

REPORTS
for
2010/11
to the
Annual General
Meeting
on
6th November
2011



Midsomer Norton Methodist Church Centre

www.msnmcc.org

General Church Meeting

Sunday November 6th 2011

12 noon

FAITH LUNCH

1.15 p.m.

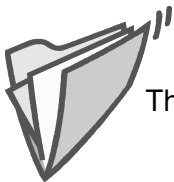
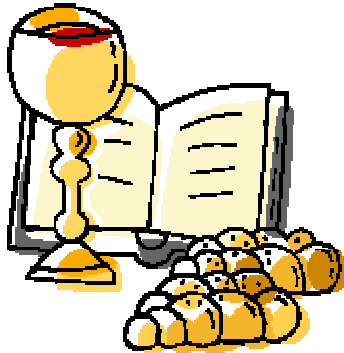
BUSINESS MEETING
(Chaired by Rev. Ian Souter)

There is no written

Agenda

this year.

The meeting will end with Communion.



The Reports follow and are in alphabetical order.
The Treasurer's Accounts are a separate booklet with this issue.

Action For Children



We have had a good year thanks to members of the Church, who continue to give to the Home Boxes. An amount of £194.37 was raised. Thank you for your support.

The sponsored walk, which we did in two parts, firstly with Monday Club 2 and then with Dee Baker on her walk at Rickford, raised £380.50. Thanks to all who took part and all who gave so generously.

With the Church collection over the Christmas period, and a gift of money from Jam Club, (thank you to Janet), we have a total figure given to Action for Children of £1,117.37.

On Saturday 8th Oct. we were at Dobbies Garden Centre in Shepton Mallet, to help at the tills with collection buckets and tickets to sell for their Christmas Charity Night, all proceeds going to Action for Children, their chosen charity for the year. It was very enjoyable working with the cashiers and talking with customers who were very generous in giving.

Carol & Marilyn.

C A M E O



Cameo continues with the usual activities. During the year we had three Get-Togethers at the Centre with a ham, egg and chips supper. (Molly, our 101 year old Stop-Off member is eagerly awaiting the next event!!)

The annual carol evening was held in December with a very good attendance and the Church Party in January was very well received. We also enjoyed skittles at the Midsomer Norton cricket club and a May Day walk along the canal at Bradford on Avon.

If anyone has ideas for activities in the coming year, please let Marjorie know as soon as possible.

Marjorie.

Choir



The choir continues to exist as a body offering anthems on special occasions and leading the singing of the hymns, Sunday to Sunday. But with only two altos, and three/four men [depending on the organists' rota!] it is becoming increasingly difficult to produce a 'balanced' sound.

We still meet on Fridays, fairly regularly, for practice. This has not always been easy for Margaret, with her regular journeys to see her sister in Cornwall, and we salute her continuing dedication to the choir, especially during this year.

However, are we still needed? No new members have joined the choir for several years. Is it time for us to step down gracefully, leave the choir seats, and join the main congregation?

What do you think? Please express your views at the Church Annual Meeting on Sunday 6th Nov.

Elizabeth.

JaM Club [Jesus And Me]



Sadly, the Jam club has closed due to lack of members. We have been struggling for the past year but with the closure of the Toddler Group recruitment was difficult.

However we had been running for 7 years and most of our members have usually gone on to the Monday Youth clubs. Our last event was a trip to Wells where we visited the cathedral, had a picnic and then quite an exciting trip home.

We had amassed over £100 in funds, so £100 of this was sent to Action for Children. We also donated £47.65p to the Monday Junior youth club.

Janet, Charlene and Carol.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship



This ecumenical group, initiated by this Church, and now in its seventh season, meets on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month (excluding July and August). The venues vary between the three Somer Valley local towns but this Methodist Centre continues to remain the base.

Meetings are advertised in the Journal, Church magazines and on Somer Valley 97.5FM through Julian Sheppard (Religious Features Editor). Do you listen to Faith Hour on Sunday Mornings from 9am?

Attendees enjoy an occasional 'full English' breakfast!

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.

Plans for the future include Sam Holliday, Editor of the Somerset Guardian and Terry Mears who was one time Chief Executive at Dorothy House, Winsley.

This month (Saturday 12th November at St Peter's, Westfield at 8.30am – Help yourself Breakfast from 8am) the session is entitled 'This is my Story' – attendees are encouraged to tell how they came to faith; what experiences have confirmed or reassured them of God; and dealing with the ups and downs of life.

A welcome to all men continues to be extended!

David.

Mini-Bus Service



The MN&R Community Vehicle continues to be of great help in bringing people to Church, who find difficulty in getting there under their own steam.

We have a full bus most months, and sometimes have to do a 'double run' as we have more people than seats!! This has got to be good news! Everyone enjoys the friendly atmosphere and the chance to catch up with news etc. from one another.

