

Minutes of the Thames Valley Circuit Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th November 2020, at 7.45 pm

This meeting was held on Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Note: CA – Church Action required.

Welcome and opening devotions

Vicci opened the meeting with a reflection on “Remembering” and a prayer.

Membership of meeting and apologies for absence

- The membership of the meeting was agreed. It is recorded on the attendance sheet in the minute book.
- 39 members were present, 8 apologies were received.

Agreement of the agenda; notification of items requested for AOB

No items were requested under AOB, and the previously circulated agenda was agreed.

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

The minutes of the September meeting were agreed with one addition under Property: The Circuit Meeting approved Joy and Glenice to handle selling Salt Hill Drive, *and gave them authority to sign any necessary documentation on the circuit's behalf.* The minutes will be signed when practical.

There were no matters arising.

A Methodist Way of Life

Vicci reminded us of this resource available on the Connexional website. It includes, for example a booklet about what is special about Methodism. Information will be distributed with membership tickets, and she encouraged us all to take full advantage of this resource. CA

Circuit Strategy

The new Circuit Strategy document was introduced and discussed. Members agreed that the proposals sounded exciting. Vicci said that she knew that some ideas would work, but others would not, and that the group was excited about using their energy to stimulate the circuit.

As the Strategy Group will be working on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, it will need the meeting's approval prior to any suggestions being put into effect. Discussion took place about the best ways of disseminating information and proposals, at which point Anne E reminded everybody of the necessity of following GDPR. CA

Anne H offered to use her CM mailing list to send out material. Ian reminded the meeting that everyone forwarding details for inclusion in the Circuit Directory had been asked to get explicit consent from each member before forwarding the information for inclusion.

John Statham then proposed that the group should start work immediately on two proposals in the strategy document:

1 Finding all those musicians and singers in our circuit and making the most of them! Getting to grips with technology that would let us rehearse together at a distance and add live or recorded music to Zoom and to future Circuit services.

2 Bringing all our brilliant Junior Church/Sunday School leaders together to share what they do with each other and build cross circuit relationships.

Contact to be made through Church Council Secretaries, with presbyters copied in.

This was agreed.

Reports

Finance

Sue Le Page brought a proposal from the recent Treasurers' Meeting: "That Hampshire Avenue Methodist Church be released from the commitment to pay £5000 of their assessment for 2020/21, and that this shortfall be taken from Circuit reserves if no grants can be made by other churches in the Circuit." Carried.

Sue also brought a proposal about the General Fund in the Reserves Policy, namely: The Fund is to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months' worth of annual expenses less transfer to other reserve funds and a maximum of 6 months' worth of annual expenses. This is to manage risk and meet unplanned expenditure calls on the Circuit. For 2020/21 this is a minimum of £65,500 and a maximum of £131,000. Carried.

The draft circuit accounts for the year to 31st August 2020 had been presented to the meeting together with a comparison showing a reduction in the budget shortfall of about £4,000. The report from the external examiner had not yet been received. The proposal to accept the accounts subject to a favourable external examination was carried.

In reply to a question on the cost of external examination it was explained that this was higher than last year due to an underestimate for the bill last year when the Circuit had changed to preparing the final accounts in house. The meeting asked the CLT to look at the situation about Independent Examiners, and whether there might be anyone within the circuit with the necessary experience. Carried.

On the meeting's behalf, Vicci expressed our grateful thanks to Sue for all her hard work.

Property

Property consents were sought by:

- Cookham Rise, to relet their cottage to a new tenant. Agreed
- High Street, to renew the lease on 3a King Street, for the existing tenant. Agreed
- High Street, to renew the lease on the small office used by Courtney coaches for their drivers. Agreed

Glenice reported that the sale of Salt Hill Drive is going ahead, but slowly, because of illness.

Members expressed their grateful thanks to Glenice and Joy.

All other reports circulated before the meeting were accepted. Vicci said that she had asked for reports from Church Stewards so that we could all understand where we all were / are.

