

Heaton Moor United Church
Church Meeting 2nd October 2022
Agenda

1. Opening Devotions
2. Mission engagement of the church with church groups : Appendix 1
3. Community Worker Report – Open Church Report: Appendix 2
4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2022 – to be approved and signed : Appendix 3
5. Matters arising
 - a. Sunday coffee -review
6. Leadership Team Report – Questions: Appendix 4
7. Vacancies on the Leadership Team, Finance Committee, Property Committee, Fundraising Committee
8. Property Committee Report – Questions: Appendix 5
9. Finance Report – preliminary report of finances for the financial year 2021-2 --Questions Appendix 6
10. Children and Young People’s work report –Appendix 7
11. News from the Circuit and URC
12. Minister’s concerns – Raj Patta
13. Any other business – to be notified to Raj Patta or Deborah Symmons by 1st October
14. Date of next meeting

Appendix 1: Mission engagement of the church with church groups

The Leadership Team has been investigating this issue that came up from the last Church Meeting regarding the Life and Mission of the Church. The general feeling is that the Church is used by many different people, who contribute to its upkeep, alongside its central mission of doing God's work. We have worshippers, fellowship groups, community outreach and those renting space. However, they are often seen as different entities not as a whole. Yet they all contribute to the fabric of the Church, either through worship or attending other activities that take place within the walls of the Church. This is Heaton Moor United Church's community. The issue is how do we get everyone to see this as our community too, and better integrate all the wonderful things that happen in the building.

At the meeting there will be an opportunity for small groups to work together to discuss and explore the following question.

How can we work together better?

When thinking about this question, think about how these different church users could work better together for the benefit of all?

Areas to consider could include:

Children
Activities after the services
Community integration

Can you add to the list?

Focus on the future of the Church , not the past!

If you are unavailable to attend the meeting, please, send any thoughts you have to Sharon via office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Appendix 2:

Open Church Brief Report

To Leadership team September 2022

174 people (109 family units) came over the 5 days.

Of the 109 family units over the week the breakdown was as follows;

Church	35
Church groups	
Playgroup	21
Dementia F	14
U3A Singers	15
Community	24

A total of £210.01 was spent over the week (average of £1.21 per person over the week):

Food	£107.87
Activities	£102.14

We received donations totaling £80 – although we did not ask for them, people wanted to give.

We also received a very kind food donation from Peter Aspinall which covered lunch on the Monday.

The aim of Open Church was to encourage members of the community to see what we as a church had to offer in terms of the building and its members and I think we did just that.

It was wonderful to see people engage together, either in the activities or enjoying a moment's peace in our *living lounge*. It was especially encouraging that both the young and the old engaged with our Prayer Walk around the Lord's Prayer.

Wednesday and Thursday were the busiest days. Even taking out the U3A singers, we still had 78 people come along. The increase on these days was due to several mums who had been on the Monday/Tuesday sharing their positive experiences on social media.

Our quietest day was Tuesday – possibly due to the wording as it was advertised as games day. However, this for me was one of my favourite days as we had a core group of boys completing the *minute to win it* games and this was the start of some great friendships which I believe could spill over into our Sunday worship / Super Sundays.

I was extremely fortunate that several members of our church family were on board with my vision for the week and although I had planned activities for the week, they all supported the need for *fluidity* and we were able to adapt/forgo activities to suit the needs of the people present.

We learnt a lot from running this event. For me, the two key things were that it is something that we want and our community want us to do again and also that those who come to the building for events such as this also welcome the opportunity to explore faith and this is encouraging.

Additionally, from conversations in the living lounge several church members asked about the possibility of keeping the lounge in situ, especially considering the fuel price crisis we are all facing in

coming months. Since then, there has been a lot of media coverage around warm banks / warm spaces.

I would like to propose that we offer the patio room as a warm space from October but under our own banner *living lounge* – there has been some talk about the stigma attached to requiring/using warm spaces – we would of course still register with www.warmwelcome.uk who are coordinating warm spaces.

I'm proposing that we offer the space Monday through Friday from 10am – 2pm. I did consider only opening Monday – Thursday as the space is used by a clinician and Dementia Friends on Fridays and there are no alternative spaces within the church for them to use. However, the question would be what do we do with the lounge items when they are using the space?

I see no reason why it cannot be manned by the three members of staff and a small number of volunteers (volunteers from both within our church community and the wider community).

The space would include free refreshments – and depending on volunteers available perhaps a light lunch on a Thursday. This part would be determined by number of volunteers we get.

