



Copmanthorpe Methodist Church  
[www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk](http://www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk)  
Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP

# **General Church Meeting Agenda and Reports**

**Sunday 30th April 2017  
at 9.00 a.m.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Breakfast and opening devotions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting of 17th April 2016
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Church finances
6. Elections
  - Church Stewards
  - Congregational representatives to Church Council
7. Reports (these have been made available in written form before the meeting and the meeting will give the opportunity to discuss the content or raise questions with the leaders in each area).
  - Stewards
  - Young People
  - Pastoral
  - Property
  - Consultation on Worship
  - CAMEO
  - Come 4 Lunch
  - Community cinema
  - Women's Fellowship
  - Communion Stewards
  - House Groups
  - Church Office
  - LEP annual report
  - Diary dates
8. Conversation on the Ministry & Witness of the Church – an opportunity to raise any comments on where we stand at the moment, for example whether there are any particular aspects of church life which are being neglected or any further involvement we can make in the community
9. Date of the next meeting

## COPMANTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH

### **Minutes of the General Church Meeting held in the Church on Sunday 17th April 2016 after morning worship**

1. The meeting was chaired by Rev Julia Skitt who opened with prayer.
2. **Present** were thirty-two members, with seven apologies for absence.
3. **The Minutes** of the meeting of 26th April 2015, having been made available prior to the meeting, were agreed and signed as correct.

#### **4. Matters arising**

None.

#### **5. Conversation on the Ministry and Witness of the Church**

Members were given an opportunity to raise any comments on where we stand at the moment, for example whether there are any particular aspects of church life which are being neglected or any further involvement we can make in the community. The following items were raised:

- The work done by the cinema group was mentioned. Audiences have been good, and the community cinema plays an important part as it provides fellowship and brings onto our premises people who would not normally come into the building. Thanks were recorded to all who help with the cinema, such as the steering group, those who design and sell tickets, the Post Office for selling tickets. More help is needed and more people should be encouraged to become involved.
- Praise and Play, Playbox and Lunchbox are all thriving.
- Come 4 Lunch has a wonderful atmosphere and is a marvellous opportunity for both church and non-church people, but more helpers are required.
- Thanks were recorded to Mandy Smith and Jacqui Duffield for their work with Fizz. The number of children attending is increasing.
- The lack of a prayer meeting was mentioned, but we do have house groups most days of the week. It would be wonderful if someone were able to start a prayer meeting, and Jill Blackburn's efforts to put together small prayer groups was mentioned. The daily prayer texts sent out by Rev Julia will start again tomorrow.
- We have no specific group for teenagers. It is hoped that some teenagers might be interested in joining the music group which is being set up, but there is a gap in our outreach to teenagers. It was suggested that we could work with the village youth club. A film and food evening for teenagers was suggested and this will be discussed by the Worship Consultation Group.
- Those who attend CAMEO are mainly non-church people.
- It was queried whether more could be done to encourage our partnership with St. Giles. It is hoped that, as the two churches grow together, we can work together more closely. But joint All Age Worship services at St. Giles had been poorly attended by members from our church and we need to rethink the format of AAW services.
- The lack of children in our services was mentioned and it was queried whether there could be more occasions when the children from Fizz could join us. It is hoped to set up a link so that the adults downstairs can see what the children are doing upstairs, and everyone is welcome to go to Fizz to meet the children and take part in their activities. It was, however, felt that the children should not be brought down into the service to "be on show".

The children could be encouraged to come to All Age Worship services, and we need to build up a familiarity so that the children feel more confident about coming down into the worship area, and to work out how we can satisfy the needs of both children and adults. Fizz is an important outreach to the children of Copmanthorpe and builds links with families who do not normally attend church. But it was recognised that Fizz meets only twice each month and there is no provision for children at other services. All comments raised in this connection will be discussed by the Worship Consultation Group.

- Some families have recently left our church to worship elsewhere, and we need to address those issues.
- Anyone willing to join the Worship Consultation Group should speak to Rev Julia or to one of the stewards. New ideas and input are needed.

## 6. Church Finances

A detailed report for the financial year 2014/15 prepared by the Treasurer, Nick Dawson, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Nick made two points – firstly, that finances are important but they are a means to an end and the church is not about having money for its own sake, and secondly he thanked all those who donate according to their means. He then invited questions on the annual figures and the following points and questions were raised:

- It was queried whether the Finance Committee reviews the figures for our reserves policy and our charity giving. Nick replied that the Circuit recommends our reserves level, and this has also been agreed by Church Council. The Circuit also advises on the percentage of income which should be given to charity and, again, the figure was agreed by Church Council.
- Donations made as a result of the gift day enabled us to balance the books for this financial year, but the amount of giving has generally decreased, mainly because some people have left the church.
- We do not have a great deal of choice over the amounts we spend and where they are spent because the level of a large part of our expenditure is set by the Circuit.
- It was queried whether Nick could provide an average figure to give members an idea of how much each member needs to give to break even. Nick said that details of monthly costs could be included in the newsletter, but he was reluctant to give a figure per member because it is recognised that some people would not be able to increase their giving to that level and there is no wish to make members feel guilty and perhaps leave the church if they are unable to increase their donations. Nick pointed out that the money we give covers not only our church, but we are also part of the Circuit and the District and of the worldwide church. Many present at this meeting felt it would be helpful to be given a wider picture and to know how much it costs to run the church. The Finance Committee will discuss the best way of providing such financial information and it will then be up to individual members to decide on the level of their giving.

Thanks were recorded to Nick for the great amount of work which he does as Treasurer.

## 7. Elections

**Church Stewards:** Thanks were recorded to Debbie Dawson for her work as senior steward over the past year. Ann Smallwood is taking over from Debbie, and more people are needed to join the stewards team. During the year Seonaid Clarke and Pauline Dillon-Kelly have stepped down as stewards. Tim Duffy is taking a year out and will rejoin the team after his year as senior circuit steward. Current stewards are Debbie Dawson, Jo-Anne Travena (who has agreed to serve for an extra year), Ann Smallwood, Jill and Jonathan Green, and Derek Horsley. The stewards play an important and vital role in our church and it is very rewarding work. Anyone interested in becoming a steward should speak to Rev Julia, Debbie or Ann.