David Ridley than gave a tribute and appreciation for Dr John Long CVO, who died recently. He had been was a Local Preacher since 1950, and was and a former member of Windsor. Vicci concluded the tribute with a prayer. It is hoped that a memorial service for John will (eventually, post-Covid) be arranged at Windsor Methodist Church.

Matters from the CLT

Churches were reminded that they need to appoint their representative to the Circuit Invitation Committee at their next Church Council. Anne H said she would send a reminder. The names are needed for approval at the next Circuit Meeting. CA

Anne E introduced the idea of "Pop-Up Church". This is a way of taking the church out into the street. The suggestion is that this is done in Maidenhead in the High Street during Advent, starting immediately lockdown finishes and ending on Christmas Eve. It would be a safe space for anyone to drop into, and would offer games, crafts, space to be quiet, refreshments, etc. Anne E wants to set up a group to co-ordinate everything, and make sure all the necessary requirements are in place, including insurance and risk assessment. She would like there to be a presbyter present at all times, and others around to help. The staff are very keen on this idea. For those who cannot volunteer to help physically, Anne asked for their support in prayer. CA

The meeting agreed to the suggestion, and Anne E will be in touch.

Carbon Footprint

The latest situation from the churches was circulated earlier, and Vicci said that two churches were now involved with Eco-church. St Andrew's English are continuing, and Cookham Rise have become involved. Keith Le Page said that they had already achieved a bronze award, and were looking at how to go further, without too much extra cost. Carmel said that the Young Church at High Street was also starting work.

Circuit Greetings

Glenice read a "thank-you" note from Sonia, and said that she is in conversation with the President's and Vice-President's Office to arrange for a circuit visit from Sonia during her Presidential year.

Anne H said that she would be sending a card of sympathy to Veronica Mullix, whose mother had just died as a result of Covid.

Dates for Diaries

Tues 16 Mar 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	NB date change
Thurs 13 May 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Tues 14 Sep 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Wed 17 Nov 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Thurs 17 Feb 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Tues 17 May 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Wed 14 Sep 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
Thurs 17 Nov 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	

When it is possible to arrange actual Circuit Meetings, appropriate venues will be announced

Vicci closed the meeting at 9.10 pm with a prayer, and we all blessed each other with the words of the Grace.

The following reports are included as appendices:

Appendix 1	Church Reports
Appendix 2	Action for Children
Appendix 3	Methodist Women in Britain
Appendix 4	Safeguarding
Appendix 5	Property
Appendix 6	Circuit Strategy
Appendix 7	Smaller Churches
Appendix 8	Carbon Footprint
Appendix 9	Finance

Appendix 1: Church reports – the situation as of 2nd November 2020

Burnham

Burnham Church like most of the churches in the circuit has been closed for much of the current year but we reopened properly for at the beginning of September with shortened services and following all the social distancing guidelines.

Those who continue to attend Sunday service are keen to continue to do so and we are on most Sundays, at normal levels. We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers for their continuing support throughout this time especially the ZOOM services.

Our lunch club 'CAMEO' and toddler group are still not open for business with the table tennis group having closed completely.

Some of our outside users have started their groups again but the majority are still not opening up yet.

We are very grateful to Sue Clifford who has kindly agreed to become our Church Treasurer so all in all we are almost back on an even keel.

Joy Brown

Colnbrook & Poyle

Colnbrook and Poyle are about to separate from the URC and return to being a Methodist congregation.

We have to work towards selling our building and have exciting plans of how we will use our new building. We are praying about moving forward and we are expecting to make our new building a community one covering some services we have lost in the village. We are at the early stages of this but one of the new ideas we are planning to include is "Lego Church" for children after school.

This time next year we expect to see a very different church to the one we are in now - watch this space is all we can say really.

Cookham Rise

During lockdown the stewards decided that we wanted to keep people together in worship. A maximum of five members joined in the Circuit Zoom Services. Some members of the congregation have computers but did not want to join in the Zoom Service although they were offered the opportunity each week.

