



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Wednesday 6th December 2023
Llanishen Methodist Church

- 1. Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Cathy on the theme of Advent.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies.**

There were 38 members present and 16 apologies for absence. Rev. Stephen Wigley is unwell, and Rev. Judith Holliman is temporarily living in Porthcawl (while the manse has building work undertaken).
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising.**
 - (i) Appointment of New Treasurer – nominated person: Heather Cox.** The vote was unanimous. Heather had sent her apologies to the meeting.
 - (ii) EDI Training.** The meeting was reminded that the training should be completed online by the end of the year. Lisa should be notified of completion.
- 5. CLT Report**
 - (i) Update on Forward in Hope.**

No changes have been made to the Community Report as few responses had been received. The Property Development Group must consider both finances and property together. This will be presented to the next meeting once the required financial information has been received. A report had been produced discussing manses and residences. Please note on page 3, the 4th bullet point should read as Sept 2027 and Sept 2028. Mission Projects should be identified to avoid some of the 40% deductions for Connexion. Whitchurch and Cyncoed manses have been identified as less attractive due to their location, condition, access and investment opportunities among other considerations. Sales should cover loss of rental income for 20 years. A suggestion was made that one manse be kept 'in reserve' allowing rotating repairs / improvements to be made to manses without rushing during August each year.
 - (ii) Complementary work being done by the Staff Team on "Future ministry in the Cardiff Circuit".** Next May, the Stationing process will begin for Cathy, Laura, and Stephen, by which time a long-term plan is needed. To date, a staff meeting has looked at each church considering the ministry needs. Another meeting had re-visited the Superintendent job description. A leadership team meeting in January will pull everything together to present to the next meeting.

Churches were asked to continue recording weekly numbers of worshippers. Numbers are still significantly different to pre-Covid times, so on-going statistics will be useful.
- 6. Conversation and proposals for Circuit Services.** Members were asked to mix and discuss the following points.
 - **What is the value in having circuit services?** Responses included: no value in the current format, (particularly lacking in worship content); social value in gathering; too educational / administrative/ too long/ more involvement needed / singing is uplifting / maybe just 1

minister rather than everyone involved in planning / locations so far all in the north with 2 in Caerphilly not good / bringing together 2 or 3 churches in the same vicinity would be better / children appreciated joining a large group and Circuit youth work has been enhanced.

- **What are the challenges?** Transport / parking / closing churches / planning has been last minute / those who don't go / tech provision / too many words & speakers / if everyone came is there a big enough church?
- **If we continue to have circuit services: -how often? / Full circuit or smaller groupings of Churches worshipping together? / Where should we hold them?**

Once or twice a year mixed with some smaller group joint services / winter not ideal / nor Bank Holidays / Pentecost or Aldersgate Sunday as special celebrations good / possibly in the afternoon or evening (not disrupting mornings).

St. Teilo's School was a good option, depending on cost, and not at half term. Other churches have greater availability on a Sunday afternoon.

It was decided that a Circuit Service will be held next May 19th for Pentecost Sunday with another in September. The service could be followed by a 'bring and share' picnic.

- 7. Treasurer's Report.** The written report was received. The name of Gordon Down Accountants was accepted unanimously as auditors.

The settling of the bridging loan was accepted unanimously. It was unanimously agreed that the increased sum of £50,000 be withdrawn from the TMCP account to include the items stated, plus insurance of empty buildings. Wendy was thanked for her work as Treasurer over the last 6 years.

- 8. Property Report.** The written report was received. Additional work is being undertaken in the Radyr manse, at a cost of £35,000. This includes the kitchen re-fit at £20,000.

It was noted that there was considerable interest in the purchase of the 2 churches, Ely and Rumney, particularly by growing churches of other denominations.

- 9. Other reports:**

Preachers. The written report was received. It was requested that Stewards also received training on how to deal with challenging, potentially risky, situations arising on Sunday mornings.

Youth Work. The written report was received. The group will meet early in the New Year to resubmit the grant application.

Trinity Centre. Since the last Circuit meeting there were difficult times with TMCP insisting that some wording in the contracts be changed, and then the Contractor being unhappy with the new wording. The issues were regarding changing the name from the Trinity Centre to the Cardiff Methodist Circuit, and with the re-wording to ensure no individual liability. This latter point led the contractor to query whether the project was fully funded or not. Until today, it was possible that the contract may fall through. However, this evening the Quantity Surveyor has reported that the contracts will be ready to sign by the end of the week, with work to commence on January 8th. This is however dependent on a successful asbestos survey which is being undertaken next week, having previously been overlooked. It has been a huge amount of work and stress, and John and Heather were thanked for all their efforts. Unfortunately, due to work starting later than expected, grants will need to be secured to extend the stays of the various Trinity groups in their temporary accommodations. It was felt that there would be an openness at St. German's to facilitate an extended stay there for Space4U. Discussions with Parkminster will begin shortly. The meeting was asked to continue to pray for the project.

Circuit World Church Committee. A Prayer meeting had been held for the COP Summit.

EDI. Not many members have so far completed the training.

10. Safeguarding. The written report was received. Trevor Evans is currently the Acting Chair of District for Safeguarding. It was re-iterated that there are no exemptions from Safeguarding training within the Methodist Church since each organisation has a different focus in its training programme. It was suggested that this be stated clearly in the Circuit policy, although the forms completed during the Safer Recruiting process, do state it clearly. Pastoral Visitors not currently visiting must still receive Training, since they may still be involved in conversations. The meeting voted to accept the Safeguarding policy.

11. Circuit Administration.

- Lisa thanked those who had completed the Statistics return.
- The Property form has changed and is due for completion.
- 9th December is the deadline for contributions to be sent to Laura for the Circuit Newsletter.

12. AOB. None.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th March 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Cathays. Please note that yellow line areas are available for parking in the evening. The nearby Car Park costs £1.75 for 2 hours. A request was made that before choosing a Wednesday date, Wesley Caerphilly be consulted to avoid a fortnightly event.

14. Closing Prayers. Everyone shared the Blessing.