



The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly
Cardiff Circuit Meeting
Thursday 30th November, 2017
at Wesley Methodist Church, Caerphilly



1. **Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Alana Lawrence on the theme of St. Andrew and how we have a responsibility to take the 'Good News' to others.
2. **Apologies and Attendance.** There were .. members present and .. apologies for absence. Rev. Nick Oborski was unwell, so the meeting was chaired by Rev. Cathy Gale.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were none.
5. **Circuit Stewards' Report.** See item 7.
6. **Synod Report.** Synod was held on September 16th. Following are some of the items discussed:
 - The Triennial Report on Statistics. This was a report that appeared to tell a story of decline in most Methodist congregations. As a result, every Church has been asked to hold discussions on creating a 'growth plan' or an 'end of life plan'. Rev. Cathy Gale requested that these discussions should be positive, listening to what God has to say, since statistics do not tell the whole story. It was requested that similar discussions should be held at every level of the Church. It was mentioned that Whitchurch have had a discussion where they identified the need for outreach. A small group has now been set up to identify groups within the community with whom contact could be made. Rev. Philip Buckland expressed concern that previous discussions held during the Circuit Review needed to be revisited.
 - The 'Reimagine' event that was held in Newport was recommended as a positive experience which could be shared. Rev. Cathy Gale also described how there is growth in Youth work as demonstrated by the increasing numbers attending 3Generate and requiring more helpers each year. In Wales, the 'Youth Work Action Group' is hoping to gain momentum under its new name (Momentwm). It particularly hopes to connect young people and so overcome the isolation that is often experienced. It is hoped that the Circuit will take some young people to 'The Big Day Out' in Swansea on the first Saturday in February. Contacts are: Pete Davies, Gareth Knowles and Rev. Cathy Gale.
 - Rev. Delyth Liddell has been appointed as the new EDI Officer (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) and has relinquished her Amelia Trust post to work on this for Synod. Anyone interested in EDI should contact Rev. Delyth directly.
7. **Stationing & Circuit Invitations Committee.** Stationing is taking up the most effort currently, since no names were allocated to the circuit in round one of Stationing Matching. The Circuit is now awaiting results from the second-round next week. However, ministry across the connexion is in a difficult situation as there are 140 positions to be filled by only 80 Presbyters. There will be a third round in January. Depending on the outcome, serious decisions will need to be made. The Circuit is hoping that a Probationer will be allocated to the Circuit, but this will not happen until January.
8. **Trinity Centre.**
 - John Powell spoke to explain how 6 different development plans had been created before one was selected. The selected plan involves no major changes but alterations to the vestibule, upper area, kitchens, toilets and offices. A lift and interview room will be included. He stated that, other than being concerned that there should be more storage areas available, the users were pleased with the plans. A meeting had been held with the Property Division, the Executive and the Architects to ensure there was agreement. The Circuit meeting was asked to accept the plan in principle and this was **agreed**. The plans were made available for viewing. The next stage will be

to seek funding for what will be a very costly project. Indeed, the paperwork required to apply for grants is likely to cost £20,000.

- Heather Cox presented the Trinity Centre accounts and explained them to the meeting. She thanked the Circuit for its support. Monthly receipts now amount to more than £15,000 per annum.
- The boiler continues to function, but the timer is causing problems.
- A grant of £2,450 was received from the National Churches Trust to support the planning process.

9. Safeguarding.

- Leaflets and posters on the 'Truth Project' were available for Churches to display.
- Churches were reminded that the Annual Review should be undertaken in time for the Spring Church Council meeting.
- New dates in the New Year will be given for one Refresher and one Foundation course, when it is hoped all remaining members will be trained.

10. Mission Report. Rev. Philip Buckland reported:

- Saturday December 16th at 11.30 there will be Carol Singing on the steps of St. David's Hall.
- Rev. Irfan John and Rev. Les Jones are taking a group of young people to the Holy Land in February. They are still fund raising and would welcome support.
- Gareth Knowles' report was presented.
- Youth Space – Rev. Cathy Gale had visited Youth Space and was very impressed with the work being undertaken with the young people.

11. Preachers Meeting Report.

- Gauri reported that the gospel is being preached by all.
- A 'White Ribbon Campaign' service had been held at Wesley, Canton and the visitors had been surprised and impressed at what a modern Church was offering.

12. Treasurer's Report.

- An information sheet for the 2016-2017 accounts was provided by Judith, detailing the differences between the budgeted and actual figures.
- A Treasurer for the 'Fund for Presbyters and Deacons' was required. The meeting **agreed** to appoint Peter Richards.

13. Circuit Administration.

- There was a pack for each church containing a poster for the Carol Singing, a poster for 'Under one Sky' and the leaflet that will be issued to the public at Carol Singing. If anyone attends a Church because of this leaflet, please let Lisa know.
- A banner with the Circuit name on has been made and will be used at the Carol Singing. It is available for loan in the future.
- **Statistics** 9 were complete, 2 started and 6 not started. Churches were requested to complete these as soon as possible.
- **Property** 7 are completed and 10 not started. Peter reported that contracts have been completed and signed for Heol Terrell (a six-month lease) and for Splott Church where Oasis have signed a 15-year lease. This enables them to now apply for grants.

14. Superintendents Reflections. Rev. Nick was sent wishes for a speedy recovery.

15. A.O.B. None.

16. Date of next meetings.

Monday 26th February 2018

Cyncoed

Tuesday 15th May 2018

West Cluster

17. Closing Devotions. The meeting closed with prayer and everyone shared the Grace.