At least half of the congregation do not have computers so The Vine at Home was printed off and delivered with weekly notices to eleven households each Saturday late afternoon/early evening. This meant we had contact with our members face to face but at a distance. These printed services were really appreciated and people liked the fact that they could return to the prayers, readings and reflections. We made sure everyone had a copy of Singing the Faith and a Bible to follow the hymns and readings.

Some members enjoyed Songs of Praise and radio and TV services, others live-streamed services from Wesley's Chapel or Truro Methodist Church because of their connections with that church. Some of us missed being at church to worship; others were quite happy to worship from their homes. The pastoral visitors made regular contact with the members in their groups and as lockdown started to ease members started to meet up with each other in their gardens.

The Cookham Community Allotment kept going during lockdown, observing all the necessary regulations. One of the organisers was the telephone contact to ensure that only two people at a time went there.

The numbers gradually increased over the period, with groups of six at one time and now back to the pre-Covid numbers on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. This has been of amazing benefit to those who grow vegetables and flowers together.

Following approval of the Risk Assessments by the Church Council we opened the church for prayer during July and August. This gave us an opportunity to see how our Risk Assessments could work in practice and to acquire the necessary cleaning and sanitising items.

Our first service was on September 11th. This was our Harvest Festival and we first met at the allotment for a brief time of worship with those who regularly come to the allotment, and then went to the church. We have been open every Sunday since. We still send The Vine at Home to those who are housebound.

We have opened up the hall to the Saturday Dance Class and to Diddy Disco following approval of their Risk Assessments. We have also started up our Toddler Group, Come and Play. The sessions on Tuesday and Friday mornings have to be booked through a system set up by one of our mums. Our church Ladies' Circle will have its first monthly meeting on November 5th.

We are fortunate to have Cookham SOS which was set up at the beginning of lockdown to offer help to neighbours and especially those required to shield. There were many volunteers who shopped, collected medication, delivered flowers on Cheer Up Tuesday and much more.

All in all we are in good spirits, although despite our efforts there are some members of the congregation who have found this time of the pandemic very difficult.

Kathy Rickman

Eton Wick

Eton Wick re-opened on Sunday, 20th September 2020 with a Communion Service followed by a Church Council Meeting held ten days later.

At this it was decided to try to hold services roughly every fortnight and endeavour to resume Bible Study meetings and Rev. Margaret Dudley has produced a draft of dates from October 2020 - February 2021.

However, subsequently, there is every likelihood of a further Church Council meeting being arranged in the foreseeable future to discuss this.

Mark Smith

Hampshire Avenue

Our Church has been open for 4 weeks now but I haven't returned. I cannot give an honest report but am told that some don't like the service without singing and others think it is good. I enjoy the variety of Zoom with videos, singing and the children's contributions.

Brenda Cheeseman

High Street

Re-opening the church

- We have had one trial, live service on 20 September which went well, and we had our second live service on 25 October, which also went well – 33 attended. These involved just using the sanctuary, vestry, toilets and ground floor corridor. We have not, as yet, opened up our ancillary building which includes the Wesley Hall, 5 meeting rooms and 2 kitchens.
- We have set up a Re-opening Group, comprised of 4 Property Stewards, Senior Church Steward and Church Treasurer, who meet regularly, check the latest Government and Methodist guidelines and regulations. Church Council (CC) has delegated authority to this Group to make decisions on their behalf which require quick action which are relatively basic. Any serious decisions would still go to CC.
- There is the opportunity to hire out our meeting rooms to local businesses who may no longer open up their own offices fully, but may need a smaller venue for meetings (we have already installed Wifi).
- We are currently working on the introduction of live streaming services directly from our church.

Things we can do

- We feel comfortable with permitted activities within the sanctuary area.
- We are rigorously following the rules and guidelines to allow our congregation into church for live services, which includes keeping the sanctuary, vestry, toilets and corridors thoroughly clean, and provide adequate sanitisers, taking temperatures and checking names of people who have registered to attend a live service.
- Pastoral visitors are keeping in regular contact with their pastoral groups by phone.
- Continue to meet with coffee in our gardens – weather permitting.
- Set up prayer times and Bible study through the High Street WhatsApp.
- Send out a fortnightly newsletter.