A big "Thank you" to Martin, our resident driver, also David and Barrie who stand in when needed, and the team of escorts, who continue to support the running of the bus. (It couldn't happen without you!)

Carol.

Monday Club 1



Monday Club 1 now has about 17 regular members. This September a large group of children moved from our group up to the older Monday Club 2 but we received several new members from JaM club so our age range has become younger again.

In the colder months last year we continued to have themed nights on subjects such as lying and coping with peer pressure at school. At Christmas we had a party with pizzas and throughout the warmer months we visited the play parks in the area and also hired the grounds of Welton Primary School for games and sports. At least once a month we have an informal evening of board games and other games such as air hockey. One evening that was greatly enjoyed was the Beetle Drive with the Guild, a lovely time for young and old to get together. Thank you Guild for arranging it.

Our younger leaders, Matt and Rachael, have now left us for university courses and we owe them many thanks for all the evenings they have given to us over the last few years. We now have two new young leaders, Rachael and Jasmine. The adult leaders, in case you are not aware are: Sarah, Cathy, Charlene, Sarah, Jeremy and Dann.

Cathy.

Monday Club 2



Monday Club 2 has continued steadily, with around 10 – 13 members attending weekly. The ages have ranged from 11 to 18 and the group members have interacted well together.

Activities have included photography, cooking, crafts, swimming, crazy

golf, skittles and ten-pin bowling and this year we are introducing kurling.

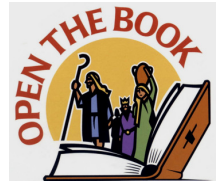
We miss Joe and Matthew, two very regular members, who have moved on to University, but some younger members have joined.

The leadership team has changed. Marilyn, Dee, James and Jeremy continue as before, but after seven years, Marjorie has retired and Kathy has taken on the convenor post of the Worship Group.

We are very pleased to welcome Craig and Mike as leaders and hope they will feel at home. Carol has returned to the team after two years helping with Jam Club.

Marjorie.

O T B



We have continued to tell bible stories at Longvernal School and completed the year 2 syllabus. The team has stayed the same, but we have had to work around John's invigilating commitments, Jean's child-minding needs, and Cathy's Census work. We have been grateful to Trevor, Mike and others who have helped us out. Anne Bishop was a relief member so we no longer have her assistance.

In October we looked forward to Head Teacher, Jane and children joining us for Sunday Morning Worship but only one Child and parent came.

Nevertheless it was good to have Jane with us and I found knowing what her aspirations for the school were helpful in relation to the work we are trying do.

Kathy Dymond.

Property



Owing to the freeze of spending, put on by the Finance Committee and Church Council, we were only allowed to repair broken items or replace worn out equipment. But as you will all have noticed [?], I hope, some money was found and we have had all the outside railings, gates and handrails re-painted. This was done by the 'Pay-back to the Community' scheme, thus smartening up the front of our property.

We are pleased to welcome back Les as a Property Steward. Lastly, I couldn't finish this report without saying how much we are going to miss our brother, Fred, with all his knowledge, input and help over so many years.

Jim.

SCENES



Last year we held two meetings. The first, in October, was abandoned as having turned up, prepared the hall, coffee/tea items at 7.30pm, no-one was there. One editor arrived as I was closing down apologizing for being 10 mins. late.

That caused me to seriously think about continuing. So a survey was e-mailed to at least 20 local church editors. The response was encouraging and a subsequent meeting in March this year had nine in attendance, with 11 apologies, of which 4 said it was too far to travel or had no transport.

Using laptop and projector, I explained the reason behind the meetings and explained about ACE [Association for Church Editors]. This was followed by a general discussion on format and layout of magazines, going through our April issue [just printed] to show from where material can be sourced. Also discussed was the finance, number of copies and where distributed, and the use of adverts. The assembled group wanted to continue and agreed on 3 meetings a year, instead of the usual 4 up to then.

The next meeting was in September, technically this year, when again only 4 others turned up, plus 2 apologies. One was a 'first-time' attendee, so time was given to introductions. We discussed copyright and the layout of magazines as Readers' Digest had 'gone against the usual format' in recent publications. Finally, mention was made of trying to broaden information about our meetings.

In sending out the usual 'notes' about the meeting I decided if the attendance does not increase at our next meeting in March 2012, it will be the last one. I have kept ACE's vice-chairman informed. He responded that sometimes holding a well-publicised workshop can provide a local interest and put me in touch with an editor in the North West who is arranging one in his area. I ran a workshop in March 2007, which went well; but will another attract any more regular members?

I convened the first meeting in July 2002, maybe, now some 9 years have passed, the meetings are now longer relevant or someone else, somewhere else is needed to move things forward.

