

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting Ledgers Road, Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Note: CA stands for Church Action needed.

Present Rev Sonia Hicks plus 3 other ministers, 4 Circuit Stewards, and 24 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 15 members noted there.

Agenda Agreed as distributed plus:

- Under item 5:
 - Report on Inter Circuit meeting
 - Proposal to appoint an Acting Superintendent to cover sabbatical
- Proposal from Colnbrook and Poyle Church Meeting
- Under AOB:
 - Assignment of three staff members to each Church Council 2015/16
 - Circuit Representatives to local Anglican Deaneries

Minutes of last meeting were agreed subject to the following amendment:
Greetings to *Betty Willcocks*.

Matters Arising

- The innovation of marking items **CA for Church Action**. This was welcomed and a request made for an extract of these to be sent to each Church Council Secretary to ensure all points were actioned.
- A proposal to appoint Mrs Glenice White, a member at High Street Maidenhead, to be a **Circuit Steward** from 1st September 2015 was carried unanimously.
- The **Circuit Stewards** responsible for each Church Council from September were then agreed as listed in Appendix 1.
- **Colnbrook and Poyle United Church** has not yet received a reply to the proposal from the URC but had ascertained that, should they revert to being a Methodist Church, a new legal share agreement would be needed to reflect the URC finance in the building.
- **New Circuit Directory** Anne Haggarty will be contacting Church Council Secretaries for details of office holders and reminding them of the legal obligation to check with each one for their agreement for their details to be published in this document – **CA**.

Safeguarding

Kathy Rickman (KR) reported that three people had attended the March *Creating Safer Spaces* session. The next one will be held on Saturday, 3rd October, 10 am - 1 pm at Eton Wick. Please ensure that all who need to attend a session do so, or contact Kathy to arrange an alternative date – **CA**.

KR will be attending the June meeting for Circuit Safeguarding Officers.

She confirmed that contractors working on church premises are not required to have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). DBS checks should be done every 5 years and KR has more forms for this – **CA**.

Travelling in Hope

A booklet is available from Rev Sonia Hicks on the four week themed lectionary just completed on Hope:

- Hope in despair,
- Hope in the ordinary,
- Hope in companionship, and
- Hope in God's presence.

The session for any week missed can be used in a local church (perhaps as a Local Arrangement).

Challenge to use Deacon Andy Packer from 1st September 2015.

Churches outside Slough are expected to invite Andy to explore possibilities with them via their Church Council meetings. Old Windsor has invited him to explore more effective ministry to the very elderly – **CA**.

Inter Circuit Meeting

On 30th April four members of the Circuit Leadership Team met with representatives from the Staines and Feltham Circuit (SF) as part of an initiative of the South East District Western Area to encourage neighbouring circuits to work more closely together. At the end of the morning, our offer was to hold two joint events so that we could build a relationship and review progress after twelve months. SF have 200 members in ten churches, the largest having 70 members. Ideas for suitable events should be given to Rev Sonia Hicks or Mrs Connie Jeffery – **CA**. A joint Quiet Day was suggested.

Meanwhile Woking and Walton Circuit had progressed plans to join with Guildford Circuit.

Sabbatical of Superintendent.

Rev Sonia Hicks is to take her delayed sabbatical in December 2015, January, February 2016. The Acting Superintendent in this period was agreed as Rev Gary Homewood.

Local Preachers on Trial

Liz Tottingham, Kay Mackenzie and Tim Baker have completed their studies and are waiting for the results of their final pieces of work. The Circuit Meeting voted unanimously to accept their accreditation *subject to* the Local Preachers Meeting, having seen the results and interviewed them successfully, likewise agreeing.

A Local Preachers accreditation service is planned for 12th July, 6.30 pm at St Andrew's. All are encouraged to support this unique event in the life of the Circuit – **CA**.

Mission Reports

St Mark's Crescent has raised £4000 since our last meeting for their redevelopment project. They reminded churches to publicise signing up for TheGivingMachine.co.uk so that St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church receives a donation every time a purchase is made on the internet, at no extra cost – **CA**.

They are reaching out to older solitary people who spend too much of their time alone.

The Spring Fair was opened by the local school choir, and also raised £400 for street children in Kenya.

Woodlands Park continues to present *Open the Book* (OtB) sessions in school.

Cookham Rise are reaching out to the Under 5s, and are continuing their monthly coffee mornings for various charities as well as six months fundraising for a particular charity each year.

Ledgers Road food bank work continues. They are reconsidering the format of their coffee mornings.

High Street have introduced sandwich lunches on alternate Fridays to complement their fortnightly cooked lunches. For a second winter, shelter has been provided for 12 or more homeless men and women. This has proved to be an itinerant population, and in at least two cases there is evidence of turnaround.

Hampshire Avenue now have a biweekly Bible Fellowship and are about to start a food bank. Helpers will be welcomed at their annual spring clean!