Things we can't do

- We are reluctant to open up the ancillary buildings at the moment, mainly because of the cost of extra cleaning and keeping any prospective user groups socially distanced, which makes it difficult to assess requirements and costs for paid cleaner with very irregular use of the buildings.
- We are reluctant to rely on user groups to do cleaning after they have used our premises, as the church trustees are ultimately responsible for anything untoward that may happen as a result of Covid infection spreading.
- Support the vulnerable and lonely who have no physical support groups - whether its Art Group or Alzheimers Group, etc.
- Restart some of our outreach activities, such as the Friday Lunch Club – because of the rules governing preparation of food etc. on church premises and the fact that most of our attendees are in the 'at risk' category.
- How can we develop a mission statement, let alone deliver one.

Church activities

- Scheduling live services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, with additional, special services when required, e.g. Christmas, baptisms.
- We are currently contacting all church groups to see when they would feel comfortable and safe to return to church.
- All groups will need to provide a Risk Assessment (RA).

Non-church activities

- We are currently contacting all groups who have previously hired rooms on our premises also to see when they would feel comfortable and safe to return to our premises, and if they still are interested in returning to use our premises.

- The Scouts and Guides organisations have expressed a wish to recommence using our premises and discussions are currently ongoing with them.
- All groups will need to provide an RA.

From a financial perspective:

- Income comes from property as well as donations. Hard time commercially so income is down and we are running at a deficit and drawing money from reserves.
- No groups using / hiring the premises adds to our financial concerns.

Diana Phipps

Ledgers Road

1. The Ladies Meetings are no longer possible due in part to illnesses and also the current Covid crisis.
2. Bible studies are also not happening for the same reasons plus there is no one to lead them now that Lynn Packer has moved on.
3. Our Church resumed services on the 18th October in line with Covid restrictions. The next service is scheduled for the 22nd November, then the first Sunday of every month thereafter.
4. The pre-school is still currently using the church hall but with a reduced number of children attending and they have sole use of that area. Members/congregation have no access to the church hall or kitchen area.

Naomi Connor

Old Windsor

Old Windsor is a village church. We re-opened at the beginning of September!

Our membership is 10. However, with a member going recently into a residential care home, and others unable to attend or not living in the village, our Sunday attendance is averaging 6 to 7. With our aging membership, this is a cause for concern.

Church activities

Apart from Sunday worship, we have not yet resumed:

- Our weekly Tuesday Coffee Mornings
- Traveller's Tales (3 or 4 a year) with everyone from the village and circuit invited.
- Fortnightly Bible Study. (Though during lockdown 4 of our members appreciated joining Windsor's Bible Study of Revelation led by Rev Cannon Dr Jeremy Hurst.)

While the church was closed, each week we produced, printed and distributed a Sunday service to those members who do not have on-line facilities. This has been much appreciated, and has also been shared with non-members. Since reopening, we have continued this outreach project.

Outreach

Ten years ago, members of our church started going into a local school once a week with the *Open the Book* project. This year, due to the pandemic, we have really missed the opportunity to dress up, witness and bring the Christian message to the children.

We participate in a monthly service at the village Care Home with many of the residents joining in. Currently this is by Zoom.

We are hoping that this Christmas we shall again be able to hold a Carol Service for the elderly members of the Lunch Club who (hopefully by then) will be meeting again in the village Day Centre.

Property and Finance

During the last church year we undertook considerable maintenance work, so our quinquennial inspection later this year should (!) not produce a long list of items needing attention!

Financially, we are still in the black, but have sorely missed income from lettings. We thank those members who continued to give their weekly offertory while the church was closed. Also, we are exceedingly grateful to a couple of churches who have each given us a donation.

Ian Haggarty

St Andrew's

St Andrew's Church is seeking to be not only a place of worship according to rites and practices of the Methodist Connection, but also a place of safety and a resource for both internal and external groups.

COVID 19 has fundamentally altered our way in doing church and all of our activities and external lets have to produce and agree to adhere to a strict risk assessment based on the National and Methodist Guidelines.

