

**Thames Valley Circuit Meeting**  
**17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, at 7.45 pm**  
**Burnham Church, Eastfield Road. SL1 7NZ**

**MINUTES**

- 1 Welcome and Opening Devotions.** Vicci welcomed all to the Meeting. She explaining that she had recently been on a training course around Conflict Resolution and she went on to share a couple of points from that training. “There are essentially two ways of handling conflict: 1) Jesus’ way and 2) the way of the disciples in Acts 6.” Vicci explained that the reason she had brought this to the meeting is a feeling she has felt within the Circuit that sometimes people take on roles to keep our Churches going with an attitude of “Well, someone has to”. From the early days of the Church the need for people to be connected with the Church was recognised. The Apostles prayed over appointees – as we should as part of how we do what we do well, and in the right Spirit, recognising that we are doing something for God. The needs of the Circuit are met in these meetings.
  
- 2 Membership of meeting and apologies for absence.** The membership of the meeting was agreed as recorded on the attendance list, and apologies for absence noted from Mrs Judith Foster, Mr and Mrs Phil Mount, Mr and Mrs Phil Clack, Mr Peter White, Mrs Jenny Sturgeon, Dr and Mrs Ed Filmore, Mrs Linda Harrison, Mr and Mrs Chris Wren.  
  
Mr and Mrs Ian Haggarty, and Mr Dave Tottingham were present via zoom. 21 members were present in the room.
  
- 3 Declaration of interests.** There were no declarations of interest.
  
- 4 Agreement of the agenda; notification of items requested for AOB:** There were no items for AOB notified.
  
- 5 Minutes of last meeting.** With the following addendum the Minutes of the last Meeting these were accepted as a correct record:  
*During the discussion about Stationing, and linked to that Manses, Sue Trout asked a question about the proposed “selling of the manse in Windsor and although I was referred to the Methodist guidelines for Presbyter’s accommodation. I was also informed the new manse was unlikely to be located in Windsor.”*  
*The response was that the current Windsor Manse does not meet the standards laid down in Methodist Guidelines, hence the referral to Methodist Guidelines. The reasons for looking for a Manse outside Windsor were primarily the cost of an appropriate building, and that the person who would be living there would be working around C&P and the Maidenhead side of the Circuit.*
  
- 6 Matters arising not on the agenda** None.
  
- 7 Safeguarding Report.** The Safeguarding Report as circulated was accepted. In addition, the Meeting was asked to approve Kathy Rickman continuing to work alongside Sue Clifford as Safeguarding Officers next year. Agreed unanimously.
  
- 8 GDPR.** There were no questions arising from the Report.
  
- 9 Accept reports already circulated** Reports circulated: in addition to above: Property and Senior Stewards Reports. The Report from Ledgers Road was not included as it was not received before the Meeting. It will be distributed as soon as possible. It was agreed that these Annual reports were welcomed by the Churches. Rev Vicci was asked if they gave the Leadership Team what they needed. Vicci replied that she had felt that the closing of Old Windsor and Eton Wick had

come as a shock to Circuit Meeting members, but not to the staff, and was hopeful that these reports would stop that happening again.

These reports are to be included in the information given to our new Presbyters.

## 10 Finance

Sue advised that the accounts to 31st August 2021 have been examined and signed off by an independent examiner.

**Budget.** Sue presented the Budget for the year. The largest expense by far is the costs associated with staff. She pointed out that Churches will need to think carefully about their giving in order to keep in line with these costs. There were no questions. It was proposed that the Budget be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

**Assessment** It was proposed that the Assessment be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

Sue Trout raised the issue of the future of rental income from Eton Wick cottage. Vicci clarified the process – the cottage has been offered to a Church. In the unlikely case that this Church refuses it, it will be offered to another Church. Should this Church also decline it will go the Circuit. Sue le Page clarified that whichever Church accepts will be expected to raise their assessment share by a proportion of £9,000.

## 11 Senior Stewards Report

Joyce Brown presented The Senior Steward's Report which has been circulated since this meeting.

- Circuit Signatories for Legal Documents – in order to ease the process with buying/selling properties Joyce proposed that the meeting agree three signatories: Sue le Page; Keith Machin and Joyce Brown, any two of which will have authority to sign. Seconded by Liz Tottingham and carried unanimously.
- The planned selling of Windsor Manse and siting of a new Manse. Sue Trout expressed the feelings of the congregation at Windsor, some of whom were felt that Windsor Church members should have been consulted or at least had an opportunity to have a say in the matter. There was a feeling that not having a manse in Windsor may disadvantage Windsor in future stationing. There had been no opportunity for discussion at Church Council since the matter was first raised at the last Circuit Meeting as the meeting had to be cancelled due to illness.

Vicci pointed out some of the downsides with the location of the current manse, and Joyce stated that there are huge ongoing structural issues with the building, so much so that the building will not meet the value of similar properties in the area.

It was pointed out that most of the churches in the circuit do not have manses close by. Felicity Kendon sympathised saying that High Street had felt the same when Priest House was sold.

Joyce stated that the budget for a new manse is around £850k, and that if a house of that value fulfilling all the requirements was found in Windsor, the stewards would consider it. It was also pointed out that the initial incumbent of the new manse would not be working in the Windsor area, so there would be travel costs incurred.

All members of the meeting were asked to look out for possible buildings and notify the Stewards. Keith Machin picked up details for 12 properties. Only one was still available on enquiry.

The discussion closed with Sue Trout being unsure how to tell her Church, and agreeing to look out for appropriate properties in the Windsor area.

**12 Matters from CLT:**

- Clarence Road: Members were asked to approve the proposal to sell Clarence Road. Agreed with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.
- Eton Wick Church: Members were asked to approve the proposal to sell Eton Wick Church. Agreed unanimously.
- Old Windsor Proposal: Copies of the proposals for Old Windsor were distributed ahead of the Meeting. Members were asked to approve the sale of Old Windsor Church, and agreed unanimously.

**13 Circuit Greetings – There were no Circuit Greetings**

**14 Any other business – items requested in advance of the meeting**

- Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: It was agreed that the Circuit would send a letter to Her Majesty. Some churches already have plans on the way for events across the summer. Pauline Poole will contact churches after this Circuit Meeting to collate and share plans across the Circuit.
- Emerge Advocacy. Vicci introduced Emerge Advocacy – A voice of hope. This is a Christian Charity working in hospitals supporting young people with Mental Health issues. The group has been invited to set up in Wexham Park Hospital, with funding provided for 1 year. It was proposed that we take this charity “on” as a circuit with each church holding one fund raiser in the year. Members agreed to take this back to Church Councils. St Andrew’s members have already decided that Emerge will be their Lent Charity.

**15 Dates for Diaries**

Tues 17 May 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	St Andrews
Wed 14 Sep 2022	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	
<b>Weds 16 Nov 2022</b>	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm	<b><i>please note change of date</i></b>

**16 Closing thanks and prayer**

Vicci thanked Burnham for hosting this meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm