

REPORTS
for
2009/10
to the
Annual General
Meeting
on
21st November
2010



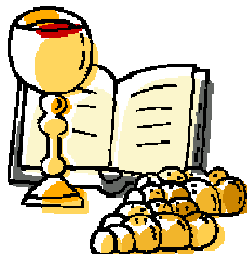
Agenda

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday November 21st 2010

12 noon FAITH LUNCH

1 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING (Chaired by Rev. Barry Bishop)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Minister's report
5. Senior Steward's Report
6. Vision for the future - discussion time
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Formal presentation of Reports
(issued with the November Ambo) inc. Holcombe
9. Questions arising from Reports
10. Election of Officers-
 - 3 Church Stewards
11. Church Project 2010/11
12. Worship items
13. Date of next meeting.
14. Closing devotions/remembrances and Communion.



Summary of Last Church AGM

held on Sunday November 22nd 2009.

The proceedings commenced with a Faith Lunch at 12 noon followed by the general business meeting at 1p.m,

There were 63 members present and 10 apologies.

Reverend Barry Bishop was in the chair and led opening devotions.

The meeting took the following format – Adoption of Minutes, Matters Arising. Resignation of John Bridges as convenor of Service Team noted and thanks tendered for all his efforts for the many and various acts of service carried out by him.

Treasurer's report. Members of internal groups thanked for submitting accounts on time and church members thanked for fund raising efforts both organisers and supporters alike. Special thanks made to Ann Chard and Daniel Shearn for work done in connection with Gift Aid, Peter Butterfield as Assistant Treasurer and Receptionists for managing lettings. Purchase of Risograph and colour photocopier for £2,075 mentioned, Deficit noted which was likely to increase. Unanimous vote of thanks given to Bernard and Carol for the many hours they worked in order to safeguard our finances.

Matters highlighted were Bernard's resignation with effect from November 2010 and how to boost our income. A need to raise awareness of this, to all. Barry to convene a meeting to this effect.

Adoption of Reports as presented with November's Ambo formally accepted. Matters highlighted were – Open the Book has completed 12 months. Action for Children had raised total amount of £702, during 2009 and Stop Off had had 2 more offers of help. Question of value of reports questioned. Considered opinion of all that reports from each and every organisation/activity in church have an important function and speak of what and where we are as a church community. The subject of AOB was raised. Chair pointed out that this was not a normal function for this meeting.

Election of Officers – representatives to Church Council. Two nominees named, namely David Shearn and Rob Edge. Carried.

Learning Nurture and Evangelism . Jean Cowley gave a résumé as to this post. Position of Convenor still vacant, as was position of Gift Aid Secretary. We were urged to pray about these vacancies. Implementation of Job Descriptions suggested.

Harvest Supper. A need to incorporate more people into this celebration. Barry to action.

150 Celebrations. Barry had visited church and was very impressed. Publicity excellent. Thanks to Cathy Edge the convenor of whole event tendered.

HOLCOMBE Barry highlighted Hands and Hearts, Quiet time with pastoral care taking place plus breakthrough with Anglican Church who now wanted to work with us. Hopefully this would include both Holcombe and Coleford. Thanks to Mike Evans for his tireless work with that community.

Stewards' report. Douglas Hooper, senior steward, commented on work done by property committee during year. He reported that 1,000 came to exhibition alone and highlighted splendid preaching during celebrations, all in house, with exception of Bishop Peter. David Watson had settled in well since retiring. and felt that note should be made of extensive work undertaken by Jill Flowers both as acting superintendent minister and latterly minister of our own church. A warm welcome given to Barry and Ann. Reminders that we are an ageing membership so were delighted to welcome two young members, namely Kerrie Green and Rachel Edge. He concluded by thanking all stewards, and a reminder that we need to look outwards and look at the public face of the church we present..

Movement of chairs, environmental issues and carbon footprint raised. Referred to Church Council.

Date of next meeting 21st November 2010 when same format would be followed.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm following reflection by Barry, remembrances of those called to higher service during 2009 and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Reflection. Welcome given - a good sign; we are a jewel in the MENDIPS for Baptisms, weddings and funerals, an important service. People look to us as their spiritual home. How we present ourselves is very important. We must work towards being the best Church for God.



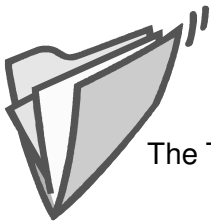
WANTED for CHURCH

New Stewards

are required from this
AGM.

