

**The Methodist Church in Wales
Synod Policy Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church
Saturday 13 February 2016

Present: Rev Stephen Wigley Chair
Martyn Boyce, Phil Challis, Rosemarie Clarke, Paul Donnison, David Farnsworth
(substitute for Ann Farnsworth), Chris Gray, Richard Gillion, Roger Hides, Richard
Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Teddy Kalongo, Sue Lawler, Gwyneth Leigh, Joan
Meredith, Nick Oborski, Judith Powell, Felicity Randall, Richard Sharples, Andrew
Walker (substitute for Lesley Noon), Roy Watson, Hugh John Wilson
Bob Gilson, Property Secretary
James Sharples, Mary Sharples, Abby Watterson – Youth representatives
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

01/16 Apologies: Anne Farnsworth, Jack Healey, Lesley Noon

02/16 Welcome

Stephen welcomed members to the meeting. Opening devotions were taken from the lectionary for Sunday 14 February reading from Luke's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 1 to 13.

03/16 Minutes

The minutes of meeting held 13 June 2015 were accepted and signed by the Chair, with the following amendments:

Add Paul Donnison to the apologies; paragraph 27/15, item c, last line to have added "due to declared interest".

04/16 Matters Arising

18/15 Extension for LP studies – Buckley & Deeside Circuit

The sub-group report recommended a one year extension for Martin Thorne from 13 February 2016 during which time all necessary work would be re-submitted.

30/15 DMLN

A new staff member had not been appointed. The job had been revised and a new advertisement had been made. Interviews were due during week beginning 22nd February 2016 and it was hoped an appointment would be made before an overall review curtailed future appointments.

05/16 Synod Youth Work Action Group

(a) Report from 3Generate

Mary and James reported on the issues for the 11-18 age group which had come out of 3Generate. These were: war and conflict; refugees; same sex marriage; improving disabled access. Roxanne was world representative and would visit Texas this year. Mary was ecumenical representative for 15-17 age range and had attended a meeting at the Quaker headquarters in Euston, London. She had found the experience very interesting and reported on the social action of Quakers in a variety of marches and protests. Mary had also attended the URC Youth Assembly and was impressed by their consensus voting system. The new 3Generate venue attracted many more participants which was good but it was hoped that it would not prove overwhelming for people. Abby had attended Conference 2015.

(b) SYWAG

Youth Forum had been held alongside Synod in September and there had been a drop in attendance; this was also true of the sleep-overs. These had been based on the 3Generate themes in the three age groups including Israel/Palestine and Mental Health in the 11-17 group and “Christ we share” in the 18-23 group. There had been good discussions in all the groups and successful Skype links. Overall the programme was a good one but the low numbers were disappointing, even with the input of the local Girl Guide company. Mary, James and Abby stressed the importance of encouraging young people to attend the forum and sleep-overs and to ask why they were not attending. The timing was possibly a factor and the South West sleep-over would be held in the Summer. Abby was co-ordinator for the Forum and with Roxanne was working through how to encourage younger people coming through churches to attend youth events.

Jamaica Exchange

Ten young people from Wales would travel to Jamaica in July where they would share in youth camps and be involved with the Jamaican National Children’s Home. Fund raising was on-going with the young people pledged to raise £1,000 towards the cost. An International Evening would be held in Wrexham and sponsored events had also been held. Costs had recently increased by £4,000 and Synod Cymru would also be asked to contribute. On their return, the young people would be available to talk about their experiences around Synod churches. On the return visit in 2017, a residential camp was being considered with the Jamaican visitors and a budget figure had been included for this. The possibility of extending the event ecumenically with the URC and other denominations was being considered. Reporting back and sharing the experience of the Exchange would be a major item on the Synod Agenda on Saturday 17th September 2016 and a handout would be prepared to go into Circuit plans for as wide a circulation as possible. Members of the meeting were reminded to inform Synod representatives of the revised date for Synod 2016.

(c) Invitation to Youth President 24-26 June 2016

Craig Gaffney was arranging an event at Cliff College entitled “Rise and Shine” on this weekend. This was also the week of the Jamaican visit, but any young people able to attend Cliff were to be encouraged to go. It was thought that a maximum of 40 was the restricting number and several young people had been encouraged to attend. Mary was going and at least another person was needed to represent Wales. After some discussion, Richard agreed to speak to Craig regarding numbers and act as co-ordinator between Craig and the Circuits.