We opened the church for worship at the beginning of September with a capacity in the region of 33. At the moment we get about 20 worshipers which is in our opinion reasonable considering the age and health of our attenders. The Pastoral Visitors keep in touch with all those who do not come and a regular Newsletter is emailed out. Those who are not on the internet have this mailed to them. We are very grateful to the Local Preachers who come to St. A's to lead worship and feel blessed by their commitment. Young Church has not started using the building, but one group meets on Saturdays via Zoom.

Our building is starting to be used again by both internal and external users. The Brownies and Rainbows are back and are glad to be able to meet indoors as they have been meeting outdoors for some time. The Boy's Brigade music section have started practice and the Create and Craft Group has resumed meeting and meets each Tuesday. It has 3 session for 6 people per session. The Dancing School has come back and the Disabled Men's club have recently returned also. We have split the club into 2 groups so as not to have more than 6 at a time in the building. STEAM the group for out of employment people have recently completed their risk assessment and will commence meeting shortly. We have just agreed to allow a person to practice tap dancing once a week. Regretfully we will not be hosting the winter night shelter this year due to COVID 19. It is very unlikely that Age Concern or Home Start will return. The carpark has 30 spaces which are available to let on weekdays, but it was very well used before COVID it is now has few users which has a detrimental effect on St. A's income.

The Church Council is very mindful that the building should be used by outside groups as part of our commitment of spreading the Love of God to the local community and so tries to be a welcoming church where people feel at ease in our premises.

Dave Tottingham

St Andrew's Asian Congregation

In spite of several requests, the Church Steward has not provided a report.

St Mark's

Well what can one say about this somewhat unusual year in the life of our Church. The builders handed back the site having completed their work in November, and are due to return later in the year to attend to our snagging list. The pantomime was a great success and enjoyed by three full houses and just as the church was starting to attend on what to do in the newly improved rooms, we were hit by the pandemic. Services were cancelled, our regular hirers of premises cancelled their bookings and the heating was turned off to save money.

But the members at St Marks are a resilient lot, and they needed to be as we still had to find ways to raise funds to pay back the interest free loans made by members and friends. Hence the Great Virtual Journey to Bethlehem Scheme was launched. During June and July, members and friends were challenged to find sponsors as they walked, rowed, toddled and cycled with their combined mileages enabling them to reach Bethlehem. The funds going to the building project and the Church charity for the year, the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Branch of Parkinson's UK. The project raised the magnificent sum of over £6,600, a wonderful effort in these challenging times. Not to be outdone, our Organist was sponsored to walk up Snowdon with his granddaughter and raised £800 split between the building scheme and the Thames Valley Hospice.

Sadly, two of our regular worshippers died during the year and their presence was sadly missed when we were able to open up the church for our Covid secure services. The number of seats is currently much reduced, but members are now keen to move forward as we try and ascertain what God is challenging us to do when it is safe to fully open up.

Keith Machin

Windsor – "State of the Nation" report

I have been asked to write a brief, honest report about our church, including where it is about re-opening and how it is coping with the restrictions, the things it can do, and what it cannot, and what is happening about those activities and groups who meet on your premises, and this I now do.

We have re-opened the church for worship every Sunday morning and those Sunday evenings where a preacher has been "planned" Unfortunately, due to the layout of the building, this can only be achieved by a minimum team of 5 "stewards" which poses its own problems when we only have 3 to start with!

Full risk assessments have been performed for both morning and evening services; separate ones being necessary as different parts of the building must be used in order to prevent the need for a full "cleaning and sanitisation" after the morning service.

After much planning, the Sunday School will recommence this coming Sunday, 1st November and are planning to hold "Messy Church" on 12th December (providing that the Royal Borough has remained in Tier1).

We have received an adequate risk assessment from one hirer and "Music with Mummy" is expected to recommence after half term. All other "previous" hirers are unable to consider using our premises due to their numbers being too high for the space available. The Brownies are not planning to start using the Falder Hall again until the New Year and will continue with their "Zoom" meetings until then.

