



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Thursday 10th September 2020
Zoom Meeting

- 1. Opening Devotions.** Rev. Cathy Gale based the devotions on Jeremiah 29. Despite uncomfortable and changing times, we must 'get on with life', with God's support.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies.**
 - There were 46 members present and 9 apologies for absence.
 - Rev. Nick Oborski was present for the start of the meeting when he was thanked for his work by the Circuit, the Circuit Meeting and the Leadership Team. Nick responded with his thanks, particularly to Lisa. He wished everyone well in the future and hoped that we would continue with Mission and Outreach.
 - Rev. Kofi is now back in Wales and in quarantine.
 - Apologies were made to those members of the Circuit Meeting unable to join via ZOOM.
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising** (including follow up on St. Paul's)
 - St. Paul's has been accepted as a class by Conway Road, as of September 1st. The Circuit is to receive reports and monitor the situation closely. The meeting was asked to pray for a mutually fulfilling relationship. Radyr was thanked for the 7 years of care they had given to St. Paul's.
 - Emma Drain has stood down after 6 years as a Circuit Steward. She was thanked for her work. There is now a vacancy for a Circuit Steward.
 - Anthony Thomas will continue as a Synod rep. and Martin Hunt will replace Thomas Oborski. This was agreed.
 - Barry Lakins' widow has passed away.
 - Mervyn Coulson, a previous Circuit Steward, passed away during lockdown.
- 5. Circuit Invitations Committee Report and Recommendations**

Emma thanked the Circuit Invitation Committee for their discussions and also the Churches consulted for their discussions. The meeting was referred to the published report. As no comment had been received, the recommendations were accepted, and Rev. Paul Martin will remain in the Circuit for an additional year (until August 2022). Paul and his family, Emma and Janet were all thanked.
- 6. Circuit Stewards' Report.** No additional report.
- 7. Reopening of Churches.**
 - Cathy thanked Churches for their work on completing Risk Assessments. She also thanked the Covid Advice Group of 4 for their support.
 - So far, 7 Churches have opened for worship, 4 will open by October 1st and 3 are as yet undecided.
 - The Local Preachers' were thanked for their support in enabling a Plan to be created for the month of September.

- Wesley Caerphilly, having opened, have now closed in deference to the increased Covid cases in their County.
- Other meetings held on Church premises do not have such clear guidelines although the buildings are classed as multi-purpose Community Centres. It is essential that Churches keep a paper trail of their decisions and logic in allowing groups to meet. Slimming World / Weight Watchers are not yet allowed to meet. Although rental income is desirable, opening must be safe.
- Gethin Rees, Cytun, has been key in interpreting the Guidelines and seeking clarification on behalf of all Churches.

8. Circuit Review and Implementation

- The printed report published should remain confidential until Churches are notified of its content on Sunday. In summary, Rev. Paul Martin is to take Pastoral Charge of Pontprennau and Rev. Alexis Mahoney will take Pastoral Charge of Wesley, Canton. This is the start of the process of using staff across the Circuit, rather than in Clusters only, as their gifts are most applicable.
- Discussion took place, including: crossing the Circuit, rather than working locally was not in line with creating a lesser carbon footprint, but the distances involved are not great; some Clusters have worked, where others haven't worked so well, so a more holistic view is needed, especially as the number of ministers is reduced; Paul has had at times had charge of 6 Churches and is now moving to yet another. This was accepted and he was thanked for all he has done in difficult staffing times; the Review Group will now meet again and hope to develop flexibility more effectively in the future.
- Alexis stated that he was looking forward to the new arrangements.

9. Treasurer's Report.

- Wendy stated that although it was only 10 days after the end of the year, she predicted that the Circuit accounts would break even.
- She thanked Cathy, Heather and the Church Treasurers for working collaboratively.
- An email will be sent shortly asking for Church balances by September 25th for sending to Synod.
- An on-line meeting will be held with Treasurers before the next assessment.
- It is intended to draw up a rationale to indicate the criteria whereby a Church is entitled to ask for financial support.

10. Property Report.

- Sales of the 2 properties are progressing.
- The roofing work on Axminster Road is now completed.
- The back wall in Chargot Road has been repaired.
- The rat problem in Heathwood Road has been addressed.
- Nick is residing in Black Oak Road until the end of the month as his new manse is not yet available. A visit will take place next week to assess how much work is required before the property can be let. A unanimous vote gave permission for the Circuit to rent out the manse.
- It was also noted that new legislation regarding 6 months' notice to tenants is due to be enforced.

11. Other reports.

- Preachers: Nick has done a lot of work with the trainees. Kofi is now joining the Training Group. Everyone was thanked for helping to produce a Plan. Wendy Barwise had undertaken a ZOOM worship for Cathays.

- Youth Work: a document had been prepared and was accepted. Gareth was commended for his work over the summer. His videos for school assemblies have worked well and are available for use elsewhere.
- Trinity Centre Update: the presented document was accepted. Rev. Alana Lawrence will replace Nick on the committee. Thomas Oborski will undertake the Three Peaks' Challenge to raise funds for Trinity. There is a Local Giving Page or funds may be given to Heather or John.
- MHA: Carol & John Plumridge were thanked for their report.
- Connexional Funds: Peter Richards was thanked for his report.

12. Safeguarding.

- As yet, the Circuit policy has not had its annual update. It was recommended that Churches reaffirm the current policy and further advice will be obtained by the next meeting.
- Nick was thanked for all his work on Safeguarding. Paul Demery will now take on additional responsibilities with administrative assistance from Lisa.
- If any issues arise, Paul should be contacted, and Cathy notified.
- Interviews are to take place for a Synod Safeguarding Officer following Sandra Oborski's resignation prior to leaving Wales.

13. Circuit Administration. No issues.

14. AOB. A Synod service will be held at 8p.m. on Sunday 12th September in recognition of the cancelled Synod.

15. Date of Next Meeting. Wednesday 18th November at 7.30 p.m. by ZOOM.

16. Closing Prayers. The meeting closed with prayer.