A Nomination Form is with
this report, more are on the
Newsletter stand.

Please use them to ask
someone and then to put
their name forward.



The Reports

follow and are in alphabetical order.

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

Action For Children



This year the Sponsored walk was slightly different as we walked firstly with Monday Club and secondly on a Saturday walk led by Dee Baker. This made a nice change and we feel that it was well supported raising a total of £407.10 We have the continued support of members with Home Boxes, plus we sell a few Christmas Cards at the Dickensian evening. And, of course the Christmas Day collection is partly given to Action for Children.

So all in all MSN Methodists have raised for Action for Children, in excess of £900.00 in this financial year, so well done everyone.

Carol and Marilyn.

C A M E O



We continue to meet for occasional Friday evening social get-togethers with supper, Sunday evening carols in the hall, skittles at the cricket club and a May Day walk. All these events were well supported last year.

A conversation at the end of one evening between Audrey and Molly, who also attend Tuesday Stop Off, confirmed that such get-togethers are worthwhile.

Audrey, "We've had a good evening, haven't we?"

Molly, "Yes we have. I've really enjoyed it. I love coming down here."

PS Molly is moving towards her 101st birthday.

Marjorie.

Choir



The choir continues to offer introits regularly at morning services and occasional anthems when appropriate - or when possible!

BUT, and here comes the moot question, can the choir fulfill a useful role? With the loss of our dear friend Jean Wilkins last year, the lack of a 'balance' of voices is even more glaringly obvious; and it is becoming more impossible to offer a wide range of music, as in times past. We are so grateful to Margaret Dawe, our choir director, and to our organists, Les Wilkins, David Shearn, John Mander, Simon Knight and Madge Gilson, for conducting and accompanying us over the years and attending our regular practices so faithfully. But do we have a future?

Would some people, who would love to use their voices in leading worship, but who cannot attend regular practices be interested in joining a special choir which would be convened on special occasions?

We need your voices, urgently, otherwise we may find our present choir just fizzling out - not even with a bang, but with a whimper.

E. A. B.

GIFT AID SECRETARY



Thank you to all contributors who gift-aid their contributions to the Church and for your continuing support.

You can see from my report below the benefit which the Church and Charities receive from your contributions.

Gift Aid for the tax years	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
CHURCH GENERAL FUND			
Gift Aided Weekly/Monthly Receipts	£35,255	£36,020	£36,098
Gift Aided Gift Day + St Georges Fayre	£ 3,034		
	£38,289		
+ Gift Aid reclaimed	£10,589		
Total from Gift Aided General Fund	£48,878		
CHARITY FUNDS			
Gift Aided Receipts	£ 2,337		
+ Gift Aid reclaimed	£ 625		
Gift Aided Contributions	£ 2,962		
Overall value of GA giving	£51,840	£53,667	53,531
<i>Total Gift Aided (incl special appeals)</i>	<i>£40,626</i>	<i>£42,037</i>	<i>£41,954</i>
<i>Total Tax Recovered after admin costs</i>	<i>£11,214</i>	<i>£11,630</i>	<i>£11,577</i>

I will be pleased to hear from any tax payer who doesn't already gift aid their contributions and would now like to consider doing so, or have further information.

As a new secretary may I please remind everyone who uses the Pink Gift Aid envelopes, available in the church for special appeals, that I really do need your **name or number** in order to reclaim tax **and if the fund you wish to support is not indicated** at the top of the envelope **your gift may not be applied as you intend** but passed to the General Fund.

My thanks on behalf of all the fellowship, to my predecessor, Ann Chard, who carried out this role for a number of years in such a friendly and efficient manner for us all.

Rod. Gift Aid Secretary

01761 413977 or at Church, I'm sure any steward will point me out if I'm there.

Guild



The new session 2010-2011 started in September as usual. We meet every fortnight on a Monday at 4pm, apart from the evening at 6pm when we join forces with the Youth group for a special time.

Many speakers, from all walks of life and professions, were invited during the 2009-2010 session. For instance in November we were taken on a trip down the Amazon with Prof. Douglas Hooper. March then saw us being inspired by the work of ADD and Mike Evans' visit to Zambia. Leading into Easter, we were treated to an evening of meditation and music with readings by some members of Guild, led by David Sackett.

There is an optional request to pay £1.50 per session. It is not intended to make a profit, but it covers donations we may make to some speakers who support a certain cause.

In the summer months some members invite us to their home and refreshments, and Bring & Buy sales from these go to a charity chosen by the host/hostess.