06/16 Implementing Synod Policy

Up-dates to policy

previously distributed papers

Higher Education Chaplain

The change set out the $\frac{3}{4}$ time input and the post would be reviewed in 2019.

Synod Enabler

The changes were in descriptions, using “culturally diverse congregations” instead of “ethnic minority groups”. This document would be further checked for consistency. The policy would be reviewed in conjunction with the post in 2018. The meeting AGREED to both these Policy up-dates.

(i) General

(a) Accounts

previously distributed papers

Richard Hodgson presented the examined and signed accounts which had been approved at the previous meeting.

Extra expenditure had occurred at the manse at Llwyn-y-Grant but this had been covered by rental income and reserves.

The meeting AGREED to authorise these figures to be used in the Synod's annual submission to the Charity Commission alongside the Chair's Annual report in the Synod Report Book.

(b) Budget previously distributed papers

Richard outlined his paper, reiterating the need for an increase in cost in respect of Safeguarding. However, overall the Synod had retained a level budget for a number of years since the joining of the North and South Wales Districts.

(c) Assessment

The increase in Assessment to the Methodist Church Fund overall was 2% and to the Synod was 18%; however because the Wales Synod contribution to the MCF remain flat, the total increase reduced to an average of 2% for each circuit. The figures were ACCEPTED by the meeting.

The chair thanked Richard for all his hard work during the year in administering the accounts and preparing final figures.

(ii) Authorisations previously distributed paper and papers tabled at meeting

MGM had requested renewal of annual authorisations for Deacon Stephen Richardson and Mrs Eileen Gardiner. The meeting AGREED

Bangor & Holyhead Circuit had requested renewal of authorisations for Royce Warner in Llanfairfechan and Howard Jackson in Anglesey. Martyn Boyce reported that the Circuit meeting had not yet approved the request although the Circuit Leadership Team had. The meeting therefore APPROVED in PRINCIPAL the requests for Authorisation of Lay persons to preside at Holy Communion, subject to ratification by the Circuit Meeting.

(iii) Matters relating to property

(a) TMCP reply re licences for use of Methodist premises

Bob Gilson reported on a discussion held with Superintendents at which they expressed their dissatisfaction with the new standard licence issued by TMCP and their new procedures. Bob had written outlining the Synod's views and, together with feed-back from a property secretaries' meeting, TMCP were now looking at the new licence again. Stephen thanked Bob for his work with TMCP.

(b) Rent Smart Wales

Welsh legislation required landlords and agents acting for owners to register rented dwellings owned by Methodist churches. TMCP had been contacted and were aware of this legislation and training is being planned. Agents would need to attend training and if a local church was acting as an agent some of the trustees would need to be trained to understand their responsibilities. TMCP had prepared a document for Circuits and all rented properties would need to be listed for TMCP. Training sessions would take place in both the north and south of the Synod and TMCP required a register of trained trustees. This would mean that when new trustees were appointed they would have to undergo the training. Superintendents would also need to attend training sessions. Legislation would be operational from November 2016 and therefore time was short. Rented properties, or properties that were intended to be rented for residential purposes, were involved. Properties not held on Model Trusts would have to be register individually. Bob would liaise between Circuits and TMCP.

(iv) Trust 14508

The Trust supports Cardiff HE chaplaincy and the Synod Enabler and the Chair reported that a Quinquennial had recently been undertaken on the manse at Caewal Rd.

(v) Manses Committee

Mary Williams had been in touch with Circuits and the next round of inspections was in hand.

(i) Closure of Rhosnesni, Wrexham Circuit

Richard Sharples reported that in October 2015 there had been a unanimous proposal by the Church Council to close the chapel. Members had found other places of worship and Easter Sunday at 2.30pm would be the last service. The permission of the SPC was sought for the closure of Rhosnesni. Permission was GRANTED.

(ii) Closure of Llangurig, Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit

Sue Lawler requested the permission for Llangurig to close. Some members of the congregation were already worshipping at a nearby Methodist church and adjacent cottages owned by the Church would need to be considered in any future action. The Circuit Meeting would be held on 10 March 2016. Permission was GRANTED subject to ratification by the Circuit Meeting.

Nick Oborski reported that Llandaff North, a URC building, had closed in January.