**Ex Officio Members of Church Council:** Re-elected en bloc were Nick Dawson (Treasurer), Jean Haywood (Church Council Secretary), Ruth Perrott (Pastoral Committee Secretary) and Tim Duffy (Circuit Steward). Tim will this year be Senior Circuit Steward, which is the reason he has stepped down from our stewards team.

**Elected Members to Church Council:** The following were elected en bloc – David Withers (Property), Janet White (Bookings Secretary), Barrie Moore (Gift Aid), Rachel Hillyard (Family worship), David Owen (Musicians), John Temple (Technicians), Mandy Smith (Children) and Jacqui Duffield (Young People). There is currently no representative for Mission.

**Congregational Representatives to Church Council:** According to Methodist guidelines, there should be not less than six congregational representatives. Guy Dillon-Kelly, Audrey Ellis and Marjorie Moxon were not standing for re-election, and Derek Bowen, David Britton, Beverley Duffy and Geoff Dawson were re-elected. Denis Sharp offered to become a congregational representative and was duly elected. After the meeting, Heather Hewson also offered to be elected.

**Churches Together in York:** At present we do not have a representative.

**Circuit Representative:** Jo-Anne Travena has been our representative for the past year and it was confirmed after the meeting that she would continue for a further year.

## 8. Reports

Reports (copies attached) had been received from

- Stewards
- Mission
- Children and Young People
- Pastoral
- Property
- Worship Consultation Group
- CAMEO
- Come 4 Lunch
- Community cinema

and had been made available prior to the meeting.

The meeting stood in memory of Dorothy Unwin and Doreen Caunt who had died during the year, and appreciation expressed of their dedication and work in the church over so many years. The work of our pastoral visitors was mentioned.

Thanks were recorded to the stewards, the pastoral team, the musicians, all group leaders and teams, and everyone who ensures that the outreach of the church continues. Thanks were also given to Jean Haywood as Church Council Secretary and to the church office team.

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 23 April after the morning service.

There being no other business the meeting closed with prayer at 1.30 p.m.

## FINANCE

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been charged by Church Council to manage the financial affairs of Copmanthorpe Methodist Church (CMC). The committee is made up as follows:

Nick Dawson, Treasurer  
Jo-Anne Travena, Assistant Treasurer  
Tim Fuller  
Russ Smallwood (Insurance)

In addition, Barrie Moore continues to support the committee as Gift Aid secretary.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support in the last year, much of which goes unnoticed but is essential to the smooth running of the Church.

This report to Church Annual General Meeting consists of three parts:

- Report on the accounts for the financial year 2015/16;
- Update on the Restricted Funds;
- Projections for the General Fund in 2016/17.

### **Report on the Financial Year 2015/16**

The overall position for the financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 is summarised below.

	Restricted							Total	Total
	General	Sound	Youth Comm Survey	Cinema - 2016	Benevolent	Restricted			
Balance at 31 August 2015	£13,643.59	£2,000.00	£3,037.84	£3,914.84	£0.00	£111.22	£9,063.90	£22,707.49	£22,707.49
Income Sept 15 - August 16	£50,427.12	£0.00	£0.00	£15,103.78	£8.00	£15,111.78	£65,538.90		£65,538.90
Expenditure Sept 15 - August 16	-£48,154.75	-£22,683.06		-£199.20		-£22,882.26	-£71,037.01		-£71,037.01
Sound Fund Transfer		£20,683.06		-£20,683.06		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Youth Fund Transfer			-£3,037.84	£3,037.84		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
M Lampard Surplus (included in General Fund)				-£1,174.20		-£1,174.20	-£1,174.20		-£1,174.20
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>£2,272.37</b>	<b>-£2,000.00</b>	<b>-£3,037.84</b>	<b>-£3,914.84</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£8.00</b>	<b>-£8,944.68</b>	<b>-£6,672.31</b>	<b>-£6,672.31</b>
Balance at 31 August 2016	£15,915.96	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£119.22	£119.22	£16,035.18	£16,035.18

The total funds as at 31 August 2016 were £16,035, which represents a decrease of £6,672 on the prior year. However, within this decrease there is a modest increase of £2,272 in the General Fund, and a decrease of £8,945 in our Restricted Funds. The decrease in the Restricted Funds was the result of utilising the various funds that had built up over the years on the installation of the new audio visual equipment in late 2015.

The surplus of £2,272 on the General Fund is a much better outturn than was expected this time last year. At the end of 2015 I expected the General Fund to show a deficit of about £3,000. There are three main factors which have changed that projection:

- The Gift Day in January 2016 raised around £2,600 in “one off” donations.
- Our Gift Aid was higher than expected due to changes in the Gift Aid rules that allow us to claim Gift Aid on loose cash donations, and to back date the claim for two years. In total our Gift Aid was around £2,000 higher than expected.
- Property expenses in the second half of the financial year were less than in previous years, and less than expected, by between £400 and £500.

These benefits come to around £5,000 in total, and it was this that turned our expected £3,000 deficit into a surplus of just over £2,000. The underlying issues around our regular giving and expenses that were highlighted last year have not gone away, and the projections for this year are shown in more detail further on in this report.

The detailed breakdown of income and costs is shown in the Schedule B statement which is circulated alongside this report. A few key points to highlight are:

- Overall Offerings and Tax Recovered increased in 2015/16 by £821 from the previous year to £39,895. However, the increase was due to the higher level Gift Aid recovery due to the new rules – underlying giving through Collections and Standing Orders decreased by nearly £1,500.
- Income from Lettings increased by over 30% in the year, from £3,195 to £4,222. To give some perspective on this our income from Lettings covered two thirds of our total Utilities and Cleaning costs in the year.
- Donations to the Church were significantly higher than in previous years at £6,265. This was due to the additional income from the Gift Day in January 2016 and the residual £1,174 from the Margery Lampart legacy that was not required for the audio / visual project.
- Church donations during the year were £1,537, which represents 9% of our “Surplus Income”(i.e. Income less Assessment), which is just below the target range of 10% to 20% agreed with Church Council. The intention is to make up the shortfall in 2016/17 if possible.
- A new cost category called “LEP” has been set up, which records all costs which will be jointly shared with St Giles as part of the LEP. The agreement with St Giles is that these costs will be reconciled at the end of each calendar year (which is the St Giles accounting year) and that a one off annual payment will be made to ensure that the costs are evenly spread between the two Churches.

The implications of the General Fund in 2016/17 are discussed in a separate section below.