We are currently planning our “Christmas” services (including a “toy service” in support of the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal) and Vicci will be starting a “Ukulele Group” and choir in November.

While striving to follow our Carbon Footprint Initiatives, we have had to revise them due to the current pandemic. We will have to return to using disposable cups on those few occasions when coffee/tea may be served and we are now unable to lift-share due to Government guidelines.

Phil Mount

Woodlands Park

Here at Woodlands Park we have managed to stay in touch with our members. Fortnightly telephone calls and visits to those who need it. Using Zoom for Church Council meetings and for celebrating members special events. 60th wedding anniversary and significant birthdays. Sometimes including afternoon tea delivered to doors for members to sit down and enjoy over Zoom together.

After procuring all the necessary PPE items we finally opened for our first church service, led by our own Neville Walton, on Sunday 27th September. What a joy! As our congregation is very elderly we have taken the decision to restrict our services to ensure that everyone is safe. We have scheduled the next one for Sunday 15th November and are all looking forward to meeting again and welcoming our lovely Carmel back to lead the service. A further service is planned for Christmas time.

Regarding usage of the church by third parties. Pre Covid we had Brownies and Rainbows at the church. We were approached by the group leader as to restarting both groups during September but after some reflection they decided it wasn't really viable at the present time. We also have Wise Owls Pre School using our premises five days a week. This is continuing in line with government Covid regulations. We are in regular contact with the Pre school manager. In fact the manager was extremely helpful in advising as to what equipment we would need and continues to advise if there is something that needs changing. We are very fortunate.

Open the book. This again has been running very successfully for several years with members from our congregation working with White Waltham St Mary's until Covid struck of course. As with everything at the present time it's a case of wait and see.

Regarding our needing help. I think at the present time we are in a very fortunate position and don't need any help. Although the situation remains fluid for all of us and Carmel will I'm sure have a few ideas on her return from Australia.

Linda Harrison

Appendix 2: Action for Children

Unfortunately, we did not hold our AGM this year as it was planned just as we went into lockdown. I have been trying to keep in touch with coordinators at individual churches by email. Unfortunately, few have replied which makes me think I need to ask for an update on who is the main contact for each church.

I have heard from Cookham Rise, Windsor, St Marks and St Andrew's (me).

The home collection boxes are still in use, it is just taking much longer than usual to collect them this year – so money is coming in slowly.

Most coordinators were not ready to give a total, at St Andrew's I have done rather better at collecting boxes as we arranged a central drop off point – so far we have collected £442.33 and the Network fellowship have donated £132.18, with a gift aided donation of £60 that gives a total of **£634.51** and Windsor have sent a donation of **£100**.

Our contact at Action for Children has just returned from maternity leave and she tells me they are planning a virtual carol concert, which I hope to be able to share details of soon.

If the circuit representatives are able to help me communicate with the right person at each church and check I have the correct contact details for the churches I have not heard from that would be most helpful.

Jane Rivett (St Andrews)

Appendix 3: MWiB

We started the year with a sunny weekend at the Slough Canal Festival where we hired a stall to sell cards and craft items made at Create and Craft club at St. Andrews. We also had a lucky dip for children, guess the weight of the cake, a home-made cake sale and a prayer box. Lynn prayed privately for the requests in the box.

We raised £175 over the two-day event, which meant with other funds we were able to send £300 to FAST Romania, a centre for educating disadvantaged people.

In January I ordered the material for the Easter Offering Service, and we (the committee) planned the service for Sunday 26th April 2020 at St. Andrews. Tim Baker, who works for "All We Can" had been invited to be our guest speaker. Suddenly we were in Lockdown and churches closed. This meant that our coffee morning planned for August couldn't take place either.

Our Chairperson, Lynn, had to step down as she would be leaving the Circuit with her Husband, but said she had thoroughly enjoyed her work with MWiB. As there was no one to take on this role we agreed we would only meet again if needed to plan a later Easter Offering Service for which I still have posters, gift envelopes and order of service at home.

I agreed to have my name in the Circuit Directory as a contact for news of MWiB in the District.

