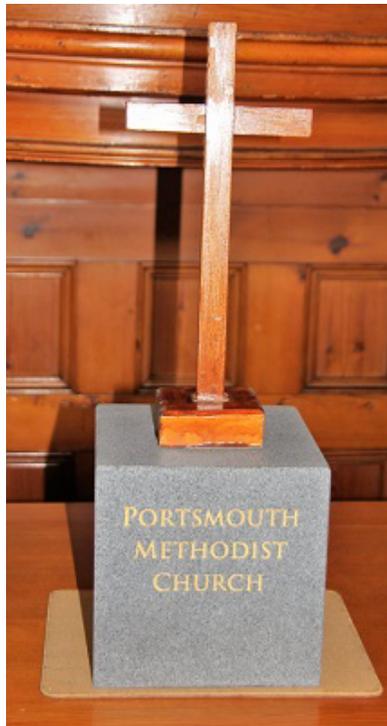


THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth Methodist Church



July / August 2022

Minister : Rev. Ray Goddess

www.portsmouthmethodists.org.uk

Reg. Charity No. 1178715

The Minister's Desk

To say that this has been a difficult time is an understatement. The changes, some of which we had no choice but to do and others that we as a church voted to do have come thick and fast. With change comes a challenge, with change comes sadness, with change comes anger. But on the other hand, with change comes opportunity, with change comes new ideas and life, with change comes a fresh start.

No matter how we look at the changes we must come back to the Bible and seek answers there. The Israelites left Egypt to seek a better place to live, free from the Egyptian regime. When we read the stories, we wonder why they were so upset and why they turned against their leadership and God. I would suggest that we wonder this because we know what the end result was – and that was GOOD.

Copnor, Eastney and Trinity have all just left Egypt – and I believe that we are headed to better things, with God as our guide and strength. As we read the stories of the Israelites, we see that God wanted the people to be united, to stand together with God as the centre of their faith and belief.

I believe that God has the same message for Portsmouth Methodist Church. Stand together in unity and allow God to grow His church – this seems to be what I and many others are hearing. It was not easy for the Israelites, and it is not easy for us. It is my prayer that in years to come as people look at the “new look” Portsmouth Methodist Church as of 1 June 2022 onward, they too will say “I wonder why they hesitated”. I believe it is now that we need to trust God more and hear the words that Paul wrote to the Romans in *Romans 14:19* *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.*

With this in mind I have included the “results” of the Special Portsmouth Church Council Meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022 prepared by our Secretary Mark Barton

16 Jun 22

Portsmouth Methodist Church

Proposed future Church Council (CC) Structure for Portsmouth Methodist Church (PMC)

1. With the moving to not just being a single Church but worshipping from a single location, the membership of the CC needs to be reviewed, the following structure has been discussed and is proposed by the Church Council. The structure aligns with Methodist Church Standing Order 610(1)¹ which defines the roles that should be included. The proposed names for each post are alongside for ease.

2. The Minister and all other ministers who are members of the church are automatically included (Rev Ray Goddess, Rev Beryl Wright) and the Circuit is represented by a steward appointed by Circuit (Jean Parnell). These posts are within the CC but not elected by the ACM.

3. The key position that are proposed to be members of the CC with who the Church Council propose fills the post are:

- a. Senior Steward – Theo deGraft Eshun
- b. Church Treasurer – Alan Haynes
- c. CC Secretary – Mark Barton
- d. Safeguarding Designated Person – Anne Downham
- e. Safeguarding Deputy and Data Protection Officer (GDPR) – Shirley Haynes
- f. Senior Communion Steward – Fran Jenkins

4. CC will also usually have the chair of relevant committees on it, it is proposed we have three relevant committees (with the old forums being no more). These are:

- a. Development Committee – Mark Barton (as CC Secretary)
- b. Property and Finance – Alan Haynes (as Treasurer)
- c. Pastoral – Christine Snelling

5. CC will also usually have representatives of significant organisations in the life of the church, if these are represented by members of the church, they are voting members of the CC. The following are proposed:

- a. Brigade – Catherine Burt (voting member)

- b. Ethiopian Church – (non-voting)
- c. Lithuanian Community Group – (non-voting)

If the Zimbabweans move to one of our current premises, then they would also be included but currently it looks likely they will move to Drayton.

6. That the other two significant elements that form part of the structure are the two building management teams, these will be Trinity Building (Shirley Haynes and Mark Barton) and Eastney Building (Fran Jenkins and Theo deGraft Eshun), on the current proposals these are already members of the CC.

7. The last group are the stewards and representatives of the church, is recommended this group is 9 further people, initially intended to help balance across the previous centres:

From the above members already on the CC who will also be stewards are: Theo deGraft Eshun, Shirley Haynes and Fran Jenkins, in addition Lorraine Adamson is proposed as a steward but does not wish to be on the CC.

The proposed representatives are:

Trinity: Denise Foster

Eastney: Colin Hazell

Copnor: Rowena Ashman, Chris Matthews, Barbara Hayward, Stephen Pomeroy

This leaves three positions still open for nominees and creates the balance on the new CC as 3 Eastney, 5 Trinity, 5 Copnor and 1 Portsmouth and 5 non-elected (2 Ministers, 2 representatives of other organisations and 1 Circuit representative).

