

The Methodist Church Thames Valley Circuit Meeting St Andrew's Slough, Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 7.45 pm

Minutes

Note: CA stands for Church Action needed.

Present Rev Gary Homewood, chairing, plus 3 other Circuit Ministers, 5 Circuit Stewards, and 35 other members as listed in the register of attendees. Apologies from 8 members noted there. Rev Sonia Hicks was warmly welcomed back from her sabbatical which had included time exploring how hymn books were compiled in the Caribbean and what we retain about music.

Agenda Agreed as distributed, plus Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) item under AOB.

Minutes of last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

- Rev Mindy Bell spoke about her sabbatical plans (20th June – 19th September 2016) on the theme 'Exploring the creativity of God', including learning more hands-on crafts, learning Spanish in Latin America and thus being a stranger in a foreign land and making a spiritual pilgrimage.
- The Local Preacher accreditation service for Kathy Rickman will be held on 13th March at 4 pm. **CA.**
- The next Circuit Healing service is on 6th March 2016 at 6.30 pm at Windsor. Please encourage others to experience these. **CA.**
- Circuit Training Morning on Saturday 12th March 2016, 9.30 am – 1 pm at Windsor. Please encourage anyone who might be contemplating becoming a welcome steward, communion steward, church steward or worship leader to come along, as well as existing post holders. **CA.**
- *Rest and Reflect sessions.* Please contact Connie Jeffery for help with setting up one of these at your church. **CA.**

Safeguarding

Kathy Rickman reported that at the last meeting of the Circuit Safeguarding Meeting, it had been decided to set up a Debarment and Barring Scheme (DBS) database with the help of the Circuit Administrator, who will also be able to send out reminders when the checks need to be redone, which is after 5 years. The database will record the names of those who have had a DBS check, the date of the check and the rôle of that person

It is the Church Council with the Minister that is responsible for recruiting safely and approving the appointments of both volunteers, such as Sunday School staff, and paid staff (e.g. caretakers). **CA.**

Open the Book participants are now required to have a DBS check carried out by the church to which they belong although current school checks stand until the five year renewal date. The church council and the church safeguarding co-ordinator should know who is representing the church in the *Open the Book* scheme. **CA.**

Next Saturday is the pilot session of the revised "Creating Safer Space" awareness training, with more emphasis on protecting people on the internet and using social media, and more case studies. Churches to check that all rôle holders have attended such a session or are booked onto the one after Easter. **CA.**

Pastoral visitors are strongly encouraged to make a diary entry recording each time they make a visit in the name of the church. This is to safeguard themselves as well as the person being visited. **CA.**

The Safeguarding Meeting advised no changes to our Circuit Safeguarding Policy, and this was approved unanimously for a further year.

Kathy Rickman was thanked for the considerable body of work she had undertaken on safeguarding.

The purchase of a **Circuit laptop, projector and robust portable screen** was proposed by Kathy Rickman for use when providing safeguarding awareness sessions, other circuit presentations and for individual churches to use. Jean Barnett offered a second-hand laptop. The meeting agreed to this unanimously with details of storage and booking out to follow.

Finance

2016/17 Budget and Assessments. A net circuit expenditure of £ 276,500 with an increase in the total assessment from £256,195 to £262,360 and taking the balance from reserves, and shared as per the schedule which has been agreed between the churches. These were agreed unanimously.

Correction on page 1 of the report – *Boarder* for HSBC should be *Border* for HSBC. The budget includes estimates for two quinquennial inspections and £12,000 for the moving costs of potentially four ministers. 2016/17 is the last year of the current grant for the work of a Deacon. Churches are asked to consider their ongoing commitments and thus their potential to fund Circuit future expenditure, as running on a deficit is not for the long term and there will be decisions to be made on staffing and property. **CA.**

Thanks were expressed to Chris Wren for all his work as Circuit Treasurer.

Property

Circuit Property Schedule D was presented verbally by Joyce Brown, with a paper copy given to the Circuit Secretary, and approved by the meeting. It is an “exceptions” report and there are no major issues for churches or the circuit. She thanked all who collected the information and those who had inputted it to the online system. The minor exceptions, log books, quinquennials and schedules would be discussed at a meeting of Church Property Stewards on 17th March. **CA.**

No property consents were sought.