Service Team



The final total raised for the 2010/11 Church Project for Greenhill House, Cheshire Home, was £4,965. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way. The Project for 2011/12 is Jeevothayam Farm, Murungan, Sri Lanka.

We are represented on the Midsomer Norton Forum by Jenny, and the Church, via the Service Team, has been actively involved in the revived Midsomer Norton Fayre and Lantern Evening. Thanks to all who helped at these events by providing refreshments and moving furniture, etc. We have again

participated in the floral displays in the High Street by providing hanging baskets, some of which were sponsored by members.

During the year we arranged a number of fund-raising events including a sponsored walk, a concert by 'The Gravellers' and 'Two Blonds & a Brunette' and members of the Church were invited to take a collection box to fill with loose change during the year. The collection boxes were made by some of the residents at Greenhill and were a great success raising over £500. This is probably the first time that the beneficiaries of our Church Project have assisted with the fund raising.

Future events include:

Showstoppers Concert 26th November 2011.

M.S.N. Lantern Evening 2nd December 2011.

Sunday Lunch in January 2012. (Date to be finalised).

Collecting Boxes (decorated by the Youth Club) coming soon.

A long serving member of the Team stood down. We thank Dee Baker for all she has contributed over the years. Now we need a replacement, preferably a woman, as, unusually in today's church, the team has a preponderance of men.

Finally, a plea for more support from church members at our fund raising events. We do endeavour to provide accomplished entertainment at the concerts we arrange so it is discouraging when so members few turn up. Also, concern has been expressed at the low participation in the ballot for the Church Project. Does this reflect a lack of interest?

Brian.

SMASH



S Smash meets on the third Sunday of every month and is attended by mainly young people in their thirties and early forties. We continue to debate topical issues that are of interest to the group.

This year we have discussed topics such as the fast pace of today's lifestyle and questioned how we might slow it down. We have studied the 10 commandments and applied them to the modern day. We have even looked at science and debated whether genetically modified foods and the ability to reverse the ageing process are good for the human race. Guest speakers have included the Reverends Andrew Pottage and Ian Souter.

Earlier in the year we enjoyed a progressive supper and the May Market car wash, raising money for charity, our Smash BBQ and the annual Jet Ski weekend away. Our next social event will be the Smash Christmas party on 10th December, which is always a great occasion to meet new people. Smash has also seen a number of its current members marry in this past year, congratulations again to all three happy couples.

For more information please contact Sarah.

Stop -Off



The lunches continue to be an important part of this church's life and witness. Although numbers have dipped slightly since we raised the prices in May, we still feed 70 to 100 people per week.

During August we did 'mini Stop-off' with a limited menu and still had 50-60 folk come, which stretched some teams. Gary has replaced Paul as our weekly dishwasher operative, which has been a great boon.

We were saddened in August at the death of Fred, one of the initial Team Leaders. Judy is back on Kathy's team and Dorothy has come in Heather's place. Otherwise the teams have been the same, even if some weeks have been low.

We did the Christmas meal on 14th December which raised £416 for the Church Project. The teams went for a meal at Farrington Golf Club in January.

Overall £10,550 has gone into church funds

Kathy.

The Church's Relief Fund



GIVING

It was wonderful that our 2009-2010 Relief Fund Project was able to raise the magnificent sum of £3,652. This generous amount came just as the difficult economic climate was showing an increasing growth in the need for our continued support for those in our area who find themselves in desperate need, often through no fault of their own.

The letters that our church has received, from Barnardo and from the Citizens' Advice Bureau, thanking us for our generosity in supplying them with food vouchers have underlined the continuing need for our support for this important outreach to our wider local community

As our country now seems to be entering a period of even greater financial recession, there are likely to be even more people in need of short-term help. Because of this, we would ask that our church family continues to support this fund in any way that it can even though it is no longer our main church project.

Norman.

Toddlers



We are doing quite well, having between 5 and 15 children. The minimum we get is 5. There are people that come every week and some that come on occasions. We are hoping to do a bit more publicity to encourage more people to come.

I am at the moment working on some leaflets to hand out at nurseries and schools etc.

Connie.

Tuesday Housegroup



Earlier this year, the Tuesday House Group studied the York Course for Lent.

This autumn, for a period of 10 weeks, we will be studying the life of Jesus. We shall be looking at The Trinity and the promise of the Messiah, the early life of Jesus, his teachings, including the parables, Healing, Prayer, Sacrifice and Resurrection, the Holy Spirit and Serving Others followed by preparations for Advent.

Although we have recently lost a few of our members, mainly through reasons of age and infirmity, it has been heartening to see how the group has continued to grow in commitment, in preparation and in involvement.

Betty & Norman.

Wesley Guild



We continue to meet fortnightly, at 4pm, finishing approximately 6pm. Attendance is between 23 and 28 on a regular basis.

