

Earlsdon Methodist Church

Annual General Meeting

4th May 2025

1. Welcome & opening devotions:

The meeting opened using part of the Hymn, "Your hand O God has guided", led by Rev Doreen Koffie Williams, who was in the chair.

2. Approval of AGM Minutes 19th May 2024: Tim Jefferies proposed that these be signed as a true record. This was seconded by Carol Gallard and the meeting agreed.

The attendance sheet was circulated, with 32 present and 2 apologies. (record in file)

3. Reports from Church Groups: The reports had all been collected, collated, made into a booklet and circulated electronically prior to the meeting.

Rev Doreen thanked Gill & Tim Weller for compiling the booklets of reports.

Some further comments to reports were made reiterating the reports. A change of date was noted as June 14th instead of July for the ECO "Green give away", currently 115 dishcloths. Thanks were expressed to Alison Lawn for all her work with the church flowers, particularly at Easter. Thanks were also expressed to all who presented reports and for their work in the groups. It was noted that as Rev Tulo Raistrick is leaving St Barbaras to work for Myton Hospice, Prayers and Bears is going to be difficult to keep running. A leader is desperately needed.

Re Stewards, Rev Doreen thanked him Tim Jefferies for all his work as Senior (Co-ordinating) Steward and said although he was hesitant at taking on the role he had been an inspiration and she was grateful to him for all he had done in the role. He replied that it had been an honour.

A special thanks in memory, went to Will Light for all the work he did for Wellspring. Rev Doreen led the meeting in a moment of silence and prayer.

Thanks were expressed for donations for the Moses basket, which is regularly used. 45 free breakfasts were given away last month. It was felt the Church is showing responsibility in this way.

4. Finance Report:

Finance Report: As Tae Sigauke is on holiday, Richard Lawn gave the report. He said that some may recall that at a recent Council Meeting he indicated that he thought the church had made a "loss" of about £10,000 in the 2023-2024 Financial Year. However, the AGM report shows net "profit" of £4,283. This anomaly is principally because at church Council, Richard did not take into account an anonymous (restricted) donation of £10,000 during 2023-2024, which is shown as part of the income in the overall cash accounts distributed at the AGM. 2022-2023 shows a loss of just over £16,686, for which Richard reminded the AGM that £9,760 of this related to late payment of part of the assessment due payable in the 2021-2022 financial year. Chris Parnell asked what was included in the two "other" expenditure figures of about £15,264 and £26,447; Richard replied that the £26,447 figure included Gift Aid reclaim, but during 2023-2024 the Treasurer decided this figure was best shown as part of the offertory figure (£53,600).

Richard feels we are just about "holding our own", but there has not been much spent recently on maintenance and he is concerned for the future, especially with work needed on the boilers, gas and electricity. Church "giving" remains stable and the £15,000 claimed from Gift Aid is a welcome boost. It was pointed out that the approximate cost to run the church is £250 per day. Thanks were

expressed to Tae, for all his work as Treasurer and to Richard for standing in today and all his work on the accounts. Also to Chris Fisher for his work with Gift Aid.

5. Appointment of Church Stewards: Rev Doreen reported that there were no new names for a Steward. The team will now be Steve Fox as Senior Steward, Choice Sigauke, Bill Holdforth, Adrian McAinsh and Tim Jefferies. She feels that there are lots of visions forthcoming and the church will be in good hands.

6. Appointment of Senior Steward: See above. Meeting agreed unanimously to all above appointments, with a plea for help if anyone feels able to join the team.

7. Appointments of Reps to Church Council: The meeting agreed to vote the present reps on for another year, "on block".

8. Worship:

Evening Services: This had been raised at Worship Consultation. Rev Doreen asked if it was felt this should continue. A discussion took place as to viability, different ideas, times, format etc. Are we holding on to it for tradition? This is an ongoing conversation.

Worship with Nexus: Rev Doreen said that the students will still be in the area for another two years and felt it would be good to give them the opportunity to use their music and theology here. They could lead worship which others could attend, which could be encouraging especially for younger members. Bill and Helen will speak to them.

9. Mission:

Clothing rail: It was felt this needed to be promoted more. When there is need for the Moses basket this could also be offered. It needs to be accessible, but space is needed for it. If upstairs, there needs to be good signage to it.

Wellspring Chaplains: Rev Doreen reported that this had been discussed at the last Church Council. She felt that although a number of people already behave as Wellspring Chaplains it may be useful to have some people specifically named to take on this role. This would ensure someone was always available should the need arise. Should badges be worn or not? The meeting was concerned that it could become too "official" if labelled. A discussion took place and feedback would be welcomed.

10. AOB: David Kershaw said that in reading the reports, although a number of kind references were made to Will Light, he wanted recording how much Will's contribution as Church organist meant. His unique, wonderful musicianship, sensitive to Methodist tradition, enhanced our worship for many years and he is greatly missed.

11. There being no further business Rev Doreen closed the meeting with the 3rd verse of the hymn used at the beginning.