

**Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting – Mumbles**  
**Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at 7.30 pm**

**Devotions:** Led by Rev. Leslie Noon.

**Present:** Rev. Howard Long in the chair and 35 members present.

**Apologies:** Ruth Painter, Rev. Gillian Evans, Dr. Robert Alderdice, Jane Closs, Selina Taylor, Michael Roberts, Violet Soo, Laurie Higgs, Ian Campbell, Owain Davies, Elaine Rees.

**Minutes & Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the previous meeting held at Clydach in September 2015 were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

**Pastoral Concerns:** Prayers were said for the following: Jim Hudson (Brunswick) who is one hundred and two years old and in hospital at the moment. For Audrey Harries (Clydach) whose husband Brian is not well. Russell Williams (Murton) who is recovering after a spell in hospital.

Ted Yorke (Reynoldston) who is in hospital recovering from a Triple Bypass Operation and whose wife Doreen is in Campion Gardens.

Prayers were also asked for those grieving the loss of loved ones: The family of Jonathan Thomas who was killed in Swansea on 31<sup>st</sup> October and for whom a candlelit vigil and funeral service was held at Murton, attended by over 800 people.

Joe Long (Uncle of Rev. Long – brother of Alf) who died on 8<sup>th</sup> October and Ray Samples of Murton who died on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Marriage & Relationship Consultation:** Following the meeting held at Penlan in October, conversations and opportunities to share thoughts and feelings on the subject have been held at churches within the Circuit. Feedback must be sent to the Synod by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, at the latest.

**Finance/Schedules:** Thanks were accorded to Martin Gregson for taking on the role of Circuit Treasurer. Martin thanked Bernard Gwyther, for all the help given to him during the handover. A report of the Finances was received and circulated by Martin.

Rev. Long reminded the meeting that finance schedules are now due and should be sent to him.

**Statistics:** The Circuit statistical returns are now complete.

**Sabbaticals:** Rev. Long welcomed Rev. Andrew Walker back from his sabbatical, and informed the meeting that Rev. Leslie Noon will be taking her sabbatical in 2016.

**Safeguarding:** Rev. Long informed the meeting that a new Safeguarding Officer is soon to be appointed and that safeguarding audits need to be completed as soon as possible. The Circuit Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed at the next meeting. He reminded the meeting that the **Leadership Module Training** session is planned for **23<sup>rd</sup> January** at Clydach, the yearly **Foundation Module Training** (which is essential for new people working with children and vulnerable adults) will be held on **27<sup>th</sup> January 6.45 – 9.30 pm.** and the **Safeguarding Coordinators Meeting** on the **27<sup>th</sup> February.**

**MWiB/ Easter Offering 2016:** A report was received and circulated. Janet Neilson announced that a cheque for the money raised for the Amelia Trust Farm will be presented at Morrision on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The Easter Offering Service will take place in 2016 on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Venue to be decided.

**Circuit Archives:** Jeff Coleman summarised information regarding the retention of various sorts of Church Records for specific periods of time. More detailed information can be found on the Methodist Church website:

**<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/archivists>**

(As circulated to all Circuit members on 3<sup>rd</sup> December following the Circuit Meeting.)

**Local Preachers:** A report was received and circulated. Alan Cram informed the meeting that Cynthia Mumford has now completed her course and will be interviewed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. It was therefore, proposed that Cynthia be accepted as a Local Preacher and this was agreed unanimously by the Meeting.

**Methodist Homes:** Sandra Pengelly informed the meeting that the balance of funds is now £788.70. and that Heart & Soul magazines have been distributed. Thanks were accorded to Sandra for all her hard work.

### **Property:**

1) Schedules: Rev. Long reminded churches that Property Schedules should be completed on-line and that some were still outstanding.

2) Schemes – i) Wesley : The meeting was informed that the target figure of £53,000 for refurbishment, had almost been achieved and that work is due to start in February 2016.

ii) Brunswick: Plans for an urgently needed disabled toilet were distributed to the Meeting the cost of which is approximately £5,000. A generous donation of £2,000 has been offered, along with a contribution of £1,000 from Ogof Adullam towards this scheme. It was proposed that the Circuit make an additional contribution of £1,000 and this was unanimously agreed.

3) Uniting Church Sketty: The Meeting was informed that all necessary work should be completed by the middle of February.

4) Morriston: The quinquennial report had been received. A new fire escape exit is soon to be installed on the upper floor. The flat roof over the music room is to be replaced.

5) Manses: Derek Norton informed the meeting that the two major projects were now completed – namely the roof of the Manse at 47, Sketty Park Road and a new refurbished kitchen at 5, Channel View.

6) Quinquennials: This work is on-going.

### **Mission:**

1) Gower Youth Worker: A report was received and circulated. The meeting agreed to support this project with a grant of £500 per annum for two years.

2) Circuit Project 2015/16 – ZrJ Trust: The official launch was held at Brunswick on 11<sup>th</sup> October. A fund-raising event is to be held at the Mansion House on 10th December – all welcome - tickets £5.

3) City Centre Ministry – Brunswick: *a)* Christianity Explored Course starts in January. *b)* Ecumenical Advent Bible Study classes are well attended. *c)* FAN Group meetings are gaining momentum with more people attending. *d)* On 28<sup>th</sup> November, a Minority Multicultural Christmas Celebration was held with eight different nationalities represented, led by Rev. Irfan John. *e)* Future fund-raising events are planned.

4) |Ogof Adullum Project/ Project Coordinator & Assistant Post (update):

- i) An update regarding the Project has been deferred until the next Meeting.
- ii) Work for acquiring grants for the above posts is on-going and thanks were accorded to Heather Coleman for all her hard work.

5) Night Shelter: Gwen Dumelow informed the Meeting that the new venue for the Saturday Night Shelter will be Gors Primary School, Townhill – an off-shoot of Parklands Church. Volunteers are required.

6) Connect: Thanks were accorded to Myra Maddock for all her valuable work in producing the magazine.

7) Ty Croeso & Food bank: Alan Cram thanked all churches for their support for the food bank at Ty Croeso.

Rev. Pam Cram said that on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, Neath Port Talbot Credit Union will be opening a new Community Collection Point at Ty Croeso, 97, High Street, Clydach, every Friday from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

Rev. Cram also announced that qualified Child Bereavement Counselling is now available.

Families Anonymous Group: To support/counsel those families with members struggling with addiction.

**AOB:** Traidcraft have offered to collect unwanted jewellery/coins/mobile phones etc. for recycling . For further details contact Rev. Pam Cram.

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

**NB:**

**Date of Next Meeting 17.03.16** and will be held at **Morrleston** and not **Wesley** as previously announced.

**NB.**

***Future Circuit Meetings : June 09.06.16 Reynoldston September 22.09.16 Wesley.***