

Safeguarding - Circuit Meeting Murton Church - 4th September 2014

The Methodist Church Standing Order 010 (2) states that:

(i) no person who has been convicted of or has received a formal caution from the police concerning an offence mentioned in the First Schedule to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 shall undertake work with children and young persons in the life of the Church;

(ii) no person who has been convicted of or has received a formal caution from the police concerning sexual offences against children shall be appointed to any office, post or responsibility or engaged under any contract to which this sub-clause applies.

Page 26 of Safeguarding Booklet suggests this applies to members of Church Council, those with lone access to church premises; pastoral visitors; communion stewards; organists; worship leaders etc.

- The **Disclosure and Barring Service** [DBS] are continuing to modernise their service. They are now making some changes to their existing IT system. The eventual outcome will see the total process of DBS applications - and thereby a wholly portable DBS document – both become available to view, and to up-date on-line.
- **Legislative changes** that apply to Wales will be addressed by Jean Lang – District SG Officer [Southern] – at a specially convened meeting, the date of which will be circulated in due course. Two significant issues are:
 - [1] 'Adults' are no longer referred to as 'Vulnerable' but as being at 'Risk of Harm'
 - [2] There is now a legal requirement that any person having concerns, to report the matter either to Social Services or the Police.
- Further training sessions are to be held in October 2014.
- **Foundation Module A Training sessions** is to be held on:
 - Tuesday 21st October 2014 [18:45 – 21:30] at: Mumbles Methodist Church
Leadership Training is to be held on:
 - Saturday 11th October 2014 [09:45 – 15:00] at: Jersey Marine Methodist Church
Official Booking Forms MUST be used to enrol on the courses.
- In addition there is a **Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinators Day** to be held at Newtown on: 14th March 2015 [11:00 – 15:00]
- In preparation for **Ogof Adullam** the new **Drop-In Centre** to be held at Brunswick Church, DBS Verifiers will be on hand at Mumbles Church on 1st September 2014 from 11:am to verify any outstanding DBS applications.
- For the Special Report to Conference 2000 - *Church & Sex Offenders* - see:
<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/conf-church-and-sex-offenders-2000.pdf>

Module A Foundation Training: Core List – Required Attendance

Presbyters – with an active preaching or pastoral ministry

Deacons - with an active preaching or pastoral ministry

Pre-ordination students and probationers

Lay employees & Volunteer Workers with pastoral responsibility

Pastoral Visitors

Anyone working with 0 – 18 years old under the auspices of the church

Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound)

Church stewards

Circuit stewards

Local preachers

Worship leaders

Those training for local preaching or worship leading

Church and circuit safeguarding representatives

Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 years old or vulnerable adults in the group.

District staff especially policy committee members, complaints and discipline, mediators

Core teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institutions

Connexional staff with direct safeguarding links e.g. children and youth workers

'Covenant of Care' group members

Alastair Elkes-Jones .I. Mumbles Methodist Church .I. 4th September 2014

CAPEL Y NANT and WESLEY GUILD, CLYDACH

We are very pleased to be able to report that the final application for a grant, the result of which was expected in July, was successful, and work on the building is expected to start, outside on Sept. 1st and inside from the 8th. A major clear out of decades of accumulated stuff has taken place over the past couple of weeks, and our congregation moves to the main church from August 31st until the work is complete. This, and the need to store loads of things in the spaces around the main church, will present a few challenges. Some activities that have been in the hall will not be able to take place for the period of the work, but others can be accommodated by using the meeting area at the back of the church that was created some time ago by removing a few rows of pews.

Our Wesley Guild celebrates its Centenary this year on October 19th. The Guild is now a very small, but an extremely active, group. As well as their regular Wednesday meetings (now all year, not just autumn and winter), they go on summer trips, and support and organise many good causes.

On Sat. Sept. 27th they are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning at 10.30 in the Clydach

Community Centre (Vardre Road), and on Nov. 1st is their Craft Fayre, also in the Vardre Hall, from 1.30 to 4.00 p.m. Proceeds from this event will go to Mr X, the charity they support magnificently every year. All are welcome to these, and we'd love to see you there, especially to our centenary service on October 19th at 3.00 p.m. in Capel-y-Nant, which will be followed by tea and cakes in Bethel Evangelical Church down the road from C y N. Rev. Howard Long will conduct this service and members of the Guild will take part.

