**POYNTON METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING**

**30th July 2017**

The meeting was held as part of the morning worship. Being part of the service, the various components of the ACM were interspersed with hymns/songs and readings.

Notes of reports received by the secretary are attached to these minutes. Where notes have not been received, a brief summary is contained within the body of these minutes.

Apologies were received from Hilary Parry, Margaret Martin, David Dippie, Lorna & Arnold Samuels, Judy Gibbons, Jane Robson, Jean & Alan Rashleigh, Rachel & Ian Hall, Sally & David Holmes, Mandy Hawkyard, Noreen Hood and Stephen Hughes

**1.We remembered** those members and adherents who had died since the last Annual Church meeting

Geoffrey Sharp, John Deighton, Elsie Faulkner, Margaret Barber, Lily Blocksidge, Irma Bates, Norma Battle, Hilda Hallworth and Ken Coombs.

**2. Reports**

**2.1** **Worship -** [see attached report](#Worship)

**2.2 Pastoral** – [see attached report](#Pastoral). John Turner confirmed that membership now stands at 139. See report for details

**2.3 Stewards** – [see attached report](#Stewards)

**2.4 Young people –** [**Young Church**](#YoungChurch)**,** [**Pre-school**](#PreSchool) **and** [**Toddlers**](#Toddlers)– see attached reports. Our Children and Families worker, [Annie Trueman](#Annie), told us that children, as well as adults, have a spiritual journey, in which we have a part to play.

**2.5** **Property** – Much had been accomplished during the last year. [See report attached](#Property). Future planning - cleaning the moss from the roofs, (to help prevent tiles from becoming porous), and a ramp for emergency doors.

Thanks were expressed by John Lunt to all those who had worked hard to maintain the premises.

**2.6 Finance** – [See attached report](#Finance).

**2.7** **Safeguarding** – [See attached report](#Safeguarding). Hilary Clare (Safeguarding Officer) stressed the importance that the Methodist Church places on ensuring that our children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe within the confines of our building and with the people who work with them.

**3. What we have done (apart from “Holy Habits”).**

Rev**.** John reported on many of the things that have taken place or happened in the last year.

The Tuesday prayer group, who also meet one a month at the Kingfisher. There was a prayer day earlier in the year and many people participated in the “31+ things to do” prayer cycle.

There have been film nights and discussion on the films, the Craft Fair, the Charity Market, Theatre trips, and the provision of refreshments on Remembrance Sunday.

We held a Worship event with a bonfire, we became a “Toilet Twinning Town”. We held Charity collections, and coffee mornings for Green Close. There were board games days and “Search for a Star” in the shops at Christmas.

Our new Children and Families worker, Annie Trueman, began working with us. Easter angels appeared in Park Lane. There were family fun days, we worked in pre-school, and participated in school assemblies. Dads were allowed freedom with “who let the dads out).

Our presence on Social Media was developed. Groups met for craft, and book reading and discussion. Ladies Fellowship met regularly. We hosted the District Synod, held Safeguarding courses, and various house groups met.

Hilary Parry carried out a faithful ministry ensuring that those residents of Parklands, who wished to and were able, could attend the 10.30am service on Sunday mornings.

**We have done an awful lot as a family of faith.**

**4. What’s next.**

A new course “Seasons of the Soul” for those in the “second half of life” would begin in September. And as Rev. John had announced that he would not be seeking to extend his term with us, we would be involved in the stationing process this year.

Catharine Hughes and Richard Baker had attended a Mission Shaped Ministry course and we would be exploring new ways of ministry both within and without the confines of our buildings.

**5. Stewards.** Chris Hawkyard had completed his term of office and was thanked for all his hard work. Marie Moncaster had agreed to join the stewards’ team. It was not clear at the time of the meeting whether Roger Drinkwater would also retire as a steward. Rev. John would take names to the Church Council in October to fill the steward’s positions.

**6. Church Council**

The stewards are ex-officio members of the council.

Theo Eaves, Hilary Parry and Jean Drinkwater (elected by the Annual Church Meeting) had completed their 6 year terms of office, and were appointed to Council for a further year.

**7.** The meeting closed with the intercessions, the hymn “We are people on a journey” and the grace.

**Worship Committee**  
This year we have focussed much of our worship around the Holy Habits theme.

At each meeting we look at the house groups, the midweek services, the prayer life of the church, the interaction with Evolve/Young Church etc. We also plan themes and services for the year ahead e.g. Harvest, Advent, Christmas. One of the items that has arisen out of Holy Habits is that the younger members of our congregation like cafe church style worship, and so a service at 4pm on a Sunday has been (is being!) trialled. We had to get extra chairs out for the first one, so meeting a need! [Next one: Sunday, 3rd September.]

We also have agreed to try more cafe/messy church style services at 10.30am throughout the coming year, following a request from Annie, our children’s worker. I also encouraged everyone in the congregation to talk to me/members of the worship committee with any thoughts or reflections or ideas for worship so that we can keep it fresh and alive.  
  