Windsor are embarking on fundraising for *All We Can's* support for Ebola survivors. Windsor's 5-year vision includes reaching out to the very elderly. They have run an Alpha course on a Sunday; the next will be held on a weeknight. Their *Messy Church* is 5 times a year, excluding summer months, and attracts about 90 people on a Saturday from 3.45 pm.

Eton Wick have good evening service attendance, but are concerned about that in the morning.

St Andrew's English are supporting Christian Aid and Water Aid. They hold creative craft sessions on Tuesdays, and are involving the community in fundraising for a new boiler. They have hosted an *All We Can* speaker from Ethiopia, held a weekly night shelter, and continue monthly *Big Church*.

Old Windsor have an enthusiastic OtB group and offer their church to head up *Action for Children* in the Circuit. Profit from a Traveller's Tales was sent to a Leprosy hospital flattened in the recent earthquake.

Burnham presents OtB twice on Thursdays. Families from the Toddlers group have come into the church. They plan a Messy Church on 7th June, and have a weekly lunch club and *The Well* on Wednesdays.

Colnbrook and Poyle, instead of holding a local arrangement, joined with Old Windsor for their service. Very successful.

Property

Phil Clack reported that work to update the bathroom at Priesthaus had been completed.

Circuit Property Consent was given to Woodlands Park Church to re-let *Strathclyde*, and to Ledgers Road Church to re-let *92 Ledgers Road*.

Collection

There will be a collection for Rev Andrew Baker's farewell gift from the Circuit. A message had been sent out and members were reminded that any cheques payable to Thames Valley Methodist Circuit should reach Chris Wren by 14th June – **CA**.

Magna Carta Weekend

Rev Margaret Dudley was thanked for representing the circuit on the committee. See Appendix 2 for details of events. Photos of the River Relay for the Circuit website to Ian Haggarty please – **CA**.

Circuit Greetings

Greetings and thanks for the minutes have been received from the Lay Chairman of the Burnham and Slough Deanery.

Letters of greeting from the Circuit to be sent to Alison and Phil Mount, Keith Machin, Liz Tottingham and to Jo Webb – with thanks for her long service as a member of this Circuit Meeting.

AOB

The formal **assignment of three members of staff** to each Church Council from September 2015 was agreed as per list in Appendix 1. Church Council Secretaries are to send agendas and minutes to them – **CA**.

Circuit members appointed Rev Sonia Hicks and Mrs Anne Haggarty as our **representatives** to the Burnham and Slough Anglican Deanery and to the Windsor and Maidenhead Anglican Deanery from September 2015.

Extra Dates.

Saturday, 20th June 2.30 – 4 pm Circuit Missions Strawberry Tea at St Mark's Crescent – **CA**.
See also the Circuit Website and Local Preachers above.

The meeting closed with prayer and thanks to our hosts at 9.15 pm.

Appendix 1

Assignment of three staff members to each Church Council 2015/16

Note to Church Council Secretaries:

Please ensure that agendas and minutes are sent to your circuit steward and the Superintendent Minister, **Rev Sonia Hicks**, and the two other ministers as listed below, although usually just one will attend the meetings. This is a requirement under CPD, S.O. 610(4).

Burnham	Rev Gary Homewood and Rev Margaret Dudley
Colnbrook and Poyle	Rev Margaret Dudley and Rev Mindy Bell
Cookham Rise	Rev Gary Homewood and Deacon Andy Packer
Eton Wick	Rev Gary Homewood and Rev Margaret Dudley
Hampshire Avenue	Rev Mindy Bell and Deacon Andy Packer
High St Maidenhead	Rev Gary Homewood and Deacon Andy Packer
Ledgers Road	Rev Mindy Bell and Deacon Andy Packer
Old Windsor	Rev Margaret Dudley and Deacon Andy Packer
St Andrews (English)	Rev Mindy Bell and Deacon Andy Packer
St Andrews (Urdu)	Rev Mindy Bell and Deacon Andy Packer
St Marks Crescent	Rev Gary Homewood and Rev Margaret Dudley
Windsor	Rev Margaret Dudley and Rev Mindy Bell
Woodlands Park	Rev Gary Homewood and Deacon Andy Packer

Assignment of a Circuit Steward to each Church Council 2015/16

Burnham	Alan Crowle
Colnbrook	Liz Tottingham
Cookham Rise	Glenice White
Eton Wick	Elsa Daniel
Hampshire Ave	Elsa Daniel
High St Maidenhead	Connie Jeffery
Ledgers Rd	Liz Tottingham
Old Windsor	Chris Wren
St Andrew's (English)	Connie Jeffery
St Andrew's (Asian)	Liz Tottingham
St Mark's	Alan Crowle
Windsor	Glenice White
Woodlands Park	Connie Jeffery

Appendix 2 – MAGNA CARTA 15th June 1215 – 15th June 2015

800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta at Runnymede.