The accounts for 2015/16 have been audited and approved by our Inspector, Tim Hinton, and approved by Church Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, with the approved accounts submitted to the Circuit.

### **Update on Restricted Funds**

Last year’s report contained full details of the income and expenditure on the audio / visual project that was installed in late 2015 following approval from Church Council in September 2015. The impact of that scheme was that all of the Restricted funds were fully utilised as planned, and as such the balances on the Sound, Youth, Community Survey and Cinema funds reduced to zero. The table above shows a number of movements between funds, and the purpose of these transfers was to reduce the balance on each fund down to zero so that they could be closed down. As mentioned in the section on the General Fund above, there was a final surplus of £1,174.20, being that part of the Margery Lampart legacy that was not required to fund the audio / visual project. This amount was transferred to the General Fund in line with the process agreed at prior Church Council meetings.

The result was that at the end of August 2016 there was no money in any of our Restricted funds except for a small amount (£119.22) the Benevolent Fund. I believe this to be a positive outcome as we had built up a considerable amount in the various Restrict funds over the last few years, and this money has now been spent on the purpose for which it was given.

Looking forward the Sound, Youth and Community Survey funds will remain closed, but the Cinema will continue. In addition, two new Restricted funds will be opened this year, so there will be four Restricted funds as follows:

- Cinema Fund – this will hold the surplus funds from the ongoing operation of the community cinema. The surplus funds will be the income from ticket sales and snacks less the costs of operating the cinema. It will be for Church Council to decide on the use of the surplus funds in conjunction with the cinema steering group.

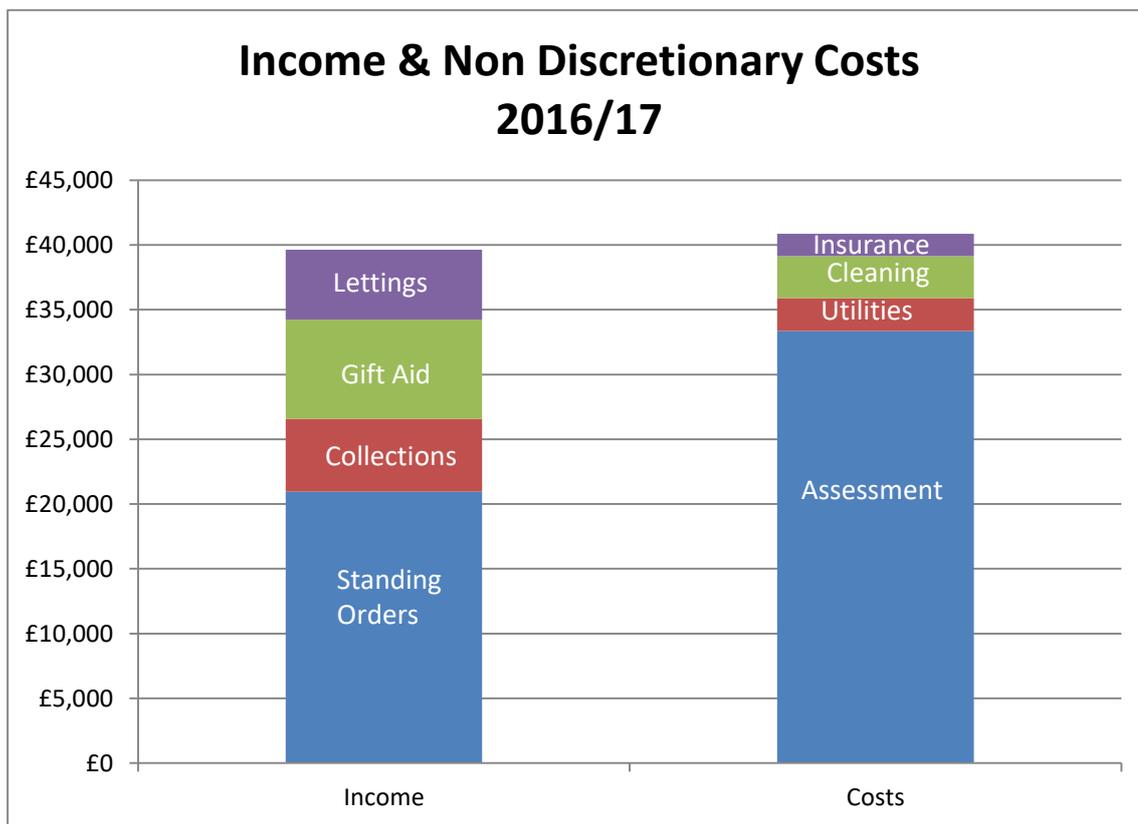
- Come 4 Lunch Fund – this will operate in a similar manner to the Cinema Fund, and will hold the surplus funds from Come 4 Lunch as it is intended to incorporate their finances into the main Church accounts.
- Holiday Club Fund – it has been suggested that rather than run a separate set of accounts for the Holiday Club that their finances are also incorporated into the main Church accounts. At the moment this is in its early stages and the practicalities of winding up the separate Holiday Club finances and incorporating them into the main Church accounts need further discussion.
- Flower Fund – this will separately manage donations given to the Church for flowers, and subsequent expenses.

The purpose of these funds is therefore to ensure that specific Church activities can be separately accounted for, whilst remaining part of the main Church accounts.

### Projections for the General Fund for 2016/17

The projection for the General Fund for the current financial year (1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017) does not look good, and the message is similar to that in last year’s report, which is that that at the moment **the level of regular giving to the Church is insufficient to meet our existing regular commitments**. Based on the current level of giving and expenditure, and taking into account the income and costs for the first half of this financial year, we can expect a deficit on the General Fund in 2015/16 in the region of around £2,000.

