

**Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting
held on 5th December 2013 at 7.30pm
at Morryston Methodist Church**

Devotions: Led by Siperire Magadzaweta

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 38 members.

Apologies: Rev. Leslie Noon, Vi Soo, Michael Roberts, Hildergarde Roberts, Pam Evans, Bev Poiner, Selina Taylor, Ian and Janet Campbell.

Minutes and Matters Arising: It was noted that the minutes for 19th September under Finance should have read '.....Financial Report for the year ending **31st** August 2013' (**not** 30th August).

Pastoral Concerns: Prayers were asked for those who are going through a difficult time at the moment especially Jean Bradley, Rev. John Jones and Ian and Janet Campbell. Rev. Long was pleased to inform the meeting that Rev. Peter Dolling's health has improved.

Methodist Women in Britain: A report was received and circulated to the Meeting. Janet Neilson pointed out that no decision regarding the next Circuit Project will be made until Spring 2014.

Same Sex Marriage: A report was received and circulated to the meeting. Rev. Long encouraged the members to read it carefully and to engage with the connexional consultation which will run until 10th February 2014.

Circuit Stewards: Ian Campbell has decided to stand down from Circuit Stewardship due to ill health. A letter will be sent to him to thank him for all his hard work over the years. Gwen Dumelow also wishes to stand down as soon as a new Circuit Steward can be found - hopefully not later than 30th September 2014.

Charity Commission: A report was received and circulated to the meeting and was accepted unanimously, with one spelling amendment. (Monitored)

Social Issues: A report was received and circulated to the Meeting. Rev. Cram also mentioned the up-coming Gweini Conference in January re : 'Human Trafficking'. However, since the meeting, Pam has amended the information. (**See attachment**).

Finance: A detailed report of the accounts to 31st August 2013 was presented by Bernard Gwyther, (Treasurer) which was unanimously approved by the Meeting. Bernard also proposed an adjustment to the Reserves Policy, which was carried unanimously by the Meeting. Rev. Long expressed the Circuit's thanks to Bernard for all his hard work.

Safeguarding; DBS forms can now be completed 'on-line.' Rev. Long advised members to be sure to be up to date on this issue.

Methodist Homes: It was reported that the magazine is now available. Doreen Leighton (Pitton) is now in a Methodist Home at Exmouth. A Christmas card will be sent to her.

Sketty/Bethel URC:A report was received and circulated to the meeting. Members can contact Jeff Coleman for further information. Rev. Long wished Sketty well in their negotiations with Bethel URC.

Mission:

i) Circuit Project - '**Water Aid**'.

Members were encouraged to support the different events that will be taking place in our churches over the next twelve months

ii) City Centre Ministry - **Brunswick**.

A planning meeting was held to discuss, with Circuit support, ways of moving Brunswick's outreach and city centre ministry forward.

Three groups were set up to look at:

a) Finance. b) Mission/community. c) Property.

These groups will re-convene in due course for further discussions.

N.B.

Leaflet distribution advertising services over the Christmas period will take place at **Brunswick** on 11th December (2pm.) and at **Morrison** on Monday 16th December (9.30am.) Please help if you can!

iii) Outreach Group. - A report was received and circulated to the meeting.

iv) Night Shelter. - Night Shelter is going ahead as planned, and the venue will again be Mumbles Methodist Church on Saturday evenings from January to March. Rev. Long was pleased to report that there are 50 volunteers from the Circuit.

v) Connect. - the new Connect Magazine is now available and churches were encouraged to distribute copies as widely as possible. Thanks were again accorded to Myra Maddock for her continued hard work.

vi) Ty Croeso & Food bank - A report was received and circulated to the Meeting Rev. Pam Cram added that Tesco had been very supportive of this project. Rev. Long thanked Pam and Alan Cram for their continued hard work.

vii) Gower Churches - Rev. Andrew Walker reported that 'Messy Church'

and Youth Groups were continuing to do well and that a 'Stable Trail' was planned for the weekend of 7th December, involving other church denominations at Reynoldston.

Property:

i) Schemes

- a) **Morrison:** A report was received from Heather Coleman and circulated at the Meeting.
- b) **Murton Roof:** A detailed written report was received and circulated to the Meeting. Rev. Long expressed thanks to Mr. Bob Alderdice for his excellent work overseeing this project.

ii) Manses

Derek Norton reported that major work has been carried out on all manses in recent months and that they are now up to a good standard. It is hoped that this can be maintained through regular inspections.

iii) Church Schedules

All on-line Property Schedules must be completed in their entirety before they will be accepted. Any issues can be discussed with Rev. Long.

iv) Quinquennials - All are currently up to date.

Archives:

Jeff Coleman said that it is important that churches in possession of documents/photographs etc. relating to historical or particular events, should have them lodged in the University Archives. Jeff is happy to give advice where required.

Local Preachers :

A report was received and circulated to the Meeting.
Win Hawkins thanked all those who attended her Accreditation Service.

New Circuit Website:

A detailed information document was received and circulated to the Meeting regarding this important Outreach initiative.
Rev. Long thanked Selina Taylor for her excellent work and encouraged all churches to become involved in keeping the website up to date.

The meeting ended with The Blessing.

Date of next Meeting : 20.03.14 at 7.30p.m. at Brunswick.

