

# Starbeck Methodist Church Council Minutes

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 7pm

**Present:** Aline & Keith Nowell, Anne Hoole, Margaret Light, Nancy MacKendrick, Julia Mosley, Shirley Clapham, Chris Robson, Margaret Gough, Mark Godfrey, Rob Allen, Geoff Wilkinson, Sue Lynch, Alison Wheatley, Eric Mitchell, Edward & Moira Smith, Heather Jemison, Doreen Thompson.

1. **Devotions;** Rev Nick Witham opened the meeting with devotions.
2. **Apologies:** Joseph Smith, Martin Brassington, Laura Brassington, Carole Nowell, Chris & Jon Lynch.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting 18.9.07:**

The following amendments to the previous minutes were added: Aline & Keith Nowell were present at the last meeting (missed off the list of people present). The Health & Safety & Fire Policies were presented to the meeting and were approved.

#### 4. **Matters Arising**

- i. Mark Wheatley is still not sure whether to take over from Aline as Gift Aid Sec.
- ii. Nick thanked Geoff for all the hard work he put in to provide us with a dishwasher; it is being put to good use.
- iii. We now have a film screening licence; however, we still do not have a TV licence yet.

#### 5. **Circuit Information**

- i. Circuit Services: On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008, there will be 3 different styles of worship offered throughout the Circuit, these being at Bar, Hampsthwaite & Wesley.
- ii. Merging of Bar & Grove Road is ongoing, Bar are purchasing the cottage next door and Grove Road will be sold, Bar is to be redeveloped.
- iii. Nick is taking full responsibility with Circuit Youth, while Roberta Topham is on sabbatical.
- iv. Change to staffing within the circuit, David Hunt (probationer) is joining the staff. Keith Gough is retiring.

#### 6. **Reports & Recommendations.**

##### a. **Finance**

Edward gave a finance report. At this time, we are just ‘ticking’ over financially, we are £445 behind budget, however, donations are coming in & lettings are up to date.

The current forecast is projecting a £3300 deficit although the budget set at the beginning of the year was set at £4450.

Collections dropped from £24000 to £21000.

Net cost of dishwasher was £106.00 as we obtained a donation from the luncheon club and community fund.

The question was asked ‘Do we need a team to look at fund raising on how we can address the deficit?’ Suggestion for regular message in the link regarding financial giving was agreed. However, it was also agreed that it is difficult to do a break down of the running costs of the church to present to the congregation. Collections do not cover the assessment. (£21,000 to £28,000).

Geoff to organise advertising in the Methodist Recorder regarding our afternoon teas, lettings etc.

A new Reserves Policy was presented and accepted and is to be reviewed annually.

A full financial report is available from Edward.

## Property:

Resources team have agreed a maintenance schedule, which should run year on year.

At the current moment there is some pointing which will need doing fairly soon.

A reminder was given to all groups not to use **blu** tac for notices as it is pulling the paint from the walls. It is worse if left on for long periods. A Suggestion of more notice boards needed.

Fire Exits: Concern was raised regarding the exit in the bottom room, luncheon club (Elderly & infirm) would have difficulty getting out through the back door. Resource team to progress this issue as to clear guidance and idea of what are our obligations are and the expenditure to meet the criteria. Under the Fire Regulations, we meet the criteria. However, we do not meet the disability criteria. This became apparent when ‘Help the Aged’ wanted to hire the room and it did not meet the disability discrimination policy. We proposed and seconded the question to take it to the Resource committee.

### **c. Safeguarding**

- i. Rob Allen stated that there was plenty of information regarding the safeguarding for children, with courses available for those working with children. All are advertised on the notice board. Nick has a vast supply of leaflets available regarding safeguarding.
- ii. Nick, Malcolm & Rob have produced an updated 'Child Protection Policy Statement', which will be updated each year. The meeting agreed to accept the policy.

### **d. Health & Safety**

- i. Keith Nowell presented a comprehensive written report that included information on FIRE Safety & Equipment, First Aid and Accidents (RIDDER), Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), Food Preparation, Gas Safety, Electrical Safety, User Guides for those hiring the premises, Manual Handling, Working at Height, Slips & Falls, Use of Computer Equipment and Training
- ii. Keith stated that all groups need training re: the fire evacuation procedures and that all accidents must be recorded in the accident book. Regarding the two employed cleaners, we need to identify their needs & risks in their work to make sure they can work safely within in the building.
- iii. All leaders & volunteers of groups are still under the same umbrella as paid workers and need our protection within the Health & Safety Policy.
- iv. Concern was raised regarding the chairs in the body of the church. The chairs need to be in the correct position to make allowance for fire safety regulations.
- v. Accident book in the kitchen, also first aid kit, an additional first aid kit to be purchased for the hall area.