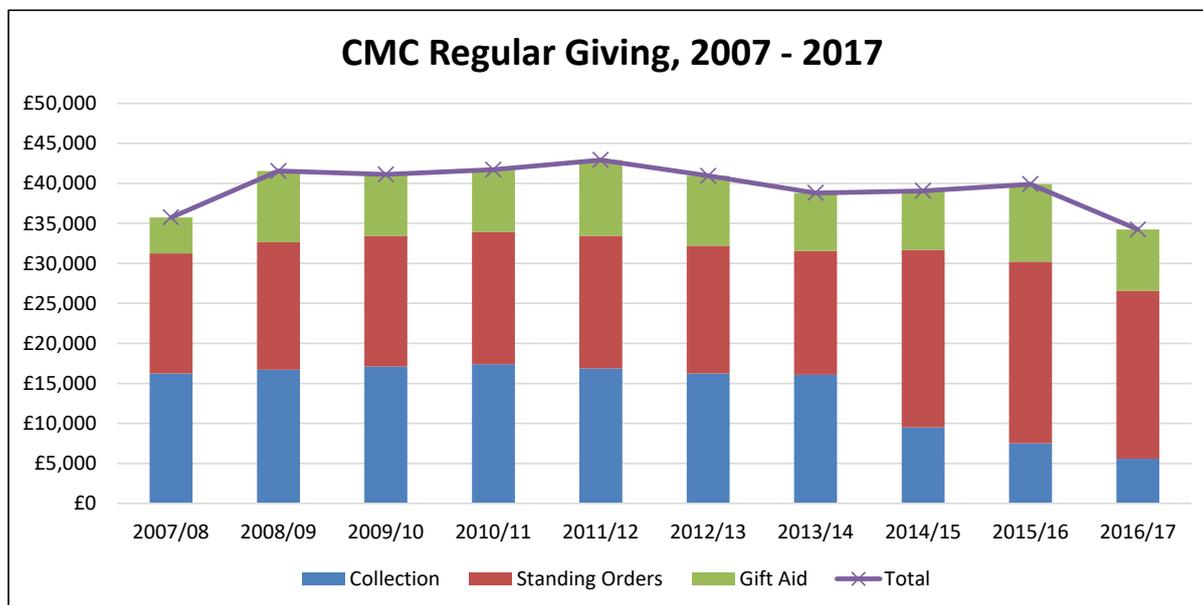
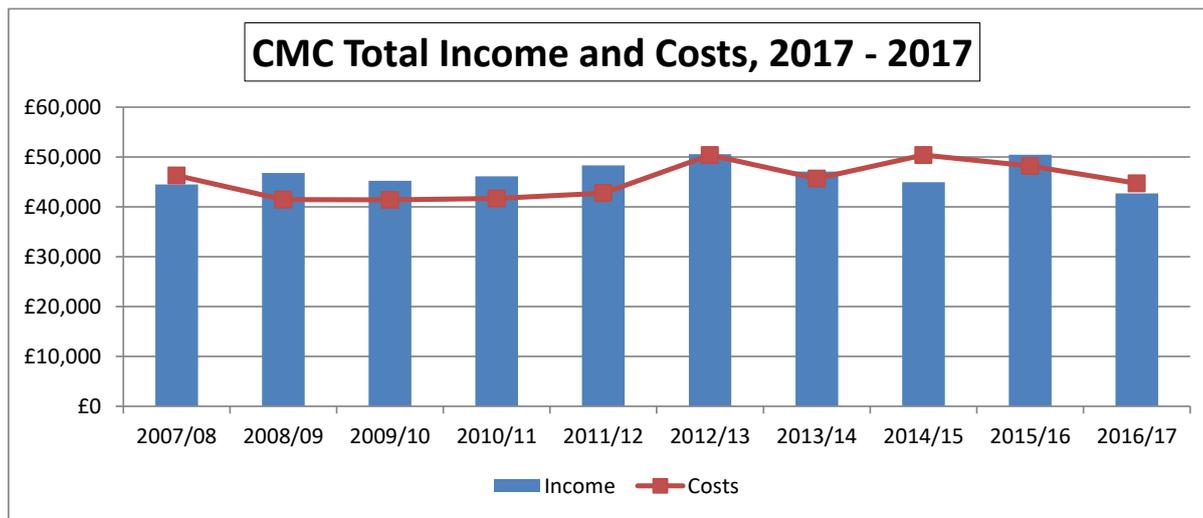
The bar chart below shows the income and “non-discretionary” costs for the year.



Our total income for the year, including property lettings, is forecast to be just under £40k. However, our basic costs of Assessment to the Circuit, utility costs, cleaning contracts and insurance / licensing costs come to just under £41k, which means that we have the potential to be in deficit even before other costs such as general property maintenance, charitable giving and other ongoing expenses. It is on this basis that I would expect the deficit to be around £2,000 for the year.

I am aware that I presented a similar, if not more pessimistic, message last year, and that we ended up with a surplus of £2,000 so I'm conscious of the need to avoid unnecessary alarm. However, as outlined above, this turnaround was almost entirely down to the nearly £5,000 received from the Gift Day and the changes to the Gift Aid rules. The Gift Day (which has not been repeated this year) was a one-off event, and the increase in the Gift Aid was partly due to the backdated claim of loose cash collections and the Gift Aid on the one off donations from the Gift Day. Whilst it is possible that "something will turn up" in the form of one off donations / income, this is not something that we can rely on.

I have updated the two graphs that have previously been shown which chart our donations, income and costs over the last 10 years, including the expected amount for 2016/17. The item that stands out most clearly is the expected income drop this year, and this is in part down to the loss of a number of generous members in recent years.



**Nick Dawson**  
Treasurer

**STEWARDS**

As I now reflect back on my year as Senior Steward I am thankful for all the people who have supported me. Last year when I took over from Debbie I was not confident about carrying out the duties. I read that the President of the Methodist conference said that in his year in office he was always looking for a responsible adult to come along instead of him and I know how he feels.

Fortunately for me, I have had a wonderful team of Stewards to work alongside. There have been tears and also a lot of laughter and joy. Rev Julia works so hard and we all do our best to keep up and support her. I would also like to thank Russ who is always my tower of strength.

I would especially like to thank Jo-Anne Travena as she steps down from Stewarding duties this year. I can't imagine the team without her. However, I know that she will use her talents and energy to serve CMC in many other ways, especially co-ordinating the wonderful work of Come for Lunch. Tim Duffy is returning to the team as Senior Steward after his year as Senior Circuit Steward. His passion, hard work and leadership will be a great blessing to us all.

Debbie Dawson has been a source of great wisdom and I am grateful for her support and pastoral overview of church life.

We would love to have new members for our Stewarding Team. The role is challenging but also rewarding. Being a steward means being involved with day to day issues and decisions in church life, being on the rota for overseeing Sunday Worship, as well as attending meetings and linking in with Church Groups. The stewarding team have worked hard this year to ensure that all our outreach and events are supported and resourced with enough people to do all the jobs. If you would like to join the team please speak to one of us today.