For the period October – December it would affect the following groups who have bookings

U3A Play Reading	Monthly (2)	2 hours	Possibly use worship space but Probus meet in coffee lounge
U3A Craft	Monthly (2)	2 hours	Could use coffee lounge IF Good Read use worship space
U3A Family History	Monthly (2)	2 hours	Can use coffee lounge
U3A Spanish	Fortnightly (4)	2 hours	Can use coffee lounge
Tom Walters	Weekly (8)	4 hours	
Dementia Friends	Weekly (8)	2 hours	

Obviously, there are potential loss of income implications with tying up the patio room and asking people to use the coffee lounge, which rents out at a higher cost, and for those hirers where there is not an alternative room available.

I believe any loss of income is far outweighed by the possibility that members of our communities will need a warm space.

The living lounge is temporary and will run alongside campaigns for people to live with dignity - which includes having a warm space in their own home.

JoAnne Roy

Leadership to: (Both these points have been agreed at LTM on 15/9/22)

- 1) Confirm we can hold Open Church again during October half term**
- 2) Discuss the proposal of a living lounge in response to the warm bank initiative**

Heaton Moor United Church

Appendix 3

General Church Meeting

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Minutes

Attendance (28) and apologies (12) (see Appendix 1).

Chair: Raj Patta (RP)

Secretary: Deborah Symmons (DS)

1. Linda Fleming (LF) opened the meeting in prayer

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2022**

These had been previously circulated. They were accepted and signed by RP.

3. **Matters arising**

- ***Life and witness of the Church***

A discussion on the life and witness of the Church post-pandemic was led by Graham Adams (GA) at the February meeting. RP read out some follow-up questions which GA had sent by e-mail (as he was unable to attend the meeting). The first was a request for an update on what had happened since February. Carol Jack, Anne Wilde and Alan Scott (AS) had offered to host regular small meetings. Sharon Heginbotham (SH) will promote these via the newsletter to gauge interest. In addition, SH offered to co-ordinate walk and talk sessions; and LF and JoAnne Roy (JR) have set up a bereavement group for those within the church and the wider community. GA's second suggestion was to explore 'who we are' as a church now. There was a general discussion as to whether any more action was needed in response to GA's concerns. The consensus was that there was much going on within the church – new activities and old. Opportunities for one-to-one conversations with those feeling isolated or disconnected would be taken up by Pastoral Visitors and any need for further support would be relayed to the Church staff team. It was noted that new people were joining the church and that the pastoral support network is strong. AS reassured the meeting and spoke of the welcome he had felt as a new member joining towards the end of the pandemic.

- ***Sunday coffee***

SH had not received enough offers of help to set up a regular rota. Instead there is a sign up sheet. So far there had been coffee each Sunday. If there is a week with no volunteer then there won't be any coffee that week. ***(To be discussed at 2nd October meeting)***

4. **Report from the Leadership Team**

A report from the Leadership Team was circulated in advance (see Appendix 2). There were no questions. The team were thanked for their work.

5. **Report from the Property Committee**

A report from the Property Committee was circulated in advance (see Appendix 2). Roy Dudley Southern provided an update with regards to the roof repairs. The scaffolding firm have been unable to commit to a definite date to start the work. If the start of work is delayed such that it cannot be completed before Christmas, then it will be deferred until 2023. There were no further questions. The Property Committee were thanked for their work.

6. **Finance Officer's report**

The finance officer's report and the accounts for September 2021 to March 2022 were included in Appendix 2. SH also provided an update on communications with Epworth Investments

about transferring some of our investments. There were no questions. SH and the Finance Committee were thanked for their work.

7. Community Worker Report

JR gave a verbal report. Much of her time prior to Easter was taken up with organising the yurt, on behalf of the Circuit, in the centre of Stockport. She thanked church members for their support of the yurt activities. Messy Church and Muddy Church sessions were held in May. JR encouraged church members to support these events. She reassured members that, despite their names, little mud or mess was involved! The afternoon tea dance will restart in July. There were no questions. Members applauded JoAnne and thanked her for her work.

8. Worship Committee Report

A report from the Worship Committee was circulated in advance (see Appendix 2). There were no questions. The Worship Committee were thanked for their work.

9. Minister's concerns

RP reported that he is now in his 5th year in the United Stockport Circuit and that his invitation is coming up for renewal. Members thanked him for his service and applauded him. RP also reported on activities during Lent and Holy Week – the distribution of over 10,000 Easter cards; the coffee and hot cross bun distribution from the Plough; the Good Friday Walk of Witness (which had over 100 participants). He thanked members for their support.

