



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Tuesday 23rd February 2021
Zoom Meeting

1. **Opening Devotions.** There were led by Rev. Alana on the theme of God being present in the wilderness.
Chris Bracey and Ann Freeman were remembered, and their families held in prayer.
2. **Attendance and Apologies.**
There were 45 members present and 14 apologies for absence. Rev. Kofi is on leave and Rev. Paul is on sabbatical.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.**
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising**
Re-opening of Churches: The letter written by Rev. Cathy regarding the continued closure of Churches throughout March was re-visited. A Plan for on-line services will be produced. Thanks were expressed to those who are maintaining contacts with members who are not on-line. The last Circuit service was attended by 166 screens. The next Circuit Service will be led by young people, including Daud Irfan, Youth President designate.
Advent Course: A lot was learnt regarding methodologies and the use of technology during this course. The 'Methodist Way of Life' course was in a different format. During its last session suggestions were made for future courses. A Lent course is about to start and will be more of a Bible Study session. It was felt that ZOOM provided an ideal platform for Circuit wide discussion and study. The staff team were thanked for their contributions.
5. **Circuit Stewards' Report.** In addition to the written report, Janet Rees was thanked for her work completing the manse sales & purchases, on-going since May 2019.
6. **Circuit Review and Implementation.**
Cathy talked the meeting through the Circuit Review Paper. Break-out rooms enabled small-group discussions to take place, with feedback. Following some discussion, the 3 recommendations were agreed:
 1. That **in May 2021 Cardiff Circuit enters the stationing process for one presbyter** to serve Wesley Caerphilly and two or more churches (tbd) from September 2022;
 2. That **by May 2021 the CLT bring proposals to the Circuit Meeting as to how pastoral oversight for all churches will be provided from September 2022.** (This might include changes in the current ministerial oversight and the employment of lay workers on the circuit staff);
 3. That **in May 2022, if finances allow and the mission strategy development indicates, Cardiff Circuit enter the stationing process to seek a sixth minister.**

A prayer group, coordinated by Roger and Sandra Palmer, has been set up to pray for the Review process and other Circuit matters. If anyone else would like to join the group, they would be welcome. There are no meetings, but personal prayer and topics for consideration sent via email.
7. **Treasurer's Report.** Any questions regarding the accounts should be sent via email to Wendy Barwise. Church Treasurers continue to meet quarterly with Wendy and Cathy. The proposal to

transfer funds back to their original reserve account, following the completion of manse sales/purchase was carried.

8. **Property Report.** Cathy and Steve McElveen have met with the Charity leasing Splott Church and the Charity leasing St. Paul's. A Manse Maintenance Strategy is being developed.

9. **Other reports.**

Preachers: All preachers were thanked for their on-line and written contributions.

Youth Work: The written report was received. Please forward names of young people who would like to be included in 'The Big Day In'.

Trinity Centre: The written report and accounts were received. Heather Cox reported that Gift Aid has not been included in the accounts, and this may clear the small deficit currently showing. The accounts were approved. Heather reported on the activities that have continued at Trinity during lockdown.

Cathy had met with the Executive to gain further insight into the project. Since the Connexion has withdrawn from any funding for property development, applications for grants which require figures for financial support from the owners, have stalled. Further discussion will be required at the next Circuit Meeting. Churches were asked to share the link to the Local Giving page with their congregations.

Cathy stated that the 3 mission projects within the Circuit (Trinity, Children & Youth, and the Pioneer work at Plas Dŵr) seem to have thrived during the pandemic.

Circuit Mission Committee: This committee is being re-defined and is waiting to meet with Cathy for such discussions.

10. **Safeguarding.** In the written report the date should be February **2017**. Paul Demery reported that Gareth Bennett (Learning & Development Team at Synod) will continue offering trainings via ZOOM following successful pilot programmes.

11. **Circuit Administration.**

All statistical returns were submitted on time.

Churches expecting a Quinquennial Review, should be contacted shortly by Lisa.

12. **AOB.**

- Lent Course –starts on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. being shared by the ministerial staff. It will be in the form of a Bible study and will consider Jesus' last week according to Mark.
- On Saturday mornings during Lent Rev. Kofi will lead a prayer meeting.
- During Holy Week, Churches will follow their usual customs.
- Rev. Judith and Rev. Alexis will lead a Circuit service on Palm Sunday.
- Llanishen was congratulated on its 120th Anniversary.
- Marriage & Relationships: 3 discussions, led by Alana and Cathy, were previously held around the Circuit. Prior to the vote being held at Synod in April, the topic is to be visited on 2 occasions:
 - Sat April 10th at 10.30 am – Re-visit the discussion and begin to consider relevant Bible passages.
 - Thurs April 15th at 7.30 pm, further consideration of relevant Bible passages.
 - Synod will also be holding a refresher discussion prior to the vote.

13. **Date of Next Meeting.** Thursday May 27th at 7.30 p.m.

14. **Closing Prayers.** The meeting closed with prayer.