There have been many highlights this year. Attending Julia's Ordination services in London was a fantastic experience. This year's Covenant service with St Giles was a wonderful occasion. However, for me the best part of being Senior Steward is being part of the church family and hearing about all the ways that everyone supports and loves one another. It is a privilege to serve and build on the strong Christian foundations of those who have gone before us.

**Ann Smallwood**  
**Senior Steward**

## **CHILDREN AND YONG PEOPLE**

### **Playbox and Praise and Play**

The group continues to grow (average 25+) and members' informal feedback indicates it is appreciated and well liked. Group leaders are Carole, Marilyn and me. Group follows format of two weeks of play, one week bible-based then a week of shared lunch. Group is more or less self funded and run by its members. Group is known for being relaxed and supportive and friendships are made. Group offers church space to children and carers and displays an opening to children and youth work of Churches Together in Copmanthorpe.

**Ros Pryor**

### **Fizz**

Fizz is now into the fourth year of running. In September of last year, Fizz introduced a new age group catering for our older children. This was made possible by Fiona Jarrett joining our team. Fizz now splits into three groups, offering age appropriate activities through games, bible stories and prayer. Each session begins all together with welcome activities and worship. We then split into our small groups, before rejoining and sharing craft together. Our session then finishes back in our small groups with creative prayer and reflection.

Group One: Pre-school through to Year 1 at School (led by Mandy and Margaret)

Group Two: Year 2 – Year 4 (led by Jacqui and Russ)

Group Three: Year 5 – Year 6 onwards (led by Fiona)

Steve Nobel has been a much loved member of the Fizz team from the beginning. Unfortunately he has recently stepped down from attending regularly due to personal reasons, but has said that

he will stand in when we need extra support. Our thanks and gratitude go to Steve for all his time and commitment given to Fizz.

We currently also have two young leaders, Rebecca Garbett and Penny Thompson, who come along and help at Fizz on a regular basis.

Last December we led our first Fizz Service, celebrating Christmas with the children, their families and the church congregation. This seemed to work very well, having received positive feedback from everyone involved.

Following on from our Christmas Celebration, Fizz started back in January with the theme 'Ask, Seek, Knock'. We wanted to continue sharing with the children about being able to know God, to talk with Him and know that He listens and responds.

In February we looked at Psalm 19:1, to remember that God is our creator. We introduced David as a shepherd, who loved to sing. He enjoyed God's world and when he looked at the sky, he thought, 'How wonderful God is to make the sky! The sky shows everyone how good God is.'

This led onto Psalm 23 thinking about all that God provides for us. We heard about how David led his sheep to safe pastures, providing fresh grass and water, while keeping them safe from danger. We then reflected this back to how God provides for us in our lives. Linda Withers joined us to carry out a felting activity with our older children, based on calm water from the Psalm.

During March we started to prepare for our Easter Celebration Service. We used the two weeks to look at six of Jesus' miracles, reminding the children of the amazing things he did during his life on earth. We thought about how Jesus wanted the very best for everyone, and wanted everyone to know how much God loves them. Our Easter Celebration Service took place on 9 April.

## **Mandy Smith**

### **Praise and Worship (PAW)**

Rev. Julia wished to try rebranded our All Age Worship services and they have been renamed as 'Praise and Worship'.

PAW worship happens on the 1st Sunday of each month. It continues to be regularly planned and led by a CMC team (Debbie Dawson, Ann Smallwood, Rachel Hillyard). Other members of the congregation are regularly invited and encouraged to take part too. Rev. Julia and some visiting preachers occasionally led Praise and Worship services. Each quarter, we aim to have a joint service with St. Giles, sometimes this is a Praise and Worship service.

Sadly only a few children and young people currently attend Praise and Worship services. On average there are 2 children or young people at each service, but always less than 5.

### **Shine Together**

Shine Together continues to bring together Christians who live in Copmanthorpe but who worship in a variety of churches, including CMC and St. Giles.

Shine Together is held at CMC. This year, the Shine team has remained constant.

Last year's newly introduced Bible Study option is successful and there are usually 6 or more teenagers/ young adults in attendance. On one particularly popular day, we had at least 12 young adults within this discussion group.

Since October, we have been using the published material "Get Messy!" from The Bible Reading Fellowship. This quarterly magazine sets out four different Messy Church services. This publication has suited us very well, as we have always based Shine on the Messy Church format, and the monthly suggestions have helped saved team planning time.

Shine congregations continue to be a roughly constant size with the families who attend varying from month to month. Shine is attended by families of all ages. New families have begun to attend and we also have families who have attended since the start of Shine in 2007. There is a friendly atmosphere filled with lots of children engaged in fun activities. The short time of worship feels sincere and inclusive.

### **Holiday Club 2017**

Holiday Club is organised and run by members of both CMC and St. Giles.

This year's morning club, for Infant children, is going to be "Seaside Rock" published by Scripture Union. The afternoon club, for Junior children, will again be 'Film in a week'. KangaRoos, for preschoolers and carers, will have a new format, created and led by Jacqui Duffield. Preparations for all aspects of Holiday Club are on going. We have a good committee and teams of leaders, creators and planners. Victoria Etherington will join us to help support the young adult helpers. We are always grateful for help from the congregation during the week. Look out for sign up forms!

### **Rachel Hillyard**

### **PASTORAL**

Since the last report to the General Church Meeting in April 2016 the pastoral visitors met on 11 July, 10 October, 30 November and 9 January. They are next scheduled to meet on 8 May 2017.

The Pastoral visitors are:

Susan Bowen

Derek Bowen

Mary Lukins

Margaret Pawsey

Ruth Perrott

Betty Walsh

Lynda Withers

Debbie Dawson – whom we welcomed to the team at the commissioning service in December 2016.

All pastoral visitors were commissioned at the morning service on 18 December 2016

We are pleased to have three honorary pastoral visitors, who each care for one member.

Heather Hewson

David Withers

Tim Duffy

We record our thanks to Margaret and David Owens, Margaret Sharp and Jill Blackburn for their time as pastoral visitors and who have now stepped down from the team.

The report to the General Church Meeting in April 2016 recorded 96 members. Our membership this year is 83 plus 20 on our community role and accounted for as follows:

We have said goodbye to:

David and Joyce Britton who have moved to Pickering and transferred their membership to their new church.

