

Up- Date after Oakham Methodist Church General Church Meeting

As you know the General Church Meeting took place last Sunday (2nd April) and was the best attended for many years. Thanks to all who came or stayed after the morning service.

One of the areas of discussion related to our evening services. We were only able to appoint one Church Steward this year – welcome aboard Adrian Arnold! – and with John Haden and Graham Reeve retiring - to whom we expressed our grateful thanks for all they have brought us - will place a considerable and in my view an unfair demand on what will now be our four stewards. By way of example Uppingham Methodist Church which is half our size has a team of six stewards which enables them all to breathe and live and see the role as a privilege rather than a burden.

We came to the conclusion that one way around this would be to ask if there were individuals who would be willing to act as “Sunday Evening Stewards” once a quarter and give our Church Stewards a night off. There are approximately three evening services per month so a team of ten would be ideal and two more in reserve would be even better! Sunday evening duties are considerably less onerous than Sunday morning ones and of course there would be no meetings to attend! We are most grateful to three people who have already volunteered but more are needed!

There is still I think a general but not an overwhelming view that our evening services should continue if possible even from those who attend only rarely, but the reality is that the core group who worship on Sunday evenings has become considerably smaller in recent years and there are occasions when those who are “on duty” are almost as many as those who are not! So if the evening service is to happen and we don’t place more on our Church Stewards and indeed our musicians than we could reasonably ask we really do need the help of those who usually only worship in the morning to support our evening congregation in this way. So would you please consider the above prayerfully and have a word with me ,Judith Bardon, Graham Stapleton or Ruth Rowell if you would like to know more. There will be a get-together in due course to explain what’s involved so at this stage we are not asking for a firm commitment but only a willingness to at least consider it.

And please don’t wait to be asked – not I think a Biblical principle!

Grateful Thanks, Leo.