Brenda Cheeseman

Appendix 4: Safeguarding

There are no additions to the last report to the Circuit Meeting other than a reminder that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Any concerns should be shared with either the Church Safeguarding Officer or Minister, or with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and Superintendent Minister, observing the need for recording and appropriate confidentiality.

Kathy Rickman

Appendix 5: Property Report

Property report – 10th November 2020

On line Property Returns/Schedules:

At time of writing five of our Church Property Stewards have begun the online returns but just a reminder that they have to be completed with Church Councils agreement that they can be signed off by January 2021. Once again give me a call if there are problems and I will try to help.

Quinquennials

Once again a reminder for property stewards to call Neil to arrange their quinquennial inspections when they are due. If you're unsure of when this should be I keep a list of due dates.

Manse Reports

Most of our current manses are quite new and should not require too much work.

Clarence Road will need some replacement windows to the front bays before too long. We are in the process of getting estimates. The remaining bedroom window to the rear will be replaced asap and then that outside window sill will be painted.

Sutton Avenue side fence needs replacing and quotes are being sought for this work. There are a few minor works to be completed internally such as painting.

Poplar Grove work to replace some of the roof ventilation plates has been completed with no major works required as far as I am aware.

Spring Lane All the major works have been carried out with a new patio, ventilation to the roof and repainting the side wall. There are still some works to be done including painting the internal woodwork, removal of Japanese knotweed and box hedging and some fencing.

Salt Hill is under offer but as usual there are some issues which we are working our way through.

Manse Visitors should be fixing dates with Ministers in order to inspect the manses. They need to take a good look around the property inside and out and list any works they believe need doing.

Property Consents

There are at present no consents registered apart from the sale of Salt Hill Manse.

Joyce Brown

Appendix 6: Circuit Strategy Group report to Circuit Meeting - 10 November via Zoom

Group members:

Vicci, John Statham, Kathy Rickman, Keith Machin, Liz Buabeng, Sue Trout.

This is the first stage in exploring an exciting new path for the Circuit, moving forward, making things better and growing with the hope of bringing perhaps three or four big suggestions to the spring Circuit Meeting for consideration. Along the way we are also looking at some of the areas that support all that we do, making recommendations to Circuit Meeting to help streamline our processes.

MAKING SUNDAY SPECIAL

Why is it that some churches are growing so rapidly? Could some of the Circuit Meeting reps, church stewards or local preachers visit some of these churches and find out? Let's see what ideas we can swipe and make worship even more relevant for everyone.

MAKING MORE MUSIC

Finding all those musicians and singers in our circuit and making the most of them! Getting to grips with technology that would let us rehearse together at a distance and add live or recorded music to Zoom and to future Circuit services.

Vicci would love to get some fun rehearsals going as soon as possible. Music to our ears!!

CELEBRATING JUNIOR CHURCH

Bringing all our brilliant Junior Church/Sunday School leaders together to share what they do with each other and build cross circuit relationships.

YOUTH WORK

Finding out what youth work is happening across the Circuit and surrounding areas and sharing training information with them.

COMMUNICATIONS

Improving our communications systems across the Circuit by using a centralised database called 'Church Suite' which will make contacting groups of people easier. Explore how we can become more involved with social media

SOCIAL NEEDS

Seek information about what is most needed in our local communities and how we can help. We are Methodists after all!

This is just the beginning ...

Appendix 7: Smaller Churches

Not much to report as our meetings and activities were curtailed by the lockdown. Rev Margaret Dudley has taken over as Chair of the group, and Pauline Poole now acts as secretary. We had planned an Away Day – going to the New Room, Bristol, but lockdown meant this was cancelled. We held a Zoom meeting in June to allow us to say “Goodbye” to Sonia as she moves to a new circuit. We continue to hold each other in prayer, and support each other in whatever ways we can, but currently planning is on hold.

