

## **Report about Thames Valley Circuit Meetings due to be held during lockdown. Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, etc.**

These “minutes” cover the necessary work required following the complete closure of churches during the lockdown caused by the coronavirus, Covid 19.

The March meeting had to be cancelled with less than a week to go, and before any arrangements for eg video-conferencing could be set up. All matters were therefore postponed until the May meeting. All paperwork had been sent out, and is attached as Appendices 1 - 8

When it became obvious that the May meeting could not go ahead either, the CLT decided that those items of business which, as Managing Trustees, we had to deal with, should be done by a postal vote, as the Superintendent felt insufficient members of the meeting were able to access a computer and be confident about video-conferencing.

Reports. The Treasurer provided updated financial statements, which superseded the ones sent out in March. (Note: For financial statements contact the Circuit Treasurer; it is not included on-line.)

### Voting

Members received a voting paper, information and recommendations, and an envelope addressed to the Circuit Meeting Secretary. 44 papers were returned, and the results are shown on the next page.

A separate email vote was held on the motion:

The Circuit Meeting is asked to receive and adopt the Circuit Accounts for 2018 / 2019, for forwarding to District.

For 41 Against 0 Carried unanimously.

The Circuit Meeting Secretary wishes to record her thanks to Pauline Poole, the Circuit Administrator, who printed and posted all the documentation to Circuit Meeting members.

### Circuit Greetings:

These were sent to

- Richard Rooley (recovering from Covid 19)
- Kamran and Tracy Dass (following the death of Kamran’s father, Qamar, a member of the circuit)

### Dates of next meetings:

NB Once Circuit Meetings can resume, locations will be announced allowing for any restrictions of social distancing.

Thurs 17 Sep 2020	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm
Tues 10 Nov 2020	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm
Wed 17 Mar 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm
Thurs 13 May 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm
Tues 14 Sep 2021	Circuit Meeting	7.45 pm

## Results of voting.

Do you accept the minutes of the last Circuit Meeting (November 2019), with this amendment in the first paragraph:

“Rev Conrad Hicks, Director of Global Relationships in the Connexional Team was welcomed ...”

YES	444	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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Do you accept the review of the Circuit Safeguarding policy?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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Do you agree to the extension of Pastor Josh Wilson’s appointment?

YES	43	NO	1	Carried
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Do you receive the summary of the Marriage and Relationships consultation process that took place in this Circuit?

YES	39	NO	4	Carried
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### Finance

- Do you accept the Circuit Treasurer’s budget report?

YES	41	NO	1	Carried
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- Do you accept the Circuit Treasurer’s assessments for churches?

YES	42	NO	1	Carried
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- Do you accept the Circuit Treasurer’s reserves policy?

YES	43	NO	0	Carried
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- Do you agree to the Circuit Treasurer approaching TMCP to release reserves should that be necessary?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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### Property

- Do you agree to St Andrew’s wall being rebuilt?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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- Do you agree to signing off Property Schedule D?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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- Do you give permission for the CLT to deal with:

- a) Preparing for the sale of 29 Salt Hill Drive when it is vacated?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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- b) Ensuring that any refurbishments/repairs are carried out at 1a Spring Lane?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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All circuit appointments for 2019 – 2020 to stay in place except:

- Circuit Invitation Committee Do you accept the membership of this committee?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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- Circuit Representatives to Synod. Do you accept Mr David Ridley as a representative?

YES	44	NO	0	Carried unanimously
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## **Further polls**

### **Lease approval**

Post the sending out of the above report, it was realised that High Street Maidenhead required Circuit Meeting approval for leases of two of the shops they own. One was for a renewal, and one for a new tenant. The documentation (copy in Circuit Meeting, Administration folder, High Street leases) was sent out, asking for email or phone responses.

41 in favour, 0 against. Carried unanimously.

### **Safeguarding policy**

The Circuit Safeguarding policy, which was reviewed in March by the Superintendent and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, was not signed at the time. The Superintendent signed the copy on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020. There were no changes to the policy at the time, so the original paperwork has been left among the March 2019 minutes, with the new signed page only included in the Circuit Meeting minute book.

### **Other consents**

It emerged late in July that other consents were urgently needed. Again, an email was sent or a phone call made, to establish whether members were happy to approve:

- Replacement hall windows at St Andrew's (funded by a legacy)
- Renewal of tenancy lease for Cookham Rise's cottage
- Renewal of tenancy leases for Woodlands Park's two cottages

42 replies in favour, 0 against. Carried unanimously.

