



The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly
Cardiff Circuit Meeting
Monday 26th February, 2018
at Cyncoed Methodist Church



1. **Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Phillip Buckland. An update on life in Cyncoed Methodist Church was also given.
2. **Apologies and Attendance.**
 - There were 50 members present and 17 apologies for absence.
 - Two new members were welcomed.
 - The rules for voting were clarified.
 - John Newton was thanked for being Senior Steward at Wesley, Caerphilly.
 - A minute silence was held to remember John Salaman, a previous Senior Circuit Steward who had died. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Whitchurch on Friday 16th March at 2p.m. The family were held in prayer.
 - Rev Nick Oborski thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes following the death of Sandra Oborski's mother.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Rev Cathy Gale was thanked for chairing the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were none.
5. **Safeguarding.**
 - There is one on-going historical case.
 - More than 260 have been trained and the trainers were thanked for their work.
 - March 7th will see a Refresher course being held at Cyncoed. 9 are booked and 6 others are possible attendees.
 - A review will be undertaken to determine how to proceed with people who have not undertaken refresher training on a case by case basis.
 - Another Foundation course is to be held soon. Please provide numbers for this by the end of March.
 - a. Advanced Safeguarding Training will be given to the Local Preachers over 2 days in April and May. If the first day is missed, it can be completed online. If the second day is missed, another Circuits' training will have to be attended.
6. **Circuit Stewards' Report – update on stationing**

Emma stated the Alexis Mahoney has accepted the position in the circuit as a Probationer. There is no additional news regarding the other 2 appointments. The Invitation Committee were thanked for their support.
7. **Conversation – looking forward through 2018-2019.** Nick began with challenging everyone to decide if they were happier in the past, present or future. He then presented the situation and challenges that will be faced next year:

Nick outlined the issues relating to stationing explaining there were 80 ministers for 140 appointments and the connexion including our circuit need to consider why so few are coming forward to enter the Ministry. There is nobody candidating from Wales this year, and not many in the rest of the UK. Is it unattractive or are we not encouraging entrants? Are they hearing the calling and ignoring it? In Methodism, to be a Presbyter, one must first be a local Preacher. To be a Deacon, a Worship Leader. We need to encourage these local appointments.

The stationing process this year sought to address staffing those Circuits with the most need. we should be pleased the Connexion do not consider us a priority. We have also been allocated a Probationer for the second year running, which indicates our strength as a training circuit.

Nick talked about the changes facing us in September identifying the need for everyone in the circuit to be involved. The basic issue is that Alana and Alexis as Probationers have 2 Churches each and contribute to their clusters in the evenings. (Caerphilly / Llanishen and Cathays / Rumney respectively). That leaves 3 Presbyters for the remaining 13 churches. The situation is now different from when these ministers answered their calling to the Circuit. Nick reminded the meeting of the importance of ministers' individual calls and the need for churches to honour that call whilst everyone works to release their gifts for the benefit of the whole circuit.

The three Presbyters are looking forward to next year in a positive manner. They believe that God is leading them and that the journey should be undertaken with open hearts and minds. Nick explained how a review showed there was no additional support available either outside or inside the circuit.

He shared how they will try to work smarter through saving duplication such as two ministers visiting the same, hospital on the same day. They will meet regularly to share diaries and review workload to ensure burnout, stress and fatigue do not damage their well-being. Ministers will engage with their gifting's to ensure they have areas to draw strength from. Congregations were asked to watch over their ministers well being and to reply promptly to requests for information for returns etc as chasing things over and over takes up a lot of time.

Nick mentioned there will be an additional workload from September with the roll out of 'Supervision'. These involves each minister having a 1 ½ hour meeting with the Superintendent per year. Nick reflected that ministry would need to change in the light of such new Connexional activities

A number of possible ways forward were mentioned requiring lay and ordained people to work together including:

- Circuit Stewards taking on additional responsibilities, largely through working more closely with the Stewards and Councils of the churches to whom they are linked.
- Seeking dispensation for a lay person to administer communion
- Radyr have already embraced change. Can other bigger churches support smaller churches?
- We may need to consider how we do Church. e.g. do we have a service every Sunday morning or can we change the time or the day.
- How do we do mission? What should we let go?
- Are we in Maintenance or Growth mode? Might we need additional paid staff?
- Where does the Trinity Project fit in?
- Pastoral oversight for the churches without ministers will be allocated as follows: Paul – West; Cathy - Cyncoed; Nick – St Andrews, but things will need to be done in different ways to share the workload.

Comments were then welcomed.

