

## **Minutes of the Thames Valley Circuit Meeting held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening devotions including a prayer for the Middle East.

### **Membership of meeting and apologies for absence**

The membership of the meeting was agreed as recorded on the attendance list, 3 presbyters, 6 Circuit Stewards, 28 members, 2 observers. Apologies for absence noted from Mrs Evelyn Thomson and Mrs Patie Crockett.

### **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)**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as correct.

### **Matters arising not on the agenda**

The Circuit Strategy document has been distributed – this introductory document, indicating a way forward, was commended as an excellent production, and was well received. The meeting thanked Jim Clifford.

Anne H reported that work on the Circuit Directory for 2021 – 2022 will be starting shortly. She reminded everyone that Church Council Secretaries needed to provide the up-to-date information, checked for accuracy and permissions.

**CA**

Vicci's Annual Report has been circulated; Glenice's will come at the end of the church year.

### **Safeguarding and annual review of Circuit Policies**

Kathy reported that:

- The three Safeguarding and Social Media policies brought to the meeting are those on the Connexional website. They were sent out as the last papers before the Circuit Meeting.
- Kathy said that Sue Clifford has agreed to work alongside and support Kathy from now and during this next church year, with a view to taking over from her in September 2022. We shall then be looking for someone else to work with Sue.
- Kathy reported that a safeguarding incident within the circuit (now in the public domain) had been dealt with, with help from the District Safeguarding Officer, and the relevant statutory bodies. No one in the relevant congregations had been hurt. Kathy paid tribute to Philippa Read, DSO, for her help, input and support, and thanked Sue for her help.
- John Statham queried whether the account they have set up at Maidenhead is a "church account" as required under the policy. Vicci said that it was.

The meeting expressed its grateful thanks to Kathy and Sue.

### **GDPR**

There having been some confusion and panic over what is actually required over GDPR, Vicci explained that the original intention had been to keep people safe and prevent them from falling for scams etc.

The situation now is that

- each church must have a named responsible officer, who is not necessarily the church's safeguarding officer,
- each church must complete a data mapping form for itself and any user group must also have a policy
- each church's responsible officer must maintain a retention policy, and discard – after the appropriate time – unnecessary material.

Pauline Poole will be asking for the name of each church's GDPR officer.

**CA**

Your minister in pastoral charge will help with the retention policy if you are having difficulty.

***Church action is required on all these points***

## Receive reports already circulated

The reports already circulated were all received and accepted.

Kathy confirmed that the Kingdom Dancers presentation on the life of John Wesley has been booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Pauline will book Burnham Village Green for this event.

Vicci gave thanks to all who wrote reports, even when there was little to say.

## Finance

- Sue Le Page drew our attention to a document reminding churches about the potential for fraud. This was a follow-up to a fraud conviction in a neighbouring circuit. CA
- Sue said that the situation with the Nationwide fund is in progress.

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

## Property

- Glenice reported that, from 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Poplars Grove (Carmel's manse) would be vacant, and she asked for permission to see if it could be let out for the next year while there is no presbyter resident. Carried.
- Both Spring Lane and Sutton Avenue need some glazing work carried out. In hand, but glaziers are all busy.
- Clarence Road has cracks re-appearing. The front perimeter wall will need repairing along with the small car parking space. If this manse is sold then these works will have to be done first.
- The taps in the en-suite bathroom in Sutton Avenue need attention, as they leak and are not suitable for arthritic fingers.

Members expressed their grateful thanks to Joy and Pauline.

## Matters from the CLT

Glenice reported:

- Old Windsor and Eton Wick will both cease to meet during the next church year; Old Windsor at the end of September, and Eton Wick after Christmas. Margaret asked for circuit support for the members of these two churches. Eton Wick's formal request to cease to meet was carried; Old Windsor's was carried at the last meeting.
- 12<sup>th</sup> September, at Windsor, celebrating 100 years of Local Preaching with Daphne (70 years) and Nicola (30), and also 60 years of travel (Malcolm). Rev Hazel Forecast to be the preacher.
- 26<sup>th</sup> September, Old Windsor, the last service, followed by tea. Margaret appealed to members of other churches to take on the catering for this event, so that OW members could circulate and not be stuck in the kitchen! Any offers to Margaret, please. CA
- Eton Wick are intending to hold their usual Christmas celebrations.
- 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, Windsor. Presidential visit. 3 pm tea, followed by a service at which Sonia will preach.
- News about the presbyters:
  - Vicci is staying
  - Carmel is staying in Australia, has been given permission to work abroad, and will leave the circuit on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.
  - Margaret will "sit down" in August 2022
  - Anne E has asked to "sit down" in August 2022, having reached retirement age, with her husband also retiring.

Vicci said that there would be sadness because the presbyters had gelled together as a team. We shall be entering stationing for 2022 looking for two presbyters to make a new team.

Ministerial responsibility for churches has had to be reviewed and revised. The new arrangements are:

- Vicci: Windsor, Cookham Rise, Burnham and High Street
- Anne E: Hampshire Avenue and St Andrew's
- Margaret: Ledgers Road, Colnbrook & Poyle, St Mark's, Woodlands Park, and Eton Wick and Old Windsor until they cease to meet.

Vicci is hoping that when Carmel's Sabbatical ends, she will be taking (on Zoom) services, Bible studies, work already started, but she will not chair any meetings. This is still to be finalised.

### **Annual Circuit Appointments**

The following appointments were made:

Senior Circuit Steward	Joy Brown	carried
Circuit Steward	Anne Haggarty	carried
Circuit Meeting Secretary	Pauline Poole	carried
Circuit Invitation Committee – as per the list sent out with the calling notice		carried

Vicci asked that the Circuit Meeting delegate to the Circuit Invitation Committee the initial work on stationing.

### **Circuit Greetings**

Anne H will send greetings on behalf of the Circuit to:

Jo and Peter Webb, 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Ann and Peter Hardiment, Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Patie Crockett, whose husband is very unwell

Dotty Lindsay, whose husband David died on Easter Sunday, and who had been very involved from District level up. (District also to be informed about David)

Jon Garde, appointed to serve in Scotland

### **AOB**

None

### **Dates for Diaries**

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 8.42 pm, and we all blessed each other with the words of the Grace.