

# The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting Burnham, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at 7.45 pm

## Minutes

**Note:** CA stands for Church Action needed.

**Present** Rev Andrew Baker plus 4 other ministers, 3 Circuit Stewards, and 31 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 13 members noted there.

**Agenda** Agreed as distributed plus under AOB

- Under item 8: Proposal from Colnbrook and Poyle Church Meeting
- Under AOB: Plans for Circuit Website  
Mission cards

**Minutes of last meeting** were agreed subject to the following amendments:

- Before Agenda insert *The meeting started with a service of Holy Communion, led by Rev Margaret Dudley*
- Under Good News add *Old Windsor Open the Book team is celebrating its 4<sup>th</sup> year.*
- In last sentence under Finance change *present his report to forward his report to District prior.*

### Matters Arising

None

### Safeguarding

Kathy Rickman reported that so far only one person is booked for the Creating Safer Spaces session on 14<sup>th</sup> March at Ledgers Road. It is compulsory for all new church office holders to attend such a session, and the importance of listening to what under 18s and vulnerable adults tell us can be seen by current news headlines – **CA**.

Rev Andrew Baker reiterated the importance of handing out the *Creating a safer space for us all* cards distributed at our last meeting to every family coming to our churches – **CA**.

Church Councils were asked to ensure their agendas include a discussion on locking their premises and decisions on the risk be minuted – **CA**.

The proposed paragraph to be added to the Policy on the use of Social Media was approved unanimously.

### 2015/16 Budget and Assessments

Assessments were based on a net circuit expenditure of £270,695 with the total assessment increased from £250,624 to £256,195 and taking the balance from reserves, and adjusting the shares of this to the schedule provided as agreed between the churches. These were agreed unanimously.

Rev Andrew Baker presented the report on behalf of Chris Wren who was unwell. He thanked the members of the churches for all their support for those who are ill. He went on to report the change from annual surplus to annual deficit since 2012 and how we must work to reverse this. Meanwhile the Circuit has good reserves and churches are asked to apply for pump priming monies to kick start Mission

projects – **CA**. Thanks were expressed to Chris Wren for his work particularly on the assessment shares.

Hampshire Avenue were due to complete repayment of their Circuit loan this August. Ledgers Road have repaid their loan from Chapel Aid in full and will be repaying early the second instalment of their five year loan from the circuit.

-

## Property

**Circuit Property Schedule D** was presented by Phil Clack (PC) and approved by the meeting. It is an exception report and there are no major issues for churches and circuit. He thanked all who collected the information and those who had inputted it to the online system. PC was asked to feed back the exceptions to the churches. There were no property consents sought. Churches were reminded Circuit consent had to be sought for major projects, new tenancies and every two years for re-letting property – **CA**.

This summer there would be work on the Upton Road manse, replacing bathrooms ready for the new minister. Rev Gary Homewood thanked the Circuit on behalf of the staff for the assiduous response to all of their property problems and PC for making things happen quickly.

## Annual Circuit Appointments for 2015/16

Agreed as shown in Appendix 1, with Daphne Hogg again for MHA *pro tem*. Rev Andrew Baker thanked Anne Haggarty for all she has done as Senior Circuit Steward, and Ann Hardiment for her service as President of the Circuit MWiB committee.

Circuit Meeting members were asked to own the need for a Circuit Steward and talk to their minister or Andrew about anyone who might fulfil this role – **CA**.

## Travelling in Hope

**Leaflets** had been widely distributed for the daily events in the Circuit Week of Prayer and there had been some memorable events. It was decided that that this should be repeated but perhaps not just after the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Circuit Meeting Members have a responsibility to take news from the meeting back to their churches – **CA**.

**St Mark's Crescent** 20:20 fundraising is going well. The Quiz nights with fish and chips were recommended, as was joining [TheGivingMachine.co.uk](http://TheGivingMachine.co.uk) so that St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church receives a donation every time you shop on the internet, at no extra cost to you – **CA**.

**Cookham Rise** are enthusiastic about their alternative styles of service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening of the month and ask that you help publicise these – **CA**.

**Colnbrook and Poyle** received an informal enquiry in December 2014 as to whether, in the light of the URC acknowledging they would never be able to resource a minister to the church, it was time to revert to being a Methodist Church once more. Their Church Meeting put the following proposal to Circuit for the exploration of separation which the meeting agreed unanimously.