The other time I spoke at the AGM was about Mission Shaped Ministries, a course I did over the last 18 months. I spoke of how the church needs to be part of the culture it is in, not something removed from society, if it is to reach out to the unchurched/nonbelievers. I then asked the congregation what the culture was in Poynton and received the replies: Cafe, Hairdressers, Charity Shops. Something to think on…  
  
Catharine Hughes

**Pastoral Committee Report**

Appointments and Pastoral Care

I am pleased to report that the significant changes which we made to the structure of the pastoral team just over a year ago have settled down and are operating well. At the time of this meeting last year I was still appealing for a few more volunteer Pastoral Visitors (PVs). Fortunately the plea was answered and we have since welcomed additional support from Jean Lunt, Margaret Meekley and Marie Moncaster – so, our thanks go to them.

Something else that happened about a year ago was that Rev John and I put out display listings of all our current member names and their associated PV to try and ensure that each was aware of the other. If there any people here today that are of this community but do not know who their PV is, please speak with me or Rev John.

Re-dedication of Pastoral Team

The re-dedication of the team and its work was incorporated into this year’s Covenant Service on 8th January along with the many others who also hold office within the church. It was fitting to be part of the wider context of both our individual and personal, as well as our collective, renewals of faith and service.

Training / Courses etc

These usually come under the auspices of Safeguarding and there have been a couple of courses in the year.

Church Lists and Membership

First a reminder that we have the “Emergency Contact (ICE) List” – this is a simple list of members and adherents, with a “Next of Kin” or “Responsible Contact” entry in case an emergency name/address is needed. Information included is supplied purely on a voluntary basis. Copies of this list are held by – and direct access to them is restricted to – Minister, Church Stewards and Pastoral Secretary. Please consider whether you wish details on your behalf are to be held in this way, or indeed if you need to amend those already on file. Now would be a good time to do this, as the list will get re-printed shortly (although any changes or updates should ideally be advised as and when they arise.)

The other listing (apart that is from our main Membership) is our Members Contact List. This booklet is intended solely for church members and will be due for re-printing during August: please let me or Betty Law have details of any amendments etc (including email addresses, if you wish them to be made available). It would be helpful also to have information in respect of any changes to the weekly activities (which are printed both in this booklet and in the Herald) – eg, organisations, dates, times, personnel etc.

Members and Membership

The number of members currently stands at 139, which takes into account the following movements in the past year or so since the June AGM in 2016:

i) We have officially welcomed 4 members into PMC (Keith Thompson – new: Pam Green, Marie Moncaster, Dorothy Taylor – by transfer)

ii) We have seen the transfer of:

2016; the Gain Family – we believe to Marple, but aren’t sure

2017; David and Lynn Allaby to Wilmslow

iii) We remember those who have died and are at peace:

from mid 2016 to mid 2017; Geoffrey Sharp, John Deighton, Elsie Faulkner, Margaret Barber,Lily Blocksidge, Norma Battle, Hilda Hallworth, Irma Bates and Ken Coombs (members and friends).

iv) All being well, we hope to start distributing new membership tickets during September.

And, finally ….

On behalf of you all, may I thank the whole of our pastoral team for their continued pastoral support and caring. In this I include not only our PVs and PCs, our Herald distributors, our Flower Ministry group, our Cradle Roll secretary but also not forgetting our two Revs – John and Peter.

John Turner,Pastoral Secretary

**Stewards’ Report**

This year has been dominated by our Holy Habits theme. It has been an exciting and challenging time with worship, books, films, study groups and banners all focused in one direction each month. Now comes the inevitable question: “What shall we do next year?” We now know that it will be Rev. John’s last year with us and we shall certainly miss his stream of ideas when he goes.

Our new Children and Family Worker, Annie Truman, has taken up the challenge of relating with schools, pre-school and Mother and Toddlers with gusto but recruiting young families to mainstream church-based activities, especially worship, is a thorny problem for us all.

We were glad to welcome Steve Hughes to our number this year and with the help of ‘friends’ especially Christine Ding and Nadia Garner we have managed.

David Dippie has continued to help out with the rota for the services. The good news is Marie Moncaster has agreed to come onto the team in September as I leave. However, Roger is reaching the end of his term too so we need at least one more recruit. More would be even better. Noreen has agreed to take over as Senior Steward with assistance from Alison for the coming year.

There are many others who deserve our thanks and I would particularly like to express our gratitude to Jane Robson (treasurer and Young Church), Derek Garner (Property), John Turner (Pastoral) and Helen Ives (Room Bookings and heating) with apologies to those I have not mentioned.

It has been a stressful time for Mandy and me this year but thanks to the Lord and our friends here at PMC we have got through it.

Shalom

Chris Hawkyard

**Young Church report to Church AGM**

Young Church and Evolve continue to meet regularly on a Sunday morning during school term time. Whilst many of our older regular attendees have now progressed onto University and have graduated in many cases it is great to see them attending when returning home. We are fortunate to retain a small but lovely cross section of children and teenagers of varying ages across our two teaching classes.