## Appendix 1 Post-it Feedback from Circuit Consultation 2020

I was surprised about how open I would be today	Service of Repentance for past homophobia	<u>PLEASE</u> can <u>ALL</u> votes be by secret ballot
Will people individuals be given equal rights to express opinions without being victimised.	There should be forums/safe environments for ongoing conversations such as this. Can we facilitate this?	Need further discussion on the acceptance of children in same-sex relationships/marriage.
Co-habiting couples have the perception that they are not welcome in Church.	Can marriage of a Christian to a non-Christian be catered for.	Should children be taught about all types of relationships in school (and from a young age)
Do we have another chance to respond after reading the booklet please?	Please can we be <u>very</u> Careful when we interchange the words "love" and "sex". They are not the same thing.	I want to think beyond my own understanding and have more open conversations.
To continue to listen and to learn. Keep open minds both on a personal and a Church level.	Surprises? Some of the Biblical relationships in the context. We agreed.	We change people's views by talking about these subjects. I commit to doing this more.
What have you learnt that is new? Breadth of the issue. Reflect on what we have learnt Some of the background traditions Tradition fragile – be willing to let go of some traditions and learn more	Message to wider Church. It's good to talk! We have appreciated the opportunity for open discussion and we feel there is need for better communication between us all.	Let's stop being hung up on sex. Relationships are so much more than that. As a Church we should be giving people models for good relationships, not quibbling over detail.
Let us concentrate on loving relationships. We need to make difficult decisions and recognise loving relationships. How do we deal with division?	1)Communicating issues discussed today with our own Churches and 2) Love, our own and God's is paramount, sex is not everything.	How do we deal with people who are vocally on one side? Need to think more about this.
Prayerfully read the report more thoroughly.	We are closer than we think.	Read the Bible contextually
Surprised by the Leviticus reading – hadn't thought of it referring to same sex.	<u>Surprise</u> – good way. THE METHODIST Church is willing and open in discussing this subject at congregation level	<u>NEW</u> . When we discuss about same sex marriage, by default we seem to be paying more attention to physical sex than the overall relationship.

## **Appendix 2 Local Preachers**

1. As reported to the September Circuit Meeting, the Methodist Conference of 2018 stipulated that “all preachers should undertake peer review of their ministry every three years”. Guidelines have been recently issued and circulated and the process is underway. This involves a conversation with one or two other preachers after a service where the preacher is leading worship and reflecting together on the preparation and leading of worship and how the service was received by the congregation.
2. The Creating Safer Space Advanced Module course is being rolled out, and Kathy Rickman led the September 2019 meeting of local preachers and worship leaders through the first part of the course entitled ‘Essential Preparation’. Part 2 is the ‘Core learning session’, and was delivered by Philippa Read, the District Safeguarding Officer, on February 1 February 2020.
3. We have two new preachers ‘on note’ Josh Wilson and Mwadzipaura Magaisa, and we hold them in our prayers as they progress in their knowledge, conviction and competence. We have one preacher ‘on trial’, Elijah Kommu. And we pray also for him.
4. We thank all our worship leaders who do so much to enhance the worship life of the church, through leading of prayers, bible readings, choosing hymns and songs and supporting and preparing worship with our preachers.
5. We hold in our prayers and assure of our support those preachers who are no longer able to preach and lead worship.

David Ridley Local Preachers’ Meeting Secretary March 2020

## **Appendix 3 MWiB**

This will be my last report as President of MWiB in the Circuit.

The Easter Offering Service is being arranged by a small group. It will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3 pm at St Andrew’s, with the theme “Journeys”, and the speaker will be Tim Baker.

Coffee and cake will be available from 2 pm, and Tim will be present to chat about his work.

MWiB has sent £300 to FAST Charity Rumania, which works mainly among the Roma people.

Lynn Packer

## **Appendix 4 Comparison of Costs for Website: 1&1 v Chrestos.**

**Note: This document for the May CM replaces the original issued for the March CM**

The figures here are the actual ones for 1&1 with these for Chrestos taken from the price list on its website.

### **Current system 1&1**

From 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the **inclusive** price of the website, email address, and all extra facilities such as site statistics is **£18** per month inc VAT.

### **Alternative Chrestos (Company that provide our planmaker system)**

Cost is £720 gross to set up a new user friendly website plus an extra £11 per month above the 1&1 price for their web management.

### **Proposal**

That Circuit Meeting ask the Circuit Leadership team to investigate this further and make a final decision on behalf of Circuit Meeting.

