

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting Cookham Rise – Wednesday, 20th November 2013 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Present: Rev Andrew Baker plus 5 other ministers, 6 Circuit Stewards, and 25 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 11 members noted there.

The meeting shared in Holy Communion led by Rev Gary Homewood with Rev Sonia Hicks giving the address.

Windows into the New Testament. The Meeting was introduced to this resource helping small groups to explore and define their faith. The other packs held by the circuit for loan are *Windows into Christian Spirituality*, and *Windows into Church History*.

Agenda agreed as distributed plus:

- under item 8: Maidenhead Emergency Shelter.
- under item 11: Assignment of ministers to churches and Whitechapel Mission.

Matters arising:

- Members were asked to approach anyone in their church who might take on the role of Circuit MHA representative role. This is a coordinating role and might suit anyone who has experience of a relative receiving care in the community or a home.
- John Salthouse, the Circuit website technician, was touched by the greetings from the circuit.
- The Circuit training morning will be on Saturday, 1st March from 10 am to 12 noon at St Mark's Crescent.

Safeguarding: The meeting was reminded that all new appointees to positions in the church, including pastoral visitors, should attend a safeguarding awareness session before taking up their appointment. There is one in the circuit on 8th March at St Mark's Crescent.

Finance: The audited **Circuit Accounts** for the year to 31st August 2013 showing a General Fund surplus of £26,000 were presented and accepted unanimously. Proposer Ian Haggarty, Seconder Liz Tottingham. This surplus is largely due to a timing difference on paying stipends monthly instead of quarterly. After transfers to meet our reserves policy, the balance in the General Fund was £69,099 compared with the £25,000 needed to manage risk and meet unplanned expenditure.

The budget for 2014/15 will go to the Treasurers' Meeting on 14th January. The treasurer, Chris Wren, was thanked for his work. Chris is going to provide a breakdown of the £1275 marked "Other" in the audited accounts.

Accounts Schedules are now outstanding. Please contact Chris Wren as soon as possible if there are any problems with this, as he has to present his report to the Spring Synod.

Maidenhead Emergency Night Shelter: The Circuit Leadership Team recommended that, if required, the Circuit should make available from the Circuit Mission Fund funds up to £5000 of the cost of providing this new venture. High Street is providing the premises, *Churches Together in Maidenhead* and other faiths the staffing, the Council expertise and Open Kitchen the charitable status. The plan is to start on 1st January with 4 trained volunteers manning it each night of bad weather. The management committee will be chaired by Gary Homewood. Agreed unanimously. Proposer Rev Gary Homewood Seconder David Hurman

Property: The activities that can take place in church buildings are strictly regulated. Please check with a minister before letting to any other church or faith organisations.

Property schedules are being completed online for the first time by going to <https://online.methodist.org.uk>. (An email address and password is required to log in.) Alternatively go to the Methodist Church in Britain website, click on Ministers and Office Holders, then Property, and on the left hand menu Forms, Schedules and Publications then Annual Schedules which will give a hyperlink to online.methodist.org.uk. The data input will take less time in subsequent years. Please contact Phil Clack with any problems.

Circuit Greetings The meeting asked for a letter to be sent to the family of Don Peake, one to David and Sylvia Alexander as their daughter Diane is in hospital, and one to Rev John Newton and Pam overcoming illness in Devon.

Assignment of ministers to Church Councils – This was agreed as per the schedule already sent out. Members of the meeting were asked to ensure their Church Council Secretaries know to send the agenda and minutes to all three.

Whitechapel Mission Kathy Rickman asked on behalf of the Mission that they be advised of anyone who might help them resist pressure by the local council to relocate to a less prominent site after 137 years of mission on Whitechapel Road. Please pray for the work of the mission and particularly for Tony, the Director, at this time and see their website for more information on how we can help. A speaker from the Mission has been invited to our service on 19th October 2014.

Dates for Diaries please see also *Diary of Forthcoming Events* on the circuit website:

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| Sun 23 rd Feb 2014 | Circuit local preacher accreditation service for Dave Tottingham | 4 pm at St Andrew's |
| Sat 1 st Mar | Training Morning | 10 am -12 noon at St Mark's Crescent |
| Thurs 27 th Feb | Circuit Meeting | 7.45 pm at High Street Maidenhead |
| Sun 4 th May | Easter Offering Service | at St Mark's Crescent |
| Sat 17 th May | Local Preachers' Study Day | |
| Wed 21 st May | Circuit Meeting | 7.45 pm at Old Windsor |
| Thurs 11 th Sep | Circuit Meeting | 7.45 pm at High Street Maidenhead |
| Sat/Sun 18 th /19 th Oct | World Prayer Safari | |
| Sun 19 th Oct | Circuit Missions Service | 4 pm |

The meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the saying of the Grace together at 9.30 pm.