The following have resigned their membership:

Peter and Val Brett

Alison Cartwright

David Cartwright

Helen and Abigail Jones

Davina and Marie Abbott

Liz Stamp has been transferred to the cease to meet category but remains on the community role.

We are sad to have recorded the deaths of:

Margaret Witherick and

Jim Thomas

We welcomed into membership Jean Wilkinson who transferred to us from Melbourne Terrace and on 22 January 2017 we received Laura Gallery into membership bringing our number of members of CMC to 83.

There are 20 adults on our community role plus the young people who are not members, and who were formerly listed individually but who are now recorded alongside their member parents as a family unit.

The pastoral group have reviewed the way we welcome people on a Sunday morning. The door stewards and the welcome stewards are now combined into one group of Welcomers. The rota is managed by Ann Smallwood, with Derek Bowen as liaison. Thanks to Joan Beever and Hilary Smith for all their work over the last several years.

By request of some of the Welcomers, the pastoral group have prepared a list of duties to help them and the stewards to be more effective in welcoming people to Worship.

Pastoral Visitors have been asked to think about who might be in need of our prayers and be proactive in encouraging people to request prayer and be included in Sunday morning prayer. It was felt that Visitors know those on their lists sufficiently well to judge whether people would be happy to receive prayer without first being asked, but in cases of doubt the Visitor could telephone to ask whether someone could be placed on the sheet.

A table has been placed near the entrance door with the prayer sheet and Welcome Stewards are now asked to remind people that it is there if they wish to use it. It is also included in the weekly notices.

It has been noted that the Memorial book needs to be kept up to date and to ensure that we record those who have died with a photograph and obituary. The pastoral visitors agreed they would take this responsibility for those in their care.

The pastoral visitors continue to put forward suggestions and recommendations to the Church Council as well as consider other proposals for the care of the life of the church, and encourage the practice of fellowship through house groups and other groups, among all members of the church family, as is directed by standing orders 630,631 and 644 of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of The Methodist Church.

**Ruth Perrott**

**Pastoral Visitors Co-ordinator**

## **PROPERTY**

A busy year! Not going to review the past, it's been happening around you, so you should be aware of the changes, we're just focusing on the future in this report.

Finally, the internal storage within the building is virtually completed, just the flower arranging items which need permanent storage locations. Now storage areas need to be kept tidy and clutter will be removed! No teenage bedroom symptoms allowed.

The next tasks are to secure the internal scaffolding at the rear of the building.

There will be 2 side gates erected to keep the area secure for children to play safely outside in good weather.

The toilets will be fitted with hot air hand driers removing the bins that are frequently used to hold used nappies, an unwanted activity. They will also be cheaper overall than paper towels.

There are ongoing maintenance issues, internal and external that are being monitored but don't require immediate action.

There is an undercurrent of thoughts leading to arranging a decorating day, painting the internal walls in the lower hall + on site catering; so whether you are hot with a paint brush, praying, washing, wiping or using a frying pan or sponsoring a pot of paint; there'll be something you can contribute to our family and community premises.

Finally, have you ever considered the time, effort, commitment and dedication received by our family from the Property Team? I have! It's not all bookings, wires, cables, fabrics and furnishings, trowels, hedge trimming, cleaning or getting plastered and things with wood! YOU CAN help. The only thing you need to decide is NOT IF you have a talent you can offer, BUT WHAT talent can you offer. You are making an offer of your talent to support the Team on an ad hoc basis so they feel they have the understanding and support of everyone and are not just trying to run a community premises (with a small team who could get to feel) under undue duress. So finally I would like to thank my team of dedicated helpers who, with their quiet grace, and generous offering make the Property Secretary's life less fraught and who make our premises so well maintained and popular.

**David Withers**  
**Property Secretary**

### **WORSHIP CONSULTATION GROUP**

Meet every couple of months. Include members from various church groups and members from St Giles. Last meeting Victoria (circuit youth worker) attended.

Discussion around church activities and opportunities for the younger members of our church family. We also explore ways in which can bring the Christian message to our community. We assist with the planning of services.

Current agenda items:

- Fizz – Team go from strength to strength. Christmas service was a great success with a lovely atmosphere. Attended by many, including some fizz parents and members of the recent ALPHA group. Future activities: Fizz service April 9th (Palm Sunday)
- BBQ June 11th (Church Anniversary)
- Summer celebration for the children upstairs on July 16th
- Holiday Club - 30th July - 6th August - Meet regularly to discuss all activities during the week.
- Nativity 2017 – Lots of ideas. Philip Turner in Haxby, sent an email explaining how a group developed a Giant Advent Calendar involving all members of the community, to promote the Christian message (email can be distributed if needed).  
Andy Skitt is exploring the possibility of illuminating the church building.

It was suggested we try to get a working party together to look specifically at making Advent/nativity 2017 something very special (agenda item at PEG meeting). John Freeman would like to be included.

A team has been created to develop ideas on how we can share the Christian message during the festive period. It is an agenda item at every meeting and representatives report back.

- Teenagers – Discussion around events for teenagers. Numbers are increasing at film showing – more to be arranged. Victoria has suggested a teenager event at Xscape in Castleford, that Jacqui is offering to the youngsters.
- Youth Groups:  
Playbox is working well (Ros provides regular updates), 25 children attend.  
Shine – Discussion around format as it has been highlighted that it often finishes late and coincides with the service. Possibility of switching the worship with the activities, and breakfast later.  
More thought needed as it provides an opportunity for everyone to come together and we don't want to lose this.

Agenda items are flexible – anyone wishes to offer a subject for discussion please contact me and I would be happy to include at the next meeting

It has been suggested that it would be beneficial to have a couple more members from St Giles to participate in the group.

## **Jill Green**

### **CAMEO**

**Come and Meet Each Other.** Cameo meets bimonthly on the first Saturday of the 'even' months. It was not initially intended for the over 60s but this is how it has turned out in practice. The idea is to encourage fellowship, entertain, inform and, to a limited extent, introduce the gospel to those not connected with a church. We have had as many as twenty attend, but lately that has reduced to about a dozen, most not otherwise connected with this church.

We are so grateful to our minister, Julia, Marion, and David and Margaret Owen, who have been responsible for the catering.