The Guild is open to all. Why not give us a try? You would receive a very warm welcome.

Many.

Jam Club [Jesus And Me]



We are now in our seventh year and our numbers are down to 7; all very interested however, and constant in attendance. We are hoping that when the Toddler group starts up again we shall recruit more members from that source.

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.

For our story-time sessions we have been travelling around the towns and villages that Jesus visited, with relevant stories and parables. The children completed the map by picking out the characters from a 'sticker book' and pasting them in the places on the map that we had talked about.

We have also celebrated World Peace Day, Children in Need and enjoyed carnival celebrations. Christmas saw us making decorations, cards and candle holders, whilst sausage and chip teas are very popular and we have also been out to the Zany Zone, the Park, school fields and Swimming Pool where they really let off steam. It is heart-warming to see them grow in confidence. There is always room for more members. 5yr-olds are fun to work with.

We have been sorry to say goodbye to Jack who was the brave male member on our team but have been pleased to welcome Jasmine who is a great help to us.

Janet, Charlene, Carol and Jasmine.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship



This ecumenical group, now in its sixth year, meets usually on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month (excluding July and August) at either the Methodist Centre or St. John's Church Hall. The meetings are advertised in the *Journal*, Church magazines and more recently on Somer Valley 97.5FM through the good offices of Julian Sheppard (Religious Features Editor).

Attendees enjoyed a 'full English' back in September in the Centre (thank you, Kathy & Helen!) but it's usually a 'help-yourself' occasion.

The Group aims to face the 'issues of the day' from a Christian perspective and invites speakers who are knowledgeable in their field to do just that. There is an occasional discussion session.

In the next three months, Norman Voake, Rev Mike Howells of Welton Baptist and Mike Priscott from Bath have agreed to come and speak. A welcome to all men continues to be extended!

David.

Mini-Bus Service



The minibus is still proving to be an asset for many members of our Church.

We are usually full to capacity, and members enjoy the opportunity to see and chat with one another en route.

A big 'Thank You' to all escorts and Martin Dymond our resident driver, also to David Handover, who helps us out when Martin isn't available.

Carol.

Monday Club 2



During the year we said farewell and thank you to leaders Carol Price, who joined Jam Club, and Jane Potter, who was unable to continue, due to work commitments. We were delighted that Dee Baker, Linda Dunford and James Roberts agreed to become leaders.

Several new members moved up from Monday Club 1 and others (like Alison Mander, who has gone to university) left, so our numbers have remained constant at around 17.

The evenings have been varied, with members taking part in various crafts, games, challenges and visits.

In addition to those already mentioned, thanks are due to Jeremy Moore, Kathy Dymond, Marilyn Weeks for organisation and leadership.

Marjorie.

O T B [Open The Book]

This year has seen a consolidating of our outreach to Longvernal School, where we have been made to feel part of the family. We were welcomed to Christmas Presentations, fund-raisers and the leavers' service

We have used the children for speaking parts by having prompt cards for them to read from as the rest of us do.

Anne Bishop has been a new member to our team on a 'need to have someone extra basis', not like most of us, who are weekly regulars.

Last year we did part of year 3 material but this year we started with year 1 material, which took from Genesis, with selected stories, through the Bible to Jesus' Ascension.

Kathy.

SCENES

Under the umbrella of ACE [Association for Church Editors], SCENES [Supporting Church Editors in NE Somerset] has met 3 times - October '09, February and June in 2010. The February meeting was at Beechen Cliff as Ruth had transport difficulties and to try to attract more from that side of the area. As said last year the main problem is attracting members and getting them all to the same meeting. Often we have only 4/5 there.



However, two new folk came in October, one from Oldfield Park Methodist as it was moving to Southdown and Helen as she is doing the Circuit Magazine. Also, I was contacted by an ex-editor who would be interested in a workshop, if we ran one - and he has now come to our church, having moved into Welton!

The June meeting was sad to learn that Dave Neighbour had resigned as Editor at St. Nicholas, Radstock [and has subsequently moved to pastures new at Blue Anchor, near Minehead].

Most meetings discussed some aspect of magazine production in particular the use of Desktop Publishing, with me using laptop and projector to give what advise and suggestions I could.

We also discussed the e-mails between ACE and me about local groups and the setting up of a workshop in our area. But the fruit of that will be in 2010/11 so you'll have to watch *The Ambo* for details when anything is arranged.

However, in the meantime if you come across a church Editor, ask if he/she knows of ACE, and, if within say a 20 mile radius, tell them of our local group - by all means give my name and tel no./e-mail address.

