



Hailsham Methodist 2016 Annual General Meeting

Date: 23 May 2016

Venue: Hailsham Methodist Church

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Rev David Chapman (Chair); Carole (mins); Barbara; Pam; Jenny; Anita; Ken; Sheila, Pauline; Hilary; John; Sheila; Irene; Roger; Ruby.

Apologies: Marguerite Mobbs

Item	Detail	Action
Opening Devotions	Rev David Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting then read a passage from the Bible (Genesis Chapter 1) then said a short prayer.	
Act of Remembrance	Sadly, this year we have lost: Les Harmer, Doreen Wood, Ruth Easton, Sylvia Kennedy, Ann Hunt, Tony Hinman, Grace Nestor, Pam Riddall, George Russell, Phil Parrington. Rev DC said it was important to remember our friends/family. A short prayer was said.	
Minutes of Previous Meeting	We looked through the minutes of last year's AGM – they were agreed and signed.	
Matters Arising	None.	
Financial Report	Sheila sends financial figures out every month. Average monthly collections last year: £1678 Average monthly collections this year: £1648 Both figures have been taken from over 8 months Hall hire income last year: £6481	

	<p>Hall hire income this year: £7241 HSBC bank balance (as of today): £6987.</p> <p>Our thanks go to Pat Aisbitt for preparing these figures. Rev DC said how marvellous it was to hear about increase in lettings.</p> <p>Many thanks to Sheila for keeping us informed about our finances over the past year.</p>	
Church Annual Report	<p>Copies were available for all.</p> <p>Stewards: Jenny read out main points from her report.</p> <p>Stewards Outreach: we have two events planned - John Griffin said there could be a third event as he is hoping someone will come from the charity we are fundraising for (Children with cancer) and speak on the Sunday (24th July) when we have our local arrangement.</p> <p>Minister: ideally we will be having a Methodist Minister from September 2017 when Rev John's appointment ends. Rev DC spoke about the stationing process - the CSUA (Central Sussex United Area) has a pastoral committee looking at deployment of ministry within the area and the intention is to create a ministerial appointment to include Hailsham, Cross in Hand, Gamelands, and perhaps something else – an element of work as of yet unknown. The person taking this appointment will live in the Hailsham Manse. During next few months URC will purchase a manse having sold three in the past few years. It has been decided to look in Polegate for this as Lewes is an expensive area regards property. This will be handy for Polegate and Lewes URC and also for a new project in Alfriston. Rev John will move to Polegate in the course of the next 12 months and the Hailsham Manse will be made ready for occupation by the incoming minister. A question was asked about the proposed Alfriston – there is a church which was historically a congregational one – this closed but was retained by URC as a community building, licensed for marriages. Currently they have infrequent services and the intention is to have a more regular Sunday service and increase the number of marriages. The URC feel this is a project worth investing in. An alternative would be to focus on ministry in the Eastbourne area – not all the loose ends have been tied up. Re process of appointing a Minister – the stationing timetable is just starting. A profile of the appointment responsibility of circuit - 2 sides of A4 – will be drawn up for church stewards to comment on, it will then be approved by</p>	John Griffin

