

**Minutes of the Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting
Held at Brunswick Methodist Church
Thursday 8th December 2016**

Devotions: Led by Revd H. Long

Present: Revd Howard Long in the Chair and 27 members.

Welcome: Revd Long welcomed Nancy Owens as the Circuit Meeting Secretary.

Apologies: Alan Cram, Martin Gregson, Elaine Rees, Gwen Dumelow, Pat Davies, Violet Soo, Rev. Gillian Evans, Rev Andrew Walker, Patrick Jenkins, Peter Scott, Maureen Estcourt.

Minutes of previous meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2016 were agreed and signed by Revd H. Long as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising: The winter Connect magazine features an article by Jeff Coleman and his 40 years of preaching.

Pastoral Concerns: Revd Long led the meeting in prayers for Bernard Gwyther (Mumbles), Rev Peter Dolling (Supernumerary), Elaine Phillips (Murton), David Boakes (Mumbles) and Sheila Shingleton (Brunswick).

Revd Long shared the news of the death of Rev Gethin Abraham Williams, General Secretary of Cytun 1998-2006.

Circuit Stewards: The meeting agreed to send a card to Diane Norton thanking her for her time as Circuit Secretary and to Derek Norton for his time as Circuit Steward. A card will also be sent to Mike & Diane Price who has moved to the Midlands to be near family. Mike Price served as a Circuit Steward, albeit briefly and Diane was World Mission Treasurer. Revd Long will be looking for 2 new Circuit Stewards over the coming months,

Charity Commission: The Annual Report for the Charity Commission was circulated. Youth work at Sketty and Mumbles to be added. The meeting agreed the Report.

Finance & Schedules: The Balance Sheet and Income/Expenditure account were circulated and presented to the Meeting. The historic fund for youth funds to be shown in future accounts. Revd Long encouraged Treasurers to complete schedules and forward to himself or Martin Gregson.

Ogof Adullam – Project Coordinator and Assistant Post: Heather Coleman reported that funds had been received from the Mission in Britain Fund and the Synod and the Circuit to employ two part-time posts. Huw Davies has been appointed as Project Coordinator and Cerys Davies as Assistant Project Coordinator from 1st December.

The Ogof Adullam project features in the One Mission Matters Magazine and in this year's connexional Advent Offering Appeal.

Safeguarding: Training in Sketty will commence in February. Some Audits are still outstanding and need to be addressed as soon as possible.

MWIB: Janet Nielsen is no longer able to take responsibility for the prayer labyrinth at the Amelia Trust Farm. Revd Long thanked Janet for all she had done. The meeting agreed that Janet should send for the material for the annual Easter Offering service in 2017.

Methodist Homes: The total raised on Methodist Homes Sunday was £575. A Good Deed December poster is available.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated. It was noted that Cerys Davies and Sue Raad were on trial and not on note. The meeting with Fiji Mission Partner Julia Edwards on February 6th will take place at Murton and not Mumbles. This is an open meeting and Revd Long encouraged as many people as possible to attend.

Property:

1. Property Schedules: A meeting of the Property Stewards has taken place. Most of the property stewards are registered to enter the schedules online

2. Quinquennials: Sketty Manse and Uniting Church Sketty will take place before Christmas. Wesley is scheduled to take place after Christmas.

3. Risk Assessments: It is important that Churches take on board Risk Assessments as set out by Methodist Insurance. K. Allison and Keith Morris would be happy to assist Churches in putting together their Risk Assessments,

4. Brunswick: A full report on the dry rot is awaited. The Circuit is supporting Brunswick as much as they can. Hopefully by the March Circuit meeting the way forward will be clearer.

Mission:

1. Supporting Church: Revd Long has received a request from Rev. John Howard who is working in Israel Palestine. He would like individual churches to support his ministry by prayer, receive a quarterly news-sheet and to receive a visit from him on his return to the UK. Revd Long thought it would be good to become a supporting Circuit and put regular updates in our Connect magazine. Revd Long will contact Revd Howard to confirm that we will give support.

2. Night Shelter: Night shelter will be provided by Sketty on Saturday nights in January. Five or six people from other churches in the circuit are also involved. There is £961 in the Circuit budget for Night Shelter. Following a request from Rev Noon, DillysKitchen (café) in Sketty are delighted to help and will provide hot food for 15-20 with only a minimal charge.

3. Ogof Adullam: Huw Davies thanked Revd Long, Heather Coleman and the Circuit for supporting the scheme. The Bishop of Rochester has recently visited Ogof Adullam.

4. Sketty Uniting: Rev Noon reported that following the bombing in Paris she wrote to the mosque in Swansea. 40 members of Sketty UC were invited to the mosque in April and were given hospitality. Last week approximately 30 members of the mosque, including women, visited Sketty UC. Rev Fabricus gave a talk on Christianity and worship. Refreshments followed. Revd Long encouraged the communication between the two faiths.

5. Penlan: A Carol Service with the Phoenix Choir will take place at Penlan on Sunday 11th December. Revd Long thanked those who delivered leaflets around Penlan advertising the Carol Service and the Christianity Explored course. A report from Ken Allison is featured in the Connect magazine.

Any Other Business:

Rev. Walker has appealed for help from organists throughout the circuit who can help play for the evening services at 5.00pm

New Connect magazines are now available. Revd Long thanked Myra Maddock for producing the magazine

Circuit Project: Rev Mugadzaweta reported on her 11 day visit to Zimbabwe in November. The children received uniforms and shoes and everything has been paid for the next two years. The government is providing one meal a day and is looking at providing electricity to the school. A bore hole has been drilled. The garden will be fenced securely. The meeting was shown a video of the gifts being received. Rev Mugadzaweta thanked everyone for their help. Revd Long thanked Rev Mugadzaweta and Win Hawkins for their work. A full one hour video on DVD is available for those who would like to see it.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8.50pm.

Date of next Meeting - **Monday** 20th March at Murton at 7.30 pm.

Future Circuit Meetings: Thursday 15th June at Horton
Thursday 7th September at Penlan