Finally, keep bringing back magazines from other churches and thank you for those received in the past year.

Martin.

Service Team



The final figure for the 2009/10 Church Project for the Churches Relief Fund was **£3265**. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

The Service Team has had very positive feedback from the Midsomer Norton Forum for the involvement of the Methodist Church members during the year; in particular with the flower display and hanging baskets (three of which had been kindly sponsored by members) and the new watering systems.

During the year, there was a concert in March with The Brue Boys, the very successful Edwardian Tea Garden, held in the Hollies in June, organised by Linda Dunford and her band of helpers, who also ran the Messy Church Stall at the official opening of the new skate park at Somer Park, in July. Sincere thanks to all members of the team and Linda Dunford and helpers for the hard work throughout the year.

The fund raising for this year's project, Greenhill House, The Cheshire Home at Timsbury, has started with the Sponsored Walk by Martin Dymond, Carol Price, Linda Dunford and John Baker.

Future events include:

- ◇ A spring concert being arranged for Sat. 16th April by Martin Dymond.
- ◇ Women's Fellowship is arranging an Open Meeting on April 5th 2010 with Ann Chinca talking about the work at the home.
- ◇ The service team will be serving refreshments in the Centre, with Charity stalls selling their wares as a part of the Town's Lantern Evening 3rd December. All proceeds will be for the project.

It is hoped several residents from Greenhill, will be able to join in with the congregation during the year to enjoy and be involved with as many activities of Church life as possible.

Jenny.

SMASH



SMASH is still out there even though you may rarely see it (unless you are invited to lead a session!). We have been meeting once a month as usual, with varying attendances owing to family and other commitments, but have tackled such topics as Politics, Marriage and the Role of the Carer. Often they are topical as this Sunday (17th October - date of this report) we look at the Anglican/Catholic divide when a church in Kent has voted to transfer to Rome over the issue of women bishops. In November we tackle Euthanasia again (not literally!) with Jill Souter.

On the purely social side many of the group (without its older members) spent their usual weekend at Swanage in July and the August barbecue was nearly dry(!)

Next year we plan to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Visitors are welcome!

At least one of its older members wishes SMASH could be more a part of the main church meeting Sunday by Sunday; but there does seem to be a noticeable widening of the generation gap which she feels ought to be faced and addressed by the church as a whole.

Nevertheless, on the bright side, some burning issues are being regularly considered from a Christian viewpoint. We look forward in hope to 2011.

Dianne.

Stop -Off



These lunches, on Tuesdays, continue to thrive so that we need 10/11 tables out each week. Team leaders are: week 1 - Una Sykes, week 2 - Cyril Green, week 3 Kathy Dymond, week 4 - Marjorie Gilson. We alternate on a 5th week.

We started the year with Colin, from Connexions, helping with the washing-up, but he has had to drop out and now we have Paul and his carer helping us which is greatly appreciated. Our other younger volunteer, to do the teas most weeks, is Callum McCausland.

As we are, in the main, retired folk doing these lunches we have lost team members through ill-health and death. One that ought to be recorded is Jack Robins who gave many hours at the potato machine, dish-washer and his computer. We have only found temporary help to cover his work. Marilyn Weeks had already joined Kathy's team being short as Heather had baby Thomas and Judy Brixey with a shoulder problem.

The Christmas Lunch was on 2nd Tuesday in December and, as usual, it went well. Because the regular customers miss it so much, we did open for soup and drinks the following week.

Then, in August, we did a mini-Stop-Off with just things such as Ploughman's and Bacon Butties on offer as this takes much less preparation and

clearing up. We still had 30/40 customers come each week.
The money raised last year amounted to £10,100.
Thank you to all who give their time and talents so freely.

Kathy .

Tuesday Housegroup



The Tuesday House Group held their first meeting of the year at 4 Pinewood Grove on the 23rd February 2010. This session followed the ecumenical Lent Course and proved to be very helpful with a weekly average attendance of 10.

This autumn, the group will be studying the role of women in the Bible both in the Old and New Testaments starting with Ruth & Naomi and ending with Lydia. These prepared studies will cover the first six weeks with the last two weeks being devoted to preparations for Advent focusing on Mary the mother of Jesus and her cousin Elizabeth.

Norman.