Denis Sharp brings his keyboard to play and sing showtunes, pop songs etc and lead a bit of a community sing-song. On some occasions we have used the church's DVD facility to play a comedy DVD, e.g. Laurel & Hardy and Fawlty Towers. On others, members themselves have entertain with a monologue or, in the case of Ann Senior, tapdanced to the keyboard. Recently David Owen has led a short devotion, and we have asked guests to name their favourite hymn or worship song. This month we even had a visit from the vicar of St Giles.

We thank all those who contribute to this valuable outreach.

## **Denis Sharp**

### **COME 4 LUNCH**

#### **Currently**

- The monthly Come4Lunch event (first Thursday of every month) is thriving with the number of guests consistently around 30. We think a comfortable maximum capacity would be 36, so that we can get all dinners out at the 'same' time, to all guests.
- We have 17 volunteer helpers who set up, drive (we have 9 guests that need assistance to get to Come4Lunch), cook, host and clear up and each one is valuable to the lovely

welcoming atmosphere that the guests come into.

- The Food Hygiene course done 3 years ago is almost running out, so for those that need it the codes (to carry out the course online) have been bought and distributed to Come4Lunch volunteers and also to other church groups; Shine, Men's breakfast and Playbox, The courses will be monitored for completion.

## **Future**

- The grant of £1000 from Parish Council has been approved and the cheque has been banked into the restricted fund of CMC accounts. This will be used to reduce the cost to the guests (from £5 to £3.50) for the regular monthly event and for any peripheral equipment that would enhance the service.
- Alan and I went along to the Parish council AGM on 28th March to thank the Parish Council for their grant and also to report to them how Come4Lunch was doing. I also read out the following statement from one of our Come4Lunch guests. "At Come4Lunch you always get a good **welcome**. The Room is set up with flowers on the table (I think it is very **attractive**) and the food is hot and ready so that we all eat **together**. Over tea and coffee we have plenty of time to chat. It's all for £5 and you can book giving you something **to look forward to**". This report was well received and one of the Councillors personally gave us a donation of £20 towards the Come4Lunch funds.

## **Jo-Anne Travena**

### **COMMUNITY CINEMA**

The Copmanthorpe Community Cinema has had a successful year with the new screen, projector and sound system providing a high quality cinema experience. We have continued with evening screening on the 3rd Friday of the month which have attracted an average audience of around 45 people, with more popular films such as Eddie the Eagle and Florence Foster Jenkins attracting over 70. The attendance at the family matinee is around 10-20 people, who have a great time and we have recently created a family club which will allow us to advertise to members which may hopefully attract more families.

The cinema is a fantastic way to build links between our church and the community and bring many outreach opportunities. So far, we have had a dementia friendly showing of Dad's Army, two screenings for the Copmanthorpe Scout group which had the church filled with over 100 excited Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs and Brownies and a film for teenagers to tie in with the Light Party.

We received a very generous donation of £300 from Oktoberfest beer festival which will be used to buy seat cushions.

The volunteers are primarily drawn from church members and families and to encourage wider community participation we held a coffee morning in March and have just conducted a community survey (forms delivered to every house in the village) with a new volunteers evening planned for 28th April.

## **Russ Smallwood**

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

- June 16 Andy Skitt read us some of his poems and explained the reasons for him writing them - a very enjoyable afternoon.
- July 16 Outing to Fairburn Ings Trust Property. Members had a walk round and visited hides, had ice creams from shop. We were lucky to have good weather.

- Sept 16 Rev Ian Hill came and took our meeting, showing us slides mainly on trees and foliage and explaining their growth.
- Oct 16 Bob Schofield gave us a talk with slides about their trip to Canada, beautiful slides with magnificent views.
- Nov 16 Rev Julia Skitt took our meeting, prays and readings.
- Dec 16 Carol service taken by Rev Julia Skitt with St Giles Mothers' Union joining us. Andy Skitt helped with service, Bev Duffy and Doreen Schofield both sang solos. Refreshments were served.
- Feb 17 Anna Lewis talked about 6 crosses that she has collected over the years. A very good programme with readings.
- Mar 17 Meeting with afternoon tea at Bev/Tim Duffy's to celebrate Marjorie Moxon's forthcoming 90th birthday. Bev/Tim had put together lovely service around the hymn "All Praise to our Redeeming Lord". Marjorie was presented with a birthday card and flowers from members.
- April 17 Andy Skitt will give us a talk entitled "Desert Island Discs".
- May 17 Rev Julia Skitt will come to take service and give communion.

As you will see from the above programme, we have a variety of speakers plus time to chat, have a cup of tea and biscuits. Although our numbers are small, the fellowship we give to one another is great. Some of our members are now housebound; however, we try to keep in touch with them, never forgetting them in our prayers. Anyone wishing to join us would be made more than welcome.

**Margaret Pawsey**

## **COMMUNION STEWARDS**

During the year, we have enjoyed some different styles of communion, especially in the quieter evening services. The bread we use is gluten free, the invitation is to those who would like to partake so that all may be included. The bread and wine are now brought forward from the back of the Church and the table prepared for our celebration together.

Special thanks must go to retiring Communion Stewards Doreen and Judith Schofield who have organised the rota for many years. They are much missed and leave vacancies for others to join the team. Please give this your consideration, it is such a privilege to serve in this way.

**Heather Hewson**

## **HOUSE GROUPS**

### **Wednesday evening (1)**

Our Wednesday evening house group was started about five years ago by Lorraine Jones and is now coordinated by Ruth. It started with three people and now has six attendees, so there is room for anyone else who would like to join us. We meet most weeks at Derek's house and Ruth is able to host us when Derek is away. We usually follow some of the studies from our church library on different books of the Bible or sometime Biblical themes, and we can digress very easily in our discussions. In fact, it took us well over a year to get through Acts, although other studies haven't taken us quite so long. During the last year we joined in the Alpha course and have currently taken a break in our study of James to follow the Lent course on Holiness and Justice.

We believe that we have become a solid group where we can speak openly on any topics, often changing direction. But our discussions help us to explore our Christian faith, to grow in Christ,

and in allowing him to lead us in the way we live our lives. Wednesday evenings are times we can look forward to being together.

### **Wednesday evening (2)**

The Wednesday Evening House group is in its infancy as we only started meeting after Christmas. We are currently using the Methodist Lent course material 'Holiness and Justice'.

We meet from 7.30 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Tim & Bev's. The evening starts with refreshments which is also a brief social time with the group studying 'A Life worth living'.

We have not yet decided what we are going to study after Easter but we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us for Christian fellowship, friendship, bible study and prayer.

