

Hucclecote Methodist Church

Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 10 May 2026

Present: the Revd Dr John McNeill, Keith Long, Joyce Rainbow, John Rainbow, Mark Dickens, Sue Dickens, Lynne Cooke, Ron Keasley, Elaine Keasley, Ruth Allott, Margaret Dunn, Sue Yates, Richard Clarke, Sue Clarke, Nick Butler, Jan Butler, Dorothy Dwight, Carole Stokes, Celia Haxton, Heather Carne, Dawn Pearman, Mary Little, Marion Bishop, Mavis Adams, Sylvia Blake, Tim Blake, Jane Jackson, Andrew Jackson, Chris Brewster, Bernie Brewster, Andrea Brewster, Debbie Long.

Apologies received from: Peter Shaw, Loraine Shaw, Diana Godden, Scott Dickens.

Revd John welcomed everyone to the meeting with a reading and prayer.

Notes from the Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 18 May 2026 were approved and signed by the Revd Dr John McNeill.

Remembering those Church Members who have died since the last annual meeting.

The meeting reflected on the lives of Renee Carling, Irene Eggles, Maureen Roberts, Len Horwood, Mary Westington and Lorna Martin. Revd John asked those present to remember the families of those members we have lost and to give thanks for all their service given to Hucclecote Methodist Church. A minute silence was held at the end of the meeting to remember those Church Members that have died.

Appointment of Church Stewards

Revd John advised that Lynne Cooke is stepping down as Senior Steward after eight years' service. Christine also stepped down at the last Annual Church Meeting so there are now two new stewards needed.

Carole Stokes has been nominated by Jan Butler and Mark Dickens, the meeting unanimously approved Carole's appointment.

Jan and Nick Butler have been nominated as Joint Stewards by Sue Dickens and Loraine Shaw. The meeting unanimously approved Nick and Jan's appointment as joint Stewards. Lynne advised the meeting the Church Stewards will be attending an away day in June and at that meeting they will decide who will take over as Senior Steward. The meeting gave Lynne a round of applause for all that Lynne has done and the support she has provided to Revd John.

The following Church Stewards agreed to be appointed for a further year, Beth Sweet, Tim and Sylvia Blake, Sue Clarke.

John gave his thanks to the Church Stewards for all their hard work.

Appointment of representatives to the Church Council

The following are members of the Church Council

Minister
Church Treasurer
Pastoral Secretary

The Revd Dr John McNeill
John Rainbow
Mary Little

Secretary of the Council
Property and Finance Chair
Boys' Brigade & Girls Association
Communications and Room Bookings
Safeguarding Officer
Junior Church Leader
Action for Children
First Aid
Health and Safety
Assistant Treasurer
Communion Steward
Christian Aid
GDPR
Hucclecote Hub Representative
Open the Book Representative

Debbie Long
Mark Dickens
Scott Dickens
Jane Jackson
Debbie Long
Sylvia Blake
Lorraine Shaw
Keith Long
Keith Long
Andrew Jackson
Arnold Eke
Ron Keasley
Ruth Allott
Keith Long
Elaine Keasley

Ex Officio:

The Revd Jayne Webb
Circuit Steward - Lesley Ward

Church Stewards

Beth Sweet, Tim and Sylvia Blake, Sue Clarke, Carole Stokes, Jan Butler and Nick Butler

Other Church Council representatives

Bernard Brewster, Dawn Pearman, Peter Shaw, Richard Clarke, Ron Keasley, Sandra John, Sue Woodward, Lynne Cooke, Sue Yates, Christine Brewster

Revd John advised there are some spaces available if any Church member wishes to join the Church Council.

Ruth is helping Revd John with the completion of the annual GDPR reports. Ruth agreed to take on the role of GDPR representative on the Church Council.

John R said that he is unable to attend Church Council and Circuit Treasurer meetings and would like someone else to take on the role, although John R would be happy to give his support. Mark has attended Circuit Treasurer meetings on behalf of John R, but it would be better to have a Church Treasurer in place who can attend Church Council meetings and Circuit Treasurer meetings.

