



Guiseley Methodist Church

Minutes of the General Church Meeting held on Tuesday April 28th 2009.

Chairman: Revd Nick Baker

Present: 36 members and friends.

1. **Opening devotions.** These were led by Revd Nick Baker.
2. **Apologies** were received from: Ann Naylor, Richard Griffin, Lynne & Barry Bootland, Norma Howorth, Catherine Mouncey, Julie Boocock, Katie Hutchinson, Leni Busfield, Yvonne Sheath, Barbara Booth, Anne Jacques, Muriel Kirkbright, Sarah & Tom Morrish, Ena Dunn.
3. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on 15th April 2008 were approved & signed.
4. **Matters arising.** The Secretary reported that the actions listed in the minutes have been addressed.
5. **Report from Children & Family Workers:**

Pauline Wright & Petra Baker were welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman summarised the process of interview and appointment. Petra gave a resumé of her background. She was brought up in a village in the Netherlands as a Catholic & became the first altar girl in the country. She went to a Protestant school, became a primary school teacher and moved to London in 1989 where she was involved in a church & then moved to Leeds. Petra felt moved to apply for this position, especially as it would be as part of a team with Pauline. Petra is now involved with Junior Church & Parents & Tots where there is seen to be a large potential for work. One planned innovation is 'Messy Church' which will involve baking, crafts etc arranged around a theme, coming together in an act of worship. Petra thanked the congregation for all their support.

Pauline also talked about her background. Prior to her current rôle at Yeadon, Pauline worked on a council estate in Rochdale. She has been working for Yeadon for 3½years & has 2½years left of her current contract there. She has been doing Bible studies, 'Alpha' courses & other youth work. She was interested in the Guiseley post when Tony Jeffries was here, but could not offer the full 20hours. The job share however made it possible. Pauline is finding the work here very exciting and challenging and is keen to facilitate new projects to interest the whole family. She said it is amazing what has been achieved in the last 12months.
6. **Appointments for 2009-10:**
 - 6.1 **Appointment of Stewards.**

Nick expressed grateful thanks for the support of all the Church Stewards and paid tribute to the two who are retiring, Michael Rigg & Elizabeth Hoyle. Nick wished to record an enormous debt of gratitude to Elizabeth for all the help he and the family received when they arrived and settled in; also for the help received from Elizabeth in 'easing' Nick into a different style of work. Thanks also to Arthur for his care and support. Jean Abbott also thanked Michael Rigg for five years as a steward and to Elizabeth & Arthur for their leadership and considerable faithful service. Michael Dawson remarked that Elizabeth & Arthur have been serving the church for a total of 41years.

Nick stated that Olga McCann had agreed to stand for election as a steward – sadly this was

not to be the case and he said the meeting held Tony in its prayers.

Nick advised that it would be possible to hold an extra meeting to appoint a new steward at a later date.

Jean Abbott, Val Tattersall, Hilary Murden & Richard Griffin have all agreed to continue as Stewards with Jean as Senior Steward.

Nick stated that he is delighted that Christine Fountain has agreed to serve in the vestry and all the appointments were approved by the meeting.

6.2 Representatives to the Church Council from the General Meeting for 2009-10.

Thanks were expressed to Sarah Osgerby who would normally retire in May having completed the three years agreed under our local Church Council Constitution, but has agreed to stand for a further year. This was approved by the meeting.

The following members were re-elected for the coming year: Sarah Osgerby, Julie Boocock, Barbara Booth, Alan Cawthra, Cathrine Holmes, Tony King, Catherine Mouncey, Rev Keith Reed, Roger Garnett, Ann Naylor, Christine Turner, Katie Hutchinson, Jane Dick.

The following nominations for new representatives to the Church Council were unanimously elected: Pam Slater, Julie Hipkin.

7. Financial report.

Tony McCann gave a brief report highlighting that the finances are basically 'sound' and are progressing in the anticipated fashion against the budget for the current year. His estimate was that the church financial position is satisfactory at this date. The gas bill was lower than expected. On the downside, collections are lower than previous years. The reserves are 'good'. The water rates have not so far increased, in spite of reports of a national change to method of assessment. Circuit Assessments will increase over the next 2 years to cover a shortfall in the Ministers' Retirement Fund.

A substantial legacy has been left to the church by Margery Stevenson (£11,500) & will be added to the reserves.

The Children & Family Worker account is going according to budget.

Thanks were expressed to Tony for his work as Church Treasurer this year.

8. Gift Aid.

Chris Smith reported that with the financial year just closing on 5th April, the Gift Aid receipts for the church for the year were: envelopes £18,580 (20% down), standing orders £21,623 (5% down), single gifts £406, total £40,609 (last year £47,139.53).

Tax reclaim (estimated) = £11,370 (last year £13,199.07), grand total £51,979 (last year £60,338.60 i.e. 14% down). The figure for tax reclaim is subject to lower adjustment after administration costs.

Children & Family Worker a.c: total £7,685, tax reclaim £2,151, total £9,836.

Chris was thanked for his work.

9. Matters referred from the Church Council.

There were no additional matters to those discussed elsewhere in the meeting.

10. The Work of God.

Nick opened a discussion on the topic of 'Fellowship' & the following points were noted: Sharing – what do we enjoy? What are the opportunities to share our faith & discuss issues? Two housegroups, Lent Groups are examples. Possibly going to run groups in November. What other ways, e.g. small groups fortnightly?

A suggestion was made that we should all try to sit near someone 'new' from time to time to ensure we have more contact with more people. It was also suggested that 'frail' members of the congregation may wish to have a friend sitting next to them to help with finding hymns etc – has to be done tactfully & with consideration. Having coffee after services is a good move, but we should all try to sit with someone different as far as possible.

Possibility of name badges to reduce embarrassment of not knowing names & to make it easier to chat to new people. Try a photo board to identify names to faces. Could try other layouts of church chairs & choir e.g. make chairs into a definite 'arc'. There are benefits of

groups going walking together and other social activities.
It was suggested that the forthcoming Barn Dance & Harvest tea should be held earlier at 6.00pm to make it easier for families with young children to attend.
There is to be an 'Alpha' course at Yeadon for 'long-term' Christians to discuss faith basics. A suggestion was made about having an 'Alpha' course at GMC. May need to alter some of the aspects for local needs and requirements.
It was suggested that we should reclaim the Methodist roots of 'Class Meetings'.
It is planned to start a youth group for ages 12+ on Sunday evenings in the autumn. Nick has spoken to parents for help and leadership.
Aiming for a project to make Guiseley into a 'Fairtrade' town.

11. Property.

No report given due to time constraints.

12. Any Other Business.

- a. **Church cleaning.** The age profile on the rota is increasingly towards the 'elderly'. It is thought that some feel they should retire, but do not want to 'let go' and leave the work to the few younger members. It was agreed that the stewards should reconsider how the cleaning should be organised and possibly appeal for more volunteers.
- b. **'Mapping the way forward'.** A request from the Connexion is resulting in a Circuit Audit during 2009 to see 'where we are'. Further details will be issued later.
- c. **Elizabeth Hoyle** wished her thanks to be recorded for all the help she has received over the years whilst in the Vestry. She gave best wishes to Christine Fountain on her appointment as a Steward.
- d. **Congratulations** were extended to Alan Sheath who is now a Local Preacher On Trial.

13. Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the next General Church Meeting would be part of a morning act of worship, possibly with a meal. The date was fixed as **25th April 2010.**

14. Closing devotions.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Signed:

Date:

Ian J Williams

Secretary to General Church Meeting.

20th August 2009