We had some very interesting speakers and a few DIY sessions. The Beetle Drive was as successful as ever and another occasion some members told us of their experiences. The Bring & Share tea is popular and makes it possible for more questions to be asked of the speaker.

Several charities have benefited from Guild meetings, including Help for Heroes, BRACE, and CHSW. Also a few others when we have coffee at members' homes.

At the AGM, in May, it was decided to continue without a president when Rev. Barry Bishop was transferred to another area, until such time as a new minister be appointed to Midsomer Norton.

The passing of committed Guild members, Jackie and Fred, was a sad loss. A few others can no longer attend, but we do try to keep in touch with them.

Since our restart in September, we have had two really good talks and look forward to the rest of the Guild season.

As the Guild is open to everyone, why don't you come along. You will get a warm welcome.

Mary.

Wives' Group



Our fortnightly meetings, on Wednesday afternoons, continue to have great support for the great team that put them together. As a committee we were all asked to continue once again for this coming year which shows appreciation for Doreen, Kay, Mary, Lorraine and Maureen .

Cont'd next page

As just said the encouragement comes from the ladies who come along so regularly, thank you. As always it was a great pleasure to join the Ladies Fellowship for their annual Christmas Meal.

Helen.

Women's Fellowship



At our Annual General Meeting in May we reported an average of 22 members per meeting, and since then we have had three new regular members. For us that is very encouraging. Our sick members are visited regularly, especially those who are now housebound. Since the last Church A G M, we have sadly lost two of our most loyal members, Brenda and Margaret.

We have had various programmes over the year, trying to suit all tastes. Our fund-raising has been excellent, helping those with disabilities, the people of Sri Lanka, and now our new Bristol District Project 'Phakamisa', a ministry of Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa.

We hope that over the next year we shall be able to continue to make good progress.

Joyce.

Worship Group



The third annual Songs of Praise was held in October and seemed to be well received. It was therefore decided to continue to plan an annual morning event. (A large number of people go away in October, so it might be a good idea to hold it in April in future.)

The children's Christmas production, 'Nativity', brought together about 20 children who sang lively songs and acted out the simple Christmas story.

The change from Breakfast Praise to Gener8 has worked well. There is more opportunity to interact with others, as those attending take part in the various activities. Members of the congregation have come from time to time to help lead, so more people are involved. Some of the leaders were able to attend a 'Messy Church' workshop at Keynsham with Lucy Moore, which they found useful and they came away with some fresh ideas. The morning service led by Lucy at Midsomer Norton on the Sunday morning was also helpful.

The music for All Age Worship is now provided by the Church band. We feel this is appropriate because there are more young people present to take part in the worship. We have also appreciated Simon on the organ and Jenny Liddle on clarinet on the fourth Sunday evenings.

Saturday Night Praise on the third Saturday evening of the month, with a café style layout and refreshments has continued throughout the year. (We felt this was so worthwhile that we are now continuing it with the help of Jill Flowers and Ian Souter and a variety of excellent speakers. We also have a larger team

helping with the organisation and setting up.)

Age Concern services were held on the first Monday and Thursday every month. About 6 people attend on Mondays and slightly more on Thursdays. A rota of people lead about 30 minutes worship and we would very much like a few more people to help with this. It doesn't have to be a Local Preacher.

We felt the JMA service needed a bit of attention. (This year Ian will build the service around a suitable JMA theme. Hopefully more collectors will be re-sent.)

Church Council has now decided to buy copies of the new Methodist hymn book, 'Singing the Faith' for the choir, so their present, worn out copies of Mission praise will be replaced. The new books will be at least as heavy as the complete Mission Praise, but there seems to be no alternative.

The May meeting of the Worship Group was Marjorie's last one as convener. We are pleased that Kathy has now taken on the role.

Marjorie.

@77 - Young People's Group



Over the last five years, every couple of weeks, a bunch of the youth from our church have come around on a Sunday evening to our home, to eat us out of pizza and freshly baked muffins.

We've gone through the Youth Alpha course, watched Nooma and other DVD's and discussed various topics and issues - from a Christian perspective - that they face as teenagers and students.

This Autumn we've had to say goodbye to Jo, Matt and Rachael to Uni, so we're starting Alpha afresh with some new Year 8 intake. We currently have nine young people coming - perhaps it's the food, but they seem to want to come back for more!

John & Jill.

Youth Church



This year, in Youth church, our numbers have remained stable with our core of families attending regularly both for Youth Church and Generat8

Thanks to Heather and Marjorie's extra help we again had a very successful Christmas production. Their help is much appreciated by Charlene, John and myself.

Charlene has also appreciated Amber's help as part of her D of E service Unit. Thank you Amber.

This coming year will see some changes as our groups are getting older, Joe and Rachael left for university and we wish them well. We look forward to welcoming some new leaders onto the team. There is always room for more if there is anybody else who would like to join us?

Helen.

**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.*

