

ST. AUSTELL METHODIST CIRCUIT
MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD AT BUGLE ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

DEVOTIONS were led by Rev Stephen Caddick and included Psalm 126.

WELCOME Rev Stephen Caddick welcomed members to the meeting. He reminded them that updates and changes to the Circuit Directory should be sent to Debbie Eade or John Keast as soon as possible. There was also a reminder that substitutes, although welcome at the meeting, could not vote.

APOLOGIES were received from Messrs J Blake, A Cotton, A Grigg, C Grigg, B Hawken, H Hawken, J Hubbard, S Hunkin, M Jenkin, O Sleeman, G Thornton, A Tregilgas, T Warren and J Williams; Dr E Burroughs; Mesdames N Hewett, J Hubbard, S Mitchell, J Northcott, R Owens and S Rabey. (41 trustees and 7 additional attenders signed the attendance register.)

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY OR CONCERN A letter of sympathy will be sent to the family of Mrs Jenny Folley, who has recently died. Congratulations will be sent to Dr Elizabeth Burroughs, who has just taken up her position as the Chair of the National Committee for the Women's World Day of Prayer and to Liam Hathway, who has successfully completed the first year of his course with South West Youth Ministries and been awarded a certificate. A card of thanks to the circuit was read from Rev Sheila MacInally.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (14th June 2016)) These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

1) PEOPLE

- a) **Appointment of new staff** (*Rev Stephen Caddick*) Rev Stephen himself was newly appointed and welcomed to the meeting. He went on to welcome Mrs Sheridan Pengelly (Lay Pastoral Assistant for the north and west of the circuit), Mrs Sue Battison (Children and Family Pastor) and Mrs Anne Arnold and Mrs Sheila Allen (Lay Pastors for Residential Homes).
- b) **Update on the vacancy at St Andrew's, Mevagissey** (*Mrs Anne Keast*) The URC minister who came with a view to preach earlier in the summer at St Andrew's was not able to fill the vacancy because a majority of 80% in favour was not obtained from the church meeting. A meeting took place on 15th August with Ruth Whitehead, the URC Moderator for the South West Region and Janet Gray from the URC. The circuit was represented by Rev Danny, Anne Keast (Circuit Steward for St Andrew's), Lyn Hawken (Circuit Steward) and John Keast (Circuit Administrator). It was stressed at that meeting that the URC is very short of ministers. Bearing in mind the impact on St Andrew's and on the Methodist circuit of a continuing vacancy, it was agreed that if at the URC Moderators' Meeting on 7th – 9th September no interest from a URC minister in the St Andrew's vacancy was evident, the URC would cease to advertise the vacancy and the Methodist circuit would begin the process of seeking a Methodist presbyter to fill the vacancy through the Methodist stationing process. If by December it became obvious that a Methodist presbyter was unlikely to be found, the URC would again advertise the vacancy. If after a few months no interest had been expressed, then both the Methodist Circuit and the URC would explore the possibility of offering the vacancy at St Andrew's as a house for duty appointment. Although a URC minister did indicate a preliminary interest in the vacancy at St Andrew's at the Moderators' meeting, he had decided that Mevagissey was too far from family. This meant that the way was now clear for the circuit to seek a Methodist minister through stationing to fill the vacancy at St Andrew's, if that was the wish of this meeting.
- c) **Stationing** (*Mrs Anne Keast*) A meeting with Rev Steve Wild and Biddy Bishop, the District Lay Stationing Officer to discuss how the St Austell Circuit should approach stationing took place on 7th

September. Although the circuit was very keen to fill the vacancy at St Andrew's, it also felt that it was really important to meet the needs of our churches and the communities in the clay area and to have a presbyter living in that area. After a long discussion of our situation and priorities we were advised that it was unlikely we could attract an ordained presbyter to the clay area to take on the churches there which we had in mind and including a challenging building project at Carne Hill. However, if the number of churches was not too large and we could identify some attractive challenges, it would certainly be possible that we could get a probationer. No other circuit in Cornwall was going for a probationer, so that increased our chances of success. The added attraction of going down this route was that we could also be successful in asking for a presbyter for St Andrews, Mount Charles and Polgooth. We were unlikely to be successful in getting two ordained presbyters if we asked for them.

