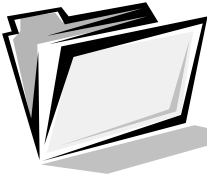
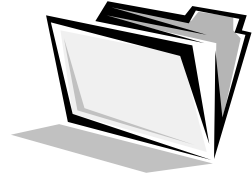


REPORTS



for



2007/8

to the

ANNUAL

CHURCH

MEETING

on

30th November

2008

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church

A G E N D A

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday November 30th 2008

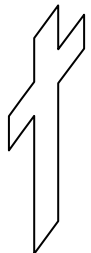
12 NOON FAITH LUNCH

1 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING
(Chaired by Revd. Jill Flowers)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Formal presentation of Reports (issued with the November Ambo)
6. Questions arising from Reports
7. Election of Officers-
 - **Church Stewards**
 - **Elected reps** to Church Council (2 vacancies)
8. 150 years celebrations
9. Church Project 2008/9
10. Holcombe
11. Date of next meeting.
12. Closing devotions/remembrances and Communion.

MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to reflect God's
love in everything we do so
that others may be encouraged
to come to faith in Christ.*



SUMMARY OF LAST CHURCH AGM

held on Sunday 25th November 2007

The proceedings commenced with a Faith Lunch at 12.00 noon. The meeting was divided into two parts.

Part A

12.45 - Our Guest speaker, Chris James spoke of the work of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance which was our current church project and illustrated his talk with a presentation followed by a Question and Answer period.

Part B

There were 69 members present and 11 apologies as recorded in the Minute Book. The Superintendent Minister, the Reverend David Watson chaired the meeting and led opening Devotions.

Good wishes had been received from Geoff Edwards (a past member).

The meeting took the following format – Apologies for absence, Adoption of Minutes, Matters Arising and Treasurer's Report delivered by Bernard. Bernard thanked from Chair for his work as Treasurer and for the detail he displays in his report.

Treasurer's Report Bernard advised that accounts had been audited and were ready for signing. Organisers of fund raising events thanked; this aided the smooth running of the finances of the church. He also mentioned reason why Gift Aid would fall in next financial year. Members of internal groups also thanked for submitting accounts. Kathy also stated that LWPT had voted to ask local Church Councils for financial support.

Adoption of Reports as presented with November's Ambo.

Election of Officers:

Resignation of 3 stewards who were thanked from the Chair and appointment of new stewards, namely Mavis and Douglas, ratified. Martin to assume the role of Senior Steward.

Elected representative to Church Council. Colin thanked for his services over past six years. Nomination for this vacancy received naming Janice. Accepted.

150 Celebrations Report received from Cathy. Team progressing with arrangements and outline of events planned for the 3 months celebration in 2009 given. Lengthy discussion ensued as to fund raising for this event and current Church Project. The latter would remain the same and 150 celebrations fund raising referred to Church Council.

Transport Meeting advised of difficulty of some members getting to church. David advised that more drivers for mini-bus needed.

Holcombe Work at Holcombe still ongoing.

Worship Consultation Open to all members and a date in New Year to be arranged.

St. Georges Fayre Colin new co-ordinator. Vote of thanks from the Chair to Marjorie for the organisation of this event in the past.

Furnishings Mike outlined progress to date. Work on this had been ongoing since 1992. Proposal that 3 pieces of furniture, namely Lectern, Font and Communion Table be purchased. Many designs on offer but existing ones on show to the church community most favourable. Resources would like new furnishings installed for 150th celebrations. Colour, height and weight were discussed. Communion table suggested would have casters on it to allow for easier movement. Debate on this subject had gone on long enough. Decision must be made. Matter referred to Church Council. Mike and his committee thanked for the extensive work done by them including visiting churches and the like in order that presentation of the facts before us could be given in such detail.

Further matter questioned was the ramp and its removal. Steps currently in situ not disabled friendly.

Vote of thanks given to Fred for the work he had done in the Church premises over the years. His expertise had been invaluable and would be sorely missed. Thanks were also given to Chair, the Rev. David Watson for leading us as a Church.

Date of next meeting 2008 (*23rd November*) subsequently moved to 30th November 2008 when similar format as that of today would be followed starting with a Faith Lunch at 12 noon.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m. followed by an epilogue, remembrances of those called to higher service during 2007 and Communion led by our own Minister the Rev. David Watson.

Full copies of the Minutes can be obtained from Janet Robins on request.

THE REPORTS

are on the following pages in alphabetical order.

