

The General Church Meeting at Bromborough Methodist Church

Sunday the 12th May 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome and devotions
2. Members/apologies
3. Minutes of the General Church meeting held on 28th May 2023
4. Matters arising
5. The election of the church stewards
6. The election of the church representatives to the Church council
7. The reports
 - Leadership
 - Pastoral care
 - Finance
 - Property
8. Mission activities – toddler, BB, Tuesday fellowship, coffee morning, Bible studies & others.
9. Circuit news
10. AOB
11. Date of next meeting

Bromborough Methodist Church – Minutes of General Church Meeting. Held on Sunday 28th May 2023 after the Morning Service.

1. **Welcome and Prayer** – A warm welcome was given to those members and friends attending (24 in all) and Rev. Yangsun opened the meeting in Prayer
2. **Apologies** – were received from Barbara and Norman Green, Val and Syd Nickson and Lizz Hissett.
3. **Minutes of the General Meeting** - held on Sunday 22nd May 2022, had been circulated prior to the meeting, and it was agreed that they were a true record.
4. **Matters Arising** – None
5. **Reports** – from Church affiliated groups:- Leadership team, Worship, Monthly Bible Study, School Childrens work, Safeguarding, WhatsApp, Action for Children, 'All we can' Initiative, Financial, Property, Pastoral Visitors, Toddler Group, Easter Offering, Charles Thompson, Allport Pantry Foodbank, Churches Together in Bromborough and Eastham, CTBE Knit and Natter Group, Friendship Club and Church Flowers.

Our thanks and appreciation were extended to ALL those involved in the preparation of the reports that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Questions and Reponses – The recent arrival of Allport Pantry on Friday afternoons has been successful and folks that come along like to chat and receive a warm welcome and a drink. Any fresh produce that remains at the end of a session is given to the BB, Slimming World and Church.

Rev. YY remarked there is a shortage of people responding to fill the available jobs. We appreciate that sometimes people need to recharge and take a break. Each one of us can be encouraged to help out with God's work. Anne W read a passage , Persistent God. Growing old in God's service.

6. **Mission Plan** – A Welcome Leaflet needs to be produced. John H will look onto this. Margaret G asks, "Is the Coffee Morning viable?" Rev.YY asked "What is the aim, is it open to the community?" Currently it operates on a Wednesday morning, but is the time or day suitable? Considerable lack of communication. Decision! We will hold a Coffee Morning on the Third Wednesday of the Month, as a starting point, if popular, dates can be added. Margaret will compile a Rota of volunteers . A Banner will be purchased and placed outside church the Sunday previous to the Coffee Morning, inviting ALL to come in. Our Church members and friends will be encouraged to come along with publicity in the notice sheet.

7. Election of Church Stewards for 2023/2024

David Williams

Anne Williams

Margaret Gort

Alan Brown

Andrew Clough

Lizz Hissett

All were elected unanimously.

Appointments to begin in September at the start of Methodist Connexional year.

Our thanks and appreciation to our Stewards who have served us so well through many years.

8. **Representatives to the Church Council** – Barbara Maidment wishes to resign. Kaye Shaw and Barbara Green will remain.

Once again our thanks and appreciation for the commitment to God's work through our Church Council was expressed.

9. **A.O.B.** - Some of our Leadership team will attend a meeting shortly to learn more about helping the people of Bromborough, Higher and Lower Bebington, Prenton and Irby to work more closely together. This was first introduced at a Circuit Away Day and will be led by Rev. Jackie Bellfield.
10. Our next meeting will be held in May 2024.
The meeting closed with The Grace.

Church AGM on Sunday 12th May 2024 at 12.00

AGM reports

Leadership Team

During this year we have spent some time looking at 2 models of 'combining' churches for operational purposes (reducing presbyterial workload) in the Wirral Circuit. These models are currently in use in some other circuits across the country. The issue of presbyter shortage in the Wirral circuit has arisen as there are 19 churches and only a limited number of ministers (currently 4 although Revs Heather Cooper and Yangsun Yi leave in September and are replaced by Rev Dan Woodhouse). Rev Phyl Fanning (0.49) plus Deacon Ellie Griffin (0.5) are part of the staff. Some churches are also experiencing difficulties in filling their senior posts (ageing congregations) and/or declining income. This has led our church to discussions on one particular model, namely Multi site churches.

From September Rev Dan Woodhouse will be our minister.

David Williams

Worship

Bromborough is extremely well blessed with a worship leadership team of 3 local preachers (Pat Jones, Peter Colyer and Andrew Clough) plus 2 active Worship Leaders (Colin Burgess and Carole Kelly).

We are greatly indebted to all their efforts over the past year to support worship at Bromborough and to our minister Rev Yangsun Yi. Our morning services are regularly led by a variety of ministers and local preachers who bring a rich variety of worship styles to the church.

