



The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly
Cardiff Circuit Meeting
Thursday 13th September 2018
Taffs Well United Church



1. **Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Cathy Gale on the theme of 'Listening for God'. A description of life in Taffs Well was given.
2. **Apologies and Attendance.** There were 54 members present and 17 apologies for absence. Nick welcomed new members to the meeting, including Rev. Alexis Mahoney, Rev. Kofi Amisah and Manu Tu'ipulotu. He also requested that all members sign the papers required for being a Trustee of the Methodist Church.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were none. It was noted that the Mission Committee will convene shortly with Pauline Tan as Chair.
5. **Plas Dwr Development.**

This is the housing development taking place in the West of Cardiff, involving 7,000 houses and a population of over 20,000. The development will include some amenities including a large Community Building, although this will not be completed until 2024. Radyr Methodist Church, together with the Anglican Church have been exploring the possibility of a Christian presence in the area. There are already visits to houses which are inhabited, and an expression of interest in involvement in the Community Building has been made to the Council, the developers and the Plymouth Estate.

The Methodist response to this challenge is to seek to appoint a Probationer next year who will take a traditional role for 50% of their time and act as a Pioneer Minister in Plas Dwr for the other 50%. This would not have been acceptable in the past, but the Queens Foundation now feel that this is a suitable role in our changing society.

Although this is a large role for a Probationer, there is already Church input and an infrastructure in place, so the Probationer would not be working in isolation.

This proposal was carried.

Some concern was expressed that no similar presence was being put in place for the other more advance developments around the city. However, it was pointed out that the local Church had itself initiated involvement in the project, whereas there were no resources for venturing into other areas.
6. **Circuit Stewards' Report.** In recruiting new Circuit Stewards, it is hoped that a member from the North Cluster could firstly be found, followed by members from Churches not currently represented on the team.
7. **Stationing.** The invitation to extend the appointment of Rev. Paul Martin for a further 2 years (open) was adopted. Thanks were expressed to Janet Rees and Emma Drain and the Invitation Committee.
8. **Safeguarding.**
 - The Safeguarding Report was received.
 - The Safeguarding Policy was adopted following discussion on the Job Description of the Circuit Officer. The 35 criteria were felt to be too many and there was concern over the wording of 3.4.2. There are also 2 different job descriptions within the same document. These concerns are to be passed to District.
9. **Preachers Meeting Report.**
 - Ian Thomas will be welcomed as an accredited Local Preacher at the Circuit Service on 14th October. Manu will also be formally welcomed at this Service.
 - The new training programme is for both Worship Leaders and Local Preachers. Everyone does the first 4 modules with LP's doing a further 4 modules. 5 new Worship Leaders have expressed an interest in undertaking training.

- It is suggested that the name of this group be amended to represent the 2 groups that are involved. It is hoped that Local Preachers will in future involve Worship Leaders more fully in their services.
- The report was accepted.

10. Youth Matters. The new committee will meet shortly. The report was accepted.

11. Trinity Centre Report.

- Flyers were issued.
- Authority was approved for grant applications to be made.

12. Property Report. A short-term lease has been signed on Tangmere Drive. The report was accepted.

13. Treasurers Report.

- The report was accepted.
- Thanks were expressed to Judith for all she has done and continues to do.
- A discussion is needed on the responsibilities involved by all churches in setting the budget, together with the staffing implications for future years.
- The annual returns have been simplified.
- Unbudgeted for expenses continually arise, as with the manse asbestos reports which are required and should have been completed in 2012. Nick advised the cost would be £4,000 and sought the meetings agreement that this be paid out of reserves as the figure had not been budgeted for. The meeting approved this additional expenditure from reserves.
- It was suggested that long term budgeting would be advantageous.
- Every Church should have a budget discussion, ensuring that their minister is included in the discussions.
- It was suggested that there is an urgent need to consider the Circuit as a whole rather than just individual Churches.
- Treasurers that have not increased their contribution by the requested £500 are asked to look into whether they can do this, as the Circuit need to know if the budget can be balanced. If there is a shortfall we will have to use the Reserves.
- There will be a Treasurer's meeting in October. Treasurer's will be contacted to find a date suitable for as many as possible. Please make every effort to attend.

14. Matters from Conference and Synod.

- Synod meets on Saturday, so no report.
- Nick's Plan Letter gives a brief overview of Conference. Synod is talking about the EDI Policy following a conversation at Conference about same sex marriages and relationships. The Synod is trying to be progressive, there will be a statement/resolution which Circuits and Churches will be asked to take on board.
- Young people talked about the Year of Testimony about giving thanks for where we are in our lives. The Circuit encourages Churches to allow a slot each Sunday for people to give testimony to help us see where God is at work in our lives, give confidence about our faith and courage to talk about God to others.
- Delyth Liddell has been invited to take training about EDI issues including racism, in the Circuit. There is a danger that only people who are anti or very pro the issues will attend, but people across the spectrum are needed to be part of this conversation. We need people from all areas and churches to attend and encourage debates and discussion.

15. Circuit Administration.

- The report was received
- Churches are asked to ensure the Property Return is completed and taken to October Church Councils for approval.

16. 'A Growing Community' – looking forward as a Circuit.

Churches are asked to engage in a discussion of Mission in our Churches. Reports from Churches will be received at the next meeting to see what is happening across the Circuit. The Circuit News section in the plan can also be used to share what is happening.

17. AOB.

- The offering at the Circuit Welcome Service amounted to £643.60. This will be used to form a Circuit Pastoral Fund.
- Members were presented with a paper report detailing the contributions to the Mission in Britain Fund and contributions to the Methodist Church Fund.

18. Date of next meetings.

Wednesday 28th November - Cyncoed Methodist Church

Tuesday 19th February 2019 - Radyr Methodist Church

Wednesday 15th May 2019 – North Cluster

19. Closing Devotions.

The meeting closed with the Grace.