The Treasurer's accounts are in a separate booklet with this issue.

C A M E O

Come And Meet Each Other

There have been less Cameo activities during the year as Marjorie and Ethne are the only planning group members.

One evening was held at the centre, with table tennis, small games and all the usual activities. A supper of Ham, Egg and Chips and Leak and Potato Soup was much enjoyed.

In December, the Carol Singing evening with refreshments was held at the earlier time of 6pm to cover an LA. This proved to be a popular change and will be repeated on December 14th.

The main event of the year was held on the early Bank Holiday Monday in May, when a large group visited the Bitton Railway Station for a combined steam train and boat ride. This was felt to be a very pleasant afternoon.

I would like to propose that Cameo should now become part of a larger Church events committee, which should take responsibility for planning whole church events, including Harvest Supper entertainment and other hospitality, like mince pies for the Carol Service etc.

Marjorie.

CHOIR

The choir continues to sing introits and anthems when appropriate - or possible! - Sunday by Sunday. Our major contribution this year was offering the cantata, 'The Crucifixion', as the focus for the worship of the church on Good Friday evening, when our numbers were augmented by members of other choirs and from around the circuit. Leslie Wilkins was the organist and David Shearn sang with the basses on this occasion, being now a regular occupant of the back seats.

As always, it would be good to welcome new members, especially as 'age and infirmities' increase. At present Randle Baskerville is recovering slowly from his second hip operation this year. We send him our love and hold him, and others, in our thoughts and prayers.

E. A. B..

GIFT AID

Thank you to all contributors who have gift aided their contributions to the Church. You can see from my report below the benefit which the Church receives from these contributions.

This time last year we expected that the tax we could reclaim would be reduced but as I reported in the October Ambo I have now been informed that we will continue to receive 28p in the £ for the next three years.

I will be pleased to hear from any tax payer who doesn't already gift aid their contributions and would now like to do so or any one who requires further information. Contributions can be made by tax payers and non tax payers alike by envelopes or bankers order. I can be contacted after Sunday service or on 01761 412837.

I should like to take this opportunity of reminding everyone that it is a requirement that pink envelopes must be **fully** completed every time with the fund, contributors number or name and address and date and this includes retiring collections.

Thank you all once again for your continuing support.

Gift Aid for the tax years	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
No of Active Long Term Declarations in force	106	101	98
Net Increase (Decrease) during year	5	3	(8)
<i>Est. No. of Individuals included in LTD</i>	140	134	125
Amount Gift Aided Weekly/Monthly	£36098	£34089	£32982
Amount per declaration	£341	£338	£336
Amount per Individual	£258	£254	£264
Total amount Gift Aided (inc one off appeals using pink/gift day envelopes)	£41954	£39475	£38944
Total Tax recovered (after Admin)	£11577	£10871	£10780

*Ann,
Gift Aid Secretary.*

GUILD

The Guild enjoyed a highly successful year with a good mix of secular and religious speakers. Sixteen meetings were held during the session and the average attendance was 25, which is a slight improvement on recent years.

The annual lunch, followed by the Annual General Meeting, was held at the Old Mendip Inn. It was resolved to increase our donations to the Church and to the Nigerian Health Care charity. Eight new members were formally welcomed at this event. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and church membership is not a prerequisite. You may come for the odd talk, if the subject appeals to you, or as often as you like. Be assured of a warm welcome. Please enquire at Reception for our programme.

Brian.

JAM CLUB

Jesus And Me

We are now in our fifth year and current numbers meeting each week are 10. We were pleased to see that 5 of our members moved on up to Monday Club, and we were able to introduce 5 more youngsters to our Thursday evening slot.

Programmes are concentrated mainly on crafts, games, story-time and singing, which involve a certain amount of discipline and sharing with each other. We believe they learn a great deal of skills by taking part in these activities. Their eagerness to come is evident and the new members are quite happy to be helped by their 'senior' friends and it is a joy to see how well they have integrated in just a few weeks.

During the year we have had trips out to the Zany Zone, the Park and Swimming Pool where they really let off steam. It is heart warming to see them grow in confidence. Like most children they are always hungry and if we started with the refreshment break they would be quite happy! There is always room for more members. 5 year olds are fun to work with.

Janet, Jill, Charlene and Jack.

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

The Group (now three years old) continues to meet monthly and friends from St John's have now joined us.

In September, as in 2007, we met for a cooked breakfast at Radstock's Tea & Trade Tea Rooms – normally only a DIY continental fare at the Methodist Centre.