Burnham Church Mural. An invitation was issued to all churches in the Circuit to be part of this community project – painting an inside wall with brightness and colour to represent God amongst us and in our midst and to make the church more inviting. Please contact Joyce Brown for details. **CA.**

County Denominational Ecumenical Officer

Rev Mindy Bell has been appointed to this rôle to offer advice and resources for local ecumenism within southeast Berkshire, working informally to encourage denominations to get to know each other. Please contact her with any suggestions or questions, and see the Churches together in Berkshire website. **CA.** (Post meeting note – See the Spring 2016 edition of the magazine on the website for an article on *Positively Working Together* by Rev Graham Hindle.)

Annual Circuit Appointments for 2016/17

Apart from the Circuit Invitations Committee (listed separately), these were all agreed as listed in Appendix 1. Rev Gary Homewood thanked Evelyn Thompson for her 13 years of service as Circuit Co-ordinator for *Action for Children*. Churches are asked to encourage volunteers for the Circuit representative to Synod vacancy. This does not have to be a current circuit meeting member. **CA.**

Circuit Invitations Committee The revised names for 2015/16 were agreed as listed in Appendix 2. Churches are asked to bring the name of their representative for 2016/17 to the May Circuit Meeting. (Post Meeting note: Please put onto the agenda of the Annual Church Meeting and email the agreed name to the Circuit Meeting Secretary.) **CA.**

Mission

- **St Mark's Crescent** *20:20 Vision* includes reaching out to the growing numbers of single solitary people to give them a place to meet others.
- **Ashes to Go.** Rev Mindy Bell successfully trialled offering ashes to commuters in Slough High Street on Ash Wednesday "opening up public space for prayer".
- **St Andrew's** *Create & Craft* day on Tuesdays has been a way of sharing faith with others in the community.
- **Maidenhead's** shelter will conclude its third season at the end of March and the search is on for more venues to meet the increasing need.

Circuit Greetings

Expression of condolence to be sent to Mr Ted Bell on the death of his father.

AOB

MWiB

- Lynn Packer offers a lift to the District Day on 12th March.
- The Circuit MWiB Meeting is on 17th March 2.30 pm at Burnham. Please contact Lynn if you cannot make that day.
- Easter Offering service is at 6 pm on 24th April at Ledgers Road. (5pm for tea before the service.)

Extra Dates. Please see the Circuit Website.

The meeting closed with thanks to our hosts and the saying of the Grace together at 8.55 pm.

Appendix 1 Annual Circuit Appointments for 2016 - 2017

<i>Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting</i>			Appointed in:	
Circuit Stewards	Mrs Connie Jeffery	2013	Mr Alan Crowle	2011
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mrs Elsa Daniel	2013
	Mrs Glenice White	2015		
Circuit Steward/Treasurer			Mr Chris Wren	2010
Circuit Property Secretary			Mrs Joyce Brown	2015
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 Anne Haggarty			2003

Nominations from Circuit Committees for ratification:

Local Preachers' Mtg: Secretary	Mr David Ridley	2015		
LWPT Secretary / Treasurer	Miss Daphne Hogg			
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	Mrs Anne Haggarty	2016
	Mrs Liz Tottingham	2012	Mr Ian Haggarty	2015
	Mr Phil Mount	2016	<i>vacant</i>	
<i>Substitute:</i>	<i>vacant</i>			

Membership of Invitation Committee:

See separate schedule

Other Appointments

Circuit Auditor	Brigden, Watkins & Wainwright			
Circuit Webmaster	Mr Ian Haggarty			2009
Circuit Deputy Webmaster	Dr Ed Filmore			2009
Circuit Ministerial Development Review Secretary	Dr Ed Filmore			2012

Appendix 2 Thames Valley Methodist Circuit – Circuit Invitation Committee

Consists of Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) plus a representative from each Church as below.

The committee is empowered to issue an invitation to a minister if a right match be found.

Circuit Invitations Committee Church Representatives as agreed at Circuit Meeting on 3rd March 2016:

Burnham	Mrs Marilyn Brown
Colnbrook & Poyle	Mr Keith Ayres
Cookham Rise	Mrs Kathy Rickman
Eton Wick	Mr Phil Clack
Hampshire Avenue	Mr Irvin Richardson
High Street Maidenhead	Mrs Pam Proctor
Ledgers Road	Miss Anne Broome
Old Windsor	Mrs Anne Haggarty
St Andrew's (English)	Miss Joyce Jarman
St Andrew's (Asian)	Mr Kamran Dass
St Mark's Crescent	Mr Keith Machin
Windsor	Mr Phil Mount
Woodlands Park	Mr Neville Walton