

Earlsdon Methodist Church

Annual General Meeting

19th April 2026

1. Welcome & opening devotions:

Rev Doreen Koffie Williams chaired the meeting and welcomed all there. She based her opening devotions on Hymn 498 (StF).

She then led the meeting in a Minute's silence for Betty Crofts and Bob Timms who both died recently.

2. Approval of AGM Minutes 4th May 2025: David Mills proposed and Steve Fox seconded that these should be signed as a true record. The meeting agreed and Rev Doreen signed them.

The attendance sheet was circulated. There were 34 present and 3 apologies (record in file)

3. Reports from Church Groups: Gill Weller (secretary) had collected and collated 25 reports from Church Groups which were sent out electronically prior to the meeting and also made into booklets for the meeting (thanks to Tim Weller)

Rev Doreen thanked Gill & Tim for completing this task.

Rev Doreen wished to add thanks to everyone for all they do in the life of the Church, especially Helen & Bill Holdforth for their work with Moses basket, fulfilling Jeremiah 29 v 7. Also to Richard & Alison Lawn & Gill, making 3in1 a presence and Steve Fox for hopefully moving youth work forward, perhaps within the Circuit. Thanks also to all who have embraced Chaplaincy. Otherwise the reports were all accepted by the meeting.

4. Finance Report:

The accounts had all been circulated electronically before the meeting along with a pie chart from Richard showing the movement of monies.

Richard reported that, as always with accounts there is a degree of uncertainty, but generally at the moment we are fairly well balanced. Discussions need to be had with the Circuit and Church Council may need to take decisions. He urged the meeting to always ask him or Tae if there are any queries with the accounts. Heather Mills thanked Richard for the pie charts which were very helpful. Chris Fisher reported that he had been able to claim the gift aid earlier this year, which amounts to approximately £11K and he thanked the "counters" for their work.

Tae will be stepping down as Treasurer in September 2027. He will continue until then if a replacement is not found, but would prefer to finish sooner if possible. Thanks were expressed to Richard & Tae for all their work.

5. Appointment of Church Stewards: Rev Doreen reported that Choice Sigauke is wishing to step down. Steve Fox will continue as co-ordinating steward with Bill Holdforth, Adrian McAinsh & Tim Jefferies. Bill commented that he can only do one more year, so desperately needs to be showing someone the ropes this year. Steve said that as there are now only 4 stewards, other roles need to be created, eg unlocking the building etc, that others could volunteer for, otherwise they will not cope. Heather Mills suggested that a list of jobs could be sent out via the newsletter.

6. Appointment of Senior Steward: Steve Fox (see above). Meeting gratefully agreed.

7. Appointments of Reps to Church Council: There was some discussion as to who the reps are to Church Council. As no-one has stepped down, it was agreed that Penny McAinsh, Adrian McAinsh, Dianabassi Nkantah, Alison & Richard Lawn, Viv Kershaw, Victor Keene, Gill Lydster and Val Young stay on and Gill Weller will check lengths of term served.

Meeting agreed

8. Worship: Matched Minister/Local preachers.

Rev Doreen confirmed that Rev Becki Stennet will have pastoral oversight of EMC. Holy Communion is arranged for May 3rd but we need to be aware of regularly having H.C. on the plan. Victor expressed his appreciation for the quality of our services from our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in this church.

9. Mission:

Prayers & Bears: Penny McAinsh reiterated her report saying this will probably not continue after July as there are only one or two children at the most. Rev Doreen thanked those involved with Penny, ie Lorna Warrener and Bill & Helen Holdforth.

There was nothing to add to other reports.

Bill reported that the "clothing rail" no longer exists as the clothes we held were not suitable for people requiring clothing. Apparently this is available at the Library or the Earlsdon cobblers. Lorna commented that there are still people with concerns, problems with rent etc that we need to be aware of.

10. AOB:

Open Doors: Steve had been asked to report to the meeting from Richard Kellegher-Green. He had been looking at the Connexional Methodist website and is willing to be the contact at EMC for "open doors", helping the Church to pray and share their faith (as JPIT).

Meeting agreed with thanks.

Farewell for Rev Doreen: Steve made a speech to Rev Doreen thanking her for all her years of work and service in our Church. She will be much missed. She was presented with gifts including a clerical shirt, flowers and money from the congregation, which will be transferred into her account.

Rev Doreen replied that she had not wanted this day to come. She came as a Probationer (though not in life) thinking she knew everything, but has found Ministry is always ongoing. She has enjoyed working together, using everyone's gifts and enjoyed being taken for who she is. She is surprised that she has been appointed as a Superintendent in her next appointment and asked for prayers, as she will still pray for us. She urged the meeting to always stay connected and work together as friends.

Gill also thanked Samuel Koffie Williams for being part of EMC, especially running the Centenary choir in our special year. A card was sent to him.

Chris Fisher thanked Tae for all his work on the accounts and also Alison for arranging church flowers every week.

Dinabasi Nkantah thanked Gill for all her work as secretary of this meeting and the Church Council. Rev Doreen reiterated that and thanked her for all her help and support during her time at EMC.

11. As there was no further business Rev Doreen closed the meeting using the final verse of Hymn 498 (StF) as a benediction.