The Colnbrook and Poyle United Church proposes a separation from the URC thereby reverting to become a Methodist Church once more if certain issues can be resolved to the satisfaction of Church members, the Circuit Meeting and the South East District:

1. That the investments currently held by the URC Trust, from which the church receives regular income, is returned to the Colnbrook and Poyle United Church.
2. Those who currently preach at the Colnbrook and Poyle United Church continue in that role so the Methodist Plan is not further stretched by the increase in cover needed for the additional services.
3. That the name Colnbrook and Poyle is kept as the name of the church.
4. All aspects of the constitution are adhered to and amended in the appropriate way for the stability and future of the church, e.g. shared ownership of premises etc.

**Missions.** Rev Sonia Hicks produced a leaflet on mission through individuals, small groups and families enthusing others in the areas they are excited in – **CA**. This will be a standing item on the Circuit Meeting agenda. See events for 2015 on the Circuit Website Diary.

**Challenge to use the Deacon.** Andy Packer from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, is expected to be more involved in the circuit outside Slough. Churches were invited to bring to the next Circuit Meeting requests for his time to serve with them in pioneering activities– **CA**. Characteristics of such outreach is that it is owned by the church, relevant to their skills and abilities and supported by prayer. Churches are challenged to have vision, be bold and try new ideas, and not to be afraid to say let's call it a day when projects have run their course.

### **Circuit Greetings**

Letters of greeting from the Circuit are to be sent to:

- Betty Willcocks (Mike's funeral is at 2 pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at Old Windsor)
- Alison and Phil Mount (Phil is at present in hospital)
- Meg Few on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

### **AOB**

**Circuit Website.** This has received 10,000 visits since 1<sup>st</sup> January. Ian Haggarty has plans to update it to work well on the smaller screens of phones and tablets. Each church page has had at least 100 hits in that time. Please review your church pages and contact Ian with your suggestions to sell your church – **CA**. We are searching for someone with modern website knowledge to help – **CA**.

**Mission cards.** Neville Walton is to get these printed for us to give away – **CA**.

**Thank you!** Anne Haggarty thanked Rev Andrew Baker for encouraging us to be a circuit working together. Andrew saw a lot of potential and desire for innovation. We need to engage with this generation and find different ways of doing church, overcoming the lack of willingness to give commitment.

**Extra Dates** (please also see the Circuit Website):

Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Sharing Day of discovery about being a Local Preacher or Worship Leader.
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Communion with <i>Thames Valley Voices</i> singing new communion Hymns.

The meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the saying of the Grace together at 9.35 pm.

## Appendix 1 Annual Circuit Appointments for 2015 – 2016

### **Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting** **Appointed in:**

Circuit Stewards	Mrs Connie Jeffery	2013	Mr Alan Crowle	2011
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mrs Elsa Daniel	2013
	<i>vacant</i>			
Circuit Steward/Treasurer			Mr Chris Wren	2010
Circuit Property Secretary			Mr Phil Clack	2011
Circuit Meeting Secretary			Mrs Sue Le Page	2011

### **Non-members of Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Kathy Rickman	2004
Deputy Circuit Treasurer	Mr Phil Mount	2013
Children and Youth Appointment	<i>vacant</i>	
MHA Co-ordinator	Miss Daphne Hogg	<i>pro tem</i>
Action for Children Co-ordinator / Secretary	Mrs Evelyn Thomson	2003

### **Nominations from Circuit Committees for ratification:**

Local Preachers' Mtg: Secretary	Mrs Connie Jeffery	
	LWPT Secretary / Treasurer	
Circuit MWiB President	Mrs Lynn Packer	2015

### **Circuit Representatives to Synod:** *Ex officio* member + 5 representatives + 1 substitute (All are *ex officio* members of the Circuit Meeting)

	Mrs Connie Jeffery ( <i>Ex officio</i> )	2015	Mr Philip Clack	2005
	Mr Bill Barnett	2008	Mrs Anne Haggarty	2015
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mr Ian Haggarty	2015
<i>Substitute:</i>	<i>vacant</i>			

### **Membership of Invitations Committee:**

Circuit Leadership Team minus any Minister leaving  
The committee is empowered to issue an invitation to a minister if a right match be found.

### **Other Appointments**

Circuit Auditor	<i>to be reviewed</i>	
Circuit Webmaster	Mr Ian Haggarty	2009
Circuit Deputy Webmaster	Dr Ed Filmore	2009
Circuit Ministerial Development Review Secretary	Dr Ed Filmore	2012