8. The CC proposes no change to the current representatives to the Circuit Meetings (Shirley Haynes, Fran Jenkins, Barbara Hayward and Alan Haynes) and Circuit Stationing Committee (Mark Barton).

Mark Barton

Secretary to the Church Council

¹ Methodist Church Standing Order 610(1): Subject to Standing Orders 511, 611 and 611A, the Church Council shall consist of: (i) the ministers, probationers and workers listed in clause (4) below; (ii)–(v) [deleted] (vi) the church stewards; (vii) the church treasurer; (viii) the secretary of the Pastoral Committee, where the committee is appointed; (ix) the secretary of the council; (x) not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by the General Church Meeting, or, where the membership does not exceed 49 and the Church Council so resolves, all members of the Local Church who are willing to serve; (xi) up to fifteen additional persons appointed by the council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership; (xii) one circuit steward appointed by the circuit stewards.

At this point I wish to say thank you to all office bearers who have stood on the committees and held office positions in any of our churches. I also thank all for being open to being elected to the “new look” PMC Leadership, even though some of the people are still “thinking and praying” about their roles.

There will be an Extraordinary ACM held after the Sunday Service on the 10 July 2022. The agenda for this meeting is included elsewhere in The Link magazine.

A rather long message from “The Minister’s Desk” but I trust and pray that we all pray and trust God for guidance as we move forward into the “new space” created by God.

Yours in Christ

Ray

Looking back

Leprosy Mission

Clarification from our June Link

Last month the amount sent to the Leprosy Mission after a retiring collection was given as £40.20.

This sum was raised at Trinity. We have since been advised that Eastney had a collection for the Leprosy Mission at an earlier date and the sum raised here was £45.00.

*** To avoid confusion occurring in future, it is helpful if information is passed to the Editor as soon after the event as possible.*

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at Girls’ Brigade and Boys’ Brigade

The members of 8th Portsmouth Girls’ Brigade and 4th Portsmouth Boys’ Brigade had lots of fun celebrating the Platinum Jubilee.



Firstly, two leaders and two young people from Girls' Brigade (GB) took part in a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the young people of Hampshire, held at Winchester Cathedral on 20 May. They met other Hampshire-based GB groups there too.

Girls' Brigade Team Leader Catherine says 'It was great to have two of our young women represent us at this special event and for them

to make some memories to treasure.'

During May and June, all of GB's members have been following a programme called On Her Majesty's Service, part of Hope Together's Platinum Jubilee resources. Topics have included wellbeing, being good neighbours, protecting the environment, and justice.

The GB group also enjoyed a Jubilee party. Activities included games, crown making, learning about street parties, a party tea with a pinata cake... and even a visit from the 'Queen' herself.



Jubilee-themed activities the Boys' Brigade members have enjoyed included biscuit crown decorating and entering a national Boys' Brigade Jubilee colouring competition.



Fundraising

The Concert by the Southsea Community Choir

The concert given by the Southsea Community Choir back in May was a great occasion and very much enjoyed by those who bought tickets. The home-made cakes during the interval were delicious too! A magnificent £940 was raised for the PMC Building Fund – what a great start after the rather sad times we have endured since the pandemic!

Watch out for more events that you can support!

Calendars

Sales are slowly increasing ... make sure you order yours by the end of September! They make lovely gifts. There will definitely be a Transport one (featuring trains, boats and planes) as well as The Natural World.

Preachers for July and August

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
3rd July	Rev. Dr. Beryl Wright - Holy Communion
10th July	Mr. Mark McDermott
17th July	Rev. Ray Goddess
24th July	Rev. Dr. Beryl Wright
31st July	Rev. Ray Goddess
7th August	Rev. Ray Goddess - Holy Communion
14th August	Mrs. Shirley Haynes
21st August	Rev. Dr. Beryl Wright
28th August	Mrs. Shirley Haynes

Portsmouth Methodist Church
Extraordinary Annual Church Meeting

Portsmouth Methodist Church (Trinity Building)

12.30 Sunday 10 July

(The exact start may be later so that Rev Ray Goddess and Cdr Mark Barton can arrive from their preaching appointments)

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Remembrances
4. Minutes of last Meeting
5. Updates on Actions from last ACM
 - a. Colin Hazell has offered to be a Sunday steward at Eastney in preparation for becoming a full steward (overtaken by Items 6 and 7).
 - b. Support of Girls Brigade for £550 for a set of uniforms to reinvigorate it complete.
6. Update on progress to one Portsmouth Methodist Church
7. Approval of the new Church Council Structure (see document 20220616 – Proposed Structure and Nominees)
8. Approval of the Church Council Nominated candidates (see document 20220616 – Proposed Structure and Nominees)
9. Approval of the members of the Development Committee
10. If Item 5 approved approval of additional people as representative of the church members to bring those purely representative to 9.
11. Initial Conversation on the Ministry and Witness of the Church to indicate what the ACM feeling is to pass to CC.
12. Any Other Business.
13. Grace