TY CROESO

We continue with various activities at Ty Croeso, including the Food Bank, a Bereavement Group, 1:1 Counselling on request, the Welsh learners' group, and occasional Café Church. We have been successful in getting financial support again from the Co-op Community Fund, and are also promised money from the Vale Nickel Works in the village. We took part in 'World Book Night', a scheme to encourage people who don't normally read to do so by giving them a free book. We hold a variety of information on services offered by e.g. Communities First, Age Cymru, Cruse. On behalf of Ty Croeso (and the church) I attend the local Communities First Forum meeting at Craigfelen (the part of Clydach which is a Communities First area), and the Social Services Community Convener Network meeting for our part of Swansea.

Although we don't have anywhere near as many clients as the other food bank centres, it can sometimes be very busy. Even when busy we try to ensure that someone is able to chat with the

client or the agency representative who comes for the food, ensuring a friendly face and a listening ear. One conversation recently showed that it's not just a question of handing out food – a social services worker told us that if it wasn't that families are desperate for a food voucher they wouldn't let people like her across the threshold, but once she's in there she can gain trust, find out other needs, and signpost people to the help that is available. The aim of the food-bank is to offer very short term supplies, while people are helped in other ways to get things in place so that their lives and finances are more stable. With the food parcel we always hand out leaflets about Ty Croeso, the churches that volunteers come from, a small prayer card, and a booklet of recipe ideas for cheap and healthy food.

At the last Circuit meeting I said that we were in conversation with another organisation in the community about a potentially exciting new phase in Ty Croeso's work. The conversation is ongoing and we hope for news in the next few weeks. Please pray for all of us involved in this project. Thanks for all who support us in various ways from across the Circuit.

Pam Cram August 21st 2014.

BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO CIRCUIT 2014 SEPTEMBER 4TH BRUNSWICK CHURCH OFFICE REPAIRS

We are happy to announce that our CCM has funded the wonderful change of image to our office. The circuit will be helping with the carpeting. Quotations are being sort out presently.

1. OGOF ADULLAM

The working committee and Huw the director of this project are working frantically to have the training of the volunteers to start this September and to actually have the visitors in by beginning of October. Everything is coming together nicely. There is good progress.

2. UNITAS

We will be having our Churches together Songs of praise service this Sunday at 3pm at the Sea Front Civic Centre led by the Salvation Army Band and we will be participating in the service. We attend the UNITAS Meetings and I join the other Clergy in the Fraternal Breakfasts

3. THE HILL CHURCH

They are still worshipping at Brunswick.

4. THE ASSYLUM SEEKERS AND THE REFUGEES

They are still coming every Fridays for fellowship, for English lessons and art work and for food.

5. BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd week of the month we have a bible study on Thursday at 11am.

6. FAN (Friends and Neighbours)

We still meet every Wednesdays at 10.30 am and we encourage all those who are lonely to come and join us for a chat and a free cup of tea/coffee and biscuit or cake.

7. PRAYERS

Every Thursdays we meet at 11.30 am for prayers. We are very pleased to announce that this group is growing very well. A good number of people are joining us. We are being blessed.

8. HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be distributing invitation cards to our neighbours two weeks before the 21st September our Harvest Sunday.

9. OUTREACH SERVICES

We are extending our Outreach services to St Helens by doing School Assemblies and attending the Sand fields Community meetings.

God bless

Rev'd Siperire

AMELIA TRUST FARM

Creation – Care – Community CIRCUIT PROJECT 2014-15

On Sunday 12th October we welcome

Deacon Lorraine Brown (Director Amelia Trust Farm)

3.30pm – talk about the work of the farm

4.30pm – Faith Tea

6pm – Circuit Service @ PENLAN

The Amelia Trust Farm works with young people, specifically aged 13 – 16 and also with adults with learning difficulties.....using the farm environment, music, craft etc., to give them life experiences outside the classroom and home

www.ameliatrust.org.uk

Reg Charity 1053468

The farm is open every day – no charges for admission or parking – donations welcome – there is also a prayer labyrinth available for prayer and meditation

Circuit Outreach Working Party Report to Circuit September 2014

The group met last on July 28th with thirteen.