### **Original note from Circuit Webmaster**

It is 12 years since John Salthouse and I set up the original version of the Thames Valley Circuit's website – based on the decisions of a committee mainly comprised of members of the CLT. There have been many changes over the years. Some pages have been removed as no longer applicable. More have been added and the site is now significantly larger.

If we stay with 1&1, both John and I are happy to continue while we can. However, if the circuit decides to move to Chrestos and takes advantage of their Web Management services, then John will not be required for his technical expertise, and – after 12 years as webmaster – I shall take the opportunity to retire.

Ian Haggarty 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## **Appendix 5 Smaller Churches**

The Smaller Churches Group continues to meet to offer support to one another, as all churches cope with dwindling and aging membership, and with fewer people able to carry out the necessary jobs.

We hear from each other about failures and successes, share our ideas, and plan events for all churches – not just the smaller ones. Our next event is a trip to Wesley's Chapel on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April. Details have been circulated to all churches.

Anne Haggarty

## Appendix 6 Property Report – March 2020

### **Manses:**

All manses require any Portable Appliance Tests. All except Clarence Road require a full Landlord electrical inspection. These are hand and will happen shortly.

### **Poplars Grove and Sutton Avenue.**

Nothing new to report.

### **Clarence Road.**

The external and internal painting is underway and will be completed once the weather improves. A radiator in the kitchen no longer works since the damp proofing was completed and again this will be investigated once the weather improves.

### **Spring Lane.**

There are still some garden works to be carried out but is by and large structurally sound. The outside rebuilt store is damp and we will be speaking to our insurance company in respect of this.

### **Salt Hill Drive.**

Other than Gas and Electrical inspections only necessary maintenance will be carried out before its sale at the end of this year.

### **Quinquennials:**

Are currently up to date but just a reminder that it is the responsibility of each property steward to contact Neil Barr @ DLK to fix dates for any inspections that are due.

### **On line Property Returns situation to date:**

Most are now complete thank you everyone.

I have copies of the exception reports for the meetings approval.

I would like the meetings permission to sign off the returns where appropriate?

## Appendix 7 2020 Circuit Invitation Committee Members from the Churches

Burnham	Mrs Marilyn Brown
Colnbrook & Poyle	Mrs Patie Crockett
Cookham Rise	Mr Keith Le Page
Eton Wick	Mr Phil Clack
Hampshire Avenue	Ms Rose Ankrah
High Street Maidenhead	Mr Peter White
Ledgers Road	Ms Ruth James
Old Windsor	Mrs Anne Haggarty
St Andrew's (English)	Mr Dave Tottingham
St Andrew's (Asian)	Mr Kamran Dass
St Mark's Crescent	Mr David Ridley
Windsor	Mr Phil Mount
Woodlands Park	Mr Chris Wren

## Appendix 8 Annual Circuit Appointments for 2020-2021

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

**Appointed in:**

Circuit Stewards	Mrs Glenice White	2015	Mrs Joyce Brown	2019
	Mr Charles Tubman	2017	Mrs Liz Tottingham <i>pro tem</i>	
	Mr Keith Machin	2018		

Circuit Steward/Treasurer	Mrs Sue Le Page	2018
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Circuit Property Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
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### ***Non-members of Circuit Leadership Team Appointed by Circuit Meeting***

Circuit Meeting Secretary	Mrs Anne Haggarty	2018
Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Kathy Rickman	2004
Deputy Circuit Treasurer	Mr Phil Mount	2013
Children and Youth Appointment	<i>vacant</i>	
MHA Co-ordinator	<i>vacant</i>	

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

Local Preachers' Mtg: Secretary	Mr David Ridley	2015
LWPT Secretary / Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>	
Circuit MWiB		
Action for Children Co-ordinator / Secretary	Mrs Jane Rivett	2019

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

	Mrs Glenice White	2018( <i>ex-officio</i> )	Mrs Anne Haggarty	2018
	Mr Ian Haggarty	2015	Mr Phil Mount	2016
	Mr David Ridley	2020	Mr Peter White	2019
<i>Substitute:</i>	<i>vacant</i>			

### ***Membership of Invitation Committee:***

*See separate list*

### ***Other Appointments***

Circuit Auditor	Brigden, Watkins & Wainwright
Circuit Webmaster	Mr Ian Haggarty 2009
Circuit Deputy Webmaster	<i>vacant</i>
Circuit Ministerial Development Review Secretary	Mrs Veronica Mullix 2018