

# BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

## Church Council Minutes 16h March 2025

### Those Present:

**Chair:** Rev Andy Melvin

**Members:** - Chris Hitchins, Sue Hitchins, John Harriyott, Sonia Harriyott, Della Shirley, Valerie Moffat, Geoff Jenkins, Angela Jenkins.

**Non-Members:** - Brian Mellett, Pat Mellett, Denis Cottingham, Deacon Vicky Welsh, Jean Lukins.

### 1. **Welcome**

Andy welcomed all to the Spring Church Council Meeting and opened with a reading from Psalm 84 followed by a short prayer.

Andy explained that Chris would taking the minutes today. No objections to this were raised.

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

Christine Sweet, David Sweet, Jennifer Sweet, Esther Smith

### 3. **Requests for AOB**

Valerie requested that Charitable donations should be added (see item 14 below).

### 4. **Minutes of Last Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

The minutes were acceptor and signed by Andy.

### 5. **Matters arising from Autumn Church Council**

No matters arising.

### 6. **Worship Matters**

**Church Council Secretary** - Andy explained that Sue had informed him that she was unable to continue in the role of Church Council Secretary and asked whether anyone else would be willing to take on this role. Sonia volunteered. It was agreed that a Job Description would be forwarded to her so that she would be able to view the scope of work required. Andy wished to formally thank Sue for her work undertaking this role.

**Church Steward** - Andy also requested whether anyone would be willing to become a steward (Job Description is available on request).

**Lent Group** – This group, led by Christine Sweet, meets on Monday (weekly during Lent) and is open to anyone from any of the three churches.

**Easter** – Palm Sunday will be led by Rev Sheila Foreman; Maundy Thursday will be led by Rev Andy Melvin (7 PM) and Easter Sunday service will be led by Rev Andy Melvin.

It was noted that the "March of Witness" will be undertaken on Good Friday starting at Cornerstone (10 am – hot cross buns available) with a view to holding a short service in the PO Square at 11 am.

# BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

**Book Sale** – This was being held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April (doors opening at 10:30 am). A light lunch will be served. All donations of books or puzzles would be very welcome. Any items left over would be donated to the book stall at the Blue Bell Woods where they are sold to aid Medical Research. Anyone would be most welcome on the previous day (4 PM) to help lay out the books and other items for sale.

**Church Anniversary** – This would be held on the second Sunday of July (13<sup>th</sup>) with afternoon tea (in the garden weather permitting) followed by an evening service (5 PM).

**Church Roles** – Andy stated that while normally these are reviewed at the autumn Church Council he wanted to draw attention to the list of roles (displayed on the hall notice board) and ask whether anyone would consider volunteering. Della offered to teach someone how to use the organ (very useful for when Della was unable to play).

## 7. **Property Matters**

Chris had prepared a short report, attached to the minutes, and provided a short summary.

## 8. **Finance**

Angela stated that the current status was in line with the budget presented at the Autumn Church Council. The formal statement would be presented at the Autumn Church Council.

## 9. **Ministry**

Andy advised that he was going on Sabbatical (May – July); the theme would be "Going Back To Roots". During this period Christine Sweet would be the 'point-of-contact'. Barbara Evans-Routley (Superintendent) or any of the stewards or Vicky Welsh can also be contacted.

Andy wished to recommend that all should consider whether meeting in small groups to discuss any points (Biblical or others) on a regular basis (ideally weekly) would be useful. The meetings did not have to be formal but, for example, be simply meeting up for a walk or coffee.

Vicky advised that at Crowborough a 'Creative Group' has been started via Zoom to talk over any points that they wanted to.

Both Vicky and Andy can advise how such meetings could be initiated if required.

## 10. **CSUA News To Share**

Andy advised that all the ministers attended Synod last week which was led by David Hinchliffe (District Chair). Points of note are:

- 6 ministers released (means retired)

- 2 ministers accepted as fully completed their training

- 7 ministers died

- Comment – overall the number of ministers are reducing

Vicky also was able to advise that a Deacons meeting was held recently.

# BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

## 11. **Any Other Business**

Valerie raised the point 'Should charitable donations be given higher priority'. Angela advised that the church used to give a sum each year to an agreed charity (on top of those specific ones such as CRISIS). However this was suspended when COVID lockdown occurred. This practice could be revived now that the finances were in a better state.

However it was commented that charitable giving was an individual choice. It was noted that as a member, Christine Tait, was running in the London Marathon this year in aid of MS some of the money raised in the Book Sale could be donated this year to MS. Details of the support to Christine Tait and individual sponsorship will be made available by Valerie as soon as she has received them.

**Foodbank** – Historically we have supported this by leaving donations in the box at the back of the church. It was suggested that this could be developed into a regular process by leaving something each week. Sonia volunteered to take any donations monthly to the Foodbank storeroom in Uckfield. It was noted that each of the main supermarkets had a collection point for donations where individuals could deposit items.

## 12. **Date of Next meeting**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025

The Property Statement is attached.

# BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

## Property Report 2025 (for Spring Church Council)

This Property Report covers the period since the Autumn Church Council Meeting (October 2024). The next Electrical Test (mains and PAT testing) and the Quinquennial Survey are due in the summer of 2025.

## Activities

Activities using the hall on a regular basis are (details shown in the monthly newsletter and on the WEB Site):

- The music group (Monday morning)
- Art Group (Saturday afternoon – once per month)
- Coffee Morning (Saturday morning – once per month)
- Emmaus – Monday afternoon – once per month)
- Pop-IN (Wednesday morning – once per month).
- Scout Group – Explorers have been using the hall on a Thursday evening while their scout hut is being rebuilt. Expected to be ready for occupation in late March.

The use of the hall has been advertised in the Buxted Messenger. The Buxted WI have used the hall once and may use it again on an irregular basis.

## Work scheduled but NOT undertaken

Inside Chapel windows (west) remain outstanding.

Church annual evacuation was not conducted in December 2024 so will (subject to weather) will be undertaken in March/April 2025.

## Work scheduled during the remainder of the church year (2024 – 2025)

**Rear Vestibule Heaters** – The heaters in the rear Vestibule will be replaced before the autumn.

**Replacement Flat Roof** – completed in September 2024.

**Trees trimmed** – The cherry tree in the garden has been trimmed in the hope that this will be sufficient to revive it.

**Hall Windows** – Replacement windows have been fitted.

**Internal decoration** – D F Tourle have painted the rear and front vestibules; the toilets and the kitchen during February 2025.

**Fire Extinguishers** - Fire Action will undertake their annual service of all the Fire Extinguishers in August/September.

**Electrical Testing** – to be arranged to be undertaken in June/July 2025.

**Quinquennial Survey** – to be undertaken in July/August 2025.

***Chris Hitchins***

**Property Steward  
16 March 2025**