

Starbeck Methodist Church

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Rev. Alan Bolton (Chair), Anne Bolton (Secretary), Shirley Clark, Moira Smith, Edward Smith, Nancy McKendrick, Margaret Light, Doreen Thompson, Alan Johnson, Audrey Johnson, Rev. Geoff Wilkinson, Sue Lynch, Chris Lynch, John Lynch, Eric Mitchell, Chris Thomas, Rachel Denham, Rob Allen, Christine Robson, Margaret Gough

Apologies: Julia Mosley, Pauline Mulholland, Ken Redshaw, Chris Binks, Malcolm Binks, Keith Nowell, Aline Nowell, Shirley Clapham, Dorothy Sigsworth

Opening comments

Rev. Bolton reported that Edward Smith has been given a Note as a Local Preacher, and also is preparing to candidate for Foundation Training. Kirsty Wheatley is attending the Methodist Youth Conference this year.

A list of Church Council members was displayed at the meeting. Martin Brassington and Malcolm Binks were elected to the Council unanimously.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting two meetings (24th Feb. and 19th April 2005) were accepted as true records.

General matters arising

Church Council approved the recommendation that The Link is reviewed; the format, production, circulation and other issues are all due for a re-think. There will be a small group to do this review, with a general invitation for anybody interested to join the first meeting.

Evening worship has been discussed across the circuit. It has been agreed that on 12th March as an experiment there will be just three services across the circuit, each with different styles.

It was agreed that £25 will be donated to the District Benevolent Fund.

Issues from Conference

A concern was expressed at Conference that, as Methodists, we are not always very good at talking about God and sharing our faith. Two events have been planned in the circuit to help address this issue.

Circuit matters

This is Rev. Bolton's last year in the Harrogate circuit. As from September 2006 Rev. Colin Emerson will take over pastoral charge of Starbeck, in addition to Killinghall and Hampsthwaite. A new minister will be sought to take charge of Woodlands and Oatlands Methodist churches.

At the last circuit meeting Rev. John Sadler, with the support of the staff team and the circuit stewards, presented the following propositions:

The chapels at Bar and Grove Rod, and the United Reform Church at Bar should look to see if they can form a single ecumenical church

Town Centre ministry should be rationalised at Wesley

The churches at Harlow Hill, Oatlands and Trinity should come together at Trinity initially, exploring ecumenical possibilities.

The remaining churches in the circuit should carry on as at present serving their representative communities.

All church councils have been asked to consider these proposals. There were no new comments from Starbeck Church Council, but general support for the changes proposed.

Reports and Recommendations

Finance

The accounts and Schedule B for 2004/05 have been completed in draft form, but are unaudited. Both were accepted by the Church Council, subject to audit. The total income for the year was £50,351, expenditure £50,098 giving a small surplus of £253. Edward Smith, presenting the accounts, pointed out that collections and correspondingly gift aid had dropped in real terms on the previous year which is a cause for some concern. Lettings income had increased substantially, thanks in part to the increased rent from the community centre, but mainly to Alan Johnson's excellent work. The Church Council thanked Alan for this service, which is recognised also involves community outreach. The fund-raising also exceeded budget, and appreciation was expressed to Chris Lynch and his team for their excellent work.

The Resources Team will be considering further the issue of the decrease in weekly giving.

Alan Johnson reported that there will be a cost of approx. £300 to repair the boiler.

It was agreed that £1,750 will be donated to the Methodist Church Fund.

Ways and Means

Rev. Wilkinson reported for the last time on Ways and Means. During the current year it will be incorporated into the general funds.

At the end of August £10,727 including the Saunders legacy was in the Ways and Means Fund. Church Council accepted the accounts, and thanked Rev. Wilkinson for his work on the finance over the years.

5 leaders and 18 helpers are involved with running the lunch club. The club buys various items for the church, including a new carpet and trolley. Lunch Club requested that the water boiler in the kitchen is replaced. Permission was given for the Lunch Club to investigate the cost of a new boiler.

The table tennis club has a balance in hand of about £470, and may need to spend the money on a new table tennis table.

Fund raising

Chris Lynch expressed concern that there will be no separately identified Autumn Fair this year. More willing helpers are required to run fund-raising events. In general the regular fund-raising schemes are running well.

Property Matters

Schedule A was presented to the Church Council, and accepted by the meeting.

Rev. Bolton reported on progress with the refurbishment scheme. A copy of this is attached to the minutes.

53 Forest Lane is currently owned by Starbeck Methodist Church. There is an agreement in place with the circuit to enable a circuit staff member to live at the house. A proposal has been made to transfer the ownership of the house to the circuit, for which Starbeck Methodist Church would receive a sum of money. The practical implications of this are being investigated. The Church Council agreed that this investigation should go ahead and that, in principle, its interest in 53 Forest Lane could be transferred to the Circuit for a consideration to be agreed.

If possible, the Resources Team would like to arrange for all the refurbishment work to happen next summer (2006), but this depends on finance.

It was noted that the picture behind the altar will be moved due to the refurbishment.

A working party has been established to cover Health and Safety matters on the premises. Strathmore Services will act as consultants, free of charge, for which the Church is very grateful.

Rachel Denham has done an audit of key-holders.

Pastoral Issues

Shirley Clark reported that all is going well with the pastoral team. Audrey Johnson and Ann Ackroyd have resigned as pastoral visitors; thanks were recorded. Joyce Routh, Margaret Light and Hazel Saunders were proposed as new pastoral visitors. The Church Council approved these appointments.

There are 149 church members, and 469 are on the community roll.

Shirley Clark was thanked for her work.

Safeguarding

Rob Allen reported that there are currently three CRB checks outstanding. The system is working well.

As from February all who work with children in the circuit will need to have enhanced CRB checks.

Worship Matters

A written report is attached to the minutes, which was talked through at the meeting. Edward Smith, Sue Lynch, Malcolm Binks and Laura Brassington were appointed formally as worship leaders in the church by the Church Council.

75th anniversary year

Sue Lynch reported on various events which have been planned for the church's anniversary year. She reinforced the fact that the leaflet advertising all the birthday events can be used to talk to the general public about church. The team who have put together the birthday events were thanked for the tremendous work carried out on this.

A O B

The book of remembrance has been moved. Shirley Clark suggested that it is put back by the pulpit, and on balance the meeting agreed.

Rev. Bolton asked the meeting to consider wedding and funeral fees. There is no charge for church members. People from outside our community are currently charged. The proposed new charges are:

Organist £30

Steward £20

Funeral £50 wedding £100 use of church

These were agreed.

Some comments were made about the Harvest Service which will be considered by the Worship Committee.

Anne Bolton reminded the meeting that no individual minutes will be circulated. They will be displayed on the notice board opposite the photocopier room.

Dates of future meetings:

Thursday 23rd February 2006 at 7 p.m.
Thursday 12th October 2006 at 7 p.m..

Anne Bolton
13.10.05