Events to celebrate

21st May: Guildhall, Windsor

New Displays – Medieval Stories

Details can be found at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_magna_carta.htm

5th – 7th June: St Andrew's Church, Wraysbury

Flower Festival

The church path will be decked with displays of flowers made by children. An embroidered wall hanging has been worked, showing King John sealing the Magna Carta, together with the coats of arms of the barons involved. To be unveiled during the Flower Festival.

Book Reading, afternoon, 7th June

Denise Steele has written a book intended for children which will be published this year. There will be a reading in St Andrew's and at the Baptist Church. Details can be found at <http://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/>

10th June: Lincoln to Salisbury via Maidenhead & Windsor

Ghurkha Walk

Route details will be published on the Magna Carta Website.

11th June: Wraysbury Village Hall

Wraysbury Players Magna Carta Play

Tickets are £5 to be donated to the Wraysbury players. The play will be primarily for the villagers of Horton and Wraysbury. The performance will include details about the Magna Carta and feature medieval music from *Lumina Music*. Details can be found at <http://www.wraysburyplayers.co.uk/>

13th and 14th June: organised by Thames Alive

River Relay

Route: The flotilla will travel from Hurley to Runnymede Pleasure Ground over two days, carrying a facsimile of the Magna Carta, created by young people in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum. The lead boat will be the Queen's Row barge "Glorianna".

The relay will stop at various points on the way to recount the story of Magna Carta and hand over the responsibility of carrying the document to a new relay bearer, who will be on board the Royal Shallop "Jubilant" and escorted by rowed craft. The flotilla will continue travelling downstream with opportunities for registered other craft to join in. Details can be found at <http://www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta>

13th June

1. River Relay

The route is from Hurley to Bray. 195 boats, none using power, will come from Spelthorne. They will overnight at the Oakley Court Hotel, Windsor

2. Wraysbury Fair.

This event will reflect the medieval theme and everyone, including stall holders, will be appropriately costumed. There will be manpowered floats, archery, falconry, Morris dancing and jousting on Shetland ponies. The village will be decorated with streamers from lamp posts and hanging baskets in the red and gold colours of King John's badge.

3. Egham: Magna Carta Day and Street Festival

Details at www.runnymede.gov.uk/magnacarta

4. Gathering of the Barons. Lammas Field, Staines

Details at: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/magnacarta

5. Medieval Fair on the Brocas, Eton and a LiberTea in the main street at 3 pm.

Details at: <https://liberteas.co.uk/>

14th June

1. River Relay (details as above)

Continues from Oakley Court Hotel to Runnymede/Ankerwycke.

2. Land Pageant at Runnymede

A ticket is required for entry to the Pageant but not to watch the River Relay from the riverbank from outside Runnymede Pleasure Ground. From 10 am a wide range of entertainment and activities throughout the day for families to enjoy before the re-enactment starts. Details at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/pageant>

3. Great Charter Festival at Royal Holloway University, Egham

Details at <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/magnacarta>

4. ¼ Peal of Bells at Wraysbury Parish Church and across the country at key venues associated with Magna Carta. (The bells will also be rung during the Flower Festival on 7th June.)

Details at: <http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/articles/magna-carta-and-liber-teas.pdf>

5. LiberTeas These are happening all over the country on 14th June, including locally at:

- Eton: 3 pm in the main street.
- Bachelors Acre, Windsor, 4 pm
- Wraysbury Grange, 4 pm

6. Songs of Praise at the Grange, Wraysbury. 5.30 pm

15th June

800th Anniversary of Magna Carta

National event in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Ticket Holders only. This includes the unveiling of a new piece of public art in the Meadows, commissioned by Surrey County Council.

Everyone else is welcome to come and watch the ceremony on large TV screens on the Meadows near the National Trust lodges at Runnymede. Note: the usual access routes to Runnymede Meadows will be extremely restricted throughout the day, and the car parks at Runnymede and Runnymede Pleasure Grounds will be closed. The easiest way to get to the site will be to use those local footpaths which will remain open.

Details at www.surreycc.gov.uk/magnacarta

21st June

Circuit Service at Old Windsor Methodist Church

This is the Methodist Church closest (1.3 miles) to Magna Carta Island, where tradition says the charter was signed.



The Magna Carta 800th – The River Relay Goodie Bag

To celebrate the Magna Carta Flotilla taking place on 13th & 14th June 2015 we are putting together a goodie bag which will be despatched the first week of June.

In the goodie bag there will be:

- A LIMITED EDITION Magna Carta Flotilla / King John commemorative coin
- A wrist band which can be worn on the day of the flotilla to show your support
- A Thank You Note from the RBWM
- PLUS many OFFERS from local businesses – promotional offers that can be redeemed from Marlow to Runnymede and all points in between.

How can you value such an offer? The coin is UNIQUE and we're only producing 1215 which will be for sale to the general public. Many will probably sell around the UK to people who are interested in Magna Carta, so you'd best order quickly to avoid disappointment.

We offering this once in a lifetime gift for just £25 which includes P&P within the UK

Visit www.magnacartaflotilla.co.uk to take advantage of this unique offer and support the Magna Carta 800th – the River Relay.