



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Wednesday 5th June 2024
St. Andrew's Methodist Church

1. Opening Devotions

Led by Rev. Laura, with a story to encourage us to follow God's will not our own agenda. Prayers offered for Rev. Cathy on the death of her mother, Rev. Evelyn on the death of her sister and the families of two local preachers, Roger Palmer, and Parry Pearce.

2. Apologies and Attendance

There were 43 members present and 5 apologies for absence. A warm welcome was extended to Sarah Charlesworth and Margaret Mathias.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

- i. **Circuit Service Feedback.** Feedback mainly positive. Approximately 240 attendees, with approximately 40 children and young people. £1,018.47 raised for the school's charity. Agreed to use St Teilo's school again in May 2025.
- ii. **Charity Commission Report.** This has been completed.
- iii. **Bible Month 2024.** The book of Genesis is being studied this year. Sessions to be held during July and August in Conway Road and Llanishen churches. Invitation given to any other church who wishes to use these resources during the Sept-Dec Plan to contact the Circuit Office before August 8th.
- iv. **SACRE Committee.** This is a body which helps to develop religious education in Welsh schools. It is looking for Methodist representation on its committee. Please contact Rev. Cathy if you are interested.
- v. **Rev. Evelyn's Ordination.** Not enough people were able to travel to Bradford to enable the Circuit to book a bus. Best wishes were expressed to Rev. Evelyn for her ordination.

5. CLT Report

- i. **Forward in Hope.** Representatives of the CLT had attended all 11 churches. A compilation of church responses to the report have been circulated and the meeting was asked to discuss how they would like circuit resources to be allocated. Feedback included the following suggestions:
 - Grouping churches who shared similar aims, or similar strengths and weaknesses.
 - Make use of shops/local buildings to maintain a visible presence in specific localities, perhaps employing outreach workers to help with this task.
 - Employ a family worker and/or an older people worker.
 - Using lay workers will free up ministers to concentrate on areas where their talents can be best used.

- Need to remember those parts of the Circuit where work is needed not necessarily where the stronger churches are.
- Need to be spirit-led not confined to church buildings.
- Aim for 1-2 buildings as bases – need to join together.
- There is a difference between letting decline happen and being pro-active about our future.
- Need action now. Heritage and memories are important but now is the time to move forward.

Rev. Cathy asked for prayers for CLT to take the next step so they can bring a plan to the next Circuit Meeting.

- ii. **Stationing and Circuit Invitations Committee.** Rev. Cathy has offered to stay for an additional 3 years. Consultation to take place. Will need 75% of Circuit Meeting to agree. Rev. Stephen to retire in August 2025 but will become a supernumerary minister. Rev. Laura is not entering stationing. The Circuit is not applying for another presbyter. The Circuit Invitations Committee now includes Heather Cox from Conway Road and Peter Richards from Llandaff North.
- iii. **Circuit Stewards.** Janet and Marie are stepping down as Circuit Stewards at the end of this church year. New stewards needed as soon as possible so that names can go to the September Circuit Meeting for approval. Volunteers will need to go through the Safer Recruitment process.

6. Treasurer's Report

- i. **Budget.** Heather has produced the final budget for next year. This was agreed by the meeting.
- ii. **Assessments.** Offers for 2024-2025, covering the expected budget, have been agreed with the churches and were agreed by the meeting.
- iii. **Manse Reserve.** Heather proposed that a manse reserve be set up to cover spending on repair and upkeep of manses so that, in future, large expenditure would not be dependent on income in any given year. The proposal is to put £60,000 aside for this purpose, using money from the sale of Rectory Road manse. This was accepted by the meeting.
- iv. **Charity Commission Report.** This has been completed and was agreed by the meeting. Rev Cathy and Heather to sign and Heather to send.

7. Property Report

Steve spoke to his written report. He emphasised a need for due diligence when planning eco changes, such as solar panels, to church buildings. He gave examples of things to check when considering such improvements. If enough churches were interested in these issues, then perhaps the Circuit could get neutral advice.

8. Other Reports

Preachers. Written report prepared by Gauri.

Youth Work. 24 young people at Circuit Service. Youth Breakfast going well. Gareth Knowles, Circuit Youth Worker, unwell at present, but hoping to improve in the near future. 3Generate will take place at beginning of October and young people from Youth Space will be attending. Invitation given to other young people in the Circuit to join them.

Trinity Centre. Written report prepared by Heather Cox. Exhibition to be held in Cardiff Museum from September to December.

Circuit World Church and Eco Committee. No report on the world church but draft Circuit Environmental Policy presented by Sarah Charlesworth. Such a policy is needed to become an Eco-Circuit. The following points were highlighted:

- Individual churches were encouraged to register as Eco Churches.
- 4.1. Awareness and Commitment. Circuit commitments would include reducing carbon emissions in line with the Methodist Church aspiration to reach net zero by 2030 and having ethical investments in line with the Methodist Church's climate change investment policy. We need to look at our energy provision, the sustainability of our buildings and travel.
- 5. Roles and Responsibilities. Circuit meeting to consider environmental issues in all decisions. Have a representative from the Circuit Eco Church Group as a voting member of Circuit Meeting.
- 6 Compliance. Include environmental issues as an agenda item at Circuit Meeting.

The meeting agreed to receive the document. The meeting was given the choice between going back to the churches to discuss the policy or to agree to it in the meeting. The policy was agreed. Circuit will register with A Rocha and look at Cyncoed Church as the Admin office is there. It was agreed that the Circuit Eco Church Group should have a voting member on Circuit Meeting.

EDI. Gauri presented a report. The Circuit has not yet met targets on EDI training. Lisa will monitor this. Inclusiveness in worship is being discussed. Permission requested to parade at Cardiff Pride, in the name of Cardiff Methodist Circuit, and to have a banner made to carry. Agreed, with 3 votes against. This will be on 22nd June 2024.

9.Safeguarding

Report presented by Lisa Medina. Advanced training will be arranged jointly with Mid-Glamorgan Mission. More trainers needed to run Foundation Courses.

10.Circuit Administration

Some people need to renew their GDPR forms. Newsletter information to be sent to Rev. Laura by 8th June.

11. AOB

Circuit calendar distributed.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday September 18th, 2024, at Wesley, Caerphilly.

Closing Prayers

Everyone shared the blessing.