- We discussed the significance of Martyn Atkins report on Membership numbers. It was pointed out that this reflected society where in general all voluntary organisations were experiencing a significant drop in membership and that we had done well not to have to close any churches in the circuit. Oswald Chambers' comments on the need for revival were noted.
- The Ivy Church in Manchester, a community of a thousand born again Christians as reported in the Independent newspaper, was highlighted and the current growth of independent evangelical and Pentecostal churches was noted. And we discussed the question "What are we doing wrong?" People don't seem to want to come into our churches but it was suggested that the Stable Trail shows that they will do so if it is relevant.
- We discussed the need for prayer for Outreach and for Revival and 7 am on the first Saturday of the month was suggested and has started..
- As a follow up from last meeting we discussed services and service times e.g. Praise and Prayer type Sunday evening services, week day short services (like Mumbles) mid-day or evening. There was a willingness to change but some suggested we can't expect our people to come out twice on a Sunday.
- How can we learn from each other? It was proposed that at our next meeting there should be a presentation about Messy Church to be advertised in all our churches.
- Future plans.
 - (a) we were informed about Ogof Adullam
 - (b) an Alpha course is planned in Mumbles and in Brunswick in the new Year.
 - (c) leafleting is planned for Morriston on Sept 9th
 - (d) It was suggested that our churches should deliver leaflets for Harvest.

Next meeting
Monday October 20th at 7 pm at Brunswick.

World Mission Report for Circuit Meeting
(4th September 2014)

Below are details of monies received between November 2013 and August 2014:

November 2013

Pitton £100.00

Horton £100.00

July 2014

Murton £260.00
+ J.M.A. £81.50

August 2014

Sketty £48.00 (Mission Boxes)

Eaton Rd £20.00

Mumbles £327.32

TOTAL £936.82

Dianne Price

(Treasurer for World Mission)

Report of Local Preachers' Meeting @ Sketty 01.09.14

22 Preachers and Ministers attended

A number of pastoral concerns from around the circuit were shared

Very positive reports on assessed services led by Selina Taylor, Cynthia Mumford and Caroline Buckler (all Preachers "On Trial") were presented. It was also reported that Sue Raad (On Note) has contributed to two services in the past quarter, which were received favourably.

The Superintendent reported that:

- Rev John Atkinson had retired to Swansea
- Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta has taken over responsibility of Morriston: thanks were expressed to Rev Pam Cram
- A new Alpha course is starting at Mumbles on Sept 17th

- The Applecourt Theatre Co will be presenting “I am Mark” at the Taliesin on Oct 10th
- Safeguarding training (Module A) will be on Oct 21st at Mumbles (6.45pm) and that Jean Lang is the Synod Training Officer for S. Wales.
- The Secretary of Conference has urged that evangelism/outreach should be the Methodist Church’s priority
- The Swansea Night Shelter will commence in January, with Sketty hosting on Saturday nights (Training on Nov 6th or 25th @ Parklands, 7.30pm)
- A management group has been set up for Ogof Adullam, which will open in October, and that training sessions for volunteers will commence soon. CRB checks had been carried out. People are being encouraged to make a regular financial commitment
- The Circuit Service (and other events) with Deacon Lorraine Brown will be at Penlan on Oct 12th
- Positive feedback had been received (even from the USA!) for the BBC Wales services recorded at Mumbles
- Volunteers for a leaflet distribution in Morriston are required (9th Sept)
 - It was reported that Rev Dr Noel Davies had agreed to lead another series of discussions at Sketty, commencing April (TBC) on the theme of moral/ ethical issues.
 - The importance of clear voice projection in the pulpit was emphasised
 - A request was made that an up-to-date list of resources (hymn books and technology) for each chapel be posted on the web-site
 - The meeting concluded with a presentation/discussion led by Win Hawkins on "A Christian response to our broken society: living out our faith”, based on Win’s Unit 18 Project.

Alan Cram