10. News from the Circuit and URC

A deacon, Janet Amey, will be joining the Circuit staff in September. She will be based in the town centre (Tiviot Dale). She and Raj will form a team serving the town centre, Heaton Moor, Heaton Mersey and Edgeley. Discussions about the future of Tiviot Dale are ongoing now that NHS Test and Trace have moved out. For now, the circuit office is based there. The Circuit have leased space at Bright House in the town centre. The space is renamed 'Cactus'.

11. Any other business

DS read out a letter from Jim Lowe in which he tendered his resignation as Honorary Treasurer, Chair of the Finance and Fundraising Committees, and member of the Leadership Team. Members expressed their appreciation of his many years of service and asked that a gift and card be sent to Jim. DS will write the card and SH source the gift. As the church must have an Honorary Treasurer, Carol Jack has agreed to take on this role on a temporary basis. The Leadership Team vacancy will be advertised to the membership and an election held at the next church meeting. The other vacancies created by Jim's resignation will be considered and nominations made by the Leadership Team.

Sue Jones asked for volunteers to join the Communion Steward rota. Jean James, Carol Jack and Louise Lee offered.

12. Date of next meeting

2nd October 2022

The meeting closed with the grace.

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix 4: The Leadership Team Report

The Leadership Team have met 3 times since the last Church Meeting.

Members of the Leadership Team (LT):

Roy Dudley-Southern

Sue Jones

Bob Docherty

Carol Jack (Acting Treasurer)

Michael Ball

Jan Southworth

Peter Aspinall

Anne Wilde (Co-Opted) For approval at the next Church Meeting

3 members of the team are due to step down in May 2023.

The contents of the meetings are driven by the following sub groups/persons submitting reports : Finance, Property and Worship , Children's Group, Community Worker , Pastoral Worker, Safeguarding, GDPR, Circuit and URC.

Additional areas that are looked at are : Mission of the Church, Church Meeting and Personnel.

Key discussion points that have arisen for the team have been:

The roof project

The church meeting and how to integrate all the various groups/people that use the building

Missional Partnership move

Bequest from Anne Hunt and the possible uses for it.

Safeguarding and the updating of records for DBS and safeguarding training.

Room rentals and allowing the church hall to be hired out on Sundays.

Standardising the format of the LT meeting to ensure all items are covered over a year.

A complaint from a neighbour regarding issue with noise coming from the building. The issue is being resolved with input from the police.

Finance reports

Community worker projects

Vacancies created by the stepping down of Jim Lowe and Ian Anderson. This has led to there being no chair for the property group or the fundraising group.

Children and Young People's work.

Appendix 5

	A summary of the last property group meeting.
Office Blinds	Replacement blinds will be ordered.
Garden	It was agreed the garden looks good. Inform gardener about ashes and ask him to keep area tidy .
Asbestos survey	Has been done. It was fine, main concerns were regarding signs being put up . Roof presumed areas : Builders to be informed and ensure no damage is done to those areas. When scaffolding is up a more detailed survey to be conducted and testing done of those areas .
Defibrillator	The possibility of the Defib being put on a national database had been raised. After careful consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Team does not recommend that the Defib goes on the national database due to the fact that the building isn't open for access at regular times. • Property Team does not recommend that the Defib is moved to an external area to allow access due to the security risk. It does not recommend a second Defib is purchased to be place outside for the same reason.
Floodlight timer/external light issues	This has been changed to reflect the times it is required to be used.
Roof Project	It has be postponed until next year . Property Group to have a conversation with architect , regarding taking on the lead role for the project.
10. Fire Evacuation	Some issues had been raised concerning evacuation of the worship space if there was a fire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there enough trained people ? • Enough people available to action the evacu chair ? • Is there a safe area ? The back stair well is the safe area. This is being investigated on how to ensure that improvements are being made.
11. U3A usage of the building	A new charging system is being put in place to allow them to use the worship area , so that people can be more spread out .
13. General repairs action	The property group are looking for volunteers who could help with maintenance but not necessary to join the property group.

Appendix 6

Finance Report

1. Lay workers' salaries
The layworkers have received a pay increase in line with the standard stipend increase agreed by the Methodist Church for 2022/2023 of 4.24%.
2. Counting House :
Due to low amount being collected , the money will now be counted on a Monday . There is a small team that will be doing this. The money is always counted by two people.
3. Epworth
The committee is working with the URC Northwest Synod on exploring moving some of the investments over to Epworth, an ethical investment company which is the commercial body of Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP).
4. Fundraising and church charity :
Garry Evans will organise a meeting to review current fundraising activities. There has been a move to 'one off' sponsored events.
5. Finance matters raised by the Property Committee.
The main issue remains the roof. Erecting scaffolding has had to be deferred to 2023. The Property Committee have requested 1-2 weeks post-Easter (as they did this year).
6. Gift Aid and Envelope Scheme
Nothing to report with regards to Gift Aid. Envelopes for 2022-3 are being distributed.
7. Bank Account
 - a. Signatories: There are now only two on-line signatories (SH and BJ). Roy Dudley-Southern can sign cheques. SH was happy with this.
 - b. Bank account: The circuit are switching to a Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) bank account. If this goes well then SH may propose that HMUC also switch.
8. Accounts
Please see attached report , this is the interim report for accounting year 2021/2022. The full report will be presented at the May meeting