(iii) Approval of Sabbaticals

Richard Sharples, Wrexham Circuit – August to October 2016

His areas of study included: a retreat, “social media”, a visit to Bardsey Island; reading the Apocrypha; attending Greenbelt and visiting Iona.

Phyl Fanning, Vale of Glamorgan Circuit – 1 month in July and August; February 2017; 1 month in April and May 201

His areas of study included: developing family tree skills; Calvinistic links; Genealogical research in Welsh Methodism; up-dating book “Tracing Welsh Ancestors”. These sabbaticals were APPROVED. Rosemarie encouraged presbyters to take the whole block of time away from Circuit rather than splitting time across the year.

(iv) Lay Representatives to Synod previously distributed paper

This was ACCEPTED

08/16 Chair’s Business

(i) Stationing

Stephen reported that Kate McClelland would be arriving in the Bangor & Holyhead circuit on 1 April 2016. Stephen Boxall would be stationed in Gwent Hills & Vales a Probationer. Marty Presdee would be returning to the Synod in Ceredigion.

Next year would be busier with more anticipated moves. Stationing briefings would be held for those involved in stationing in the south on 14th May and in the north on 21st May with timing and venue details to be confirmed later.

(ii) Pastoral matters

Stephen reported that the Lay Stationing Representative, Roger Palmer, was seriously ill. The meeting AGREED to send a letter of greeting to him and his wife.

(iii) Candidates

Three people had been recommended and the interviews would commence week beginning 14 March 2016. Two candidates were from Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit and one candidate from Newport & Lower Wye Circuit. Probationers committee would be held in Newtown on 3 March 2016 and details would be sent to individuals shortly.

(iv) Safeguarding

A part time officer would be appointed in the north and an advertisement would appear in March/April. DBS reports were on track and the meeting was reminded that lay people were required to renew their certificate after 5 years. The telephone number for the Synod Safeguarding Officer would be checked for accuracy. (Post meeting: the Safeguarding phone number – 07909 734668 – as recorded in the Synod Handbook is correct).

09/16 Matters to/from Related Bodies

(i) Methodist Council previously distributed paper

Rev Cathy Gale was thanked for her resumé of the meeting.

(ii) To/from Connexion

Marriage & Relationships Report previously distributed paper

Chris Gray responded briefly to this report, stating that full responses from Circuits were available if required. These would be submitted to Connexion together with the presented report. The discussions were on-going. Stephen thanked Chris and Cathy for their work on presenting the workshops round the Synod and writing the report. The meeting ACCEPTED the report.

(iii) Chair's Invitation Up-date

Stephen left the meeting and Rosemarie outlined the details.

At present Stephen has been invited to 2018 and is willing to serve for a further 2 years to 2020. The Nominations Committee will consist of:

the Wales Superintendent ministers; Rev Dr Jennie Hurd, Chair of Synod Cymru; two ecumenical partners; members of the SLT; a member of Queens Foundation Governing body where Stephen is a governor; Rev Irfan John and Rev Delyth Liddell; two member of Y Cyngor; and a member of the Regional Stationing Group.

They would consult by email and the time-scale would be from 1 April to 8 May with a recommendation brought to the June SPC, to be ratified by Synod in September. The meeting AGREED.

(iv) Y Cyngor

The visit of the President and Vice President of Conference would be from 17 to 20 March 2016 and they would attend the next meeting of Y Cyngor on 17th. A variety of visits was planned for their stay.

The Commission of Covenanting Churches in Wales met recently and at present there were no plans for another "Gathering". Methodist representatives to the Commission were Rev Cathy Gale, Rev Dr Jennie Hurd and Sister Eluned Williams.

10/16 Ecumenical Matters

(i) Commission

The Commission is looking at its rôle at local level.

(ii) Bridgend United Area

A new URC colleague had been appointed. The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of Jason Askew as an Authorised Person. The meeting APPROVED in PRINCIPAL subject to the United Area approval and completion of paper work.

(iii) Cytûn

The Chair expressed his appreciation of the Cytun policy officer Gethin Rees for disseminating policy information from the Wales Government.

11/16 Ministry Issues

(i) Christian Aid

Roy Watson had attended the 75th Anniversary of Christian Aid in Brecon Cathedral.

Roy was the Methodist representative on the National Committee which would meet on Thursday 18 February 2016.

12/16 Next Meeting

Saturday 18 June 2016

Meeting at Newtown Methodist Church, 10am for 10.30am.