Anne Haggarty

Appendix 8: Carbon Footprint update

Churches saying no changes to their current Carbon Footprint paper (or not replying):

- Colnbrook & Poyle
- Cookham Rise
- Eton Wick
- Ledgers Road
- Old Windsor
- St Mark’s Crescent
- Windsor

Churches which have made changes:

Burnham

The Chapel and Main Hall entrance doors are double glazed.

We have double glazed windows throughout the buildings.

We use a food waste bin which is collected weekly.

Recycling and Green waste bins are in use.

Our heating systems are regulated by timers.

We never use plastic disposable cups only recyclable or china crockery.

Hampshire Ave

Covid rules take precedence

High Street

Have added point 4 to “the future”

4 We had previously discussed outside spotlight-style lighting to improve the visibility of the church - this is on hold but we will bear in mind the environmental impact before implementing anything.

St Andrew’s

St. Andrew’s church is a typical 1960s type building, built in accordance with the Building Regulations of that time. It currently falls short of the current Building Regulations in particular to its energy efficiency. It is of solid wall construction in the main with high ceilings in the Sanctuary and Wesley Hall.

The Sanctuary has a two way fan in the ceiling allowing cooling in the summer and deflection downwards of the heat in winter. The floors are solid with no insulation as are the walls except in the Sanctuary where the existing wall has been battened out and a plaster board skin installed. This does increase the R Value but not up to the standard required of the current part L of the Building Regulations. All windows will be Double Glazed with the final area of the Wesley Hall being installed in the next month with a very high R

value. This will significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

An efficient gas fired space heating boiler was installed several years ago and is maintained regularly to ensure peak efficiency.

The old fluorescent lighting has been mostly replaced with energy efficient LED lighting. The remaining fluorescent lights which are mainly in the Sanctuary will be replaced in the near future.

The roof is not insulated to modern standards except the part over the front entrance and the flat roof over the rear corridor which fully meets part L of the Building Regulations.

The Church Council is very committed to reducing the carbon footprint. There is more that could be done such as insulating the large expanse of flat roof and walls plus installing energy producing turbine or solar panels and weather stripping doors but a full cost benefit analysis should be carried out to ensure that the energy cost of manufacture, installation, maintenance and environmentally sound disposal does not outweigh the energy saving/production. If the government carries out its intention to phase out gas space heating, then with the extensive lawns and car park, heating via a heat pump would be an option.

The church is striving to be an eco-church encouraging users to recycle used materials and act responsibly in respect of energy conservation not only in the church building but in their own homes thereby indirectly reducing our carbon footprint.

One initiative that we have introduced because of COVID is the use of biodegradable communion cups which means that not only do we protect worshipers but save on energy costs of washing up glass cups while environmentally friendly disposing of the used cups.

Woodlands Park

(New we didn't have a report before)

Lights - the Church lights have been changed to LED and fluorescent. The other lights in the building are fluorescent.

Boiler - Old Gas boiler recently replaced with modern gas boiler

Appendix 9: Treasurers' Meeting held 21st October 2020, etc

Church treasurers had been asked to report on their churches position in relation to paying their assessment due for 2020/2021.

The majority reported that they would be able to pay the assessment this year thanks to reserves built up by members in the past but had concerns about next year if current restrictions continued long term. Old Windsor Methodist Church had said they needed help early and had received grants from Woodlands Park and Eton Wick. Hampshire Avenue Methodist Church now said that their lettings had not restarted and, if this situation continues, they will only be able to pay half of their £10,264 assessment due.

The Circuit has cash reserves but also owes £306,000 on the bridging loan at present with interest running at £1000 per month. Once the sale of the Salt Hill manse is completed we shall have a clearer picture of the financial position.

Proposal

That Hampshire Avenue Methodist Church be released from the commitment to pay £5000 of their assessment for 2020/21, and that this shortfall be taken from Circuit reserves if no grants can be made by other churches in the Circuit.

SLP 24.10.2020

Report on Circuit Internet banking - for information

Working towards dual authorisation, two additional Circuit Stewards have been given read only access to the online banking account. All transfers over £500 except wages are copied to them both and one is scrutinising the account weekly with the other as reserve scrutineer.

SLP 04.11.2020