At the Circuit Stewards' Meeting and Circuit Leadership Team Meeting following the meeting above, it was decided to recommend the following to the Circuit meeting for approval:

1. **We submit a circuit profile to seek an ordained presbyter for the LEP at St Andrew's and the Methodist Churches at Mount Charles and Polgooth.** Polgooth is looking to form a closer relationship with Mount Charles, so it makes good sense to keep those churches with the same minister. It would also relieve Rev Danny of some of his considerable workload. (It may be that when Rev Danny leaves us in 2018, the presbyter will need to take on another church or churches.)
2. **We submit a probationer's form to seek a probationer for five churches in the clay area, who would live in the Bugle manse.** A probationer must not be given too heavy a workload because he or she must also have time for study. After much discussion, the CLT decided that the churches offered would be **Roche, Whitemoor, Nanpean, Bugle and Stenalees**. This makes geographical sense and there are already close links between Roche, Whitemoor and Nanpean and between Bugle and Stenalees; in addition, the work with young people at Whitemoor in *Open the Book* and its *Bunnies* group would be an attraction and valuable experience for a probationer. (Gunwen would remain with Rev Stephen, but this need not prevent Gunwen getting together with Bugle and Stenalees as it sometimes does now.) We realise that Rev Stephen would have had the five churches concerned for only a year, but he would then line manage the probationer and his experience in those five churches this year would enable him to do that very effectively. If a probationer is successfully found, in September 2017 Rev Stephen will take over pastoral charge of Trinity, Treviscoe and Indian Queens, so that those churches will finally get a presbyter to replace Rev Joan. This would leave John Keast with pastoral oversight of St John's and Carne Hill, where he is already involved with plans for the new building there and has built up a good relationship with Rev Paul Arthur, the Anglican priest. He will also continue as circuit administrator.

After some discussion and reassurance was given that the arrangements suggested need not prevent Gunwen from keeping its close ties with Bugle and Stenalees, it was proposed by Anne Keast and seconded by Helen Blamey that the two recommendations be accepted. This was approved with a few abstentions, but no votes against.

- d) **Training of Mrs Sally Wheadon for the diaconate** (*Rev Danny Wheadon*) Sally has completed her first year of training successfully. She is enjoying working in the Bodmin Circuit with the new minister there, Rev Sheila Long. She also enjoyed her placement in London and attending a course at Oxford University. The circuit will continue to pray for her as she continues with her training.
- e) **Circuit Support for Stephen Hatch** (*Mr John Keast*) Stephen is hoping to return to work as a teacher in Tanzania and at the last Circuit Meeting it was agreed in principle that the circuit should encourage and support him. (He needs to raise a considerable sum of money to be able to do this work.) It was now proposed to invite Stephen to come to the December Circuit Meeting to give a presentation about his plans to work in Tanzania. The circuit will then decide how best to support him. This was agreed.

- f) **Safeguarding** (*Mr John Keast*) Mrs Lyn Hawken and Mrs Sheila Gill are now the Circuit Lay Safeguarding Officers. The Creating Safer Spaces training must be refreshed in 2017, so a series of training events will be organised to accommodate that. Meanwhile those who will provide the training will themselves be trained. Those who need to be DBS checked were asked to check the dates on their certificates and renew them if necessary. Churches should also check that information displayed on safeguarding is up to date.