Wives' Group



I like to think we have had an enjoyable year, once again, at 'Wives'. A good mixture of speakers were brought to us by a fantastic 'team', and I make no apologies in naming them, again, because they make my 'job' a pleasure. They are Doreen Dando, Maureen Eyles, Kay Greening, Mary Attwood, Lorraine Clark - thanks to them. Many attended Radstock Church for the Annual Carol Service. The Ladies' Fellowship Xmas dinner was enjoyed and appreciated by many of us. Joyce Bee kindly keeps us informed with District News and meetings and some of us attend when possible - thank you, Joyce.

We joined, as many did, for the 'birthday' tea, in congratulating the Ladies Fellowship on many years of fellowship. Thanks go to the ladies who come along to our meetings, and for continuing to do so, and also to the willing band of drivers when we need to get to places. Also to Ann and Rex Pearce for another coffee evening during the summer; I say another, as it's been a number of times, now. It involves a lot of hard work.

We must mention the 'special guest' we had at our last but one meeting, in May. A beautiful guide dog, well in training, called Tom and his trainer, Lin joined us - as I write he is about to become a 'proper' Guide Dog for the Blind - it's not often we get a four-legged friend!

Helena.

Women's Fellowship



Our numbers have remained steady during the year with an average of 25 members at each meeting. We have gained new members, mainly from new ladies moving into Church Court, although we have lost some members by death.

Our speakers have given a wide selection of topics, some humorous, others more serious. The Timsbury Ladies' Choir gave us a lovely afternoon of singing interspersed with Tap Dancing.

The Highlight of the year was our 50th anniversary celebrations in June.

During the summer break we had lovely weather for our visit to Chew Valley Lake with a cream tea at the Cafe. We are grateful to Martin who drove the Community Bus on this occasion.

Although some of our members are now housebound we have two members who visit them regularly to show they are not forgotten. The group is loyal and caring of each other and it is a great pleasure to be part of it.

Joyce.

Worship Group



The group has met regularly during the year, to plan for the usual annual events and to make some changes to existing arrangements, which we hope will enhance our worship. The main items discussed are listed below.

Breakfast Praise – Gener8

We felt that our monthly early family worship was not necessarily continuing to cater for the needs of families with young children and considered a move to an afternoon “Messy Church”. The results of a questionnaire indicated that a move to an afternoon session would not necessarily be popular, so we made a compromise and extended the morning time from 9.30 to 11 am, with refreshments afterwards – not breakfast before. This now gives us a longer time to take part in a choice of activities, leading to a Bible story and family worship to finish. The indications are that this is going to work well, with much more interaction between families. We are very grateful to all those who have agreed to lead activities once or twice a year.

Advent Worship Workshops

These worked well and led to a worthwhile evening service, with a singing group, worship flags, drama etc. making a valuable contribution.

Junior Church Christmas Morning Service.

About 22 young people took part in “Born in a Barn” and performed to a high standard. This was very well received by the congregation.

Education Sunday – February 2010

We were fortunate to hear some of Peter Beavan’s hopes and aims for Norton Hill and Somervale Schools.

The Covenant Service

This has been returned to September to coincide with the beginning of the Methodist year.

Easter Events

A service was held on each evening during the week leading up to Good Friday and Barry would like this pattern to continue. In future we will invite the Radstock congregation to join us on Maundy Thursday (in consultation with their Minister.)

Good Friday evening.

The production of Godspell was very successful and well supported by our congregation and visitors. It is hoped to do a similar performance next year, possibly with some help from other Churches in the town.

Suggested pattern on Easter Day 2011

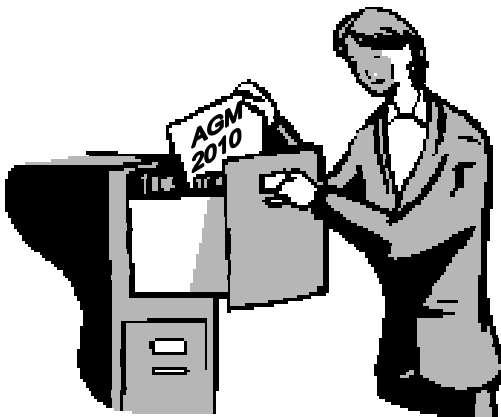
6am daybreak service in the Hollies Gardens followed by breakfast. 8am Communion, 10.30am Family Praise, 6pm Service with Communion.

All-Age Worship (from January)

This will continue to take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month, with music from our own worship band. **Alternative Praise** will be on the 4th Sunday evening, possibly with a small music “ensemble” (This is being investigated)

Marjorie.

That’s all the Reports submitted for this year’s AGM



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.*

