review Church giving ... ongoing until the Annual Church Meeting

Carole Mitchell

To provide a wider pastoral list of children ... ongoing

Helen Maddaford/ Victor Abbott

To produce a list of House Fellowships ... ongoing to be made aware of request by the Secretary

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Property Committee

To investigate the purchase and deployment of a defibrillator ... ongoing

Victor Abbott

To book the Café for the next meeting