

**Loughton Methodist Church**  
**Minutes of Church Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**  
**Attendance and apologies were as per the appended sheet.**

1. The meeting opened with Rev. Sue Creighton (SC) reading Matthew 5 v13-14 from the Development Plan then leading prayer.
2. **Welcome, Apologies and attendance**  
SC read again the 'Working together agreement' and it was agreed by all present. Apologies from Mary Knapman and Sharon Heather were given.
3. **Membership of the meeting**  
was agreed as shown in the Year Book 2018/19 with all but Jenna Thorne (JT) now as voting members and trustees.
4. **Minutes**  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – following the amendment of item 5.1 final sentence from '.... the finance team we ...' to read 'the finance team were ....' The minutes were signed as a true record.  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – following the amendment of the date from 'October' to 'December' the minutes were signed as true record.
5. **Safeguarding**  
The proposed training for Anne Spong (AS) and Christine Whatson (CW) has been postponed at present. The Circuit trainings have also been postponed, as there was not sufficient take-up.  
SC commended the Spiritual Wellbeing Safeguarding Conference to the meeting. This is to be at LMC on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the speaker has a PhD in Spiritual Abuse and is excellent. Full details may be obtained from the church office.
6. **Life and Mission at LMC**
  - 6.1.a) It was proposed that Mary Knapman (MK) becomes part of the Steering Group and this was agreed unanimously.
  - 6.1.b) MK was thanked for her work leading of the creation of the Terms of Reference for the Communications Task Group. Members expressed concern that the loss of the Grapevine as a tool of communication is being greatly missed particularly amongst those who do not have access to information online. It was requested the group fast track the reinstatement of this or some other form of paper communication. SC said that a thorough consultation will take place about communication across the whole life of the church and will be brought to the May GCM.
  - 6.2.a) After discussion of the report and clarification of what was proposed by Steve Perry (SP) the proposal was seconded by Pete Moles (PM) and agreed with 1 abstention. The cost will be £5,160 plus VAT for the complete kit, installation and training. There has already been a donation of £2k towards the cost and it is planned to sell the current machine to go towards the cost. The taste of the coffee produced by the current machine has been much appreciated and now that there is a much simpler machine available this will make everything much easier for the volunteers and give AS more time for other things.
  - 6.2.b) Charlotte McKernan (CMcK) gave approximate figures for various groups that include children, families and young people. This was encouraging particularly in relation to the fact

that the majority of those attending do not and would not attend Sunday services, but some are now volunteering in the life of the church. A number have signed up for 'Messy Mornings' to run during the February half term. David Hobbs (HD) suggested that it would be useful to have numbers for children's activities apart from Sunday services and Maggie Buttress (MB) was asked to do this for LifeWorks activities.

It was reported that the application deadline for the permanent post of Co-ordinator of Family & Children's Work had passed and the interviewing process will take place as planned on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with a short CC meeting after the 10.30am service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

6.2.c) Thanks were expressed to JT for the excellent Christmas Play that involved an inter-generational cast and crew. There was some concern over the financial assistance for the Loughton Art Trail and the Community Interest Company (CIC).

The greater collaborative work between JT and CMcK that now exists is appreciated and encouraged.

Following the presentation of the paper seeking the view of CC on future use of the area now called 'The Hub' it was agreed that the office staff would look at the implications of removing this room from lettings to make it a dedicated space. Further information was also requested from MB and JT to help inform a future decision. A group comprising Andrea Moles, Maggie Buttress and JT was asked to look into this and the finance issues related to The Hub and report back to the next CC. MH and SC are happy to be consulted.

6.2.d) It was proposed that Cara Bruce become a Pastoral Visitor and this was agreed unanimously. Safer Recruitment has been completed for the post. In response to a question the meeting was told that currently there were about 8 church members needing a Pastoral Visitor. More volunteers to become Pastoral Visitors are needed.

6.2.e) In response to a question the dates for Holiday Club 2019 were given as Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August inclusive.

6.3.a) Currently there is a possible date clash for the next meeting of the Consultation on Worship meeting. This will be resolved as soon as possible between SC and DH.

6.3.b) There is a Lent Bible Study planned with others to follow.

6.3.c) There is a need to encourage regular worshippers to become members and a course for this will be offered in the near future.

6.4.a) MH reminded the meeting of the declining offertory and proposed that donations be invited towards the property items to be financed for August 2019 as a means of giving that might suit some people better. Finance will also be highlighted via responsible giving through discipleship.

6.4.b) CB drew attention to the fact that the Property Committee had target dates for three projects that are dependent on finance. It was suggested that LMC might apply to Loughton Town Council for a grant towards the new toilets as these are heavily used by the community in general. It was also stated that the £60 received from CPMC from parking fines could be put towards toilet twinning in the third world when this update was implemented.

6.4.c) There is to be a challenge for people to offer their gifts and talents to the church and this could prove a good way of recruiting volunteers for the work that needs to be done.

6.5.b) A management group has been set up to oversee the work of paid staff. This includes the line managers, MB, SM, SP with MH and SC and employees in attendance. The next meeting is to be arranged focusing particularly on lone working.

## **7. Circuit/District/Connexional Business**

Rev Tony Malcolm is settling into his new role within the circuit.

## **8. Any Other Business**

SP was asked to look into having the Action for Children Spinner in the Welcome Area from

time to time to raise money them.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is to be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May with a short one item meeting on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

10. SC closed the meeting with prayer.