

**Thames Valley Circuit - Methodist Church Circuit Meeting at
Eton Wick – Wednesday 16th May 2012 at 7.45 pm**

Minutes

Present: Rev Andrew Baker plus 3 other ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 26 other members (plus 2 non-voting observers) as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 16 members noted there.

The meeting opened with thanks to our hosts. As we neared Wesley Day we considered what we bring as Methodists to the many examples of ecumenical work we undertake with other churches:

The Methodist Quadrilateral: Reason, Scripture, Tradition and Experience. We are called to think/ not to accept blindly, to study scripture, to follow our traditions (as set out in CPD) and to use our experience of the warmed heart.

The Four Alls: All need to be saved
All can be saved
All can know they are saved
All can be saved to the uttermost – (We are all on a journey with further to go.)

Is our worship inclusive, proclaiming, vibrant and stretching?

Agenda: as distributed, plus Parking at Eton Wick in Olympic period under AOB

Minutes of last meeting: agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising: The new system for Ministerial Development Review has been completed. Each minister has had a lay person and a minister to review them. Thank you to Mary Hall, Ed Filmore and Peter Hardiment who have undertaken this on behalf of the circuit and to those in the churches who have given reports (ministers are not able to match individual feedback comments to the individuals who made them, though they are involved in selecting which individuals should be asked for feedback).

Safeguarding: The Circuit Safeguarding Policy, to be found on the website, was accepted unchanged for a further year. 136 people in the Circuit have signed up for the Creating Safer Places foundation training so far. The first session was full and well received. The dates and availability of places can be checked on the Circuit website diary of events. The Circuit asked for letters of thanks to be sent to Kathy Rickman and the team presenting these. Church Safeguarding Officers are asked to note that their next meeting will be on 4th September at Windsor.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs): The Colnbrook & Poyle URC & Methodist United Church LEP was signed in January 2005. The first 7 year review has started with a meeting with the two reviewers, who will experience worship and church council and submit a written report before 22nd July. An aspect on which we are hoping the review will enlighten us, is keeping a URC element to the life of the church when the Minister is a Methodist.

The North Slough LEP between Hampshire Avenue and two Anglican churches (which are now one congregation) was signed on 26th March 1997 and first reviewed in 2003. Three reviewers appointed by Churches Together in Berkshire have had two meetings so far for this second review and attended a service and annual LEC (Local Ecumenical Council) meeting. They will report by 13th July to Churches Together and this report will then come to the Circuit. This LEP does not have a shared building.

Progress on renting a new manse: In the current market, rental properties are quickly taken and it has proved difficult to find one with all the facilities that a minister will need as set out in CPD. A holding deposit has been put on a suitable property for Sonia and her family in Hillside, just off Ledger's Road, subject to a fuller inspection once the current tenants leave. Phil Clack was thanked for all his work on this.

Ledger's Road project update: £25,200 grant received from Veolia Environmental Trust making £112,000 funding so far towards the £152,000 projected. Further applications are to be made and the congregation is still fundraising. A meeting with the architect is now planned to discuss tendering.

Property Consents: Eton Wick cottage is now let with occupation soon.

Meeting for Church Property Stewards: 27th September, 7.30pm at Eton Wick. Please ensure that at least one person from your church comes to this meeting to talk about property matters in general with each other and with a representative from Methodist Insurance.

Reports on Circuit Events: The session on Methodism was not well attended.

The President's visit to Windsor went well. He engaged well, brought what was said at Synod and answered questions. One of the young people there said how special she found it. The hosts are to be thanked for their excellent organisation and lunch.

This was the first year the Easter Offering service had been held as a circuit event and a show of hands at this meeting encouraged the Circuit MWiB to repeat this again.

The Study Day for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders *The hard words of Jesus* was excellently led by Rev Philip Luscombe.

Mannie and Barbara: Phil Mount expressed the grateful thanks of the Circuit Meeting to Mannie for his nearly 9 years and Barbara, nearly 8 years, of service to the Circuit. Mannie had spearheaded the redevelopment of Hampshire Avenue and now Ledger's Road church buildings. Barbara had selflessly suggested she move to the Windsor section. They and their spouses will be greatly missed as Barbara retires and Mannie goes to lecture and Lynn to be Chief Librarian at the Theological College of Lanka in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Parking at Eton Wick in the Olympic period: Phil Clack advised that during the Olympics and the Para Olympics only those with parking permits will be able to park in Eton Wick between 7 am and 1 pm. Permits will be available for loan from the stewards on arrival to those attending morning service.

High Street shared a moment of blessing – their church was full to overflowing at the baptism of identical twins.

Dates for Diaries:

5th June	Circuit Afternoon Tea with Andrew & Jill	3 – 6 pm at Slough Manse
10th June	MHA Sunday (Envelopes distributed at this meeting)	
22nd July	Circuit Farewell to Mannie and Barbara	6.30 pm at Hampshire Avenue
2nd Sept	Circuit Welcome Service for new members of staff	6.30 pm at Windsor
20th Sept	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm at Windsor
27th Sept	Church Property Stewards Meeting	7.30 pm at Eton Wick
28th Oct	Circuit Home Mission Service/60th Anniversary	6.30pm at Old Windsor
20th Nov	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm at Colnbrook
28th Feb 2013	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm at St Mark's
22nd May	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm at Hampshire Avenue

The Meeting closed with the Blessing, particularly of Mannie and Barbara, at 9 pm.