



Annual Church Meeting Agenda 27th June 2021

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of the Annual General Church Meeting held 8th July 2020
- 4 Endorsement of minutes
- 5 Matters arising not included on agenda
- 6 Conversation on the ministry and witness of the church
 - a. HMC Community Hub
 - b. Annual report
 - c. Sunday worship
 - d. Appreciation
- 7 Financial affairs
- 8 Property Matters
- 9 Appointment of Church Stewards
- 10 Election of representatives to Church Council
- 11 AOB

Hove Methodist Church
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
8th July 2020



via ZOOM

In attendance: Janet & Peter Bowles; Stella Goddard; Jonathan Gravestock; Terry Pomfrey; Donald Reid; Rachel Richards; David Sharman; Bob & Mary Smart; Elin Star; Maggie Symes; Pendo Rezuwela; Rev Andy Lowe.

Apologies: Nigel Foote; Joan Hopkins; Sandy Pomfrey; Bob Winton.

Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2019 were agreed with one amendment to the Treasurer's Report.

Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

The Treasurer reported that the investment in the Brighton Passion was in the process of being reimbursed by the production company.

Appointment of Church Stewards

Bob Winton will step down to concentrate on his Local Preacher Training. The meeting extended grateful thanks for his work as a steward and the support he had given to the stewards team.

Maggie Symes, Donald Reid and JJ Baiden Amisah confirmed that they were willing to continue for a further year. Terry Pomfrey agreed to join the Stewards team.

Appointment of Church Representatives

The following agreed to continue as Church Representatives to the Church Council for a further year.

Nigel Foot; Pam Honeywood; Rose Bateman; Michael Hill; Sylvie Ramstone; Kath Taylor.

Minister's Report

Andy reflected on the changes that had been brought about by the Covid19 pandemic. The sudden loss of worship space and time, the lockdown and the loss of fellowship had hit our community very hard. He noted how indebted we were to the work of Elin Star in the office, keeping the fellowship connected through News notes and contacts with our regular groups. The work of the Food and Friendship Team in reaching out to the vulnerable within our community and fellowship had put the heart in to the work here at Hove.

He noted that the online worship was very much appreciated and hoped that improvements would be made to enable all to take part.

Pastoral Report

Pat Hill tabled her Pastoral Report.

The meeting remembered the names of those of our fellowship, past and present who had died.

Deirdre Gumbrell, Joy Loh, Alan Pratt, John Draper

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Stewards Report

Grateful thanks was given to all who have taken part in keeping the church functioning particularly during these difficult days.

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented by Jonathan Gravestock. There were no questions from the meeting. Grateful thanks were extended to the Treasury Team for their time and talent.

The Treasurer presented the Budget for approval which was accepted unanimously.

The meeting discussed the re-opening strategy for the church as and when the lockdown is lifted. The conversation highlighted the complexity of using the premises and the sanctuary safely whilst at the same time restoring those aspects of worship and fellowship that are essential. It was acknowledged that it could be some time before congregational worship within the building would recommence.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed with Sharing the Grace.

Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st August 2020

Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road. Hove. BN3 5DR

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Correspondence to: The Administrator, Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road, Hove. BN3 5DR

Minister: Rev Andy Lowe.

Managing Trustees:

Church Members: There are 82 members of the church.

Organisation

The Church Council, comprising the Managing Trustees, oversees all aspects of Church activities, expenditure and income. The Church is part of the Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit within the Methodist Connexion. There are two Committees which report to the Trustees in respect of Pastoral Care and Finance/Property and the regular Worship Consultation committee feedbacks issues relating to the management and development of the worship life of the church. The Minister and the church leadership team, comprising of senior stewards, stewards and the treasurer meet regularly.

Communications

Website www.hovemethodistchurch.co.uk

Weekly 'Newsnotes' provide information about current activities and forthcoming events.

Quarterly Focus magazine from Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit.

Mission Statement:

'To share the love of God, as revealed by Christ, through the Holy Spirit'

Worship

Church services are held each Sunday morning at 10:30am (services held online since March 2020).

Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday at 10.30am and weekly on Thursdays at 10.00am (suspended March 2020)

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are conducted at the church by arrangement.

Children and Families

The Sunday Club meets during Sunday worship and accommodates children between 2 and 17.

Fellowship and Community outreach

Sunday worship continues with a small Sunday club meeting most weeks and regular Thinking Aloud (or Allowed) services provide opportunity for engaging in conversations about faith, doubt and rediscovering alternative orthodoxies. Our joint venture with our URC friends at Central continues to engage us in a different style of worship. These services were moved online in Mach 2020.

