

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting Eton Wick, Thursday 10th September 2015 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Note: CA stands for Church Action needed.

Present Rev Sonia Hicks plus 3 other ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 35 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 8 members noted there.

Agenda Agreed as distributed plus:

- Under Matters arising:
 - Notification of request for Sabbatical next summer for Rev Mindy Bell
- Under AOB:
 - Circuit Invitation Committee

Minutes of last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

Colnbrook and Poyle. Following the Circuit agreement at the March 2015 meeting that this United Church explore the possibility of reverting to a Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church has decided not to proceed with separation.

Use of Deacon in the wider Circuit. Church Councils are reminded to put discussion of this topic on their agendas if not already done. **CA** for churches outside Slough.

Inter Circuit Meeting update. Our Superintendent will be meeting with the new Superintendent of the Staines and Feltham Circuit next week.

Sabbatical of Superintendent will be from 3rd December 2015 to 2nd March 2016 with a sabbatical committee in place.

Sabbatical request for Rev Mindy Bell. It was resolved unanimously to send a letter to the District Sabbatical Committee in support of Rev Mindy Bell's request for dispensation to take her overdue Sabbatical in the first year of her appointment i.e. early June 2016 to early September 2016, as the following summer the rest of the ministerial team are all up for invitation.

Local Preachers' Meeting

Liz Tottingham, Kay Mackenzie and Tim Baker passed their exams and are now accredited Local Preachers, and Jon Garde has progressed from On Note to On Trial. David Ridley will be the Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting from 1st October. Connie Jeffery was thanked for her years of service as Secretary.

Safeguarding

The Annual Review of the Circuit Safeguarding Policy will be at the March Circuit Meeting. Kathy Rickman attended a very useful District meeting of Circuit Safeguarding Officers following the publication of the independent review of serious past cases. The main recommendations are around record keeping and

supervision of Ministers. Church Safeguarding Officers will be briefed at their meeting on 22nd September. The next Creating Safer Spaces awareness session is on 3rd October from 10 am to 1 pm at Eton Wick. Church Councils are asked to check that those who should attend such a session have done so. **CA**. These sessions will be updated in 2016.

Conversation on the work of God

- The Circuit Meeting agreed to Rev Sonia Hicks' proposal that there be no Circuit theme this year.
- Anne Haggarty thanked churches for their submissions for the Circuit Prayer Diary and encouraged them to continue to keep these brief in a couple of sentences. **CA**.
- Rev Sonia Hicks thanked all who had been involved in the arrangements for the Circuit Services this summer including the Thames Valley Voices. The Circuit Meeting asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Shirley Brooks for the catering at both those held at St Andrew's.
- A card was read from Rev Andrew and Jill Baker thanking the Circuit for the special gathering at their leaving service, the generous gifts, prayers and support.

Circuit Healing Services

The Circuit Meeting supported the proposal to hold quarterly evening Circuit Healing services and have this as the only evening service in the Circuit on the first two occasions. Rev Margaret Dudley asked to be given names of anyone feeling called to do prayers for people who are unwell. **CA**.

Response to the Refugee crisis

The Deacon will update us at the next meeting. Meanwhile please see the Methodist website for anything your church can do. The director of the Slough Refugee Centre has requested non-perishable food and clean blankets and sleeping bags. **CA**.

MWiB

Pilgrimages

- Kathy Rickman had been on the pilgrimage led by Jill Baker to Lindisfarne this August and thoroughly recommends this wonderful spiritual journey to any woman seeking space to find God's presence.
- Brenda Cheeseman is joining the pilgrimage to the Holy Land this November.
- Please see the MWiB website for details of future pilgrimages; these are open to any woman with an interest in Christian spirituality and a desire to explore this further.

Circuit MWiB It was agreed that funds raised could be paid in through the Circuit bank account.

Matters from Conference

Carried forward to the next meeting following Synod.

Circuit Property

- Connie Jeffery proposed a vote of thanks to Phil Clack for all his work for the Circuit as the Circuit Property Steward – we have been fortunate to have had his services and will miss him greatly.

- Joyce Brown, who has offered to succeed him, was appointed unanimously by this meeting. She will liaise with Phil. Ian Haggarty volunteered to input the property schedule online for Colnbrook & Poyle.
- **Circuit Property Consent** was given to Woodlands Park to re-let “Strathclyde”, Woodlands Park Road.

Finance

Circuit signatories for the HSBC Account

The following resolutions were passed:

10.1 Resolution: That our bank account with HSBC (the Bank) be continued and the Bank is authorised to act on any instructions provided they have been given by any two of the following members: Chris Wren, Phil Mount, Connie Jeffery, Alan Crowle and Glenice White

10.2 Resolution: That any debt incurred to the Bank under this mandate shall, in the absence of written agreement by the Bank to the contrary, be repayable on demand.

10.3 Resolution: That the Secretary is authorised to supply the Bank, as and when necessary, with lists of all persons who are authorised to give instructions on behalf of the Circuit, and that the Bank may rely on such lists.

10.4 Resolution: That the Circuit accepts the account and banking relationship with the Bank will be governed by and subject to the Business Banking terms and Conditions as amended from time to time.

10.5 Resolution: That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until cancelled by notice in writing to the Bank, signed by the Chairperson or Secretary from time to time acting or claiming to act on behalf of the Circuit, and the Bank shall be entitled to act on such notice whether the resolutions have been validly cancelled or not.

Online banking – Chris Wren to be asked for the amount needed for payment online with just one signature for circuit authorisation and guidance on online banking payment for churches.

Circuit Greetings to be sent to

- Rev Malcolm White with thanks for his work with Cookham Rise,
- Barbara and Dave McIntivey on becoming Grandparents and
- Rev Dr Mannie Jacobs on his retirement.

AOB

Circuit Training morning Proposed for early March; suggestions for topics to Rev Sonia Hicks. **CA.**

Circuit Invitation Committee- Churches are asked to nominate a member who is not on the CLT already, to represent them on this. Names to be given to Sue Le Page before the November Circuit Meeting. **CA.**

High Street Senior Church Steward will change on 1st October to Pam Proctor – note address change from that in the Circuit Directory.

Extra Dates - please also see the Circuit website

- Singing the Faith 26th September 2.30 pm at Eton Wick
- Circuit Missions Weekend 17th/18th October at St Mark’s Crescent

The meeting closed with prayer and thanks to our hosts at 9 pm.