

MINUTES OF SWANSEA & GOWER CIRCUIT MEETING
held on 27th June 2013 at 7.30 pm.
at Reynoldston Methodist Church

Devotions: Led by Rev. Andy Walker.

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 42 members. Rev. Long welcomed Bob Alderdice to the meeting, who is now representing Murton

Apologies: Gill Watson, Kath Jones, Alan Cram, Martin Gregson, Geoff Maddock, Margaret Bizzell, Ian Hartley, Sheila Morgan, Mike Roberts, Hildergarde Roberts, Vi Soo, Jane Closs, Pam Jones, Rev. Gillian Evans,

Pastoral Concerns: The meeting noted, with sadness, the recent passing of Ruth Clancy, Tom Edwards, Mair Williams, Elsie Offord, Dudley Thomas, and Margery Ellery.

Rev. Long led the meeting in prayer.

Secretary's Notices: Diane Norton asked that anyone whose email address had changed, would let her know a.s.a.p. to ensure that the Minutes of the meeting can be distributed to the correct address.

Minutes of the previous meeting held in March, were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising:

- 1) Regarding Ministerial Development Review - Howard reported that he was currently undergoing his review as Superintendent, to be completed by the middle of July and that colleagues' reviews would take place in the Autumn.
- 2) Howard also reported that a detailed breakdown of costs had now been received from Brunswick regarding additional assistance with internal decorations, and the agreed £5000 has now been confirmed.

Matters from the Synod & Connexion:

- 1) The Learning Network: Rev. Long distributed a paper on Discipleship & ministries new Learning Network that was agreed by the Methodist conference in 2012 following the Fruitful Field report. the Learning Network will come into operation from September 2013 and improve training for the whole church by providing good quality programmes, pathways and resources that are well resourced and designed to meet local needs. A connexional network of expert staff providing support and encouragement to individuals, local churches and districts. Two high quality centres at Cliff College and the Queen's Foundation, offering a range of pathways, programmes and conferences to support and enhance the learning and development of lay and ordained.

2) Synod Policy Committee: Rev. Wiseman gave a report from the recent Synod Policy Committee that had met in Newtown. Copies of the Report can be obtained upon request.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated to the meeting and it was noted that :

- 1) Selina Taylor is seeking a note to preach.
- 2) Cynthia Mumford and Caroline Buckler are both doing well with course work and
- 3) Congratulations were given to Win Hawkins on completing the 17 units of the course. She will be fully qualified as a Local Preacher by the autumn.

Methodist Women in Britain: A report was received and circulated and Janet Neilson gave out receipts to each church for their contribution to the Easter Offering.

Methodist Homes: Sandra Pengelly thanked everyone for their contributions to this worthwhile project, but asked that members be mindful of postal charges when returning envelopes, as several times, excess postage charges have had to be paid. She also reminded members that MHA resources were available on request.

Safeguarding: A written report was received and circulated to the meeting. Alistair Elkes-Jones said that training meetings were on-going but warned against completing CRB check requests on-line until further notice.

Finance - Budget: Bernard Gwyther presented the Income & Expenditure Account and the Budget for the year ending 31st August 2014. He outlined work that had been completed and also work that has still to be done and requested £14,500 from The Model Trust Fund (Circuit Advance Fund) plus a further advance for other work as necessary.

The meeting voted 39 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions. The proposal was accepted.

Quentin Hawkins expressed the view that in his opinion, the Advance Fund was only intended to be used for the advancement/preservation of the Kingdom and should not be used for property matters.

Rev. Andrew Walker then said that many initiatives to advance the Kingdom, such as Messy Church, Youth Clubs, Drop In, etc. were operating, successfully, without funding from the Circuit.

The Chairman responded by saying that until approximately four years ago, the Advance Fund could *only* be used for building and property work and then it was decided that it could be used for property *and* mission.

Social Issues: A report was received and circulated to the meeting. Rev. Pam Cram circulated a flyer about the 'Surfers not Street Children' event at Mumbles on July 1st

at 7.30 pm. Pam also said that in support of the Surfers not Street Children, she is making and selling key rings and magnets (Please contact Pam for your supply). Pam also drew attention to the **Faith in the Community Report** produced by Christians in Parliament and the Evangelical Alliance. This can be accessed on line with an 'executive summary' from www.eauk.org
She also mentioned a meeting to be held in Parliament on the subject and urged members to lobby their MPs to attend.