- **St Andrews:** Would welcome a visit to the Stewards meeting to help them see how in practice they can manage. They have a vision but need help with practical issues. A date will be set this evening.
- **Fairwater:** They are a small church and have had crises, but with help on practical issues from Nick they are still open, holding services and running meetings.
- **Cyncoed:** They are devastated at the thought of coping without a minister and would appreciate a visit and discussion. They have good resources, much mission and a footfall of between 750 – 1000 per week, although only 20% are church goers. They therefore appreciate that it is time to reconsider and do things differently with God leading. They accept that study, prayer and relationships rather than process may be required. However, they feel the need for the spiritual lead to be taken by a minister. They also queried whether this was a holding plan or a long-term plan. The Church Council also have concerns over the work load for Pastoral Care.

- **Circuit Steward:** The Stewards are happy to meet with churches. We just need to learn to do things differently in future. Laity must consider what we can do to encourage non-church people to stay. We are all heading out of our comfort zones!

8. **Property Report.** The organisation which rented the upstairs of St Pauls left in September. A new group, 'Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales' a small charity formed in Swansea have negotiated a 5-year lease with a break possible at 2 years. It is best for the property to be used or Business Rates may apply. The annual rent will be £6,000 with the tenants responsible for the interior and the Circuit for the exterior. From September they have a contract with the Welsh Assembly Government and wish to have a Cardiff base. This was **agreed**.

9. **Treasurer's Report.**

- The full report has now been received in a simplified version and this was provided to the meeting. Judith recommended that in future we wait for this version before issuing the accounts. The final accounts were **adopted** by the meeting.
- An apology was made to Church Treasurers for not contacting them regarding the budget. A decision has now been made to keep the assessments the same for next year, rather than reducing them (For clarification - any surplus after the year end could be redistributed to the churches). A Treasurers meeting will be called shortly.

10. **Circuit Administration.**

- All statistics were received on time.
- Easter Offering information was issued.
- A poster of Holy Week services was issued.

11. **Mission Update.** No further information.

12. **Trinity Update.**

- Although the centre continues to be well used it is struggling financially. To reduce costs the full-time co-ordinator role has been reduced to 20 hours so Robina will be leaving. This was **approved**. Advertisements will be placed on the charities website, Recruit3 and in Churches. In the meantime, Heather will cover the role.
- The Executive which is about to undertake a large project has now only 5 members. A request was made for more members particularly those with experience of large financial projects.
- Thanks, were expressed to Jackie Sullivan who has had to step down from the Executive.

13. **Preachers Meeting Report.** Gauri sent a report stating that:

- The team were trying to fill as many appointments as possible, as seen by the reduction in Local Arrangements
- More Preachers are needed
- The team has undertaken Bible training on Jonah
- They will undertake advanced Safeguarding training
- Discussions have been held on various topics

14. **Data Protection**

Lisa will be sending out an email regarding Data Protection changes which will be introduced in May. Implementation will be phased and should have little impact.

15. **Youth Matters.**

A paper was presented from the Project Management Team requesting a re-appointment for one year of Gareth Knowles. Questions followed expressing concern at the limited areas in which he was involved. Caerphilly felt that their successful youth work had not been supported. Concern was expressed that this seems to be an annual request. It was explained that the future Circuit situation has affected the need to reappoint. The salary will come out of the years funds, not out of reserves. The opinion was expressed that

if this appointment was not extended a lot of good work would be lost. Rev Paul spoke in support of the excellent work done by Gareth. The extension was **agreed**.

Cathy also explained that a lot more Youth work was now happening across the Synod and the circuit was beginning to get involved. 9 youngsters went to Swansea for a South Wales gathering attended by 30. Connecting across geographic areas is increasingly important with falling numbers. Caerphilly were concerned that they had not been invited to this event (Later Caerphilly confirmed they had been invited). Churches were asked to update the contact details for their named Youth Contact to ensure communication is successful. The Circuit Youth Work Team would appreciate additional members as it widens its role. Rumney, with no youth, expressed a desire for support to help them with outreach in this area. The meeting agreed to appoint Cathy to Chair a Circuit wide team looking at children and youthwork. This group will present a detailed long-term plan for united Circuit Youth Work by the end of this year which will include resource implications including the post fulfilled by Gareth Knowles.

16. AOB

- Application has been made to the Connexion for Alexis to be granted licence to administer communion. This was **agreed**.
- It was again hoped that all contact details in directories be more diligently updated.
- The Wales Cymru Synod have expressed an interest in merging with the Wales Synod. The Wales Synod has agreed to engage in conversation and we should pray for this process.

17. Date of next meetings.

Tuesday 15 th May 2018	West Cluster
Thursday 13 th September	North Cluster
Wednesday 28 th November	East Cluster

18. Closing Devotions. Everyone shared the Grace.