David Williams

Bromborough Methodist What's App

The Rev Barbara Banton set up this group at the beginning of the 1st Covid lockdown. Initially there were ten members who received a daily hymn and thoughts/ prayers. The group continues to operate. From this group came a separate group - The Education volunteers at the Anglican Cathedral (of 9 friends). Other subgroups have sprung up including friends and ex colleagues (a further 13). Everyone is offered an opportunity to request their choice of hymn etc which is then posted up for others to hear, group members regularly share concerns and support each other. We are also aware hymns are forwarded further afield to friends and families. You are welcome to join the group. Anne Williams

Action for Children

Action for Children is the Methodist Church's charity for work with children and families in a whole range of circumstances. Clearly in these difficult times many families need that little extra help to support and bring up their children, just as many children and young people require help as they lack adult care and guidance. The work of the charity can be found on their website (actionforchildren.org.uk) where you will find both harrowing stories and wonderful successes. As a church we are pleased to support this work with our Big Christmas Card which raised £277.20 at Christmas 2023. An Action for Children service is planned for July 2024
Anne Williams

All We Can

In the past I am sure you would recall the Methodist Church World Mission division. This work is now under the charity heading of All We Can. Information on the wide-ranging work supporting communities across the world can be found on the Methodist Church website with updates in the Welcome Area. For example the monies raised in Smarties tubes go into All we Can to support World mission work. In 2023/24 over £250.00 was collected. We were also pleased to support this work with a collection at the time of the Harvest Festival.

David Williams

Easter Offering

This year the Easter Offering Service was prepared by Methodist Women in Britain in support of the World Mission Fund and was held at West Kirby Methodist Church. Rev Lily Twist led the service. The theme of the service was 'Let Justice Role' and focussed on Justice for All across the world. Our Easter Offering to support this work totalled £277.00. Carole Kelly/David Williams

Charles Thompson

I hope you were able to find time to scan the letter from Bernie Frost, Centre Manager of Charles Thompson Mission (Birkenhead) in the Welcome Area. It highlights the current on-going need in difficult circumstances for many families and individuals in Birkenhead. This year we supported this invaluable work of the Mission with a substantial number of toys for needy families at Christmas.

If you have any items such as toiletries, towels or clothing (or tinned food) please contact me and I will deliver it to the Mission.

David Williams

Wirral Foodbank

Following our successful Autumn Harvest service, a substantial amount of tin and packet food was delivered to the depot for the Wirral Foodbank. David Williams

Churches Together in Bromborough and Eastham

During Lent this year we joined together as a group of churches from this area for 5 joint acts of worship at our church and a series of house group meetings. I am pleased to report that 1 joint service has taken place since Lent and a further service will take place later in May. We pray more may be forthcoming in future months

David Williams

CTBE Knit and Natter Group

Knit and Natter started in 2008 meeting each week. Since starting many thousands of knitted and crocheting items have been produced and distributed to various groups including hospitals (Liverpool and Wirral), Care Home, Asylum Link and other Liverpool Charities. Each year we send huge numbers of items to the shoe book appeal (plus a

generous donation annually for distribution costs) and also International Aid.

Frequently items are produced for sale through the Village Centre to raise funds for different charities, decorative items go on show at the Christmas Tree festival as well as being used in the Christmas services. This year the group have also been financially supporting a school on the Woodchurch Estate.

The group meet each Monday afternoon at the Village Centre in Bromborough from 1.30pm and includes a quiet time and prayer. All are welcome even if they only Natter. Regular contact is kept with all past and present members. We have 24 people who come fairly regularly. If you want to have a relaxing afternoon while producing useful things for others do join us. Anne Williams

Safeguarding – Report for AGM 2024

Church Safeguarding Document

Our church Safeguarding policy, procedures and requirements document was subject to its annual review by the Church Council in October 2023. It was agreed that no amendments were necessary and our document was consequently approved by Council members for another year. It may be helpful to remind all members of our congregation of our corporate responsibility with regard to Safeguarding, in that, as a church, we are committed to upholding our Safeguarding policy statement, which is:

“As the people of Bromborough Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God’s purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of our church community of all ages, but especially those children, young people and vulnerable adults who come into our care. It is the responsibility of each one of us to promote the physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Therefore, we commit ourselves to do all we can to prevent any abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults.”

The statement is displayed in prominent places on our church premises.

Annual Audit

I completed an audit, on behalf of the Church Council, in October 2023. This was required of all churches in the Liverpool District. The audit showed that we are compliant with all Safeguarding requirements.