Missions Committee Report for Circuit Meeting at Reynoldston 9th June
2016

Our circuit Missions Sunday this year will be on 9th October 2016, hosted by Murton Church. There will be an afternoon session at 3.00pm, when we are hoping to be taught 'Drumming'. There will be an African Theme for our Second Year of Supporting Zimbabwe Orphans.

There will be a bring and share tea at 4.30pm where we are hoping there will be some African food for those who would like to try it. The preacher at the 6.00pm service will be the Rev .Dr Stephen Wigley

Fundraising for the first year of our circuit project is going very well.

Sybil Smith

Mission

Secretary

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

Circuit meeting June 2016

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter Offering collection was, once again, extremely successful. We raised £2,513.08 (2015 £2,153.32). This may not be the final total as some gift aid has to be claimed. Since 2000, our circuit has collected £27,538.20. I would like to thank all those who attended the service, all those who participated and all those who contributed. Special thanks to Rev Dee Yeadon, our preacher, from the Llanelli and Carmarthen Circuit.

Every year we buy orders of service. Envelopes and posters are free. The whole service is now available on powerpoint. I ask the opinion of the meeting as to whether we need to buy orders of service for next year. We usually purchase 100 copies. This year they cost £2.50 for a pack of ten. Next year I am prepared to organise the EO service, unless someone else would like to take over, but, I am not willing to deal with the financial side of EO.

FELLOWSHIP DAY

There will be a Fellowship Day for all women of our circuit on Thursday 22nd September at our Reynoldston chapel. The theme will be "The Christ We Share". The day will start with tea/coffee from 10am and finish about 4 pm. There will be a Faith Lunch. Contact Janet Neilson for more details. Posters are available for all churches.

QUIET DAYS

There will be 2 Quiet Days at the Amelia Trust Farm on Wednesday 15th June and Thursday 14th July. Both will be led by Rev Delyth Liddell, chaplain to the farm. Both days start @ 10.30 and finish @ 4. Lunch will be available to buy at the coffee shop. Further details will be available on the farm's website.

If anyone has time to spare to help with the GARDEN 2GETHER project at the farm please contact Janet Neilson

FELLOWSHIP DAY FOR WOMEN IN
THE SWANSEA AND GOWER
CIRCUIT
“THE CHRIST WE SHARE”



@ Reynoldston Methodist on
Thursday 22nd September

Arrival from 10am for tea/coffee.....
start at 10.30 until 4pm....ending with
holy communion

***Faith lunch to share* (unless you need**
to bring your own lunch for various
reasons)

Donations appreciated, on the day, to
cover church costs

More details from Janet Neilson (01792202085)

Circuit Report for Brunswick Methodist City Centre Church

Date 1-6-2016

1. The Hill Church has moved to St Matthews in High Street after having been with us for nearly two years now. They expressed their appreciation for the hospitality they received from Brunswick Methodist Church.
2. Christianity Explored Course is starting on June the 21st Tuesday
3. There has been an increase in the number of those attending Drop In on Fridays for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. A record of over hundred people has been reported.
4. Also there has been an increase in those coming to Ogof Adullam drop in Centre as well. It has been reported that some evenings up to 35-or 40 guests have attended.
5. It has been unfortunate as we have had one member who attend Ogof Adullam sleeping at the Corner of Brunswick Church for few nights. Food and hot drink has been provided but She has been refusing other assistances.
6. Meetings of the forward planning group are still taking place in relationship to the modernizing of Brunswick.

Other activities continue to take place as usual.

Reverend Siperire

ZRJ: Circuit Meeting 9th June 2016

Thanks for all the churches in the Circuit have done so far for the Mansion House events we have organised.

What we do: 30 orphans: School fees, school uniforms, food.

Who we are: 4 Circuit churches represented on committee.

Target: £5000 a year income – already almost reached

Total raised since handover, excluding Circuit balance; £2,942.00 (STOs and

Held by Circuit:

donations)
£2,011 (excluding
Marine walk & Rhosilli
Coffee morning £982)

2016 expenditure fees etc. and travel to
Zimbabwe:

£3,500

Unknown: Borehole repairs or new borehole.

Current balance: £11,350

Planned activities:

Curry night **at Rose Indienne** in October.

Film Afternoon – Old Swansea – in autumn.

Musical evenings.

Circuit Service 9th October (See Sybil's report)