

**Thames Valley Circuit Meeting  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, at 7.45 pm  
St Andrew's Church, Slough**

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and opening devotions**

Rev'd Vicci welcomed everyone to the meeting, and led a short time of 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.
- Those attending were the Superintendent, 2 other members of staff, 1 supernumerary minister, 3 Circuit Stewards and 21 other members.
- 5 apologies were received, as listed on the attendance sheet; 8 members neither attended nor sent apologies.

**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**

These were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**Matters arising**

- Circuit Strategy – Smaller Churches Support Group. Vicci reported that with the closing of two of the Smaller Churches this group is no longer appropriate. The group is grateful to Rev'd Margaret for her Chairing of the group. From September each Church will be invited to send two representatives to a Circuit Mission and Outreach group. This was agreed by the Meeting.
- Circuit-wide arts group – Vicci would like to set up a Circuit-wide arts group to consolidate all the various activities that happen around the Circuit, primarily to diarise events to avoid double booking and also to encourage working together where appropriate.
- Sh'ma Kingdom Dancers will be performing in Burnham, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 3pm. An appeal was put out for accommodation.
- Circuit Directory – Pauline Poole reminded the Meeting she will be contacting Churches in July for details of Church Officers for 2022/23. This is to allow for Church Annual Meetings that are still to take place.
- Annual Report       there is no Annual Report due at this meeting.

**Safeguarding Report**

In addition to the report distributed in advance, Kathy Rickman presented a reviewed Safeguarding Policy. There were no changes to the Policy already in place. The Meeting was asked to approve Kathy Rickman as Safeguarding Officer, and Sue Clifford as Assistant for the coming year which it duly did. The Social Media policy is still Work in Progress.

**EDI – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Some will know this as Justice, Dignity and Solidarity. Vicci reported that this is to be included on every Agenda. There will be training coming along to increase our understanding and engagement. The initial people to receive training will be those who have Advanced Safeguarding training.

**GDPR**

There is now an online link to submit returns. Rev'd Anne has used it and reported that it is very user friendly. Pauline will send out the link on Wednesday morning.

## **Accept reports already circulated**

The reports circulated were Safeguarding, Property, Senior Steward, GDPR.

## **Finance**

A 4.24% increase in all Stipends was agreed at Conference. Sue le Page asked that, whilst acknowledging that times are challenging for many, all Churches encourage their members to review their level of Giving on an annual basis.

## **Property**

Joy brought three Proposals to the Meeting:

- 1) That Old Windsor and Eton Wick churches are sold in line with the Independent Examiners recommendations. This was passed unanimously
- 2) A new Manse has been identified in Burnham. The Proposal is to seek permission of the Meeting to proceed with the purchase of 2 Lent Green Lane, subject to clarification of items in the report. As part of the purchase Chapel Aid will have Charge on the property to secure a bridging loan until the sale of the other properties. There were 23 votes for this proposal, none against and 1 abstention.
- 3) Joy Brown is seeking three quotes for Qualified Surveyors reports for the sale of Old Windsor and Eton Wick She will keep the Meeting apprised of the situation.

Sue Trout asked for the name of the Independent Expert used by the Circuit. Response: it is an employee of Brigden, Watkins and Wainwright as detailed in the Circuit Directory.

**Matters from CLT.** In response to a question from the Meeting Joy confirmed that Eton Wick cottage has been transferred to St Mark's.

**Circuit Appointments 2022/23.** With the resignation of Charles Buckman as Circuit Steward there was a need to appoint a new Steward. Phil Mount has been approached and the Meeting approved his appointment.

Ms Ade Benson, the newly appointed Lay Worker, was introduced to the Meeting, and warmly welcomed to the Circuit.

## **Circuit Greetings**

To be sent to (i) Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee  
(ii) David Tottingham who has been unwell and is in hospital in America. Rev'd Anne reported that he is likely to be home towards the end of the week.

## **Any other business**

- a. Emerge Advocacy – Several of our Churches have engaged with events to raise funds for Emerge. Cookham Rise raised £120; St Andrews £500. St Mark's are holding a musical event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, £5.00 per ticket, the proceeds of which will go to Emerge.
- b. Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

**The Business part** of the Meeting closed at 20.23.

Rev'd Vicci led a short service of Holy Communion.