



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Wednesday 6th March 2024
Cathays Methodist Church

- 1. Opening Devotions.** These were led by Rev. Evelyn, based on Jesus overturning the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple and reflected on breaking with tradition.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies.**

There were 41 members present and 15 apologies for absence. Rev. Judith Holliman and Deacon Laura Evans were unable to attend.
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising.**
 - (i) EDI Training.** Lisa should be notified of completion. If there are technical issues, then help should be requested.
 - (ii) Circuit Service.** This will be held in St. Teilo's Church in Wales School, Llanedeyrn at 10.30 on May 19th. It is hoped that a picnic lunch will be enjoyed afterwards.
- 5. CLT Report**
 - (i) Forward in Hope – Next Steps.** The Forward in Hope report had been circulated and the meeting was asked to discuss it. Feedback included the following points:

Ecumenical engagement should be considered; Trinity is included since it is a Circuit usable building; nothing is being recommended, merely itemised; the structure of the suggested meetings is not yet confirmed; churches should continue to function and develop as usual; when a church closes, the congregation have some say in where remaining funds are allocated; if a church is sold, the funds are returned to the Circuit, less a levy, unless identified for a specific Mission project. Each church has been asked to share the document widely and to discuss it in as many forums as possible. Paper copies of the report can be made available. It was **agreed** that a meeting of each congregation (not just the Church Council), with CLT representation, will be held in every Circuit church before the next Circuit meeting.
 - (ii) Stationing and Circuit Invitations Committee.** The Invitation Committee document for 2024 – 2025 was brought to the meeting. It was **accepted** subject to the amendment of adding members from churches directly affected by the changes involving Cathy, Stephen, and Laura. It was noted that all Ministers and all Circuit Stewards are entitled to sit on this committee.
- 6. Treasurer's Report.** Heather spoke to the meeting for the first time as Circuit Treasurer. The annual accounts are currently with the auditors whom she will meet with next week. The draft budget was presented. During COVID, assessments were lowered and, in some cases, still are. Next year's budget has included inflation increases. All churches have reasonable reserves, so there is no need for on-going support. The Pioneer Grant may be increased. However, £340,000 in total is needed from the Circuit Churches, which is an extra £60,000. Heather then presented a spreadsheet analysing current church assessments, set against varying criteria such as attendance, giving, surplus. It is meant as a discussion document as churches

decide on assessment figures for the next year. Ideas on how to improve this document, including more accurate data, are welcomed.

Heather explained that the Ministers are our biggest asset and therefore deserve our full financial commitment. The Circuit cannot continue at current funding levels, since Circuit reserves have absorbed the stipend increases in recent years. She said that the Circuit is all our churches and asked that each church prayerfully consider its giving. Feedback will be given in June and whatever method(s) are agreed, will be trialled for a year.

It was **agreed** that Circuit reserves be used for the £33,400 Mission amount.

The report to the Charity Commission is imminent, consisting of the accounts and a scripted narrative. It is required before the next Circuit meeting. It was **agreed** that this could be submitted and brought to that meeting.

- 7. Property Report.** The written report was received. Steve reported that in item 5a, the sale was completed at approximately £320,000. For 5e, the meeting **agreed** that Wesley Caerphilly continue in their quest for a defibrillator. Any church needing help or support with property issues should contact Steve, as St. Andrew's have.

8. Other reports:

Preachers. Jayne Williams has come to the end of her second 5-year cycle of training. To justify an extension, Jayne has submitted proposals with an end date of December this year. It was agreed that the Synod Policy Committee be asked for this extension.

Youth Work. Prior to Covid a committee existed to oversee all 'Youth and Children's Work'. The committee has re-started with Cathy, Beth, 2 young person reps, and adult leaders involved in Youth work. Initially nearly all those involved attended, but this will need to be scaled down in future. This committee will also have oversight of children's work in churches.

Trinity Centre. The builders took ownership of the building on January 15th. The front of the building has been demolished, asbestos has been removed, foundations have been dug for the lift with reinforced steel joists being brought in for the tower to hold the lift. An on-site meeting is being held monthly with all interested parties and John is allowed to visit in the intervening fortnight. Bills have already been paid to the builder which is allowing the Community Lottery Fund monies to be spent.

The monthly coffee mornings are suspended until re-opening, hopefully in January 2025.

The Llanishen team were thanked for their 2 ½ years of service.

After Easter the contracts with Parkminster and St. German's will have to be discussed in the hope that they can continue beyond the end of May.

The 'Activities' part of the Trinity Project is now underway. Cardiff Museum is booked from September – December this year for promoting the project. The consultant who had the initial idea has been re-employed to run the project alongside Fflur. Stories are needed to support this display.

It is hoped that there will be a Presidential visit over a weekend in March 2025, by the Rev. Helen Cameron, when the Trinity Project can be promoted and the refurbished centre officially opened.

Circuit World Church and ECO Committee. Anyone interested in joining the Circuit World Church Committee should contact Pauline Tang. Similarly for the ECO committee, please contact Vera Ruddock. It was **agreed** that interest should be registered for becoming an ECO Circuit.

EDI. See matters Arising.

- 9. Safeguarding.** The written report was received.

10. Circuit Administration.

- (i) Posters on Holy Week, Easter and CMCC services are available.
- (ii) An email on a Bible Month event being held at Radyr on 16th March 10 – 3, will be circulated.
- (iii) Cathy thanked everyone for the work done by lay workers across all aspects of Circuit life.

11. AOB.

- (i) Wendy Barwise thanked everyone for their support during her application to be a Presbyterian. Although Wendy has not been recommended for this path, her strong calling has been recognised and we are asked to pray for Wendy and her family as she explores alternative means of responding to her calling.
- (ii) An invitation has been received for members of the Circuit to attend the Licensing of Rev. Jarel Robinson-Brown at St. Germans. The service is at the church on Saturday 23rd March at 2p.m.
- (iii) Rev. Evelyn is to be ordained in Bradford Cathedral on 30th June, whilst Conference is being held in Leeds. There is a possibility of a day bus trip, or alternatively an overnight stay Sunday to Monday. Information will be forwarded to churches to gauge interest in these 2 options.
- (iv) The Cardiff SACRE committee (religious education in schools) is keen to recruit a Methodist member to its group. Please contact Lisa or Cathy if interested.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday June 5th, 2024, at St. Andrew's.

13. Closing Prayers. The meeting closed with prayer, and everyone shared the Blessing.