

TRINITY CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 15TH JULY 2018 AT 11.30 A.M.
NOTES

Chair: Dianne Berry **Minutes:** Sandy Catchick

Present: 31 members, 6 adherents, 10 apologies

1. Opening

Dianne welcomed everyone and introduced herself as having taken over as Chair of Trustees and Church Council. Robin Gower was welcomed to the meeting as the Methodist Circuit representative. The meeting was then opened in prayer by Jon Salmon.

2. Minutes of last Church Meeting/A.G.M. held on 15th April 2018

Dianne asked for substantive comments now; and grammatical comments to be given to Sandy afterwards. The minutes were accepted.

After the meeting Sandy pointed out that “will not “ needed to be changed to “will” in item 6.1 on the Church Fair, which currently read “This was discussed at the March Church Council meeting as neither Sandy nor Jill Duncan will **not** be able to organise this year’s fair.”

3. Actions from previous meetings

Only one action No. 20160717-04 remained open, and Dianne said people could speak to her or Jon if they had ideas to improve church meetings.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda

None.

5. Any other business to be taken at the end of the meeting

None.

6. Elections and Appointments (Catherine Jackson)

Vacancies had been advertised ahead of the meeting with respect to 3 Church Stewards, a Minute Secretary, an Annual Reports Secretary, a Communications and Events Team Leader, a Christian Aid Representative, 2 Deanery Synod Representatives, a Human Resources Team Leader and a Manse Steward without anyone coming forward.

Catherine thanked everyone who held positions at Trinity, whether formal or informal. She appreciated the commitment and pleasure involved in serving. There had been no nominations for any of the main roles and Catherine will keep asking for those roles to be filled.

During the service that morning Catherine herself had felt prompted to put herself forward as Minute Secretary. As Appointments Secretary she had often asked others to do roles, but now found herself ready to take on this role. She had been nominated by John Goddard and seconded by Dianne Berry to be Minute Secretary. Her appointment was voted on, with the result as follows:

In favour: 34 Against: none. Abstentions: none.

Catherine was formally nominated as Minute Secretary.

Dianne advised that she and Jon would be meeting the following week to consider vacant roles and hopefully would find a way to make them more appealing.

7. Finance Update (Sandy Catchick)

The accounts to 30th June 2018 had been circulated ahead of the meeting (copy available on SharePoint [here](#)). Sandy presented a small number of PowerPoint slides comparing the results to 30th June 2018 with those to 30th June 2017 (copy available on SharePoint [here](#)).

- Total voluntary giving with gift aid had increased from £88,044.25 to £122,229.86.
- Other income had increased from £22,400.94 to £28,827.80 including 30th June 2018 deposit account interest of £18.55.
- Assessments had gone up from £52,284.33 to £57,862.24. This was not a true comparison as the Methodists and URC had been paid one month in arrears in the year to 31st August 2017 so only 11 payments had been made in that year. So 13 payments would have to be made in the current year to put us back on an in month basis, and to do that two payments had been made in January 2018. Also, in the previous year some Methodist payments had been made later in the year as they had been missed and caught up on.
- Overall expenses had increased from £111,422.99 to £129,429.86, but this largely reflected the employment of the youth worker from 1st December 2017.
- The balance at 30th June 2018 was £21,627.80 compared to a negative (£977.80) at 30th June 2017. Sandy explained that this had largely had to be used to replenish the deposit account, from which money had had to be transferred the previous year, and to increase our reserves which, as based on 3 months' worth of expenses, had had to increase as our expenses had increased with the employment of the Youth Worker.
- Giving towards the cost of the youth worker (YW) had commenced ahead of his employment, leaving a balance of £7,915.80 in the YW fund after meeting expenses to 30th June 2018 of £13,162.45.
- Giving towards the cost of the Children, Family and Pastoral Worker (CF&PW) additional hours was £1,878.65 less than those additional expenses in the year to 30th June 2018, but additional donations were expected.
- Sandy explained that at the year end, any negative balance on the CF&PW fund would be made up from the general fund as it was not possible to have a negative fund at the year-end. At the year-end the balance on the YW fund, as in the previous year, would be transferred to the deposit account, so that it could be drawn on if needed in the coming year.

- There was a balance of £10,268.80 on the current account and a balance of £44,943.41 on the deposit account at 30th June 2018.

There were no questions. Dianne thanked Sandy for the clear way she presented the finances and thought that was why there had been no questions.

8. GDPR Update (Jon Salmon)

Jon advised that Dianne, Anna Meadows and Jon had been working hard to be as compliant as possible. They'd done a data audit. Jon thanked everyone who responded to Anna's email request for information on data held. Anna had pretty well done with the data audit itself, but needed to do more analysis. Jon explained he was also a data controller and, as such, needed to be compliant and he confirmed he was working towards this. A consent form and privacy notice had been devised and Church Council had been through the training material Andrew Rixon and Jon had received from the Diocese of Oxford. There was a plan of action in place to take forward over the next two or three church council meetings. Anna brought her smile and joie de vivre to the task. There were no questions on GDPR.

9. Delivering our vision: Getting God's message out there (Grainne Leyton-Smith)

Jon introduced Grainne. A number in the room and some not at the meeting had been working over the last two or three months asking questions on how to move our new refreshed vision forward. Grainne had been facilitating this. Jon passed round a handout on the subject.