We remain extremely grateful to our small but loyal team of leaders and helpers who continue to give up their time freely despite the ever increasing demands on their time – as always we would welcome any help on a Sunday morning.

Throughout the year Evolve have followed the church journey through the themes of Holy Habits and Young Church have tailored their sessions similarly where appropriate. Regular feedback sessions have been planned and delivered by Evolve throughout the year and are always positively received by the wider Church family.

Whilst continuing to deliver teaching sessions through a tried and tested format, it may be an appropriate time to review this with a view on how we can best provide for and support our young members through their journey. At the same time it would be great to welcome new children to supplement our numbers.

**Finance report to Annual Church Meeting July 2017**

In the absence of Jane Robson the report was given by Roger Drinkwater  
  
A big thank you to everyone for their on-going financial support for PMC.  
Unfortunately, as has been the case for past 2-3 years, income from regular  
giving has been in decline. It is only on receipt of Gift Aid refund payment in  
August the shortfall is met. In fact, regular giving via weekly collection and  
monthly standing order/ direct debits is NOT meeting our share of the Circuit  
costs for ministers and manses! The situation for 2017/18 could be even worse  
as a number of people have recently moved out of the area. In the circumstances  
we would ask people to prayerfully review their giving to the Church.  
  
The Finance group would like one or two volunteers to join a small group to  
consider the best ways to keep people apprised of Church finances – names to  
Jane or Roger.

**Safeguarding Report to ACM**

SAFEGUARDING IS FOR EVERYBODY

Many well-meaning people in our churches think that safeguarding is unecessary red tape and has no relevance in an organisation of Christian people. They believe that it is just a rigmarole dreamed up by the church’s hierarchy who are being unecessarily twitchy.

I wonder how many people have heard of the Policy paper “Safeguarding children and young people” published 14 July 2014 (Charity Commission) and of The Care Act 2014 which deals with safeguarding vulnerable adults? These are the latest in a long line of legislation and guidance aimed at protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from the predation and neglect that sometimes occurs from people in our imperfect world.

Safeguarding children and young people is mainly aimed at the regulation of charities and sets out guidance and legislation.

Certain types of charity are set up to assist or care for those who are particularly vulnerable.

Charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with, their charity, are not harmed in any way through contact with it.

Children and young people under 18 years of age are an especially vulnerable group and therefore the Charity Commission is concerned to stress the importance of charities having proper safeguards in place for their protection.

All organisations, including charities, are expected to comply with the government inter-agency statutory guidance [Working together to safeguard children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2), ‘unless exceptional circumstances arise’.

The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Local authorities have new safeguarding duties.

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is fundamental to high-quality health and social care.

Safeguarding law applies everywhere in our society:

Schools

At work

In the home

Hospitals

Institutions

In short, anywhere where there are people.

"There is a growing understanding that protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the core of our faith. Safeguarding is about creating churches that are a safe space for everyone; a space where children can flourish and adults can live up to their potential. It is about enabling everyone to come to Jesus without stumbling blocks of abuse, ignorance, fear, compassion fatigue or the failure to recognise the experiences that so many carry within our communities."

Elizabeth Hall, Former Safeguarding Advisor, Methodist Church in Britain

Like all organisations involving people, Poynton Methodist church has, by law, safeguarding procedures in place to ensure safe space for everyone. We are required to keep track of church keys, make sure that those who are involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults keep them safe and are not themselves vulnerable, be cautious in recruitment and be aware of what is going on around us. And we have a responsibility in regard to those who use our buildings. Our Safeguarding Policy is on one of our notice boards and we review it every year in the light of developing requirements. So please don’t think that it is a nuisance or doesn’t apply to us. It is a vital part of our Christian ethos and a shield protecting us all.

**Property Report to ACM**

WORK DONE OVER LAST 12 months:

* Both heating boilers replaced
* Thyristor replaced in hot water heating in kitchen
* Room 4 repainted by Evolve
* Room 3. New notice board. Old board moved to room 4 by Evolve
* Upgrade emergency lights in rooms 1 & 2 and Church
* Smoke detectors added in hall and flower cupboard
* Church roof leak – linked to moss – see below
* Miscellaneous blockages -toilets and gutters

Future work

* Roof cleaning (moss)
* Ramp to Church
* Projector to room 3

**Toddlers**

The numbers at Toddler Group remain consistent with new people joining as others move on. We have a dedicated team of helpers to man the snack preparation in the kitchen, the welcome desk, the craft table and to generally help out and work with the children and their carers.

We are trying, as a team, to being with prayer once we have set everything out. We have plenty of opportunities for open play together with a craft/cooking activity. There is a healthy snack provided mid-morning and, weather permitting, we have half an hour to play outside which is followed up by singing and story time.

In the school holidays the families tend to support the preschool “stay and play” time.





