

Thames Valley Circuit - Methodist Church Circuit Meeting at Burnham – Thursday, 24th November 2011 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Present: Rev Andrew Baker plus 3 other ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 33 other members (plus 4 non-voting observers) as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 9 members noted there.

The meeting shared in Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Emmanuel Jacob.

Agenda as distributed plus, under AOB, Annual Circuit Report

Minutes of last meeting were agreed after amending the Property figure for the grant received by High Street from the National Churches Trust from £10,000 to £20,000, and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising – Under Communication, a Circuit Newsletter has been started and will continue to be sent out with the plan but not as an insert.

Matters from Conference

Ministerial Development Review will start in January 2012 as an annual appraisal setting target/s for the year ahead. Four members of our Circuit are to be trained as lay contributors and this Circuit is asking that in general the lay contributor comes from outside the minister's circuit.

Fruitful Field is an analysis of how the Methodist Church does training given the current financial pressures of having four centres of ministerial training nationally. The proposal for Places is to close all the current institutions and build one purpose built hub for all learning. This has many implications not least on ecumenical training. Andrew has the report to lend and it is on the Methodist website. Members of the Circuit are invited to reply to the consultation which closes on 23rd December 2011.

Safeguarding A wide spectrum of people in each church is required by Conference to attend the new 'Creating Safer Places' training by the end of August 2012. In this Circuit we plan to have a small group of people trained to deliver the course and a choice of times and places to attend. Please support your own Church safeguarding officer in this and address any problems to Kathy Rickman or Rev Andrew Baker.

Stationing Matches and visits had been very positive. Subject to Conference, Rev Sonia Hicks will be our new Presbyterian and Rev Andrew (Andy) Packer our new Deacon. Sonia and her husband Conrad are currently stationed in Dublin having served as Mission Partners in Jamaica. They have three children aged 21, 19 and 17. Andy, Lynn and daughters aged 21 and 19 are coming to us from Peterborough and will be moving in to the Salt Hill Manse.

Property

Manse for the new Presbyterian The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), having considered the options available, recommended that the Circuit continue to rent out the St Mark's manse and to lease a manse for a similar sum for the new Presbyterian in one of the areas served by her four churches. A vote was taken and all were in favour.

Ledgers Road Project Update – Ruth James thanked the Circuit for its support with fundraising and the £20,000 promised from the churches and Circuit. She reported the promise of a grant of £50,000 from the District and total funds raised by the local congregation so far of £14,500 towards their £151,000 scheme.

Further grant applications would now be made.

Circuit Property Consent was given:

- To Cookham Rise to renew the shorthold lease on their cottage.
- Subject to the approval of their Church Council, to High Street to renew the lease on their large offices and to grant a new shop lease for a sun bed shop.

Ledger's Road gave notice of a lease on their property at 92 Ledger's Road.

Finance

Circuit Reserves Policy This new policy paper as recommended by the CLT was discussed and adopted by the Circuit Meeting unanimously. Proposer: Ed Filmore, Seconder: Peter White

The four reserve funds are designated *i.e.* not restricted as the:

- **Mission Development Fund** maintained at £10,000 per annum with delegated authority to the CLT to receive and decide each application and report to the next Circuit Meeting.
- **Building Reserve Fund** maintained at £20,000 p.a. with delegated authority to the CLT to set the interest rate on loans decided by the Circuit Meeting
- **General Fund** maintained at £25,000 to manage risk and meet unplanned expenditure.
- **Manse Fund** to build up funds so that £12,500 is available for works every 5 years after a change of ministers for each manse with a running buffer of £10,000.

Chris Wren was thanked for his work in producing this very clear paper.

The audited Circuit Accounts for the year to 31 August 2011 were presented and accepted unanimously. The budget for 2012/13 will go to the Treasurers meeting. Our £19,000 two thirds share of the Deacon's cost is likely be offset by the loss of the administrator cost and the top-up made to reserves this year.

Schedules are now outstanding. Finance to Chris Wren and Property schedules to Phil Clack please. Phil offered his help with filling in the new page on energy costs; please do not hesitate to contact him. The information for the October counts should be returned to your Minister.

AOB

Annual Circuit Report Circuit agreed to the recommendation for an abbreviated annual report from the Superintendent, Senior Circuit Steward and Treasurer with a full report, as for 2010, every five years.

Dates for Diaries:

31 st December 2011	10 am – 3 pm	Open House at 36 Upton Road, Slough All welcome.
29 th January 2012	6.30 pm	Evening Healing service at High St, Maidenhead
28 th February	7.45 pm	Circuit Meeting at Ledger's Road
22 nd April	10.30 am	Service with the President of Conference at Windsor Followed by lunch
29 th April	5 pm	Circuit Easter Offering Service at High St, Maidenhead Preceded by tea at 4 pm
16 th May	7.45 pm	Circuit Meeting at Eton Wick
20 th September	7.45 pm	Circuit Meeting at Windsor
20 th November	7.45 pm	Circuit Meeting at Colnbrook

Paul Newton

Paul is moving away from the Circuit. The meeting directed a card be sent to thank him for his valued contribution as a Circuit Steward and member at High Street.

The Meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the Blessing at 9.30 pm.