Lynne has agreed to remain a member of the Church Council.

The following are appointed as Pastoral Visitors:

Richard Clarke
Sue Clarke
Lynne Cooke
Elaine Keasley
Liz Wheeler
Mary Little
Carole Stokes
Diana Godden
Lorraine Shaw
Tim Blake

Mark Dickens
Sue Dickens

The following are appointed as Communion Stewards

Arnold Eke
Jan Butler
Margaret Dunn
Sheila Pugh
Elfed Pugh
Keith Long
Debbie Long
Andrea Brewster
Christine Brewster

Members of the Finance and Property Committee

Lay Chair	Mark Dickens
Secretary	Nick Butler
Church Treasurer	John Rainbow
Assistant Treasurer	Andrew Jackson
Health & Safety	Keith Long
Lettings Officer	Jane Jackson
Member	Bernie Brewster
Member	Tim Blake
Member	Ron Keasley
Member	Sue Woodward
Member	Christine Brewster

Adoption of the Church Reports 2026

Revd John thanked John R for compiling the reports and downloading them onto the Church's website. There are some printed copies available, if you would like a copy, please let Tim know.

There was a question raised regarding the deficit, at the end of last year, the accounts show a deficit. How long can the Church continue with a deficit. John R explained it is difficult to predict the year-on-year expenditure. However, the amount paid to the Circuit for the Assessment is lower this year so that should help with our overall expenditure. Based on current expenditure, the reserves will eventually run out. John R said we need to pray and trust in God that he will supply our needs. Mark advised that there have recently been two quinquennial inspections carried out, one on the premises and the other the graveyard. To replace the current boilers to help become an Eco Church, we need in the region of £30,000 plus. It is going to be a struggle to raise this sum with a reduced membership and with an ageing congregation, we are less able to fundraise. It is a great concern that the Church may not be here in ten years. Sue C said we need to go forward and modernise, if we don't then people won't come into the Church. Mark advised there are grants available for net zero so there is a window of opportunity. Revd John said we need to be driven by faith and mission. It is not just our Church with these issues, it is a challenging time for all churches.

Any other Business

Our Church's Future Story

Nick Butler gave a presentation regarding Our Church's Future Story. Nick advised the meeting, members may have noticed the coloured posters advertising the initiative and asking everyone to get involved.

The initiative has been developed following the visit from the Circuit Superintendent, the Revd Jayne Webb in November which encouraged churches to develop a Mission Plan.

Previously, Church members have been asked to discuss a Mission Plan and from that came the Welcome Café, the Welcome Garden, the Friday Lunch Club and 'A Place to Remember. Our Church's Future Story is an initiative to help ensure our Church has a future and to be involved in shaping that future and to develop where we are doing God's work.

The Methodist Church has produced a resource which we are using, it has a four-stage plan, listen, dream, choose and act. The listening phase will take longer. A prayer has been created which will be used as part of our weekly worship over the next twelve months.

There have been a set of questions composed which all members plus all those who use the premises will be asked to answer to help understand what do people need in the Church. The plan is to also ask those who come to Church events such as Jumble Sales, The Railway Exhibition about part of being church. It is planned to pilot the questions with those visiting the Plant Sale. Pastoral Visitors have been asked to chat about the questions with members over coffee, although all responses will be anonymous. The Listening Phase of the project is being launched at this Annual Church meeting.

The four questions will be available from this coming week. A plan is in place to check how we progress and to share so that we can understand our priorities. Having a clear Mission Plan will assist the Church in obtaining grants so we can fulfil our needs.

The questions will be downloadable from the Church's website. It was asked whether we can resume opening the Church during Church events so that those visiting can go into the Church for a quiet space or speak to someone if required. This will happen at the upcoming Plant Sale.

Revd John gave his thanks to Nick for leading the Our Church's Future Story Steering Group.

The date of the next Annual Church Meeting has been planned for Sunday 9 May 2026.

The meeting closed with a prayer and The Grace.