

The Methodist Church Thames Valley
Circuit Meeting at High Street Maidenhead
Thursday 27th February 2014 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Present Rev Andrew Baker plus 6 other ministers, 4 Circuit Stewards, and 28 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 11 members noted there.

Mr Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary was welcomed as an observer. He explained that he works as part of the Senior Leadership Team of the Connexional Team to determine how the vision, strategy and policies of the Methodist Church as determined by Conference are to be put into effect, and is visiting Circuit Meetings to help inform this work.

Agenda Agreed as distributed plus

- under item 7: Constitution of the Circuit Meeting, Work of the Deacon and Fourth Sunday at Cookham Rise,
- under item 12: Circuit greetings, Berkshire Women's Aid and request for leave in 2015.

Minutes of last meeting and those of the extraordinary meeting held in January were agreed.

Safeguarding

The meeting was asked to ensure that all new appointees to positions in the church, including pastoral visitors, should attend a safeguarding awareness session before taking up their appointment. There is one in the circuit on March 8th at St Mark's Crescent.

Circuit Annual Report for 2013

This was adopted unanimously by the Meeting. This, apart from the financial report, will be available on the website with one paper copy in each church. The 2014 report will include reports from each individual church and organisation, with Anne Haggarty collating these, starting in November. This full report has been brought forward to help the new superintendent minister in 2015.

Constitution of the Circuit Meeting

Attached as Appendix 1. This was revised to show changes since it was last agreed in 2003, including the reduction in the number of representatives from committees.

Work of the Deacon

Andrew reported. Andy has been able to support Andrew working alongside the congregations in Slough:

- Ledgers Road: the property, including establishing the link with a pre-school to use the premises and *Coffee Stop* every Friday; a Men's Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday each month;
- Hampshire Avenue: a children's holiday club at this Easter;
- the *Alive in Slough* weekend for 2 years;
- chaplaincy role for the Slough Boys Brigade;
- local preaching and leading bible study;
- trustee for the Slough Street Angels; and
- **Slough Night Shelter** held at a different church each night, St Andrew's – Sunday night, until the end of March. Up to 14/15 men and one woman have been welcomed with soup and sandwiches and given breakfast by volunteers.

Fourth Sunday at Cookham Rise

Starting on 23rd March, we are inviting all, especially from the west of the circuit, to support this “not the normal” Sunday evening service.

Property

Circuit Property Schedule D was presented by Phil Clack and approved by the meeting. It is an exception report and there are no major issues. One church has yet to present its schedule to its church council, and churches are asked to complete as much as possible on the schedules to be presented to their autumn church council meetings this year. The new online system presented challenges when answers were forced for questions that were not applicable to that particular church and this was noted by Mr Doug Swanney for the Connexion. The manses are all inspected and managed by manse visitors.

Sale of Manse Further to the authorisation given at the January extraordinary meeting, the circuit property in St Mark’s Road was put on the market at the beginning of this week at £650,000. On Tuesday an offer for £635,000 was received from a couple with a young family with a house to sell and a mortgage for the extra agreed. This has been accepted on our behalf by the CLT.

Replacement Manse A very suitable property in good condition has been found at 1A Spring Lane, Cippenham. This was advertised at £549,950 and, after negotiation, our offer of £520,000 was accepted on 14th February 2014 for a speedy sale. Circuit funds can cover the extra costs and the circuit meeting voted for the following proposal by the CLT:

Proposal to apply for a bridging loan That the Methodist Chapel Aid Society be approached, if needed, for a bridging loan of £520,000 to enable the purchase of 1A Spring Lane, Cippenham, Slough and that these three named members of the Circuit Meeting be authorised to act as signatories on behalf of the Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit: Mrs Anne Haggarty, Senior Circuit Steward; Mrs Connie Jeffery, Circuit Steward; Mrs Elizabeth Tottingham, Circuit Steward.

Proposed by Rev Andrew Baker, seconded by Mrs Jean Barnett. The voting was unanimous with 39 for. (The total circuit meeting membership is 58.)

We are using Kidd Rapinet as solicitors, and Cameron King and Romans as estate agents.

We declare that, as trustees, we shall use the funds from the sale of the St Mark’s property to purchase a replacement manse and the associated costs including those of any bridging loan, removal costs and redecoration required.

The meeting wished to register its thanks to Connie Jeffery for the remarkable amount of work she is putting in to ensure these property transactions happen.

92 Ledgers Road is now registered with the land registry, thank you to Connie Jeffery, and the application for a licence for multiple occupancy can be progressed.

Annual Circuit Appointments for 2014/15

These were agreed as shown in Appendix 2, with Daphne Hogg for MHA *pro tem*.

Maidenhead Emergency Night Shelter has started with at maximum 7 of the 12 places taken. Gary Homewood thanked the circuit for providing the seed funding, which has encouraged others to contribute and means only £2000 will be used. The most desperate need for volunteers is on a Sunday night.

Circuit Vision and Mission Statement

The meeting split into small groups each discussing one of the sections under the four headings used in “Our Calling” of this draft document. Please pass any photographs and line drawings we can use to illustrate this to Anne Haggarty. *[Post Circuit Meeting comment: The updated statement is on the Our Circuit page on the circuit website.]*

Circuit Correspondence

The Circuit Meeting has received a letter of thanks from Ledgers Road Methodist Church for all the support given which has meant they have already repaid their Chapel Aid loan; and one from the family of Don Peake.