DBS Certificates

Currently 15 members/volunteers hold valid DBS certificates showing they have clearance to work with children/young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Training

All training is up to date for the Foundation Module. 17 members/volunteers have attended Foundation Module training since 2021, either face-to-face or online via Zoom. Training needs to be ‘refreshed’ every four years. An

additional five members who completed Advanced Module training in February 2020 will need to 'refresh' their training this year if and when a course becomes available.

Finally, my thanks to everyone for working hard to ensure that all who take part in church activities remain safe and secure.

Dave Earnshaw

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pastoral Visitors – Report for AGM 2024

The Pastoral Visitors continue to work hard as the number of members with serious health issues and problems continues to grow.

Gwyneth Bell has moved to a care home near to her son. Our membership is now 61 with 24 Friends.

Once again, we are very grateful for all the work our Pastoral Visitors do in caring for those on their lists.

Our thanks must also go to those members who are not Pastoral Visitors, but who support and care for others in our church.

Fran Earnshaw

Pastoral Visitors' Secretary

Bromborough Methodist Church Budget					
Year September 2023 to August 2024					
INCOME		£	EXPENDITURE		£
Opening Balances				Circuit Assessment	39096
Current	17398			Energy	6030
Deposit	251			Insurance	2170
CFB	3834			Repairs	4000
Cash	2			Connexional	200
OFFERINGS				Licences	328
Direct	29538			Cleaner	4360
Envelopes	3108			Bank Charges	150
Cash	800			Sundries	400
REMAINING INCOME			CLOSING BALANCES		
Donations	3500			Current	16609
Rental	11500			Deposit	252
Tax Refunds	7500			CFB	3984
Interest	150			Cash	2
TOTALS	77581				77581

The Church year is nearly halfway through and the estimated offerings for the year are roughly £5500 under this years assessment figure. As always, the main Church expenditure is the assessment, this year £39096 or £3258 each month. A big thankyou to everyone for their generous giving. The Church now has a regular income from people using the premises, from Dance groups to Slimming World to parties and Mothers and Toddlers and long may this continue.

The next largest spend is for Energy costs, with two new contracts for electricity and gas starting from January 2024 and lasting two years. Looking into the future, Bromborough Methodist Church survived the lockdowns, bank closure and the start of bank charges. Therefore, hopefully, into the foreseeable future we will continue to be able to pay all our bills.

David Blackburn

Property Report For General Church Meeting

1. Gutters

The gutters were cleaned in January 2024. Whilst carrying out the cleaning the contractor drew to our attention that the gutters and downspouts adjacent to the kitchen were in need of replacement. He also commented on the recently repaired flat roof above the Fellowship Room. He said there were some bubbles in the felt and some of the flashing has come away from the wall. The contractor who did the work was informed and he has inspected the roof and has carried out the appropriate work and temporary repair. He has promised to carry out permanent repair when the weather improves

2. Finger guards

One of the Toddlers at Playgroup unfortunately trapped his finger in one of the doors. Playgroup asked if it would be possible to fit finger guards to the Hall doors. Six have been purchased and five already fitted to main hall doors, Disabled Toilet door, the door to the Church Lounge and the Fellowship Room door. The remaining guard will be fitted to the hall door adjacent to kitchen.

3. Stonework

During the recent storms damage occurred to the stonework at the front of church. Our insurers have been approached and they have asked us to obtain quotation, send photos of damage etc. This has been done and they have responded saying that they do not consider that the weather was not sufficiently severe at the time to have caused the resultant damage. We will be contesting this with further relevant information.

4. Room Enquiry

We received an enquiry via our website for use of our premises for a Stronger Together Group. I advised them that there may have to be a charge and that we currently support the Community via The Food Pantry. They have managed to obtain facilities at St Barnabas which started on 13 February. Posters are displayed in the Hall entrance and Welcome Area. The premises were used for Elections on May 2nd.

5. Boilers

The boilers have been serviced and appear to be operating satisfactorily at the moment though there are occasional faults. They are now 20 years old.

6. Gas Service

This was carried out in early April and everything was satisfactory.

7. Sound System

Due to a failure of the lapel microphone on the sound system we have had to purchase a new unit, transmitter and receiver which appear to be working satisfactorily.

8. Church Organ

The church organ was serviced and tuned following our Easter morning service when Karen reported some problems. Most of these were rectified by Keith Ledson, the tuner, though he pointed out, as he always does, that the organ is old technology. He also recommended that it is played regularly.

9. Drainage

It was noticed that the wall in the Kitchen passage was very damp. It was assumed that this may have been due to the Fellowship Room roof leak but after the roof had been re-felted it did not dry out. The roofer returned and checked with his damp meter and said that it appeared to be rising damp. The manhole outside the kitchen door was lifted and it was found that the clay channel was broken and in consequence water was seeping into the ground rather than flowing through the drain. The manhole chamber has been repaired with plastic pipe and concrete rendering. The drains were also rodded through and given a thorough clean.

