

**Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting held at
Clydach on Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

Devotions : Led by Rev. Pam Cram

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 32 members present.

Apologies: Hildegard Roberts, Michael Roberts, Peter Scott, Andrew Phillips, Jane Closs, Gwen Dumelow, Maureen Estcourt, Rev. Gill Evans, Janet Neilson, Sandra Cuthill, Ruth Painter, Sandra Pengelly, Violet Soo, Dr. Robert Alderdice, Beverley Poiner.

Minutes & Matters Arising: The minutes of the previous meeting held at Pitton in June 2015 were signed by Rev. Long as a true and accurate record with one amendment: **N.B. Property: 2)** - should read **Sketty Wesley Premises** closed (due to problem with dry rot) not Sketty Uniting Church. Services continue at Bethel until further notice.

Pastoral Concerns: Thanks were received from the Senior Tutor at Queens College, Birmingham, regarding the period Liz Harris spent in the Circuit on student placement.

Rev. Long led the meeting in prayer for the following: The family of Doris Corner who died aged ninety five (former steward at Mumbles and Circuit Steward), Margaret Hancock, whose mother has died, the family of Jean Lang, whose brother, Peter has died and the family of Rev. David Gamble, (former President of the Methodist Conference) who passed away suddenly. Prayers were also asked for Rev. Lorette Hinson, (Minister in the Pembroke Circuit) who is unwell.

Marriage & Relationship Conversations

As part of the 'Marriage and Relationship Conversations' organised at the request of the Connexional Marriage and Relationship Task Group, an event has been arranged at Penlan Methodist Church on 19th October for presbyters, deacons, lay-workers, Synod office-holders, Circuit Leadership Team, and one steward from each church in the circuit, to encourage and enable churches to engage in local conversations'. Feedback needs to be sent to the Marriage and Relationships Task Group by 15th February 2016.

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

Statistical Returns: Rev. Long reminded the Meeting regarding the 'headcount ' to be taken during October.

Finance: A report of the accounts was received and circulated by Bernard Gwyther. Rev. Long then thanked Bernard for all his hard work over the past five years as he hands over the office of Treasurer to Martin Gregson.

Bernard then proposed that Martin be added as a signatory for banking purposes. This was seconded by Derek Norton and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

Safeguarding: A vacancy exists for a Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the Leadership Team is considering various proposals for this important role. Rev. Long advised the meeting that safeguarding audits must be completed and sent to him.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated. Rev. Long said that he was heartened by the number of Local Preachers in training, and congratulated Selina Taylor on recently becoming a fully accredited Local Preacher. Thanks were accorded to Rev. Pam and Alan Cram for their continuing support.

Working with the Homeless

Community in Swansea:

A report was received and circulated. A brief up-date on the work of Ogof Adullam was given by Huw Davies.

It was noted that there are 25 – 35 guests attending each evening, with 40 volunteer helpers on the rota. A new block of training for volunteers is due to commence on 21st September. The financial situation is currently healthy. Huw read out two letters from former guests praising the help and support they had received from Ogof Adullam.

A proposal was received from the Methodist Night Shelter Co-ordinators following consultation with Ogof Adullam, that the Swansea and Gower Circuit, instead of offering a Night Shelter venue this year, should open Ogof Adullam from 1pm. on Saturdays. Methodist Night Shelter Night volunteers will be encouraged to support Ogof Adullam during this period and/or at other Night Shelter venues.

The proposal was put to the Meeting and carried with one abstention.

Ogof Adullam -

Project Coordinator

& Assistant Post:

A job specification was received and circulated.

The Meeting was asked for permission to seek funding for the posts – (Approx. £60000 over three years).

This request was unanimously agreed.

Circuit Project 2015

Amelia Trust Farm: There was no report but the Meeting was informed that £4000 has been raised so far for this project. A cheque will be sent to the Trust.

Fund for World Missions: The Treasurer's Report for 2014/15 was received and circulated. Total amount raised was £939.25.

Mission Sunday – 11th October: A report was received and circulated. The launch of the new Circuit Project (Zambuko Ra Jehovah) will take place at Brunswick Methodist Church at 3.30pm. on the above date.

'A Christmas Celebration for Minority Groups' will take place at Brunswick Methodist Church on Saturday 28th November at 5 pm. The service will be led by Rev. Irfan John and the guest preacher will be Rev. Stephen Wigley (Chair of Welsh Synod). Refreshments will be provided after the service.

Ty Croeso & Foodbank: A report was received and circulated. Rev. Pam Cram informed the meeting that there were informative leaflets regarding Ty Croeso available and that although use of the Foodbank had been quiet in the summer, an increased uptake was anticipated during the autumn and winter months.

Property

1) Wesley: Fundraising is ongoing, but of the original £53,000 required for the refurbishment, only £4000 is now needed. A fund-raising evening with Kevin John, was a great success and enjoyed by all. Rev. Long congratulated the members of Wesley for all their hard work.

2) Sketty: Work to address the dry rot problem is on-going and the contract for re-instatement work is out to tender.

3) Manses: A report was received and circulated.

4) Quinquennials: are on -going.

5) Schedules – can now be filled in on-line.

AOB: Connect Magazine is available. Rev. Long thanked the editor, Myra Maddock for all her hard work.

Rev. Pam Cram informed the Meeting that the Welsh equivalent of 'Green Belt' (CODA) will be in operation in 2018.

The Blessing : The Grace was shared and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 03.12.15 at Mumbles

Future Circuit Meetings 17.03.16 Wesley 16.06.16 at Reynoldston