'Polka Tots', mother and toddler group, meets every Friday afternoon at 2pm, when both halls are filled by up to 60 families making use of the welcome and support provided by the team of volunteers. (Suspended March 2020)

Every Tuesday and Thursday during term time, the church kitchen and halls host a subsidized lunch for local older people, prepared by the charity Food & Friendship (formerly known as Hove Lunch Club) and Hove Methodist Church volunteers. This means we are involved with feeding around 90 people every Tuesday (mainly elderly and many of whom are socially isolated and lonely) and around 50 on a Thursday (many being adults with learning difficulties). Many of our church members are involved either as volunteers or guests and we see many who come to these lunches coming, and some even helping with some of our other activities. This was suspended as an in-person activity in March 2020 and the Food & Friendship lunch club staff prepared hot meals twice a week which were delivered by a team of volunteer drivers to former lunch club guests. This also included the preparation and delivery of food parcels for the most vulnerable people.

Our Monday Guild continues to meet with a selection of speakers and subjects to keep them thinking. The Thursday Communion is a source of spiritual nourishment, added to by the cakes and biscuits afterwards. Numbers vary from 10-18. On Friday mornings we have a chatty café supporting people who are isolated, lonely or bereaved. There is a developing relationship with the Nursing home next door with staff bringing between 1 and 5 of their residents each week. And in the evening the Men's social club continue to meet weekly and the Film club monthly with films to entertain and make people think. And on Saturday since December 2019 we have been running Sanctuary Café, an opportunity for people in the community to meet and share a simple supper of soup and bread whilst getting to know each other. All of these activities were suspended in-person in March 2020.

Many of our activities have benefitted from a major refurbishment of our kitchen which took place in 2019 and has greatly improved our cooking facilities. This was especially evident on Christmas Day, when for the 44th year we provided a Christmas Day dinner for those who would otherwise be on their own. We cooked a meal for around 120 guests which was delivered by a team of drivers and we were humbled again by the number of people wishing to volunteer to help.

Other activities which benefit are Chomp, a holiday event with lunch provided for families on benefits or low income. We fed around 50 guests and volunteers during the year. It is free for the families and we run it in conjunction with One Church and we are usually able to send families home with food parcels to help during the rest of the week.

We continue to do regular Saturday pop up events which have included Table-top Sale, Mince Pie moments, Hot Cross Bun moments, Cream Teas and in 2019 we held a Street Party under the umbrella of the Great Get Together which was inspired by Jo Cox.

We hope that alongside our active community work and involvement we also will touch the community with a deepening and yet everyday faith that speaks of the transforming love of God.

Looking forward we hope to be able to resume in-person activities in-line with government Coronavirus guidance and guidance from the Methodist Church. Our aim is to support families with the re-opening of our parent and toddler group (Polka Tots) and offer a chance for members of our worshipping community to attend an in-person service. We are also looking at ways of using our premises to make permanent connections with other local community organisations offering table tennis and martial arts training.

CHURCH COUNCIL PASTORAL REPORT 17TH JUNE 2021

Our membership stands at 78.

Over the past year everyone has been affected by the Covid19 pandemic. Most people have been isolating and in spite of all the difficulties, Pastoral Care has been taking place. Zoom services have brought people together for worship. The telephone has played a large part in keeping in contact by friends, groups and lunch club. Everyone doing what they can. The Monday Guild have been meeting at Georgies coffee shop in George Street. Elin has been keeping us all informed with her newsy, amusing updates in Newsnotes.

We have been thinking of Verna, who had a bad attack of Covid, and Rose who had a heart monitor fitted and she is thrilled at how well it is working. Ken returned home after 12 days in hospital and Sylvie had a fall and sustained a cracked rib and is in quite a lot of pain.

Our thoughts and prayers are with four of our church families who have lost loved ones recently.

Liz Swann whose partner Jim died in March. Jim was a much loved volunteer for the lunch club and although he was in his nineties washed the large cooking pans and made the best mashed potato ever.

Marion Ley who died in May attended church each Sunday and enjoyed the Monday Guild meetings. Marion was a happy person who was always smiling.

Dorothy Jones' father Syd who died last Sunday worshipped with us each Sunday morning until his health prevented him from coming.

We remember them all with love and give thanks for their contribution to the life of the church.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate being included in our Church Prayer Link, Sandy Pomfrey will be happy to help.

As this is my last Pastoral Report I would like to give a special thank you to everyone for all the love, support and care that is given in many ways.