



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Tuesday 30th November 2021
Zoom Meeting

1. **Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Cathy Gale on the Advent theme of good and light overcoming evil and darkness.
2. **Attendance and Apologies.**

There were 49 members present and 14 apologies for absence (2 members arrived after votes had been made). It was noted that Rev. Alana is currently on compassionate leave.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.**
 - I. **Ongoing response to COVID:** Churches were reminded that it is a requirement for the Trustees of individual Churches to have in place COVID risk assessments for services, meetings, hirings, and special events. Notice should be paid to the new variant and how it may affect the Christmas Celebrations that may be taking place.
 - II. **Circuit Invitations Committee/Stationing:** The situation has been challenging since there are 80 Presbyters for 133 Churches. Two matching meetings have taken place and, to date, the Circuit has not received a match. The process does not end until Conference next year.
5. **CLT Report.** The written report was accepted, noting the need for information gathering being required before progress can be made with respect to the groups targeting Evangelism and Growth and Outreach and Social Justice.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** The written report was accepted. The meeting agreed unanimously, with 46 votes in favour, that Steve McElveen be made a banking signatory. The meeting was reminded that the Treasurers Meeting had been mandated to decide, about the Circuit Fund's contribution to the Pension Fund shortfall.
7. **Property Report.** Steve McElveen spoke to his written report. Regarding Churches, Cooke & Arkwright had discovered more work required on the hall roof at Cyncoed, costing approximately £15,000. Discussion took place on the selling of the Caerphilly manse. The meeting **agreed** to its sale (46 for, 0 against, 1 abstained). The meeting also **agreed** for a new purchase to take place, dependent on finding a suitable property and on the situation regarding a new Presbyter (46 for, 0 against, 1 abstained). It was suggested that any new purchase should be less than 20 years old, learning from past mistakes. The meeting also **agreed** to a builder being employed to undertake all the repairs necessary at Blackoak Road.
8. **Other reports:**
 - (i) **Preachers** The meeting last week heard that Madeleine Stonehewer and Jayne Williams had successfully completed the first half of their training.

It was noted that there are now many Local Arrangements due to the shortage of preachers. It is proposed to offer a basic training for stewards and other interested members on how to put together a service. Some materials will also be provided. Trainings will also be set up, provided by the Alzheimer's Society, on how to make our churches 'Dementia Friendly'.
 - (ii) **Youth Work:** Youth Space has been meeting outdoors allowing face-to-face gatherings without masks. Numbers have increased to 12 young people from across the Circuit. It is

now the third year of the 3-year plan, which has been adversely affected by the pandemic. A new 3-year plan will now need to be presented.

- (iii) **Pioneer Work:** Work continues with Rev. Judith and her team who are now preparing for Christmas.
- (iv) **Trinity Centre:** The written report was accepted. The annual accounts were accepted. Any questions should be sent to Heather Cox. The newly written 'The Trinity Executive' Governance Document, written by Ian Walton and Richard Gaunt was **accepted**. Paul Demery expressed his concern at the practicalities of administering Safeguarding in the Trinity Centre environment.
Ian Walton will finish as Chair at the end of the year. He will be replaced as Chair by Rev. Cathy, and his Circuit Steward position will be filled by Beth Barry. Rev. Alexis has offered to replace Rev. Alana when she moves circuit and will also join the Executive in January to gain experience. Rev. Irfan John has also accepted an invitation to join the Executive. John Powell, Richard Gaunt and Heather Cox will remain on the Executive.
- (v) **Circuit World Church Committee** A written report on the first meeting of this committee was presented. A further meeting has taken place and Churches are being asked to take retiring collections to purchase food parcels for the South Africa project feeding queueing job seekers. The cost of each meal is £2. It is suggested that the collections take place at Covenant services or by the end of January. The Circuit Benevolent Fund bank details will be provided for those not wishing to deal in cash.

9. Safeguarding. Paul Demery talked to his written report. A large number of members need to undertake training, so it is important that Safeguarding Officers pass on the dates provided to avoid all-Wales sessions being cancelled.

10. Circuit Administration.

- (i). The stats return should be completed as soon as possible, only requiring member numbers.
- (ii) The Property Return is ready for completion on-line.
- (iii) Please notify Lisa of events or reports with photographs for displaying on the website and on Facebook. Permission must be sought from those in photographs.

11. AOB. There was none.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Depending on the COVID situation, the meeting will be polled in mid-February as to whether this will be a ZOOM meeting or a face-to-face meeting.

13. Closing Prayers. Rev. Alexis led prayers remembering those who have recently died, including John Trenchard, a Local Preacher based at Radyr.