

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Minutes 19th April 2026

Those Present:

Chair: Rev Andy Melvin

Members: Sonia Harriyott John Harriyott Chris Hitchins Sue Hitchins
Angela Jenkins Geoff Jenkins Della Shirley Patricia Hobden Wendy Parker
Valerie Moffat Jennifer Sweet David Sweet Christine Sweet Jean Lukins

Non Members: Pat Mellet Brian Mellett Denis Cottingham Ann Tricker

1. **Welcome** Andy welcomed all to the Spring Church Council meeting and opened with a prayer and a reading from John 3 v 16
2. **Apologies for absence:** Esther Smith
3. **Request for AOB:** There were none
4. **Minutes of last meeting - 19th October 2025**
The minutes were accepted and signed by Andy
5. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
6. **Safeguarding:** Christine Sweet as Safeguarding Officer reported that there will be Advanced Safeguarding courses on line all year round and in-person at Battle in May and hopefully locally in September. Several members will need to renew Foundation level shortly.
The Safeguarding policy is on the notice board. Christine also pointed out that everyone is vulnerable.
7. **Worship and Church Matters:**
Health and Safety: The stewards had been considering replacing the wooden stepladder. The meeting agreed that this should be a priority. If coming to the church to do jobs, someone needs to know for safety. If you get locked in, the outside door in the hall is push bar so can be exited.
John Harriyott raised the point that the postcode should be placed on the notice board in case the emergency services are need. Ann Tricker said the "What 3words" app can be linked with the postcode to the emergency services and a notice should be put up on the hall notice board and on the front of the church.

Membership numbers: There are 15 and the average attendance is 14.5.
There were 19 attendees today.
Andy welcomed Wendy and Pat, new members from Gamelands, to their first Church Council meeting.

Roles within the Church: Chris reported that the full list will be at the October meeting.

Della, our regular organist, is finding it difficult to full-fill the role full time. Pat, our new member is also an organist so it was suggested they get together to work out a possible rota.

Styles of Worship: A discussion ensued that perhaps different forms of worship could be tried even if something is not to your taste – give it a try. Ann, who is from the Anglican tradition finds it refreshing that our form of service is not as regimented as The Book of common Prayer but likes it as a change. The Taise form of worship is also suggested.

8. Property:

- a. Chris reported that not much was happening at the moment. He will be testing the fire alarms as one is about 15 years old. It was suggested that he contact the Fire Brigade as they fit them for free.
- b. Wednesday May 6th is Spring Clean day and everyone is welcome. This includes the garden. The cutting of the big hedge has been postponed until the Autumn as birds are nesting.
Scheduled Maintenance: Stewards to review at their next meeting.
- c. Security: Locking up and shutting windows and doors are essential and repairing anything faulty, which is an Insurance requirement.
The kitchen window is hard to close as it is high up. Ventilation is also needed to prevent damp. The stewards will discuss this at their next meeting.
Keeping the building tidy encourages respect from the Community.
Jean asked about our insurance which is Public Liability policy with Methodist Insurance but we pay the premium.
Stewards to look at putting the certificate on the notice board.

9. Finance:

Angela reported that the accounts will be presented at the October meeting. Everything is on budget so far.
She had to change the bank account with Lloyds and open a new one with them. This meant that members who paid by standing order had to change them.
Gift Aid is to be reviewed.

10. Ministry:

Andy said that there will be two changes in the CSUA this year. Rev. Will Fletcher (Haywards Heath) will be moving to Wiltshire and Rev. Paul Tabraham (Emmanuel, Eastbourne) is moving to Guildford. Two new ordained ministers have been appointed. There will be a farewell service at Haywards Heath on 12th July at 4pm.
Buxted Anniversary Service is on July 5th tea at 3.30 service 5pm

11. News to share:

Angela said that she had seen Esther and she was in good spirits but still finding it hard to breathe. She sent her best wishes.

Easyfundraising: This is a scheme that many supermarkets and online sites operate as a way of raising money for your good cause. You need to shop on line and register and the business will then give a donation to you nominated charity. It can raise quite a bit of money. Members are encouraged to consider this.

Church Lunch (informal) Saturday 9th May following coffee morning.

12. AOB:

None

13. Date of Next Meeting:

18th October 2026

Rev Andy closed the meeting with a prayer at 12.45pm