

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting Colnbrook & Poyle, Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Note: CA stands for Church Action needed.

Present Rev Sonia Hicks chairing, plus 4 other Circuit Ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 28 other members plus 2 observers as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 10 members noted there.

Agenda Agreed as distributed.

Minutes of last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

- Rev Mindy Bell's sabbatical (20th June – 19th September 2016). During this period Rev Sonia Hicks will have pastoral oversight for Hampshire Avenue and St Andrew's Urdu, and Deacon Andy Packer for St Andrew's English congregation.
- Circuit Training Morning, Saturday 12th March 2016. There was a good turnout for this joint event with the Staines & Feltham Circuit. Five different schemes for **local arrangement services** had been produced and extra copies of these are available from Veronica Mullix at the Circuit Office. Also see resources at <http://methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/local-preachers/readers-services> – CA.
- Circuit laptop, projector and robust portable screen. Jean Barnett has donated a laptop. Kathy Rickman is to purchase a projector and screen and advise on storage and booking out.
- Church Property Schedules – Churches are advised that the Place of Worship certificates are kept in the Circuit Safe which is checked annually by the Senior Circuit Steward and the Superintendent who will report to the September Circuit meeting.
- Circuit Easter Offering service – the Circuit Methodist Women in Britain committee were thanked for the arrangements for this thought provoking service.

Safeguarding

The pilot revised 'Creating Safer Space' foundation course had been well received. Churches are asked to book new office holders on a repeat session this summer, date to be confirmed. **CA.**

Annual Circuit Appointments for 2016/17

There is still a vacancy for a fifth Circuit Representative to Synod. Circuit Meeting delegated the authorisation of a volunteer to the Circuit Leadership Team – **CA.**

The meeting thanked Ian Haggarty and Ed Filmore for their work as Webmaster and Deputy Webmaster. A church member with IT skills is sought to understudy Ian as Webmaster – **CA.**

Circuit Invitations Committee 2016/17 was agreed as circulated.

Stationing 2017

Four of the ministers in the circuit are up for re-invitation. They will be approached for their decision on this and have three possible answers:

- A I would like to be re-invited for x years where x is up to 5.
- B I think it is time to move on. Or
- C I am not sure and would like to hear what the churches feel.

B will start the matching process of drawing up profiles.

A or C will start a consultation process by the Circuit Stewards. The resultant report will go to the minister concerned and then to the Circuit Invitations Committee, which will make a recommendation to the September Circuit Meeting. As the Superintendent is up for re-invitation, the 14th September Circuit Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of our District. (Consultation will be with all the churches in the circuit for this appointment.)

A meeting for Church Stewards and those Circuit Stewards who did not attend the District preparation meeting has been arranged for Monday, 23rd May at 7.30 at St Andrew's and will include a leaflet about the range of issues that could be discussed in consultations.

Dependent on the outcomes there is the possibility that how the circuit is staffed may need to be slightly reconsidered. Please keep all ministers and circuit stewards involved in this process in your prayers.

Mission

The **Smaller Churches Group** plans events for the six smaller churches for the wider Circuit. These have included an Away Day on the relevance of Wesley today, singing that led to the formation of Thames Valley Voices, and a series of *Come and See* services to which all are invited – **CA**.

Action for Children Anne Haggarty asked for representation from more of the churches, Contact her for copies of the latest 'Thanks to you' magazine. Last year's collections were up by almost £1000, including over £700 from the performances of 'Nativity'. Thank you to all who took part and joined in. One member had raised funds by nominating this charity for her birthday gifts. Action for Children Sunday this year is 10th July 2016 and 2019 will be the 150th Anniversary – **CA**.

Circuit Directory 2016/17 Church Secretaries will be sent the entries for this, and need to check that every piece of information is correct. There is a legal obligation to check that everyone who is included has given their permission for their details to be shown – **CA**.

Circuit Prayer Diary Please let Anne Haggarty know if there has been a change of Senior Church Steward as she will be sending out requests for a sentence from each church for prayer need and one giving thanks. Try to remember to use this resource each Sunday – **CA**.

"Faith is adding our story to God's story." Members shared in pairs how God had touched their lives in the past week.

Representatives from the churches were challenged to tell the meeting about their mission including something that they had tried which had not gone well that we might all learn from this. Although the *Open the Book* outreach into schools was going from strength to strength, football church had failed to attract young people. Our prayers were asked for working with children and particularly as musicians. Several churches were struggling with *Messy Church* – one idea was to relaunch this as Gardening Church. Another idea was to provide "Grave Talk" – an opportunity to talk about death, dying and funerals over a cup of tea.

Property

Consent was given to Cookham Rise to re-let their cottage next January.

Schools might welcome invitations for Key Stage 1 to visit as part of their local heritage curriculum – CA.

Circuit Greetings

Rev M White has taken the decision not to renew his Anglican licence and so will cease to be a recognised minister in this circuit after August. The meeting asked Connie Jeffery to arrange a gift for him with our thanks for all the support he has given this circuit in the past, and give him a warm invitation to our future events.

AOB

The secretary of the Windsor & Maidenhead Anglican Deanery has had an introductory meeting with our Circuit Meeting secretary.

Supervision for ministers. The Superintendent gave details of the time commitment that this new system of support for Ministers would entail. Our Southeast District and Liverpool District are piloting the scheme, which has arisen as one of the recommendations of the past cases review. Each minister will have ten one hour sessions with the Circuit Superintendent a year and the Superintendent ten hours with the Chair of District. Although some of these may be group sessions, this scheme to increase the effectiveness of our ministry will mean a reduction in availability to the congregation.

Extra Dates. Please see the Circuit Website.

The meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the saying of the Grace together at 9.15 pm.