### **Wednesday evening (3)**

Following on from the Alpha course, the group has continued to meet weekly as a house group at Tim and Bev's. We have continued with Nicky Gumbel, studying Phillipians through the Life Worth Living course. The group comes together in a time of interactive prayer at the end of every meeting and shares thoughts and prayers during the week through a joint WhatsApp group.

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

The church office is now three years old, having started in April 2014. Over the last year we have welcomed Derek Horsley to the office team, but Jo Anne Travena has stepped down to concentrate on her work for Come4Lunch and we have also sadly lost Jim Thomas. The team, in addition to Derek, at present comprises Bev Duffy, Jean Haywood, Debbie Dawson, Nick Dawson and Derek Bowen.

The office was set up originally in an attempt to improve communication, and we hope that has happened. Our main task each week is to put together and print the notices, and we also deal with incoming emails, keep the noticeboards (internal and external) up to date, update the church directory, produce a monthly newsletter, try to keep you up to date with what is happening in the Circuit, and recently we have recently taken over responsibility to produce some of the rotas. We always welcome visitors on a Friday morning and several people usually pop in each week either to pass on some information, ask for some typing or photocopying to be done, find an answer to a query about something, or just for a chat.

Although there are six of us in the team, we really need more people to join us because none of the team is available every week and some can commit to only one Friday morning each month. We have occasionally over the past year had to open on a different day just because no-one has been available on a Friday. We'd love to hear from anyone who could join us on a Friday morning for two or three hours. There are always two people in the office, so you wouldn't be by yourself and, although not essential, it would help if you are happy to use the computer.

## **COPMANTHORPE CHURCHES TOGETHER**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (presented to the Annual Meeting held on 18 January 2017)**

#### **Introduction**

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the two churches in Copmanthorpe cemented many years of working informally together with the formation of Copmanthorpe Churches Together. A service took place to mark this occasion attended by Rev'd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference, Rev'd Stephen Burgess, Chair of the York and Hull District, Ven. Sarah Bullock, Archdeacon of York and members of the two churches and residents of the village of Copmanthorpe. Our Partnership Covenant was signed.

## **Partnership Enabling Group (PEG)**

The PEG was formed to oversee matters relating to Copmanthorpe Churches Together, which is responsible to the two church councils. Representatives are appointed for a period of 3 years and the position of Chair is alternated between the ministers of both churches on a meeting by meeting basis. Our church councils will reappoint members to the PEG this year.

The Membership of the PEG until 2017 is as follows:

Rev'd Julia Skitt, Methodist Minister

Rev'd Geoff Mumford, Church of England Vicar

Libby Ellin, St Giles' Church

Geoffrey Smith, St Giles' Church

Sue Jarrett, St Giles' Church

Patricia Piper, St. Giles' Church

Derek Bowen, Copmanthorpe Methodist Church

Ann Smallwood, Copmanthorpe Methodist Church

Jean Haywood, Copmanthorpe Methodist Church (Secretary)

Russ Smallwood, Copmanthorpe Methodist Church

In January, John Temple replaced Russ Smallwood as a PEG representative.

## **Activities**

The ministers regularly meet to pray and share ideas, and also meet with the ministers in Bishopthorpe LEP.

The PEG has met four times during the year

Mission Initiatives – The Mission Group decided to cease although the following projects have continued:

Light in every home

Copmanthorpe Carnival – Churches Together tent

Underwrote the Riding Lights Production – “Three Cheers for Christmas” as an outreach to the community and shared the cost of the shortfall of approximately £200

Joint Worship Consultation continues to enable worship ideas to be shared and discussed to ensure that everything works well together.

Churches Together Logo now in the notice boards

Joint Lent Course attended by around 30 people over five weeks, with a morning and evening session.

Continued to run Shine

Connect has ceased

Holiday Club

All the house groups are run under an ecumenical banner.

Three Drop and Shop/Movie Mondays have taken place during school holidays which attracts 65 children.

Good Friday service. This year there was a service at the Methodist Church with Hot cross Buns and coffee followed by a walk of witness ending with lunch at St.Giles.

Christmas Eve Village Carol Service

Light Party

Shared the cost of “Your Move” books to the sum of £120 at the request of YoYo who distributed these to Year 6 leavers during an assembly at the end of June

We held a joint harvest lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> September at St. Giles

An Alpha course was run from the home of Bev and Tim Duffy, beginning on 21<sup>st</sup> September and led by Russ Smallwood, Mandy Smith and Jill Green, under the auspices of Churches Together. An away day was held at Askham Bryan Village Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> November on the topic of the Holy Spirit.

An Ecumenical Evening was hosted by Rev'ds Geoff Mumford and Julia Skitt on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Copmanthorpe Methodist Church which was well attended by many ecumenical partnerships around the County. Revd. David Cornick the General Secretary of Churches Together in England spoke on the subject of Unity Today - what does it mean?

The two Church Treasurers have agreed to deal with the finances of the LEP by recording expenses through the year and then at the end of December, the end of the Anglican financial year, the two treasurers to calculate their expenditure and issue a balancing cheque to the church that has spent the most.

Run two membership/confirmation courses together both culminating in joint ecumenical confirmation services.

Arranged the 2017 covenant service to be also for joint confirmation and membership presided over by the Bishop of Selby.

Invited members of CMC to register on the Electoral Roll and St. Giles to become members of CMC and for the third column provided for in the constitution.

### **Plans for the coming year**

Continue with existing activities;

Continue to explore ways in which we can reach children and young people in a co-ordinated way.

Continue to find ways of socialising, worshipping and evangelising together.

Prepare a mission statement for the partnership

Keep a record of the joint membership of the partnership

It is intended to have a social outing in the summer, and plans are currently being made with the intention of visiting the Caring for Life project at Cookridge.

The village welcome pack is currently being reviewed.

The 2018 covenant service will be at St. Giles on 21<sup>st</sup> January and will be presided over by The Methodist District Chair – Leslie Newton

Continue to explore new ways of working together, which do not cause detriment to our existing regular services and attendances;

Much of what we initiate will continue to be experimental as we are aware that new ideas may not always work. It is important that we remain fluid, changes can easily be made in order to facilitate the mission imperative for which the partnership was formed.

We present this report to our partnership.

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Rev'd Julia Skitt  
Methodist Minister

Rev'd Geoff Mumford  
Church of England Vicar