Our speakers have served us well – the group endeavours to face and discuss the issues of the day from a Christian perspective. Feedback received indicates that generally the events are well received. Topic summaries are from time to time placed in the *Ambo*.

Issues covered included 'global warming, where are the men in the church today, faith education in secondary schools and local community issues'. Next month, the subject is the 'credit crunch and how it affects us all'. See you there, men!

David.

MONDAY CLUB (1)

(School years 3 to 5)

We have a regular attendance of about 15 children. Evenings vary but usually include team games and challenges. Often we follow a theme for the night, such as "Brotherly Love" (a look at relationships with siblings) or The Good Samaritan (how children can help others). Other evenings are occupied playing games which gives an opportunity for the children to chat freely with the leaders as they challenge us to games of Uno, air hockey and the like.

During the summer months we have more outdoor orientated activities such as scavenger hunts, visits to the play-park and a rounders match. Once a term we have a collage evening and the children enjoy chatting whilst sticking or painting items for the display board.

The children are keen to attend and often reluctant to leave at the end of an evening. At the end of this school year a large portion of the club will move up to Group 2 and we will be left with a much smaller group. If you know of any young children of the correct age who would like to visit and give the club a try, please invite them. They will be most welcome.

Cathy.

MONDAY CLUB (2)

Sixteen members aged from 10-16 regularly attend the Monday Club 2 group. This year we have again been able to form three teams of leaders, in order that not every leader is required each week:

Kathy, Jane, Jeremy.

Carol, Marilyn, Jeremy,

Jane, Marjorie, Jeremy.

Jim is also able to help out from time to time.

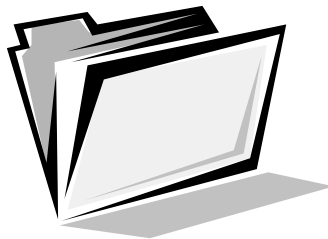
Most meetings are held at the Church Centre, but occasional visits out have been made to Ten Pin Bowling at Longwell Green, Swimming at Bath Sports Centre, Cheddar and Skittles, Darts and Snooker at the Red Lion, Paulton.

Craft evenings have been particularly enjoyed. These have included card and jewellery making, woodwork, stained glass windows, decoupage and cooking. Sugar-craft cake decorations will be coming shortly.

During the summer, there were activities on the school field, concluding with a barbecue on July 19th, when an opportunity to take part in archery was led by Jack Robins.

Offers of leadership from the under fifty age-group are strongly invited, so that Kathy, Carol, Marilyn and Marjorie can happily retire. Another male leader would be particularly welcomed to give Jeremy some moral support and a rest from time to time.

Marjorie.



SCENES

Supporting Church Editors in NE Somerset

We had 4 meetings last year with attendances ranging from 4 to 9 [viz. 4, 8, 9, 5]. When new members arrive time is taken for introduction and a brief résumé of how magazines are prepared, printed and distributed. This often highlights an area where further discussion helps members find various ways to improve how they work.

At two meetings there were editors new to Microsoft Publisher programme [at the last meeting one still had to produce her first magazine!] so a fair part of the meetings were spent giving advice and training on how to use the programme and how it can assist specifically with magazine production.

Time was also spent explaining the initial concept of ACE [Association for Church Editors] to help 'lonely' editors with conferences, workshops, competitions and setting up local groups. Those who have gone to the ACE meetings have often changed the way their magazines are produced from what they learn there. I certainly have in the past.

It would be nice to have more coming to the meetings and I hope, with the new circuit set up, some more from Bath will come [we already have the editor from Beechen Cliff, Bath and Keynsham], although it is, of course, open to any denomination. So if you come across a church editor, please tell him/her of ACE and SCENES.

Our next meeting is **Thursday 5th February 2009, 7.30 p.m.** at our Church Centre. At this meeting I propose to raise the matter of someone arranging another editors' workshop similar to the one I did in 2007. With new people to editing magazines and a combination of folk from a wider area, some with several year's experience and 1 or 2 outside speakers we could have an excellent day.

In the meantime, as I always say, IT IS YOUR MAGAZINE so please pass me items of interest, keep me up to date with what YOU are doing, and pass me those funny stories. Please, remember however, you cannot copy items from another publication without the written permission of that editor/publisher. If you do, I won't use it!

Martin.

SERVICE TEAM

The Service Team remains in make up as per the last report. In common with many, we all remain busy, both on Service Team matters and other commitments, in church, in community and charity work, as well as family responsibilities.