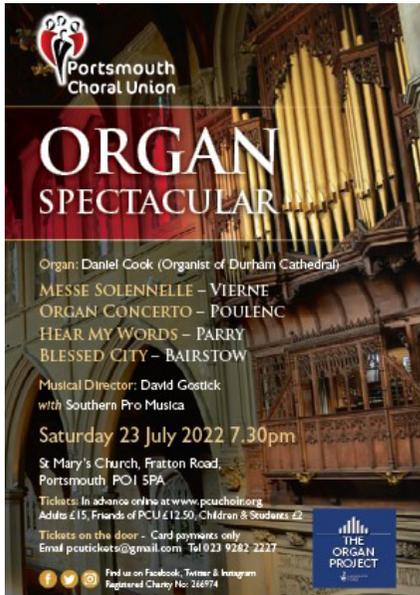
Bible Study

The Bible Study Group is up and running on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

The dates in July will be 4th and 18th. The group will not meet in August.

Community

Portsmouth Choral Union Concert



The poster features a photograph of a large, ornate organ in a church. The text on the poster includes the Portsmouth Choral Union logo, the title 'ORGAN SPECTACULAR', and details about the concert program and ticket information.

Portsmouth Choral Union

ORGAN SPECTACULAR

Organ: Daniel Cook (Organist of Durham Cathedral)

MESSE SOLENELLE – VIERNE
ORGAN CONCERTO – POULENC
HEAR MY WORDS – PARRY
BLESSED CITY – BAIRSTOW

Musical Director: David Gestick
with Southern Pro Musica

Saturday 23 July 2022 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road,
Portsmouth PO1 5PA

Tickets: In advance online at www.pcuchoir.org
Adults £15, Friends of PCU £12.50, Children & Students £2

Tickets on the door - Card payments only
Email pcutickets@gmail.com Tel 023 9282 2227

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram
Registered Charity No: 266974

THE ORGAN PROJECT

The next concert 'Organ Spectacular' will be given at St Mary's Church on 23rd July at 7.30 pm.

The newly restored church organ will be taking centre stage and the music will include:

Organ Concerto – Poulenc (Soloist Daniel Cook, Organist Durham Cathedral)

Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass) in C# Minor, Opus 16 – Louis Vierne

Hear My Words – Parry

Blessed City – Bairstow

We are advised to get our tickets early from: www.pcuchoir.org

And finally

Mulberry Tree

Another tree used for an illustration by Jesus is the mulberry tree (see previous article on fig trees). Luke 17 "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Is moving a mulberry tree hard or easy? The word used in the Greek is the sycamine tree or the black mulberry tree. These are referred to several times in the Old Testament, generally as a landscape feature. Its only other New Testament reference is it is this tree that Zacchaeus climbed up to see Jesus.

The tree like the fig tree was grown throughout Israel. It is the black mulberry tree rather than the white one which James I ordered to be planted to try and establish silkworms to wrestle the silk trade from the French, but silkworms like white mulberry.

In Britain mulberry trees have thrived since the Romans brought them to this country and they used the leaves to treat diseases of the mouth, trachea and lungs. In the 17th century, the bark of their roots was used to expel tapeworm from the gut, but during Tudor times they were prized for their succulent berries.

The mulberry tree though grows for a long time and can live for six hundred years. In 1727, when the artist Thomas Gainsborough was born, the mulberry tree in his parents' garden in Suffolk, was already more than 100 years old. The tree is still there, its massive boughs bending to the ground supported on wooden props and it still now aged around 400 years bearing a good crop of fruit.

The tree also requires a vast root network to draw up the ground's nutrients so it is a very hard tree to move. It would also probably survive if planted in the sea as once established, they can be salt tolerant.

The wood of a mulberry tree is very tough and very durable resisting decay. It was used for carvings and to build caskets. So, if you wanted something to last and resist decay it would be a mulberry, something that could survive even in salt water but which with its massive root network was very hard to move.

Mark Barton

Deadline

The deadline for items for the next Link magazine will be **Sunday, 21st August** please.

When , What and Where

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
Monday		
6:30 p.m.	Girls Brigade	St Joseph's
7:00 p.m.	Bible Study Class (1st & 3rd Monday of month - no meeting in August)	Contact markbartonrn@gmail.com or 07766252554
Tuesday		
10:00 a.m.	Trinity Tots (during term time)	Trinity Building
2:30 p.m.	Friendship Group	Copnor (Wesley Rooms)
Wednesday		
12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch (1st Wednesday of month)	Trinity Building
12:00 noon	Soup and Pud (3rd Wednesday of month)	Trinity Building
2:30 p.m.	Wednesday Club	Trinity Building
Thursday		
2:30 p.m.	Games Afternoon (2nd & 4th Thursday of month)	Eastney Halls
6:00 p.m.	Boys Brigade	St Joseph's
Friday		
9.30 a.m.	Stay and Play Group for Toddlers and Parents	Eastney Halls
Saturday		
10:00 a.m.	Coffee Morning	Trinity Building
10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Light Refreshments	Copnor (Wesley Rooms)