

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting 7.45 pm Thursday, 14 September 2017 at Old Windsor

Minutes

Note: CA stands for Church Action needed.

Present Rev. Sonia Hicks plus three other Ministers, five Circuit Stewards and 23 other members as listed in the register of attendees. No Observers were present. Apologies from 12 members noted there.

1. Welcome and opening devotions.

The meeting opened with singing Hymn 789 and Sonia reading John 10 v 9-18. Theme for new year: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly".

2. Membership of meeting and apologies for absence.

New members were welcomed: Naomi Sharp, Diana Phipps,
Charles Buckman (in his new rôle of Circuit Steward).

Apologies: Laura Clark, Phil Ely, Malcolm White, Keith Le Page, Janine Amphlett, Neville Walton,
Brenda Cheeseman, Joy Brown, David Ridley.

3. Agreement of the agenda; notification of items requested for AOB:

- Three High Street property issues (Chris Maskell)
- Andy Packer's sabbatical

4. Minutes of last meeting (as already circulated) and matters arising.

- Thanks was given to those who had supported St. Marks with their 20:20 Vision Project. Further fund raising events to follow.
- Appointment of Circuit Ministerial Review Secretary and Deputy Webmaster.
- Staines & Feltham - discussions with Teddington Circuit had gone well - they want to finalise the acceptance by end of this connexional year.
 - Staines, St. Jude's Englefield Green and Egham churches to join Thames Valley Circuit (TVC).
 - Circuit Meeting happy to continue with the discussions.
 - Next stage - District Council to send out proposal to TVC.
 - Any issues to be sent to SH to pass onto John Hellyer.
 - SH to bring any issues to next meeting.

5. Safeguarding – Creating Safer Space Refresher Course on 7 October.

- Safeguarding Training Refresher course scheduled for 7 October at St. Andrews with 31 people attending. 11 November would be the next Foundation Course.
- Next year's dates to be confirmed to co-ordinators on 26 September.
- Policies have to be updated with job descriptions included.
- DBS - all ok.

6. Stationing – confirmation that Circuit profile for Maidenhead section has been done.

Connie confirmed that the Circuit had prepared a profile for Maidenhead section. John Hellyer has seen it. This didn't have to come to Circuit meeting. Has to be submitted by 25 September. **C.A.**

7. Candidate for the Presbyteral Ministry.

John Garde has put his name forward as a presbyteral ministry candidate. Circuit Meeting to vote to confirm agreement at the next meeting. Two of his services to be assessed before December.

8. Property:

Property inspection and completion of Schedules: these need to be filled in online after inspecting properties. This to be done by 7 November. **C.A.**

Property Consent for Woodlands Park to re-let "Sheen": approval carried unanimously.

Priesthaus: Garden had been tidied up and professional cleaners had been into the house. Estate agents Romans evaluated the property at £1M. CJ says it needed a lot of work doing to it - problems with damp in cellar - would need to tank the cellar, house not double glazed, kitchen needed replacing. CLT had recommended that Priesthaus be sold and the Circuit look for a more modern property with less maintenance. CJ had received some details of other properties and was asked to get a valuation for Priesthaus from more estate agents. Approval to sell Priesthaus was carried unanimously. **C.A.**

High Street Property Issues: Chris Maskell (CM) asked the meeting for their approval of the renewal of leases on properties owned by High Street:

- Residential property in Crescent Drive – current rent is £1,350 per month, agency recommended £1,375.
- Commercial property - tenant had come well in advance to discuss 5 year lease but asked to drop rent by £4K per annum. Have agreed 5 years, with a break clause at 3 years. Rent stays at £14K per annum
- Lease for tanning salon at £14K per annum with 3 year break clause.

These were all approved conditionally by the Circuit Meeting subject to High Street Church Council agreeing.

CM also reported on the space on first floor of investment properties which had previously operated as a winter Shelter for the homeless. There was current interest in a children's play group renting the property but this would only go ahead if the Church received a rent of £12K per annum. Circuit would be asked to agree for play group to rent the property once CM had more idea of rent.

The Shelter had run for 3 years with generous donations initially. This had been taken over by the Borough Council using their own premises. Credit balance of the donations had been controlled by Rev. Gary Homewood and two other members of High Street Church who had all moved away from the area. Circuit staff had advised High Street to contact those who donated over £3K. CM had written to those concerned and explained the situation. Five out of six had replied and were content that the money should be divided by local charities, such as other Shelters in Circuit - Slough and Windsor.

9. Report on annual inspection of the certificates held in the Circuit safe.

Inspection would be done before next meeting. **C.A.**

10. Circuit Greetings.

- Alan Crowle - best wishes to him in hospital.
- Sue Le Page was thanked for her work as Circuit Secretary.
- Outstanding letter to George Howard – Mindy to supply address.
- Richard & Mary Hall - death of their son.
- Bertha Hodge ill.

11. Any other business.

11a. Items from Conference

- Conference business digest newsletter handed out for each church.
- Funds requested from lottery if over £10K need to get approval from Circuit, and if over £50K approval is needed from District.
- Movement day on 6-7 October: leaders from churches and business are called together "How we can make our towns/cities better"

11b. 3 March Circuit training day.

11c. 12 May- 10 August 2018 - Andy Packer's sabbatical.

11d. Circuit had received a thank you note from Gary Homewood for his farewell gift and card.

11e. Summer party for refugees - some had attended and helped - these people were thanked.

11f. Large print membership ticket – let Minister know if these are required. **C.A.**

11g. Presidential year bookmarks would be available from next week.

12. Dates for Diaries.

Wed 22 Mar 2017 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm Woodlands Park

Tues 6 Mar 2018 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm Ledgers Road

Thurs 24 May 2018 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm Burnham

Thurs 11 Sept 2018 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm t.b.c.

Wed 14 Nov 2018 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm t.b.c.

Thurs 11 Feb 2019 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm t.b.c.

Tues 14 May 2019 Circuit Meeting 7.45pm t.b.c.

13. Closing thanks and prayer. Meeting finished with the Grace at 8.55 pm. Old Windsor were thanked for hosting the meeting.