Mission:

i) Circuit Project: Rev. Long confirmed that this year's project has been 'Street Pastors' and invited Win Hawkins, who is now a trained Street Pastor, to outline her experiences, so far.

It was interesting to note that this very worthwhile project involved Christians from different denominations, working together to help/look out for, vulnerable people under often, very trying circumstances. Win asked for volunteers for the back up prayer group to come together to pray at St. David's Church, while the Pastors are out on the streets during the night. There will be a commissioning service for new Street Pastors on 11th July at Life Point Church (former Synagogue) in the Uplands.

ii) Action for Children: Gill Worrall gave a brief outline of the history and work of Action for Children and Stepping Stones and urged that relevant literature be distributed and circulated in churches and the community.

iii) Connect Magazine: Howard commented on the excellent content and presentation of the magazine, (special thanks to the editor, Myra Maddock for this) and asked that members make sure that it is distributed widely. (libraries, doctors surgeries, neighbours etc.) and that articles, photographs etc. be regularly submitted to ensure its continued success.

iv) Outreach: An Outreach Working Party Report was received and circulated and the following recommendations were made by Quentin Hawkins:

- 1) That a Circuit Team be formed to deliver leaflets around each of our churches.
- 2) That eleven Gospel banners be purchased and shared around our churches.

These were unanimously approved.

When the question of cost was raised re-the banners, Quentin replied that in 'Outreach' terms, the cost was really irrelevant.

Bernard Gwyther then said that Mumbles would contribute £200 towards the cost.

Howard confirmed that the new Family and Youth Worker, Ceri Webb, has been appointed at Mumbles Church and commenced her duties in May.

v) Ty Croeso - Clydach: A report was received and circulated. Thanks were given to the Circuit for the £500 grant and Rev. Pam Cram reported on the project's growing success and future plans.

A report was also received from Alan Cram and Martin Gregson, who recently

attended a '**Money Coaches**' course, run by Christians Against Poverty. (CAP)

Alan and Martin intend to run a course initially in Clydach based in Ty-Croeso in the Autumn - more feedback to follow.

Alice Rutter reported that **Julie Edwards**, serving as a mission partner with the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Methodist Church in Fiji, will be speaking at **Brunswick on Friday 27th September**. For further details, please contact Alice.

vi) Murton: Rev. Andy Walker reported that the 'Messy Church' was going well and that from September a 'drop-in' centre is planned for young people in the Bishopston area, two nights a week at the Lamplighter.

Property:

1) A report was received and distributed regarding **Morrison Development Scheme** (Phase 1) progress.

2) Proposed scheme (**Murton Roof**): Bob Alderdice presented a detailed report regarding essential repairs required to Murton Church roof, together with costings amounting to approximately £25,000. This would exhaust the church funds but Bob said that funds have already been raised towards the cost and requested 10% from the Circuit and 10% from Synod. Jeff Coleman asked if whether the proposed work included insulation. Bob replied in the affirmative. A vote was taken resulting in a majority approval with only one vote against. Following the vote, Quentin Hawkins offered a donation of £500 towards the scheme and suggested that others might wish to match his generous offer.

3) **Manses**. Work on updating and improving manses is on-going.

4) **Fire Safety**: Heather Coleman urged all churches to review their Fire Safety procedures as a matter of urgency.

The Church Uniting in Wales: Rev. John Wiseman summarised the recommendations of 'The Gathering' along with a DVD putting forward different viewpoints. Unfortunately, technology (or the DVD itself) failed us. Those wishing to show the DVD in its entirety to their churches, can contact Rev. John Wiseman or Rev. Andy Walker who have copies available.

It is important that churches discuss the importance of the implications of this initiative and send any comments to Rev. Howard Long as soon as possible, so that a report can be prepared by early September.

A.O.B.

1) Howard announced that Rev. John Wiseman would be taking up his new appointment at Poynton/Hazel Grove Methodist Church in the Manchester and Stockport Circuit in September and that Rev. Alfred Austin would remain in the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit as a Supernumerary Minister.

2) **Christian Music**: A survey regarding the use of music in churches (copyright etc.) was distributed and Howard stressed the importance of it being completed and returned a.s.a.p.

The meeting was informed that Joan West, church organist for 70 years, was now intending to 'go part-time' and that Elizabeth Bevan, Murton Church had given 60 years service. Janet Neilson proposed that Certificates be awarded to both ladies for their long and loyal service and ministry to the Church. This was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm. with The Grace.

Next meeting will be at **Wesley Methodist Church**, Eaton Road, on **Thursday, 19th September 2013 at 7.30pm.**