

Summary of Minutes of Church Council

25.11.25

1. Property Report:

2. Fundraising events

- The CI Quiz on 17th October was a great night but numbers were low.
- The next fundraising event is the Movie Night on 29th November. The Movie Night will be instead of a Christmas Fair this year.
- There will be a Music in May concert by Concentio in memory of Drew Moore.

3. Circuit events

- Bible Study on Joshua. The numbers have been lower than when the circuit bible study started so some churches have decided to run their own bible study. Rev Fiona asked whether we should consider organising our own bible study. There was some discussion but it was felt that the circuit bible study is a good opportunity to meet and connect with others so we will continue to support the Circuit Bible study.
- Book Club is reading the Bear Grylls book 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'.
- Circuit Prayer meeting is once a month and Rev Fiona encouraged everyone to attend.

4. Treasurers' Report

- Property Account is still a concern. Congregational giving needs to increase to cover the costs.

5. Property Report

- A huge amount of work is being carried out is carried out by Jeremy and his team, more help would be appreciated.
- New signage at the front of the church has been kindly designed and donated by Rosie Purvis.
- Ongoing drainage and damp issues in the manse.
- New radio microphones were bought and have improved the sound at the TWAU.
- It is difficult to rent the hall out for one off groups as we don't have enough volunteers to open and close the building.

- Jeremy has contacted a professional about the wasps and has been advised that no action is required as they should dissipate due to the colder weather. If necessary, we can investigate in spring.
- Cars parked in church car park without permission is an ongoing issue as the car park is required most mornings and evenings.

6. Circuit Meeting of 16 November

- Rev Fiona provided an update for any Council members who were unable to attend the Circuit Meeting which took place on 16 November 2025.
- The Rev John Alderdice led the meeting and talked about the life cycle of a church from birth, through adolescence, adulthood, retirement and death. He shared that a church can move to a different stage through renewal, revitalisation and redevelopment.
- The Circuit will be now down to four full-time Circuit ministers from Christmas. As a churches, we need to make courageous decisions. The Circuit Meeting challenged us to be honest about where we are as a Church in the lifecycle but also be hopeful about where we can be and what we long for as a church.
- There are many challenges facing the church – declining numbers, an older age profile and a reduced number of ordained ministers. We cannot sustain everything and do new things.
- The Church Council discussed the indicators of a healthy church
 - prayer life
 - having current leaders and developing leaders
 - outreach, both in terms of social outreach and spiritual outreach.
- In terms of prayer life, Rev Fiona encouraged us to honestly consider where we are as a church. There is a prayer Whatsapp which works well. We also have a prayer meeting on a Sunday morning but only 4 -5 people attend. We also have prayer ministry once a month but it is not well utilised. The Council will consider how to encourage everyone to participate in prayer as a community of Christ.
- In terms of outreach, we have organised fundraising events as social outreach to those in our congregation and associated groups. The Church is very generous financially but the number of people volunteering is limited.
- In terms of spiritual outreach, we need to be courageous in reaching out to those not connected to Church. The Council discussed looking at the different experiences of other churches and models of outreach to learn and develop our outreach.
- We need to consider if we are putting our energies into the areas where God wants us to.
- The Council talked about what makes us different and the social conscience of Methodism.