

1. **WELCOME:** Rev Beard opened the meeting.
2. **DEVOTIONS:** Sandra Martin. *Sandra told us about the work of Good News For Everyone (formerly Gideons UK). October is Bible Month in many churches. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that you, the servant of God, may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17). Sandra took us through some of their Bibles and other publications. Do we preach the Bible as the living, relevant word of God? We had a discussion.*
3. **IN ATTENDANCE:**
Rev Marie Beard (in the chair), Rev Tony Buglass, Tom Dodds, Jacqui Cameron, Sandra Martin, Norman Fullard, Daryl Ralston, Ruth Johnson, Elaine Goy, Brian Japes, Glenn Smith, Robin Charlton, Rev Fiona Calverey, Rev Michael Holland.
4. **APOLOGIES:** Margery Burgess, Brian Elstob, Ian Warburton, Rev Gareth Sherwood, Christine Thompson, Sheila Holland, Margaret Bogie is unwell.
5. **PASTORAL MATTERS:**
 - a. Valerie Anthony
 - b. Carol Davies
 - c. Elaine Goy is now much better.
 - d. Ian Warburton has announced his retirement as an active local preacher. His last preaching appointment will be on 16 November 2025 at Prudhoe.
 - e. Rev Steven Talbot is facing surgery soon and won't be taking appointments for the moment.
6. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 3 July 2025 at Riding Mill Methodist Church, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.
7. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** not otherwise on the Agenda: None
8. **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS** not otherwise on the Agenda: None
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
10. **PREPARATION FOR SERVICE:**
 - a. Seeking a Note to Preach: None. Please remember to encourage others to come forward to explore their calling to preach.
 - b. Preachers On Note: None.
 - c. Progress of Preachers On Trial:
 - i. Daryl Ralston: Jacqui Cameron is tutoring and Ruth Johnson is the mentor. Daryl is continuing to make progress with the Course Modules, having to complete by January 2029.
 - ii. Daryl has not been heard this quarter. The meeting agreed to Daryl continuing On Trial.
 - d. Arrangements for preachers to be heard and a report prepared:
 - i. Daryl Ralston: Sandra Martin will hear Daryl on 26 October at Haydon Bridge and report back.

11. FUTURE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- a. Gareth is starting on Sunday afternoons at Hexham Trinity: 'Thomas' group.

12. DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING: Tom Dodds reported back on the District 'Preaching Justice' day at Chester-le-Street last Saturday. Tom has circulated two useful resources, linked here:

- The Methodist Church ['Principles for Justice'](#)
- Some useful resources to assist with [Preaching on Environmental issues](#).

If you can't open the links, and would like to see these resources, contact Tom.

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

14. NEWS FROM CHURCHES:

Recently John and Sandra Martin met with John and Deacon Anne Taylor who send their love. Tom Dodds went to church at Ashington last Sunday and the congregation send their love and prayers.

'Fragile Earth' event, Sat 18/Sun 19 Oct at **Wylam**: details in this [Hexham Courant article](#). 'environment' event.

Cattons final service is Sunday 19 October at 2.30pm.

Allendale's ISing list will be updated by Rev Michael soon. TD will arrange to place the pdf, with hyperlinks, on the Website and circulate.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS as notified at 7 above: None.

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

- Thursday 15 January 2026 - **on Zoom** or in person at Elvaston Rd Manse. *Devotions: Rev Tony Buglass.*
- **Note date:** Thursday 23 April 2026: at Stocksfield: *Devotions:*
- Thursday 9 July 2026 - **on Zoom:** *Devotions:*
- Thursday 1st October 2026 at Acomb ('outing'): *Devotions: Communion and Reaffirmation: minute taker required.*

17. Following the attack in Manchester today. Marie read the Methodist Church response and prayer. The meeting concluded with The Grace at 8.43pm. If you wish to use the Prayer on Sunday, [here is a link to it](#).