



**United Church Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Present:** Revd Deborah Snowball (Chair), David Carruthers, Dorothy DenzerJane Earl, David Hibbert, Sue Hillier, Rob Kay, John Payne, June Poppleton, John Rhodes, Darryl Sharp, Hilary Stevenson

**Apologies:**

**1 Opening prayer**

The meeting opened in prayer led by Deborah.

**2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Buzz Coster, Alex Huzzey, David Warren, Revd Richard Lowson, David Edney

**3 Council appointments**

The following appointments were approved:

Secretary: Buzz Coster; Lay Chair: John Rhodes; Community & Outreach Chair: David Carruthers; Fabric & Churchyard Chair: David Hibbert; Stewardship & Finance Chair: John Rhodes; Charitable Giving Chair: Jane Earl; Treasurer: Rob Kay (although Rob has indicated that he wished to retire as soon as a replacement could be found); Safeguarding Officer: Helen Swain; Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Mary Weatherilt:

**4 Welcome to Council**

Deborah explained, for the new members, how the UCC worked.

**5 Minutes of last meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 were agreed and signed.

**6 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Those matters arising not covered by the agenda included:

(4) LEP Constitution – Deborah was arranging from someone from the Methodist Council to join a meeting to discuss the detail of the LEP Constitution.

**7 Membership of UCC Committees and sub-committees**

The members of the UCC were asked to indicate which sub-committees they would like to join ranked in order of preference. Every effort would be made to add individuals to their first choice sub-committee.

**8 Finance report**

- Rob Kay presented the Finance report. Total funds had reduced by £29k since the March meeting. £30k had been transferred out of the Myers Fund.
- The Church Giving Scheme was discussed.
- Following the problems experienced with HSBC, a nominal sum of £300 had been received as compensation. Deborah agreed to check with another Church in the Diocese which had encountered similar problems to see what level of compensation was received in order to decide whether it was worth pursuing HSBC further.

## **9 Safeguarding Report**

It was reported that there was no Safeguarding Report to review as no information had been supplied. The Deanery was holding a training session on 16 May and everyone was encouraged to look at the Deanery website to book onto a training session.

## **10 Noticeboards**

David Hibbert introduced the discussion on the new noticeboards. A quote had been circulated prior to the meeting. The quotation of £2,316 was unanimously endorsed and David Hibbert was authorised to make the appropriate arrangements. In addition, Deborah advised that she would be meeting the Tree Officer from Three Rivers to discuss cutting back the trees around the noticeboard near the Garage.

## **11 Visible Congregation/OneBodyOneFaith**

The possibility of signing up to OneBodyOne Faith was discussed. It was agreed to look additionally at 'Inclusive Church' option and a further discussion would be held at the next UCC meeting. Everyone was encouraged to look at both websites ahead of the next meeting.

## **12 Charitable Giving committee**

Jane Earl, Chair of the Charitable Giving Committee presented the schedule of donations based on 2016 giving. The UCC unanimously endorsed the donations which had been recommended by the Committee.

## **13 Mission Action Planning**

David Carruthers reminded the UCC that the MAP for 2017 had been agreed and each of the sub-committees had been allocated actions to follow up.

## **14 Thy Kingdom Come**

Deborah explained the different activities proposed to support Thy Kingdom Come initiative. Volunteers would be required to assist with the various activities.

## **15 Big Welcome/Back to Church Sunday**

Back to Church Sunday would take place on 24 September and a volunteer was being sought to lead this project. David Carruthers and Darryl Sharp offered to assist but neither wanted to lead the project.

## **16 Items to be publicised**

- UCC appointments
- Noticeboards
- Charitable giving
- Big Welcome/Back to Church Sunday

## **17 Date of next meeting and future meetings/events**

The next UCC meeting would take place on 10 July 2017. Some thought would be given to holding a summer social.

## **18 Closing prayers**

The meeting closed in prayer with the Grace.