Grainne then updated church meeting [copy of PowerPoint slides [here](#)]. A lot of work had been done on values, vision and priorities. She had done an article in the last church magazine bringing people up to date. The brief was a big embracing:

- Fostering new disciples and empowering and nurturing everyone as followers of Jesus.
- Responding with love to human need and injustice
- Acting on concerns for God's creation.

She had asked what we wanted people to do, which could be summarised as:

- Get as many people to participate in Trinity as possible
- Get people to engage in Christianity more generally i.e. bring people in to trial a Sunday service or engage in another Christian capacity e.g. bible study or toddler groups outside of Sunday services. There are also groups a bit more removed.
- How to engage with Christians where they are e.g. at work

Grainne said that the best sales force or advocate of a product was one that used it. People value a personal recommendation more than one they read in a paper. So it was important that we delivered the messages. She explained that the working group had decided to look at two groups:

- First, Non-church Goers:
 - People known to the congregation, friends, family, co-workers, people on the football team, music etc. i.e. we engage with people all the time and can talk to them.
 - Transients: e.g. university students or people on interim work placements
 - Local youth: really important to us in Trinity as we've invested a lot in our Youth Worker, Sam, who is doing a fantastic job. There's something special in putting people on the right path. We are keen to find a way to target these people.
 - Those in our church sphere e.g. coming in for Christenings, Who Lets The Dad's Out etc. They don't yet fully engage with us.

These people are the "low hanging fruit" i.e. on the edge of the church.

We felt this was the right route to go down as a first step. It's a much bigger ask to go to others who may be less willing to listen.

- Second, the Congregation

The group then looked at what competed with their mind and attention, to help us talk to them. For example, they may have misconceptions, other time-consuming events that keep them away etc. The groups they considered were:

- Those in the church sphere
- Those coming for religious activities like weddings or Christmas
- Those who have a church background that needs rekindling
- Those dissatisfied with their current church who might leave the church world and see us as an alternative to leaving; but we are NOT into poaching from other churches

Sunday mornings were a busy time in family life e.g. sport, kids sport and homework, the Sunday lie-in, the need for down-time, other churches, other family or single commitments e.g. caring for elderly parents, the disabled, neighbours etc. Trinity therefore needed to find a way to talk to people and persuade them to make space for church if they want to. There were also people looking to find peacefulness, life-balance etc. For many, they turned to yoga, mindfulness, dog-walking or running. People recognised the struggle for balance, and Trinity could be a great alternative or addition to those things. The response could be along the lines of, "I know I'm looking for something but hadn't thought church might be the answer."

There were always other barriers too. The list was enormous e.g. apathy, people with a bad previous experience, people with misconceptions, family pressure or only one party wanting to come, guilt, shame, unworthiness etc. Some people were also concerned that they might stand out e.g. the LGBT community, teenagers, the disabled, the elderly, children etc. They would wonder if Trinity had the facilities to meet all their needs. People all wanted to feel they were joining something that felt like them. People hated to feel different. Trinity therefore needed to evidence how

all-embracing it was. We need to create an opportunity to tell people they won't stick out if they come here.

Grainne explained that the group had looked at leaflets etc. and come up with a mixture of positive comments and things that could be improved. They had also looked at what other churches had done which could be taken and adapted for our own use rather than reinventing the wheel.

The group asked what made Trinity different and that would resonate with others. The handouts tried to describe Trinity as a person using a "Word Cloud" that the working group put together, with the large sized points i.e. Real, Family/Integrational and Full of Life being the most important.

The group then looked at the Trinity vision, behaviour and impact against our vision with 3 circles

- The inner ring – "living life to the full"
- The middle ring- how we behave
- The outer ring – how we are perceived and for people to respond to

While some work has been done this is now at a point where it needs to come to Church Meeting for endorsement.

Grainne said that we also needed to talk to ourselves i.e. us as the congregation acting as a mouth piece and representing and talking about Trinity to encourage people in. The group had thought about the tools we would need to help people have that conversation. The ideas that had come out of this discussion were:

- A leaflet
- A role play/sketch of how things might go
- To keep the support we give to people at a personal level i.e. so they don't have to defend Christianity in general, the institution of the church or even Trinity. So if it was possible to create testimonies for our leaflet; or people's personal experience of what they get from Trinity – this would make a more powerful testimony. Grainne explained that we needed testimonials from the whole breadth of people that come to Trinity which would demonstrate the way Trinity embraces them. She emphasised that they wanted people to have the confidence to have those conversations.

Grainne asked for people's help to understand:

- The questions you dread that pose a barrier to you or make you avoid that conversation.
- The good as well as difficult conversations.

When she had looked at these questions Grainne said she would come back with ideas.

People were asked to put forward questions that would concern them and a number of those present provided useful responses that were passed on to Grainne after the meeting for further consideration.

Grainne suggested we could practice role play at the end of a service. This idea was welcomed by a number of people

Grainne said that her presentation gave a summary of where the group had got to. She asked if there were any questions and whether people felt they were moving things in the right direction. She also asked if there were any concerns or feelings that what was being presented was not Trinity. In response there were a lot of positive nods.

Dianne thanked Grainne for her presentation.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Closing Prayers

These were led by Jon Salmon at 12.29 p.m.

12. Next Church Meeting

Sunday 7th October 2018 at 11.30 a.m.

Action Table

Action No.	What	Who	By when	Update
20160717-04	Willing to speak to anyone with further ideas to improve church meetings	Jon Salmon or Dianne Berry	Ongoing	20180715 Ongoing