10. Faults

Recently a couple of problems have arisen, Ladies Toilet Hand wash not working and a leak in Disabled Toilet. It was only by chance that I discovered the Hand wash was not working and similarly the leak. If anyone notices anything untoward please let me or any of the other Property Committee members know.

BMC Mission Plan May 2024

The people of the Methodist Church Bromborough:

Seeking to share their experience of the spirit of Christ.

We will achieve this by striving to:

- Understand the needs of the community and respond to these needs in a practical way
- Teach the good news of Christ's message for us all
- Support all in their personal spiritual journey
- Provide an inclusive and enriching programme of community worship

Worship

Develop a variety of worship styles from traditional to café church worship and all points in between.

Consider greater use of Local preachers and Worship Leaders with specific skills to lead specific services.

Make greater use of IT - both within our own worship for contemporary experiences and linking with circuit produced services.

Learning and Caring

Bible Study - Continue to offer a monthly Bible Study as an open to all activity in church

Pastoral support - activity continue the good level of fellowship through pastoral care, telephone contact and visiting members

Service

Friendship Group to connect with known/new people in community seeking opportunities to join in fellowship activities outside Sunday worship opportunities

Coffee mornings where members/friends and individuals identified alone in community can meet regularly.

Link coffee mornings with Health Care Community Connectors

Work with Families through Toddlers

Advertise both on the premises and through the website the opportunities available at church

Provide space for a weekly Food Pantry on Friday to operate for the community

Evangelism

Continue to deliver Hope Journey type school activities and assemblies, seeking to raise understanding of the Gospel to children and staff

Update church and community activities on website

Initiatives established since 2023

Continue to support the Food Pantry on Friday's on church premises.

Continue to deliver Hope Journey type school activities and assemblies, seeking to raise understanding of the Gospel to children and staff

Update church and community activities on website

Publish Annual Church Meeting report on website

Toddler Group – Report for AGM 2024

There is little to report about the Toddler Group. It continues to thrive. It is well attended and supported. Thank you to all those who help on a Thursday morning. Fran Earnshaw

1st Bromborough Boys' Brigade

Report May 2024

Our badge programme within the Company for all Sections is progressing through the 6 Activity Areas, "Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get into the Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning". Colin, our Chaplain, is conducting a "Faith Development" session with Tom, our Senior boy, which is a requirement for the President's Badge.

Other boys are working through the Anchor, Junior and Company programmes in accordance with their ages. BB celebrated its 140th Anniversary on the 4th October having started in the Woodside Mission Glasgow by our founder William Alexander Smith in 1883, One of our Anchor boys gained a 140th Anniversary badge when he designed a "140 template".

We had trips to the World of Glass Museum, St. Helens on Saturday, 11th November when two boys were able to gain a Project Badge within our BB programme, followed by a trip to the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum on Friday, 12th April to understand how the boat people lived and worked on the Canals in the early 19th Century and how their young children received an education.

We continue our work of promoting the "Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys...etc" for those in our care. Ken Chalton (Captain)

Friendship Group Report 2023-24

We meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Lounge and have a regular attendance of about 15.

We have had a range of interesting speakers including our own members Cindy Brown, Pat Jones, Bob Ward, Anne Williams and Yang Sun.

Recently Ursula Wilde talked about Roberts garage on the corner of Allport Road and New Chester Road which her father started when there were very few cars on the road.

We also have Reg's famous Quizzes and thank him for all his work in organising the Speakers. We then have a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and Betty's cakes.

Church Coffee Morning

The Church Coffee Mornings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am and are open to all. Refreshments are served by a team of ten willing volunteers on a rota system.

It is supported by a small but faithful core of Church Members and friends, who not only enjoy the coffee/tea and nibbles but, more importantly, have an opportunity to chat and share fellowship with each other and, if desired, to make an (optional) donation to church funds.

It would, however, be nice if more of our church family and friends were able to share with us the relaxed, convivial atmosphere. Any suggestions on ways to achieve this would be most welcome.

John Horrocks

Monthly Bible Study

The monthly Bible Study is held at 6.30pm in church on the first Sunday of the month. Anyone is welcome to join the group of about 10 members. The session lasts about 1 hour, starts with a hymn and prayers and ends with prayers of intercessions and a hymn.

Having completed the study of Matthew's gospel we have now embarked on a course entitled Depending on Jesus. We will be studying different passages in the New testament and began this month with 2 Corinthians c 12 v 6-10. Do come and join us.

School Childrens work 2023-2024

During the summer term of 2023 we travelled to Woodslee Co-op Academy to deliver a new workshop based on the missionary journeys of St Paul as the year 6 children prepared to move onto secondary school.

During December 2023 we were delighted to invite Mendell Primary year 2 children to take part in the Journey to Bethlehem.