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July 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This letter is an invitation to the Chepstow Methodist Church Annual Church Meeting. This is to take place in the worship space and on Zoom on **Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30 PM.**

This past year has been a challenging one for us all. Yet, we, as Church, have found creative, innovative and caring ways to be a worshipping and caring community. Well done to you all for your perseverance and little acts of kindness, and a big THANK YOU to all of the technical Wizz-kids who have blessed us all in ways we could scarcely have imagined eighteen months ago.

At this meeting I am hoping to be in a position to be able to say what will definitely be happening at Chepstow Methodist Church regarding pastoral oversight from the Connexional year beginning this September and for the next few years. Our prayers are very much with Revd. Rachel Frank and I feel privileged to be your Minister at this time.

This meeting will provide space for a review of the last year, for what has continued to happen despite all the restrictions placed upon us, and I hope some will bring Reports and good news stories. We will also discuss where we are as a local Church, as a Circuit, as a Synod and as a Connexion in what has been an eventful year.

We will also look ahead. We will appoint Office Holders and pray a blessing on them. These include Church Stewards; Church Council Secretary; Safeguarding Officer; Property Secretary; Treasurer; and Reps to the Circuit Meeting.

On this note –

**Stewards:** A Steward is one of the spiritual guardians of the Church. Yes, there are practical activities within this, and the team may be strengthened by having 'Assistant Stewards' which we will talk about at this ACM, but at this time of transition and change spiritual discernment and care is really required at this time. Please pray unto God as to whether this is your calling. Or, as Revd. Andrew Webster puts it; are you able to YES to God at this point of your life? Please do speak with Stuart, Margaret, Elizabeth, Enid or myself if you feel the Spirit's nudge to you.

**Church Council Secretary:** 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of Spiritual gifts. Verse 28 gives a list of how these gifts can be used practically. One of those gifts is Administration. The smooth running of any Church is dependent on good organisation and communication. At the heart of this is the Church Council Secretary. Chepstow Methodist Church does not have a Church Council Secretary at present. At a time of transition and change this role becomes ever more vital for the whole of the Church and for the growth of God's Kingdom in Chepstow. We **need** a willing Christian with the gift of Administration to help steer us through these current choppy waters. If this is you please speak with Stuart Nuttall and/or myself and we would love to hear from you.

We will have an Agenda on the night for us to work through, and let us draw together in love and friendship for Christ calls us to be one.

*Gordon*