Although not strictly in the Service Team remit, I would like to place on record Martin's sterling work as editor of the church newsletter. Over the years, the monthly Ambo has proved to be a valuable vehicle of communication, not only for church members and friends but in the wider community, through various outlets around the town where folk congregate - surgeries, the library etc. Thank you, Martin.

Most of our Service Team activity centres around the Church Project which last year was the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. This current year is the eighth and our very worthy cause is 'Send a Cow'. A charity for which Brian Broome is one of their officially appointed Church Representatives. Brian has promoted their cause for many years and regularly attends briefings and retreats at the SaC headquarters. Our monetary totalliser is already at an encouraging level and all fund-raising ideas are welcome

We see this year ahead as a bit more of a challenge to achieve a high result. The credit squeeze will affect us all to some degree and we have special 150th Celebrations in 2009. Perhaps we should break with agreed convention and consider running our Project into a second year. Please do give all activities prayerful thought with this aspect in mind.

The door to the role of Convenor is still open. Any offers?

Diary Dates:

Saturday 6th December - Town Centre Christmas Shopping Day (a change from the usual Friday evening, decided by the Town Council/ Chamber of Commerce). Our Centre open for Charity Stalls and Refreshments 9am - 12 noon - profits to Church Project.

Thursday 18th December 7.30pm - Christmas Carol Concert with Midsomer Norton & Radstock Silver Band and Chilcompton Ladies Choir leading community carol singing. Free entry, collection for Church Project.

Saturday 4th April 7pm - Organ Concert by Mark Ireland. A selection of music for all tastes on the church organ and Mark's own portable organ.

Other dates being finalised - watch for details!

John.

STEWARDS

The stewards' main task is to ensure everything is ready for worship before each service. One steward is assigned to 'Vestry Duty' to be with the minister/preacher, whilst the others check all is well as the congregation arrives. Following services they ensure all the premises are secure before alarming the centre and leaving. They also have duties such as to prepare for Gift Day, the AGM and decorating the Christmas Tree.

The stewards' work is assisted by having 'book stewards' who hand out all that is needed for each service and 'welcomers' who greet folk as they arrive. We thank these important people for their commitment as rostered.

This year the stewards became responsible for dealing with the collection, locking it away after services and then the counting and banking; an additional duty usually each Monday morning.

In our 3 or 4 meetings a year we have considered an extra one or two stewards would be a benefit, and so we ask you consider putting your self forward for this work. I have given notice that I do not intend to stand as a steward again at the AGM, so the need for others is more urgent.

Please give your prayerful support to this situation and for those who continue to serve you week by week.

Martin.

TODDLERS

Unfortunately, due to falling numbers, we closed toddlers at the end of July 2008.

A big THANK YOU to all the tea ladies for their tea making and support over the years, and everyone else who has been involved over the years, THANK YOU.

Charlene.

TUESDAY STOP-OFF

Once again, it has been a very busy and successful year at Stop-off. We made a slight alteration to last year in that there were no meals during August. This year it was decided by a few willing helpers that it would be nice to provide tea and coffee to those patrons who would like to bring their own food. This enabled some of our helpers and visiting friends to converse and get to know each other better. This was certainly appreciated by the visitors that came and also it was a rest for the helpers. I would personally say a big 'Thank You' to all who came to help

As a result of all the hard work over the year we were able to give the church £10,000 and the successful Christmas Meal resulted in £440 going to the Church Project - Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Our thanks, once again, go to the members of the Monday Youth Club and their leaders who set up the hall ready each week with tables and chairs in place - a great help.

We would invite all friends new to the area to come along on Tuesdays to enjoy a meal and good company.

Finally, my thanks to all our willing helpers. Anyone who would like to join them will be assured of a warm welcome!

Fred.

WHIST CLUB

The Whist Club still enjoys their regular, pleasant and friendly Friday afternoons. We should be pleased to see anyone who would like to join us at 2pm.

Fred.

WIVES' GROUP

On the whole it has been a very good year for us all at Wives. Thanks, once again, and I never tire of saying it, to the efforts of our committee who continue to put together a varied and interesting programme. Those ladies are: Doreen, Eileen, Ann, Maureen, Mary, Lorraine. They do all the hard work and make my job very easy.

During the year we lost one of our loyal members, Freda, but she did manage to attend the Annual Wives' Groups Carol Service, which we hosted at High Street. Such a busy evening, and well attended from across the groups. Once again our ladies worked hard in making sure all went well.