### **e. Pastoral Committee**

- i. We now have 21 pastoral visitors. There are two new visitors Elaine Witham & Chris Atkins. In addition, two transfers of membership Elaine Witham & Andrew Batchelor. 138 Church members & 384 on the community roll.
- ii. Invitations are available for Mothering Sunday, which was another service aimed at outreach.
- iii. Nick to write to all on the Community Roll with a view to becoming a Church member.

## **f. Worship Consultation**

- i. Mothering Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Sundi club & Paul & Sarah Wright are to visit, We are trying to encourage as many people to attend (families). It will NOT be Cradle Roll. No collection during the service, however there will be a retiring collection after the service. This service to be well advertised trying to get people here who maybe do not normally come to church.
- ii. Michaela Youngson to visit on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- iii. Bible study suspended for Lent. Starts again after Easter. Not sure, of the correct date yet.
- iv. Leeds Gospel choir have asked if our Worship Band can make an appearance at one of their services.
- v. The 9 am communion collection will now always go to the Benevolent Fund.

## **g. Outreach**

- i. Sue reported on outreach. The outside notice board has been sorted out with some excellent posters, we need somewhere safe to store them? Carol service was well attended and all money raised went to 'Save The Children'. The church also made quite an impact at the 'Lights Swich On' when sweets and tracts were handed out.
- ii. Church property to be open during Holy Week for devotional time.  
Holy week devotions - letters will go out to groups that use our facilities, inviting them to join. Mon - Wed 7 pm, Thurs 6.30 pm Sat 10.30 am, Sun 9 am, 10.45 am 6.30 pm.
- iii. We are looking at a church picnic after morning worship on June 29th on the field incorporating football.
- iv. 2<sup>nd</sup> March is to be all age worship.
- v. Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30pm at Sue's, all welcome, there will be questions & discussion of how we want to take the church outside, youth mission during school holidays, Alpha course in Sept? User group service will be discussed
- vi. Nick wants people to know that we are a family friendly place.

## **7. Children's & Youth Work**

Nick produced a 'Core values for Working with young people'. As follows:  
We believe that

## **1. All young people should be valued**

We will:

- Be inclusive of all young people
- Empower and encourage young people to take an active role in the church and society.
- Work for changes to make this happen

## **2 The Church has a role to play in supporting all aspects of a young person's development**

We will:

- Listen to young people to identify their needs and respond positively
- Value and resource work with young people

## **3 That a relationship with God in Christ is of supreme importance for all young people**

We will:

- Develop ways to worship God that are relevant and meaningful to young people
- Encourage young people to explore faith in Jesus
- Encourage young people to share their faith and grow as Christians
- Provide opportunities for young people to join in action to promote justice
- Reach out to those young people outside the church

Nick keen to promote this. Concern was expressed that our Young Peoples work is 'separate' from the church.

The Core Values was proposed & seconded and agreed. To be published in the next link.

## **BOYS BRIGADE & GIRLS BRIGADE**

Having staffing difficulties, Pauline Mulholland is retiring from Boys Brigade, Wendy Thomas stepping down as leader in charge of Girls Brigade, Edward made an appeal for staff, or anyone who may think they can help.

## **8. Churches Together in Harrogate**

- i. Walk of Witness is not happening this year. May be a walk through town, however we are to encourage people to go to the Cenotaph in Harrogate on Good Friday.
- ii. The Cross-. One Symbol - Varied Meanings Sat 15 March 2008 Woodlands Methodist Church.

## **9. General Church Meeting.**

- i. 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This will take place after the morning service, lunch, and then meeting. This will be an all age worship.

## **10. Spiritual Life:**

Bible Studies & Prayer Meetings, Nick to organise.

Prayer room the lounge to be available to **pray/** be **quiet/** meditate on own etc.

Seeker services & open-air services to be organised

## **11. AOB:**

- i. Keith has produced an improved standard church letter paper; Keith will either email or print off for any one who wishes to have any.
- ii. Edward: Time for God, Concern was raised regarding Church business being done on a Sunday morning, could we encourage this to stop. Discussion at resources meeting to address this issue perhaps a pigeon hole scheme for letters and notices for members etc.
- iii. Church Council secretary to write a letter of thanks to Karen Wright for all her hard work in producing the link. Nick to organise some flowers.
- iv. Nancy wishes to stand down as a member of C.C, Nick thanked her for being a member for 7 years.
- v. Concern was raised regarding communication between meetings particularly changes-information must be passed on to all concerned.

## **12. Date of the next meeting** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Date of following meeting February 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

The meeting closed with the Grace.