	<p>the area meeting and be put into the handbook that gets circulated to all ministers who are in the stationing process. Methodist conference appoints we can only advise. An invitation committee has just been set up, chaired by Rose Westwood who will be taking over Rev DC's position. There will be two representatives from each church, usually the senior church steward and one other. A meeting will be called at the end of June to begin the process. Rev DC said - note of caution as it isn't an automatic process that we will get someone due to projected figures for 2017 showing that there are likely to be more appointments available than there are ministers. However, it could be that some in the process will prefer to live in the South of England. We need to be aware that a probationer minister is sometimes an alternative that can work very well but there is also a shortage of probationer ministers, however we will make the appointment as appealing as possible. If we need a plan B – since Rev Malcolm Newman moved out of the area, Rev Ray King has been looking after Gamelands and Cross in Hand. We could try the same way that we got Rev Malcolm Newman and try to get someone for a short period of time rather than go without. Another alternative may be that a Methodist Deacon is available - Deacon John from Eastbourne, as part of a ministerial team. Should all go well the initial invite would be for seven years, 5 years if a probationer is appointed and also if a Deacon is appointed. A retired minister's contract would be likely to be for two/three years.</p> <p>Property: Barbara went through main points in her report.</p> <p>Quotes: £1729 damp quote on hold as we are having the church exterior painted.</p> <p>Boiler room flooding: problem with pump/float switch. Solution could be to either dig a bigger hole or get another pump – Sheila has a pump at home. Barbara will ask Darrell, an electrician, to have a look at this problem when the PAT test is done next month.</p> <p>Neighbouring property: there is an ongoing problem with our neighbour and the padlock on his gate which is one of our fire escape routes.</p> <p>Barbara feels we are at end of major expenditure however carpets are wearing out, kitchen is dated – we could spend more money but need to check our financial position before making decisions. Barbara is grateful to those who look after the church on a regular basis. Hirers regularly comment how much they like our hall. A big thank you to</p>	
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	<p>Barbara, Sheila, Roger, Pauline.</p> <p>Rev DC said this tremendous report shows our position very clearly - hirers/worshippers noticing a transformation of the environment. We explained the ongoing problem with our neighbour who has been very rude and is not approachable. We had a right of way through his garden however we recognised that as we haven't exercised this every 12 months we could have lost it. John Griffin seemed to remember that thirty years ago lawyers were involved. Sheila commented that this could be in our old church council minutes and Jenny Gandy offered to have a look through. If we find anything Rev DC can send to Manchester for a free legal advice.</p> <p>Morning Fellowship: Barbara went through the main points of her report</p> <p>Sessions/Leaders: Mustard Seed; Margaret Rickard; Quicken Trust; Rev David Dunn-Wilson; Pam Russell. Barbara is now looking to ask a speaker to come and talk on Christian Aid. The group won't meet in May as a lot are away. She will get this advertised in the newsletter when it has been arranged.</p> <p>Rev DC commented that we have a good group of people supporting each other and that fellowship in church is very important. Worthwhile to keep it going.</p> <p>Messy Church: Rev DC commented that meeting six times a year was excellent and our numbers are buoyant – huge! Sheila said there are all ages from babies to adults and that it is becoming almost too big to manage. We have to consider safety in terms of getting a large number of people and also toilets available. We will keep an eye on this and play by ear.</p> <p>Rev DC asked how people heard about it – combination of our Facebook page, people looking at the notices on the church porch – we have a college nearby so parents passing look at the notices to see when it is on next – and word of mouth.</p> <p>Pastoral: Anita asked us to bear in mind that two of our worshippers are currently housebound – Margaret Rickard and Lily Parrington and we must ensure people don't slip through the net. Rev DC commented that it is a very valuable thing to do and that one of the things Methodism offers is a sense of belonging and that it is noticed when people are missing – an important aspect of our life.</p>	<p>Jenny Rev David C</p>
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	<p>Toddlers: we are developing a similar problem to Messy Church in terms of big numbers attending. Hailsham East Childrens' Centre has closed so they are coming to us which is wonderful but.....We are experiencing new people coming each Monday and if this continues we will have to open up Sunday School room as babies on the floor and toddlers on bikes are a tricky combination to manage. There is lots of noise but it is lovely.</p> <p>Rev DC said this was tremendously encouraging to hear – we are doing a positive thing by providing a service to the local community in premises that are well cared for.</p> <p>Worship Consultation: Sunday morning services are very important and we aim to keep that going by liaising with David re plan. Rev DC explained that he tries to spread out local arrangements amongst churches fairly. In the summer it is more difficult as ministers/preachers tend to be on annual leave. However local arrangements are an opportunity for churches to respond creatively. We have Holy Communion once a month; other special services are our Carol service; Harvest; Church Anniversary; Christingle.</p> <p>Communication/Social Media: Rev DC said it was very forward looking to make use of social media. We have a church Twitter account that we don't use much, a Facebook page which is used a lot to advertise our events, and a website. People like to find out things from the website. Rev DC congratulates us on what we are doing.</p> <p>Lettings: As mentioned in report lettings are healthy at the moment. We have regular hirers and ad-hoc ones. Carole has just agreed that Slimming World, our most lucrative hirer, can set up in the church on Wednesday afternoons and leave their items there until after their Friday morning meeting as long as the church is not needed during that period. If anyone needs access during that period let Carole know who can inform Slimming World.</p>	
Annual Appointments	<p>See separate sheet. Barbara Edwards will carry on with property until the next quinquennial. Roger is stepping down from the property committee but willing to carry on with practical tasks – Ken is in the same position.</p> <p>Rev DC read out the annual appointments and they were confirmed for the next 12 months.</p>	
Reps to Church	<p>Irene, Roger, Pauline, Sheila, Anita, Sarah, Barbara.</p> <p>Hilary was asked if she would like to go onto the church</p>	

Council	council and agreed – proposed by Jenny seconded by Roger.	
Any other business	<p>Donations of Money: Barbara said that as people have been happy to donated towards the new lights in the past should we ask if anyone would be willing to donate towards our sound system/exterior painting/damp work. Barbara has produced a list of people who donated to the lights in memory of a loved one and we could do the same thing again. We have had two donations to date re the sound system and could ask if any others want to donate and produce a similar list and put next to sound system box. Suggested we go ahead with this.</p> <p>Christmas Fayre: Money raised from this will go to the building fund.</p> <p>Many thanks to Gareth for doing our sound system.</p> <p>Rev DC said that asking for donations to the sound system could be more promising. He read out a list of names of friends/family members of our congregation. This was also incorporated in a service.</p> <p>Renaissance Concert: Anita said that the recently held concert was very good, there was a wonderful atmosphere, lot of people turned up and £282 was raised. Several people made cakes. Thanks were expressed to Anita for organising.</p>	
Date of next year's AGM	Sunday 21 May 2017 after morning worship.	
Close	Rev David Chapman thanked everyone for coming and closed with a prayer.	