

Loughton Methodist Church
Minutes of Church Council meeting held on 12th July 2018

Attendance and apologies were as per the appended sheet.

1. The meeting opened with Rev. Armstrong Fummey leading devotions.
2. **The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2018 were amended at 5.2 as follows -**
The last sentence was changed from “PL also reported” To “It was reported”; they were then agreed and signed together with those from **3rd June 2018**.
3. **Matters requiring decisions**
 - 3.1 Martin Howarth (MH) reported that although income from lettings was up together with the income from the new heating system offertory was down by about £3000. The shortfall for the current year was compensated for by two very generous donations. There is an urgent need to do something about the projected deficit for 2018-19 of £46,000 and 2019-20 of £48,000. David Hobbs (DH) suggested that more publicity is needed so that all those who share our services are aware of this. We need to look at ways of bringing it to the attention of both members and friends. All publicity matters will be brought to the first meeting of the next year and members were asked to prayerfully consider possibilities. It was suggested that more use be made of social media and the website be changed to provide a link for giving and payments for lettings.
Following Linda Brede’s resignation MH requested that she be removed as a bank signatory and Jane Gooding who has started work in the office be the replacement. This was agreed.
 - 3.2 Chris Beament (CB) stated that the new parking restrictions will start at the beginning of the second week in August. Initially they will not be strictly policed as the target parkers are mainly our neighbours and they will be receiving letters before this date informing them of the changes and penalties. It will be policed by CPM and no-one from LMC should get involved with illegal parkers. This was agreed unanimously and the team that had carried out the work were thanked for their efforts.
 - 3.3 It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Victoria Williamson (VW) from the Church Council upon her resignation thanking her for all the HR work she had done.
In the absence of anyone coming forward to take on the HR role it was agreed that we would look at outsourcing this work on a needs basis. There is a need for good line management for our paid staff. MH volunteered to carry out the HR work for the short term and he will liaise with VW to ascertain a finish date for her. Steve Perry and others expressed concern at using paid staff in our present financial state.
 - 3.4 Steve Perry (SP) reported from the Multimedia group that the recommendation was from September the fact that the whole of the 10.30am service is available for downloading on a memory stick. David Mills had also offered to put some of Lesley Griffith’s sermons on the Website, although this is more difficult and time consuming. A vote was taken and the result was 16 for, 1 against, 1 abstention.
 - 3.5 Rev. Armstrong Fummey (AF) reported that the take up for the Jonah study during Bible month had been less than the Lent course but those who attended found it very stimulating and interesting. AF thanked DH and CB for their contributions, and DH proposed a vote of thanks to AF for having gone well beyond what was expected when he was appointed.
 - 3.6 There is still no-one willing to take on the role of Roots on Sunday Co-ordinator and we were asked to pray for this.

4. Andrea Moles brought the name of Corinne Venturini to the meeting as a new pastoral visitor. Her appointment was agreed. There are a number of people who do not have a pastoral visitor and prayers were requested for this, especially as most visitors have a full complement of people that they support.
5. **Stewards Reports**
 - 5.1 Sharon Heather (SH) reported that work requiring to be undertaken before Rev. Sue Creighton (SC) moves into the Manse was almost complete. The Welcome Service for Sue will be held at LMC on Tuesday 4th September at LMC, and her first preaching service will be on Sunday 9th September.
AF's leaving service will be on Sunday 29th July.
 - 5.2 Phyllis Lloyd (PL) reported that a Circuit Invitation Committee has been convened to consider possible re-invitations of Hilary Cheng and Osieas da Silva. A profile for a new Superintendent Minister to start in September 2019 is also being written.
She emphasised that from September there will only be two circuit stewards and more are urgently needed. Churches were asked to consider who might be asked to take on this role. PL is finishing her term as a circuit steward at the end of August so will no longer be a member of our Church Council. She was thanked for all she had done in difficult circumstances, especially over the past year.
6. **Safeguarding**

Kim Schofield (KS) expressed her thanks for the way the recent Fire Drill had been organised. There was nothing further to add to her report.
7. **Any other business**
 - 7.1 Jenna Thorne (JT) handed out a flyer in relation to LifeWorks Theatre and a play enacted in the forest. She hopes to develop further productions and asked for approval for some funding for this. This was agreed in principle. It was agreed that the flyer would be put out on the tables in Wesley's Café subject to approval by Anne Spong (AS) and possibly on the monitor in this area.
Maggie Buttress (MB) proposed a vote of thanks to JT for agreeing to head up Holiday Club following Tom Donoghue's resignation. JT was also thanked for her work in the challenge of developing the Art Hub environment. JT announced that she had managed to raise some funds for this work.
 - 7.2 Questions were asked as to whether there were enough volunteers for the children wanting to attend Holiday Club and the meeting was assured that there were. Currently there are about 35 children but a maximum of 50 could be accommodated. Safeguarding forms are in hand; VW is doing the admin, Chris Hyde has devised the crafts and Linda Brede is organising the food activities. All the games are also planned. Help would be appreciated during the build up to the week.
 - 7.3 AS and SP are to form a group to review Wesley's Café and will take any changes forward. SP asked that anyone interested in joining this group should contact him. It will also be advertised in The Week.
 - 7.4 Jill A-S (JAS) had contacted the connexional office in relation to putting Church Council minutes on the Website. No-one was able to help in relation to this beyond stating that other minutes were put on the Methodist website. It was agreed that this would be trialed with any sensitive or confidential information being redacted.
8. The meeting closed with a prayer and the sharing of The Grace.