

Thames Valley Circuit - Methodist Church Circuit Meeting at Woodlands Park on Wednesday 14th September 2011 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Present: Rev Andrew Baker plus 2 other ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 35 other members (plus 4 non-voting observers) as listed in the register of attendees.
Apologies from 7 members as noted there.

After devotions led by Emmanuel Jacob, respects were paid to the memory of John Scott who had contributed greatly to the Circuit, not least as Circuit Steward on its formation. The meeting directed that a card be sent to Mrs Janet Scott and the family.

Agenda as distributed plus items

- 4a Report from Conference,
- 7a. Property consent – Rolling tenancy on St Mark’s Manse.
- 8 Stationing – Request that the invitation committee for the presbyter appointment include a representative from the North Slough LEP.
- 9 Finance – proposal to support the Ledger’s Road buildings project.
- 11 AOB – Communications comment
Amend CM constitution to acknowledge Methodist Women in Britain, and
Recommend to put recording circuit meetings on hold.

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

Matters Arising – Circuit administration Veronica Mullix at St Andrew’s will keep circuit files updated and help with the superintendent’s secretarial work as needed. She works on Tuesday evenings and can be contacted on va.mullix@talk21.com or the circuit office email. Urgent items should be sent to Andrew’s email address. CLT members will pick up the rest with Jenny Sturgeon’s help with printing.

Notification of Grant for Deacon, as already notified the District Grants Group has agreed to award the Circuit the grant requested from the District Advance Fund of £47,500 towards this project, consisting of £9,500 per year for the five years of the posting.

Methodist Conference Imran Daniel gave a brief report thanking the Circuit for the opportunity to see and listen to well-known and respected individuals such as Baroness Kathleen Richardson, and to meet so many others and learn from their experiences. The new President’s focus is *on Pastoral Care* and the new Vice President’s on *Learning as a disciple of Jesus*.

Safeguarding Officers had met in July. The next meeting is Thurs 6th Oct at High Street. There is a new Methodist Church training module and Kathy Rickman asked the meeting to encourage members in the churches to attend trainings to ensure awareness of the issues and procedures.

Circuit Property Steward This new circuit officer and CLT appointment was agreed and Phil Clack appointed. Proposer - Andrew Baker, Seconder - Anne Haggarty

Allocation of Circuit Stewards to Churches

Ruth James	Burnham and Eton Wick
Paul Newton	Cookham Rise, St Mark’s and Woodlands Park
Anne Haggarty	Colnbrook & Poyle and St Andrew’s (Urdu)
Alan Crowle	Hampshire Avenue and Windsor
Chris Wren	Old Windsor
Phil Mount	High Street, Ledger’s Road and St Andrew’s (English)

Property

Ledger's Road Project Update The Church is in the process of applying for a grant from the District Advance Fund. Over £10,000 has been raised locally so far. Total project costed at £152,000. Other grant applications were being made and High Street suggested applying to the Berkshire Churches Trust and the National Churches Trust from whom they had received £5,000 and £10,000 respectively.

Property Consents – Rolling tenancy on St Mark's Manse to renew the lease for periods less than a year at the current rate: Circuit consent given.

Notification was received that Cookham Rise intended to renew the short-term lease on its cottage and High Street let its caretaker's house, both at market rents.

Insurance – Methodist Insurance would now only pay out a maximum of £5000 on claims arising from theft of lead and then only if the lead had been marked with "Smartwater".

Stationing Profiles The three profiles were ratified by the Circuit Meeting after the following changes:

Presbyter – put details of St Mark's manse with a note that this manse can be changed.

Probationer – at 38 name the nearest hospital as Wexham Park. (It was noted that authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper was regarded as essential.)

Deacon –

Item 2. "This area of the Thames Valley between Reading and London has a population diverse in terms of socio-economic background, ethnicity, language and faith. It comprises the towns of Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, and the distinct communities of Burnham, Cookham, Eton Wick, Old Windsor, Colnbrook and Woodlands Park, each with its own particular features."

Item 6. Omit second line about town centre and the reference to Street Angels as these do not sit with the aim in this appointment

Item 9. Include reference to outgoing character.

Invitations Committee – Circuit Meeting confirmed that in this case this consists of the Circuit Leadership Team minus the two ministers who are leaving the circuit and that the invitation committee for the presbyter appointment include a representative from the North Slough LEP including Hampshire Avenue. It gave the Invitations Committee permission to make initial invitations. In the first round of stationing, visits were most likely on Saturdays 12th & 19th November.

Finance – There was discussion on the financing of the Deacon appointment. It was proposed that the November Circuit Meeting be used to discuss the whole question of Circuit finance and reserves.

The **Ledger's Road** grant application to the District Advance Fund needed a figure for the Circuit contribution to the project (not payable for at least twelve months). It was agreed to put this at £20,000 and invite individual churches to show their support by making grants within this total; the Circuit pledging the balance from reserves.
Proposer Andrew Baker Seconder Imran Daniel Carried with 3 abstentions

Dates for Diaries are as per the agenda with 30th October Circuit Service at St Andrew's highlighted.

Communication: Phil Mount said that in his experience dissemination of information down through the organisation made for a more effective organisation. He encouraged churches to publicise a summary of minutes of Circuit Meeting to encourage members to feel more involved and give more support to their churches and the Circuit. The minutes are posted on the Circuit website and he would produce a summary of the highlights.

CM constitution It was agreed to amend this to include a representative of Circuit Methodist Women in Britain committee in the membership.

Recording circuit meetings It was agreed not to proceed with this.

The Meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the Grace at 9.30 pm.