

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Minutes 19th October 2025

Those Present:

Chair: Rev Andy Melvin

Members: - Sonia Harriyott John Harriyott Chris Hitchins Valerie Moffat
David Sweet Christine Sweet Angela Jenkins Geoff Jenkins

None Members: Jean Lukins Ann Tricker Pat Weeks
Dennis Cottingham

1. Welcome Andy welcomed all to the Autumn Church Council meeting and opened with a reading from Philipians and a short prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence: Pat and Brian Mellet Sue Hitchins Jennifer Sweet Della Shirley Esther Smith

3. Requests for AOB: There were none.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting - 16th March 2025:

The minutes were accepted and signed by Andy

5. Matters arising from Spring council:

Appointment of Church Steward – John Harriyott was willing to stand.

6. Safeguarding:

Christine Sweet as Safeguarding Officer reported that the Methodist Church were in the process of changing its policy but until it was finished was continuing to use the existing one. Andy signed the policy and it was put onto the notice board.

7. Worship and Church Matters:

Health and Safety – The policy is on the notice board.

Membership numbers – Chris reported that we have 13 members with one other member attending once or twice a year. There are 5 non members who attend regularly. Chris reported that the average attendance per service is 14.8. 12 members is the minimum that is acceptable to continue. Andy encouraged the none members to consider becoming members to support the church.

Roles within the Church - Church council secretary: Sonia Harriyott was elected unanimously. Andy thanked Sue for all her work as the previous secretary.

Church Steward: John Harriyott was elected unanimously.

Churches Together: Angela Jenkins

Newsletter: Chris Hitchins. Thanks were given to Chris for this.

Art Group: Valerie Moffatt. Valerie said the the group didn't just do art, but knitting and crochet could be done. There is a theme but you could follow your own.

Organist: Pat Weeks was thanked (to applause) for stepping in as organist due to Della being unwell.

Pastoral Secretary: Sue Hitchins has stepped down.

The Methodist Church has pastoral care looking after the welfare of members. Andy gave a job description but no one came forward so the Stewards will take on this role.

Pop in: Pat Mellet

Data Protection: John Harriyott

Coffee morning: Valerie Moffat

World Mission was removed from the list.

Style of Worship

The Stewards had discussed this and suggested the fifth Sunday as a possibility. A discussion followed and it was agreed to try on the two months (November and March) before the next Church Council meeting. It will be well advertised so that visitors will know what to expect.

8. Property Matters:

Chris had prepared a report which is attached to the minutes. He gave a brief resume including the news that the Buxted Horticultural Society have booked the hall for their 2026 Spring show.

9. Finance:

Angela presented the accounts for the year 2024/25 were presented to the meeting and accepted. The accounts showed a small surplus of £398, but included the cost of the quinquennial inspection and electrical survey (£1,200), annual increase in the area assessment (£700), increase in electricity costs (£700) and a reduction in the grant from Buxted Parish Council (£170).

The Budget for the year 2025/26 , showing a surplus of £1,106, was also presented to the meeting and approved.

A question was asked what the insurance covered. Angela said that it covered the building, the contents and public liability. Andy thanked Angela.

10. Ministry:

Andy reported that as part of the CSUA:

- 2 Ministers will be moving on

- 2 possible replacements – a Probationer at Emmanuel (Eastbourne)
 - a Minister at Haywards Heath

Area Treasurer: Chris Hitchins is standing down and Adam Keys is the new Treasurer.

Pastoral: Esther is still not too well.

Ann's husband Nick passed away this week.

Della is having chemo so is unable to join us.

11. News to share:

12. Any Other Business:

There was none.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

April 19th 2026

The Property statement is attached