

Minutes of the MET:Revive AGM: Monday 26th May 2025 at the Cliff College Festival and on Zoom

Present: 18 full MET:Revive members, 1 associate member and 3 non-members were present at Cliff, together with the Cliff College Principal, Rev Ashley Cooper and incoming Principal, Rev Dr Andrew Stobart who attended a small part of the meeting. 19 full MET:Revive members and 1 associate member were in attendance online via Zoom.

Welcome: The Chair, the Revd Chris Briggs, welcomed everyone both at Cliff and on Zoom to the 2025 AGM of MET:Revive.

Note-Taker: As Marian Izzard will shortly be commencing her sabbatical the Chair asked the meeting to approve Revd Nicola Briggs as note-taker for the 2025 AGM. **Agreed**

Devotions: Opening devotions were led by the Chair from Matthew 5:13-16 focusing on Salt and Light. With all that is happening in the world we are called to be the Salt and Light of the earth in the World. It is equally important to be the Salt and Light of the earth in the Church. Salt and Light also needs to be having an effect on the individual life of the followers of Christ. Sometimes as Christians we are so focused on being Salt and Light in the World we forget it needs to be having an effect on the Church and on Christians. Is our society crying out for salt and light and doesn't know where to find it? Is the Church crying out for salt and light and doesn't know where to find it? Do our individual lives need salt and light? The Chair led the AGM in prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Paul Donnison and Anthony Hick.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM: These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were available to download for those online. The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record.

Matters Arising: It was proposed that we thank Ashley for his contribution to Cliff College and The Methodist Church of Great Britain and pray God's richest blessings on his ministry in America. **Agreed**

Approval of the Accounts: The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024, were presented in the AGM report. **Agreed**

Reports: All reports had been circulated in the recent MET:Revive mailing and were accepted together. **Agreed**

Nominations: The Chair referred to an email that had been circulated on 19th May 2025 to all those on the MET:Revive mailing list with updated nomination information.

Liz Miller has completed one term as a Trustee and Vice Chair and was willing to undertake a second term. Proposed Roz Addington, seconded Nicola Briggs. **Agreed**

Trustees to the MET: Revive: It had been noted that with only three Trustees (minimum required) that we were carrying a risk should a Trustee be unavailable for a significant time. Two names were proposed to serve as Trustees:

Roz Addington, proposed by Gareth Higgs, seconded by Christopher Briggs
Nicola Briggs, proposed by John Izzard, seconded by Gareth Higgs

Roz and Nicola left the room whilst a discussion took place. The meeting **agreed** that both Roz and Nicola serve as trustees.

Principal's Input: Revd Ashley Cooper was welcomed to the MET:Revive AGM and thanked the meeting for the support that MET and MET:Revive had provided during his time as Principal. The incoming Principal, Revd Dr Andrew Stobart looks forward to future transformation at Cliff under the strapline 'Cliff College exists to inspire and equip those who are ambassadors of the good news.' Cliff will be exploring what does it mean for followers of Jesus to live out their calling. Andrew requested that MET:Revive continue to support Cliff in prayer.

Ashley raised 2 items for MET:Revive to focus their prayers on: 1) The Methodist Conference is reviewing learning for ministry. An interim report will come to Conference 2025 with a full report to Conference 2026. This report could impact learning at Cliff. 2) Finance. The college is in a very tricky place financially. Covid significantly impacted higher education establishments financially. Cliff has survived the Covid journey because of support from The Methodist Church.

The Chair asked John Izzard to pray for Ashley and Nicola Briggs to pray for Andrew with all that lies ahead for them both.

Ambassador Update: The Chair invited the Revd Dr David Hull to share as the recently appointed MET:Revive Ambassador.

A key objective of the Ambassador role is to increase the membership of MET:Revive and we have already seen some new members in 2025. The development of AWE (Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals) is progressing. David will continue exploring possibilities for regional MET:Revive advocates and is working on preparation for the "Remember to Forget" tour around the Connexion which will include a 'Moving in Mission' afternoon leadership workshop and an evening celebration, together with materials for ongoing fellowship and prayer.

Conversation and prayer: Those at Cliff broke into small groups and the Zoom group went into 2 break out rooms to discuss what they had heard during the

AGM and to feedback any thoughts:

- Low multi-cultural and low younger presence in MET:Revive.
- Need to encourage MET:Revive members to share / recruit locally.
- Affirming that welcoming needs both belonging and believing – confidence needed to share faith in ordinary ways.
- Need for different groups within Methodism not to compete.
- Challenge of God at work in non-Methodist settings.
- What salt and light look like on our streets, equipping and empowering.
- Importance of blessing in times of disagreement.
- Making ourselves available to God and having the courage to respond when God is doing a new thing.
- Engaging with church even if they have gone in a direction you don't like.

AOB – No items had been submitted prior to the meeting.

The Chair reflected briefly on the time at the Cliff Festival. Conversations at the marketplace stall had been very positive. MET:Revive contributed to the weekend's programme with two seminars that had been well attended. Members were reminded of the MET:Revive weekend (14th-16th November) at The Hayes in Derbyshire where the Revd Paul Smith would be exploring the Four Alls of Methodism.

Chris concluded the meeting with prayer.