Post meeting notes:

- Letters of condolence have been sent to David and Sylvia Alexander, and to the Sturgeon family on the death of Diane.
- A letter of thanks has been received from Doug Swanney “for the warm and hospitable welcome last night. It was inspiring to hear of the Circuit vision and the care you showed for one another.”

Berkshire Women’s Aid is appealing for specific help from the churches. Please contact Rev Margaret Dudley with offers of good quality second hand clothes for all sexes and sizes, toys including small outdoor toys, children’s books and craft materials, offers to be included on a register of people who can be asked to childmind or babysit at short notice, offers of gardening and money, thank you.

Proposed leave for Andrew Baker

The proposal from the CLT that Andrew be granted leave during May and June 2015 in order to spend time reflecting and writing about the personal experiences which have so affected him, was agreed unanimously. Andrew’s original request to take his sabbatical early had been agreed by the District Chair and the Sabbaticals Advisory Group, but the Circuit Meeting wished to gift him this leave before his appointment here ends in August 2015.

Dates for Diaries please see also diary of forthcoming events on website:

Sunday, 4th May	Easter Offering Service	5 pm at St Mark’s Crescent
Monday, 12th May	Testimony Service: Rev Margaret Dudley	7.30 pm at Windsor
Wednesday, 21st May	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm at Old Windsor

The meeting closed with a hymn and the saying of the Grace together at 9.40

Appendix 1: Constitution of the Thames Valley Circuit Meeting

- The Superintendent Minister, Ministers, Probationers, Authorised Ministers.
- Supernumerary Ministers and Ministers residing in the Circuit who have informed the Superintendent that they wish to be members of the Circuit Meeting (CM).
- Circuit Stewards
- Lay Workers employed by the Circuit (if any)
- Circuit Meeting Secretary
- Local Preachers Secretary
- Any Circuit Representative to Synod not included above

From each Church:

- One named Church Steward
- Church Treasurer
- Named Representatives from Church Councils based on size of membership:
 - up to 75 1
 - 76 - 150 2
 - 151 - 225 3
 - Over 225 4

Additional persons

- Circuit Treasurer (if not a circuit steward)
- Circuit Deputy Treasurer
- Circuit Property Secretary
- Circuit Safeguarding Officer
- Local Preachers 2 – appointed by the Local Preachers Meeting
- Children and Youth 1 – an appropriate person appointed annually by the Circuit Meeting
- Missions 2 – appointed by the Missions Committee
- Action for Children 1 – local co-ordinator
- Methodist Homes 1 – local co-ordinator
- MWiB 1 – local president

Ecumenical Links

- North Slough LEP 1 – observer
- Burnham and Slough Deanery 2 – observers
- Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery 2 – observers

Notes

1. Lay Workers – note that, although the Circuit has to give its approval, lay workers appointed by individual churches are not included.
2. Churches may choose annually which church steward to send to the Circuit Meeting.
3. Substitutes may be sent but only the named member is eligible to vote.
4. If a member wears two hats, he / she has just the one vote
5. Representatives from Church Councils as at February 2014: One per Church except for:
High Street Maidenhead 3; St Andrew's (English) 2; Windsor 2

The full constitution was last presented to, and approved by, the February 2014 Circuit Meeting.

Appendix 2: Annual Circuit Appointments for 2014 - 2015

Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting **Appointed in:**

Circuit Stewards	Mrs Anne Haggarty	2008	Mr Alan Crowle	2011
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mrs Connie Jeffery	2013
	Mrs Elsa Daniel	2013		
Circuit Steward/Treasurer			Mr Chris Wren	2010
Circuit Property Secretary			Mr Phil Clack	2011
Circuit Meeting Secretary			Mrs Sue Le Page	2011

Non-members of Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting

Circuit Safeguarding Officer			Mrs Kathy Rickman	2004
Deputy Circuit Treasurer			Mr Phil Mount	2013
Children and Youth Appointment			<i>vacant</i>	
MHA Co-ordinator			Miss Daphne Hogg, <i>pro tem</i>	
Action for Children Co-ordinator / Secretary			Mrs Evelyn Thomson	2003

Nominations from Circuit Committees for ratification:

Local Preachers' Mtg: Secretary			Mrs Connie Jeffery	
	LWPT Secretary / Treasurer		Miss Daphne Hogg	?
Missions Representative for Mission in Britain and World Mission			<i>vacant</i>	
	JMA Secretary		<i>vacant</i>	
Circuit MWiB President			Mrs Ann Hardiment	2008

Circuit Representatives to Synod: Ex officio member + 5 representatives + 1 substitute (All are *ex officio* members of the Circuit Meeting)

	Mrs Anne Haggarty (<i>Ex officio</i>)	2009	Mr Philip Clack	2005
	Mr Bill Barnett	2008	Mr Peter Trout	2010
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mrs Connie Jeffery	2013
<i>Substitute:</i>	<i>vacant</i>			

Membership of Invitations Committee:

Circuit Leadership Team minus any Minister leaving.

The committee is empowered to issue an invitation to a minister if a right match be found.

Other Appointments

Circuit Auditor			Brigden, Watkins & Wainwright	
Circuit Webmaster			Mr Ian Haggarty	2009
Circuit Deputy Webmaster			Dr Ed Filmore	2009
Circuit Ministerial Development Review Secretary			Dr Ed Filmore	