

**Minutes of the Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting - Sketty**  
**Thursday December 11th 2014 at 7.30.p.m.**

**Devotions:** Led by Martin Gregson

**Present:** Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 35 members present plus 2 visitors.

**Apologies:** Win Hawkins, Quentin Hawkins, Bob Alderdice, Beverley Poiner, Rev. Gill Evans, Jean Powell, Selina Taylor, Hildergarde Roberts, Ian Campbell, Geoff Noon, Kath Jones and Sheila Morgan.

**Minutes & Matters Arising:** Rev. Long was pleased to report that the amount raised by the Circuit for Water Aid was £8,320.00 and a cheque was presented to the Charity Representative at Sketty Church on Saturday 6th December.

**Secretary's Notices:** There were no notices.

**Pastoral Concerns:** Following the funeral of Rev. Alf Austin, who served as a minister in the Swansea and Gower Circuit for twenty years, a service to celebrate his life was held at Murton Methodist Church on Wednesday 10th December, led by Rev. Stephen Wigley (Chair of Synod) Prayers were said for the family of Rev. Austin and thanks were accorded to Rev. Andrew Walker for organising the service.

The Meeting was also asked to pray for the wife and family of Rev. Douglas Williamson, a former minister in this circuit, who passed away in November.

**The Commission of Covenanted Churches - update:** An updated report was received and circulated to the Meeting.

**Charity Commission Annual Report:** A report was received and circulated to the Meeting and was unanimously accepted.

**Finance/Schedules:** A Finance Report was presented by Bernard Gwyther, Circuit Treasurer, and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

**Local Preachers:** A report was received and circulated to the Meeting.

**Social Issues:** Rev. Pam Cram presented a report which is attached to these Minutes.

**Safeguarding inc. past cases review:** No report was received, but Rev. Long encouraged all churches to continue to fulfill Safeguarding requirements. He also referred to the Methodist Church's 'Past Cases Review' and the sharing of any historic Safeguarding issues. Responses to be made by 24th December.

MWiB: A report was received and circulated.

**Circuit Archives:** Report given by Jeff Coleman (copy attached)

**Methodist Homes:** A brief report was given by Sandra Pengelly, thanking churches for their financial support. She also said that a copy of a 'Quiz' was available for those wishing to run a fund raising activity for MHA.

**Sketty Methodist/Bethel URC:** Rev. Leslie Noon reported that after wide consultation and careful consideration, the new name for the combined churches will be 'Uniting Church Sketty'. The official launch for the L.E.P. will take place on 30th and 31st May 2015. She also reported on the success of 'Break Out Church' which offered the large congregation the chance to experience different aspects of worship.

**Penlan - Forward Planning:** Rev. Leslie Noon reported that although the membership at Penlan is very small, a Forward Planning Group has been set up with Circuit support

Two initiatives are currently under consideration: 1) A Gardening Project operating on Fridays by a group led by Carl Roberts. 2) The possibility of Gendros Evangelical Church hiring the premises for two services on Sundays.

**Morrison - Forward Planning:** A report was received and circulated.

### **Mission**

- 1) Circuit Project 2014/15 - Amelia Trust Farm: Rev. Siperire Magadzweta said she hoped that the Circuit would be as enthusiastic about raising funds for this project as they have been for Water Aid.
- 2) City Centre Ministry - Brunswick: A report was received and circulated.
- 3) Ogof Adullum Project; Huw Davies gave an update. (Copy Attached)
- 4) Street Pastors: No report received.
- 5) Night Shelter: A report was received and circulated.
- 6) Connect: The Magazine was available for collection and once again, thanks were accorded to Myra Maddock for all her hard work in producing the magazine.
- 7) Ty Croeso & Foodbank: Rev. Pam Cram reported that despite the increase of users of this scheme, there is currently no shortage of foodstuff being donated - only of shelf space. Thanks were extended to all contributors.
- 8) Website : No report was received.

## **Property**

- 1) Schedules: All schedules are currently up to date.
- 2) Schemes - i) Wesley : Plans and costing for a refurbishment/ kitchen extension were presented to the Meeting by Brin Jones and unanimously approved. Approval was also given for a 10% grant (£5,000 ) from the Model Trust Fund for this project.  
ii) Capel y Nant : Rev. Pam Cram reported that all is going well.
- 3) Manses: Maintenance work and inspections are ongoing.
- 4) Quinquennials; Inspections are ongoing.

## **AOB ;**

- 1) A production of 'An Impossible God' by Mark Topping is proposed for March 2015 at Sketty Methodist Church.
- 2) Rev. Andrew Walker was pleased to inform the Meeting that the 'Am I Bovered?' Group has grown from an initial four to six members to seventeen and are, therefore, potentially outgrowing their present venue.
- 3) Rev. Walker also informed the Meeting that the Murton Remembrance Festival raised £1,100 in donations which was divided between two 'Forces' charities.

**The Blessing:** The Grace was shared and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

**Date of next Meeting:** 19th March 2015 at Penlan at 7.30 p.m.