Charity no. 1134270

Heaton Moor United Church

Printed: 28/09/2022

Year to August 2022

Fund code General

	<u>Turnover year to date</u>	<u>Turnover last year to date</u>
Voluntary Income		
C1100 Donations received	426.08	1,222.00
C1101 Collection Sunday	5,867.52	5,665.03
C1200 Gift aid tax claimed	10,187.49	13,544.19
C2200 Bequests and legacies	3,000.00	0.00
C2300 Standing Orders	32,674.36	32,575.00
C3111 Circuit Admin	114.74	1,250.00
C3201 Family Worker	156.00	0.00
C3202 Coffee	56.95	0.00
	-----	-----
	52,483.14	54,256.22
Activities for Generating Funds		
C3100 Fundraising events	3,455.45	2,670.70
C3300 Lettings	21,033.62	8,626.23
C3500 Other fundraising sales	30.00	0.00
	-----	-----
	24,519.07	11,296.93
Investment Income		
C4200 Interest received	5,697.44	5,004.35
	-----	-----
	5,697.44	5,004.35
Charitable Activities Income		
C5100 Sundries	2,750.01	533.63
	-----	-----
	2,750.01	533.63
	-----	-----
	85,449.66	71,091.13

Charity no. 1134270

Heaton Moor United Church

Printed: 28/09/2022

Year to August 2022

Fund code General

	<u>Turnover year to date</u>	<u>Turnover last year to date</u>
Fundraising Trading Costs		
D3160 Fundraising gifts given	3,070.24	2,356.75
D3300 Goods for resale	583.19	0.00
	-----	-----
	-3,653.43	-2,356.75
Charitable Activities Costs		
D5100 Gifts/grants to individuals	435.00	104.60
D5120 Gifts/grants to organisations	1,707.90	4,014.84
D6100 Salaries and wages	37,857.95	39,746.12
D6190 Other payroll costs	12.00	0.00
D6520 Travel expenses	342.89	0.00
D7100 Heat & Light	2,923.04	3,226.86
D7250 Water	611.45	339.52
D7300 Insurances	2,737.12	2,573.99
D7400 Caretaking	4,253.81	2,702.84
D7500 Maintenance	14,171.64	10,168.32
D7510 Repairs	4,107.76	1,792.60
D7900 Other premises costs	1,137.17	2,910.34
D8200 Telephone/fax/email	796.40	1,470.58
D8300 Postage	31.71	436.20
D8310 Stationery	981.41	1,418.95
D8311 Circuit admin costs	730.56	0.00
D8312 Lay Workers Expenses	1,325.61	1,277.60
D8313 Coffee costs	747.75	90.12
D8314 Ministers Expenses	63.29	28.00
D8320 Printing/photocopying	889.06	961.24
D8410 Website	793.44	670.44
D8420 Publicity costs	99.99	0.00
D8500 IT costs	1,279.07	1,246.09
D8510 Equipment purchases	90.19	882.00
D8520 Equipment repairs	0.00	78.00
D8990 Flowers costs	494.52	474.76
	-----	-----
	-78,620.73	-76,614.01
Governance Costs		
D9300 Bank charges	45.00	0.00
D9320 Professional fees	200.00	200.00
D9330 Other fees	189.48	1,063.97
D9331 M&M and Circuit Share	55,000.00	51,250.00
	-----	-----
	-55,434.48	-52,513.97
	-----	-----
	-137,708.64	-131,484.73
Transfers		
X9990 Transfers between funds	-2,314.00	425.00

Charity no. 1134270

Heaton Moor United Church

Printed: 28/09/2022

Year to August 2022

Fund code General

	<u>Turnover year to date</u>	<u>Turnover last year to date</u>
	----- 2,314.00	----- -425.00
TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	----- -49,944.98	----- -60,818.60

Appendix 7

Children and Young People's work report

Children and Young people group meeting:

The Children and Young People's work group held a meeting, They agreed to ensure that some material would be available for any children who may turn up on a Sunday morning. A flexible Rota has been set up to ensure that, if children turn up, there will be someone available to support the children filling the material in.