



## Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of Local Preachers, Leaders of Worship and Readers

**2 November 2023 at 7.30pm at  
Hexham West End  
Methodist Church**

1. **WELCOME:** Rev Beard opened the meeting, noting that this meeting was postponed from 5 October 2023.
2. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Rev Marie Beard (in the chair), Tom Dodds, Bob McAlpin, Norman Fullard, Carol Davies, Jackie Cameron, Ruth Johnson, Daryl Ralston, Brian Japes, Robin Charlton, Rev Tony Buglass, Elaine Goy.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Rev Michael Holland, Rev Gareth Sherwood, Rev Fiona Calveray, Sheila Holland, Brian Elstob, Christine Thompson, Ian Warburton, Vicky Herod, Julie Woodford, Roger Anthony, Valerie Anthony, Margery Burgess, Sandra Martin, Peter Smith, Margaret Bogie.
4. **DEVOTIONS** were led by Rev Beard. 1 Cor 12: 4 - 12: The gifts of the Spirit. Members of the one body.
5. **PASTORAL MATTERS:** Margaret Carr is now living at Redburn nursing home in Prudhoe and is visited by Prudhoe members (inc Ann Worthy).
6. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 at Haydon Bridge Methodist Church, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.
7. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** not otherwise on the Agenda:
  - a. a: Jacqui Cameron: Explore Group will run every six weeks or so from the New Year. TD will circulate an email nearer the time.
8. **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS** not otherwise on the Agenda:
  - a. None
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - a. **NEWSLETTERS:** The Secretary has circulated notices via email of forthcoming training opportunities, including new Newsletters.
  - b. **WHATSAPP GROUP:** A WhatsApp group has been established, primarily for Active Preachers. This enables those of us taking appointments to communicate with each other, such as to arrange cover for each other. So far, it has been used on a number of occasions:
    - i. Plan Changes on 1st and 8 October, involving West End and Acomb (sorted in 55 minutes)
    - ii. Cover at Allendale for 8 October (sorted overnight in 14 hours)
    - iii. Cover at Hexham West End on 15 October (sorted in under 4 hours)
    - iv. To rearrange the date of this meeting (sorted in under 5 hours)
    - v. Arrange cover for Allendale 8 October (sorted in 59 minutes)
    - vi. Arrange cover for Riding Mill 15 October (sorted overnight by the following lunchtime)
    - vii. Arrange cover for Prudhoe 15 October (sorted with a LA in under two hours).
  - c. **THE PLAN:** TD had a productive meeting with Laura to talk through how we might improve the layout of The Plan to make it more useful. This was summarised at tonight's meeting. Both versions were circulated and discussed. It was suggested that the

'Directory' section should contain contacts for organists/musicians as appropriate, and also Wifi Guest password logins as available. TD will write a 'thank you' email to Laura to thank her for her hard work.

**10. PREPARATION FOR SERVICE:**

- a. Seeking a Note to Preach:
  - i. None
- b. Preachers On Note:
  - i. Daryl Ralston: Jacui Cameron is tutoring and Ruth Johnson is the mentor. Trial services will be arranged by Ruth in the New Year, with the intention of bringing Daryl to On Trial status at our April meeting.
- c. Progress of Preachers On Trial:
  - i. None.
- d. Arrangements for preachers to be heard and a report prepared:
  - i. None.

**11. FUTURE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES::**

- a. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training: Work is ongoing to come up with training sessions. Rev Beard told us that she completed a face-to-face session. She recommends that we undertake this. She is hoping to arrange an in-person course for us in our circuit in the New Year.
- b. Safeguarding: Laura coordinates this for us.

**12. PEER REVIEW:** reminder. These happen on an 'ad hoc' basis, but we're always pleased to hear about them at this meeting.

**13. NEWS FROM CHURCHES:** Allendale 'big screen' is now in use. Thanks to Martin Johnson for producing a guide to equipment across the circuit. Fourstones has a heating problem and is meeting at Newbrough Town Hall, and as a consequence the Circuit Meeting in December will take place at Stocksfield.

**14. DISCUSSION:** Future arrangements for Worship in our Circuit: Rev Beard. This had been discussed at the Circuit Meeting. We had a wide ranging discussion. Generally, the meeting supported changing the pattern of Sunday morning services so that it becomes possible for those of us who wish to undertake two appointments in a morning, at adjacent churches as possible. TD will draft a statement on behalf of the Local Preachers for the Circuit Meeting, and will circulate it beforehand on the WhatsApp group for comment.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** as notified at 7 above:

- a. Lent Series using *Love Divine all Loves excelling*::TD to circulate on WhatsApp group.

**16. FUTURE MEETINGS:** (all at 7.30pm, *volunteer for devotions*):

- a. Thursday 18 January 2024 at West End: *Devotions: Tom Dodds*
- b. Thursday 18 April 2024 at West End. *Devotions:*
- c. Thursday 11 July 2024 at Allendale. Rev. Holland will book this. *Devotions: Communion.*
- d. Thursday 3rd October 2024 at Hexham West End: *Devotions:*

17. The meeting closed in prayer at 2105hrs