As the season drew to a close, we managed to salvage a dry afternoon in the garden of Mary & Keith and had a good Beetle Drive, maybe with a slight change of rules! but good fun all the same. Many of us enjoyed an evening in the nursery garden of Tor Hole Plants, the home of Lesley Irving, followed by an enjoyable supper - well worth a visit.

During this time Janet has been our 'David Bailey' - she did offer! So some of the good times we have will be seen in next years' 150th anniversary celebrations.

Ann has some lovely photos of the coffee evening she and Rex held in their garden at the end of the summer, so lucky for the weather! And of great support to us, of course, thanks also to Eunice for helping them both.

Our thanks to all our ladies for their attendances.

Helen.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP & NETWORK

We have had another good year with our fortnightly Tuesday meetings. As usual these have been varied with differing speakers - some humorous and some more serious. Our 'do-it-yourself' afternoons have also proved very popular.

Membership has kept up, and we have been pleased to welcome some new faces among us. There is plenty of room for more! You will find a good welcome. Our average attendance is 30.

This year we raised £2,786.76. This include £433.50 raised by Easter Offering Envelopes and the Network Mission Boxes contributing £561.33. Thank you to all support these money-raising efforts, and also to Pearl and Madge, who sort

our the finance. We also hold a Bring & Buy Stall for Network Funds 3 or 4 times a year. These raised £112.50 last year. Apart from Network we support other charities including Church Project, Friends of Paulton Hospital, Community Service Vehicle, Alzheimer's Society etc.

We also support the Circuit, Bath Section and District Network events. These are usually very well worthwhile attending. Thanks to all who helped last June, when the District Day was held at Norton. We must remember to steer clear of the Glastonbury Festival in future!

Do remember, all women within the Methodist family belong to Network. Men are also very welcome to any events - we are not sexist!

Thanks to all the Fellowship Officers and members, who help and support in so many ways.

Jean.

WORSHIP GROUP

Members of the group: Rev. Jill Flowers, Margaret, Madge, Marjorie, Douglas, Janice, Jane, Alastair and Julie.

Minute secretary: Janice.

Initiatives introduced during the year:

1. Music group involvement was changed from the first to the fourth Sunday in the month, in order not to clash with communion services. The group now plays for all hymns in the service, with the organist (Simon) on the keyboard.
2. Café Style services are being held bi-monthly at 6pm. Invitations will be issued each time to less regular attenders.
3. Lunch-time services at 1pm on the first Mondays and Thursdays of the month began in July and are being led by Jean, Viv, Kathy, Jill, Marjorie, Jackie, and Olga.
4. Oasis will take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 1pm. November leader: Jill and December, Jean.
5. A Sunday afternoon workshop is planned for November 23rd at 2.45pm, with activity groups preparing contributions for the evening service. There will be a 'bring and share' tea.
6. A letter has gone out to all leaders of evening services, inviting them to vary the style of evening worship, rather than repeat the morning style.
7. Damian Knollys, Head of Midsomer Norton Primary School has accepted an invitation to speak at the Education Sunday service on February 8th 2008.

8. The programme of special preachers and services for the 150th anniversary year in 2009 is as follows:

April 19th: The Reverend Ward Jones

April 26th: Songs of Praise

June 7th: The Reverend Paul Smith (Plymouth Central Hall)

June 21st: The Reverend Douglas Brewer.

June 28th: The Reverend Tom Stuckey (Former President of the Methodist Conference)

September 20th: The Right Reverend Peter Price (Bishop of Bath and Wells)

Other invitations are going out for May 10th and 17th and July 19th.

Any further suggestions for enhancing the worshipping life of the Church will be welcomed and carefully considered by the Worship Group.

Marjorie.

YOUTH CHURCH

This year our numbers have remained constant around the 50 mark ranging in age from a few months to 18 year olds. We have continued our format of:

First Sunday Youth Church

Second Sunday Breakfast Praise followed by Activities

Third Sunday All Together Worship

Fourth Sunday Youth church

We have continued the group for teenagers on a Sunday morning although with David and Denise leaving we are short of a leader for one Sunday a month. Any willing volunteers please?

Charlene and Sue continue to look after the infants, with Sarah overseeing the crèche with the help of Kerrie when needed.

The Sunday evening Pizza eating, oops sorry, young peoples discussion group is now well established and flourishing thanks to Jill and John.

Thank you to every one who leads groups or helps with Youth Church. We can always use extra help if there is anyone out there who would like to work with our young people on a Sunday or during the week.

Helen.