2. FINANCE (*Mr John Keast*) (*Relevant documents were now circulated.*)

- a) **Oral report on accounts** John and Debbie Eade are working on the accounts for the financial year 2015-16, which will then be sent to the auditor. It is likely that the year ended within budget. The balance in the Trust Fund stands at £450,000, which is £120,000 more than last year. This is because both the Polmear Parc and Rosemorran manses were sold, but only the new manse at Grey Gables was purchased. Perhaps the circuit might decide on how some of its funds might be spent on new work once the staffing situation for 2017 is known. A meeting of church treasurers will be called then to involve them in planning the budget. There was a reassurance that paying the newly appointed lay workers for this year was not a problem because of the vacancies for presbyters.
- b) **Donations to the Global Mission Fund** The St Austell Circuit raised more money for this fund than any other circuit in the Cornwall District.
- c) **c) Support for SACREd Place** SACREd Place is in need of a new boiler, which is estimated to cost £3,100, but does not have funds to provide this. The Circuit leadership team had already agreed to recommend a loan be granted, but a letter from Mr Colin Grigg, a SACREd Trust trustee, was read asking the circuit to donate the funds needed, as SACREd Place was an invaluable Christian outreach in the area. Gareth Bray was proposed that a donation of £3,300 be made to purchase the new boiler. This was seconded by Maria Hathway and agreed unanimously.
- d) **Reminders** about the October count, attendance records, schedules and online reporting were given. It would be helpful if these could be done more quickly this year!

3. PROPERTY (*Mr John Keast*) (*See the written report; additional points are listed below.*)

- a) **St John's** It was proposed by John Keast and seconded by Rev Danny Wheadon to give consent for Flats 16a and 16 being let when the work to remove the dry rot is complete. This was approved.
- b) **Bugle** The new windows were supposed to be made two weeks ago, so the property steward will follow this up.
- c) **Carne Hill** The first meeting of The Way Forward Committee took place on 19th September with the architect present. There was a good discussion on what is needed. The new building planned will be a multi- purpose one, with a provision for work with young children in the community a priority. Prayers for the society at Carne Hill as they tackle this project were requested.
- d) **Gunwen** The Circuit Meeting had previously agreed to underwrite the project at Gunwen. Gunwen is working closely with Scott & Co and the Friends of Gunwen to put in place a sequence of grant applications. This is a complex procedure complicated by having to wait for bats to leave the building in the spring. Gunwen wishes to apply for a grant from SITA by 8th October, but will only be successful if the circuit confirms that it is in a position to grant £15,000 for the project. Approval to write a letter to this effect was given.
- e) **Meadway Manse** The Circuit is in dispute with Npower over money owed by the previous tenants. The matter is in the hands of the Ombudsman and the result will be communicated in due course.
- f) **Bugle and Grey Gables and Graham Avenue manses** It was agreed to let these for six months. A valuation with a view to selling GA will also be obtained. Tony Watson is deeply grateful for being

allowed to stay on there until his new house has become available. He has written a cheque to the Circuit to express his thanks. The secretary will write to thank him and wish him well in his new home.

g) **Quinquennials** Roche is not due for a quinquennial this year. The rest were agreed.

4. REPORTS OF CIRCUIT ACTIVITY - Written reports from Carole Thornton the lay pastoral assistant in the eastern section, Jon Lewis on Youth Work, Anne Keast on the Children and Families and Youth Work Committee, Dorothy Grundon on Methodist Women in Britain and Carolyn Rowse on Local Preachers and Worship Leaders were received and approved. (One small amendment was that the quiz afternoon for MWIB would be on 24th October and not 20th.) The written reports also contained short introductions to themselves from the lay workers recently appointed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

a) **Shoebboxes** (*Mrs Debbie Eade*) These are to be collected at St John's by 5th November. Wadebridge is no longer the centre for delivery after that; it is now Helston and if possible it would be desirable for the Circuit to get the boxes down there. Leaflets and boxes were available after this meeting.

b) **Easter Celebration** (*Mr John Keast*) Restormel Arts is making plans for a Festival of Fun in St Austell over Easter weekend. It seems important that something be happening which is actually related to what Easter is really about. John suggested an Easter Musical, possibly *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Churches Together in St Austell committee was in favour in principle. This meeting also was in favour in principle.

c) **Circuit Website and calendar** (*Mr John Keast*) There is a problem at present with updating the website so that the current plan is not available. The calendar is up on the website, however. It is hoped that issues with the website will soon be resolved.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Rainbow Choir** (*Mrs Ann Arnold*) Ann has continued with the choir as the previous conductor has now left the area and the accompanist is soon to have a baby. The Circuit needs to find someone to conduct and also someone to accompany in future.

b) **A Touch of Cornish: Celebrating the Clay Chapels** (*Mr Gary Tregidga*) it was explained that the Institute of Cornish Studies is seeking to build on the current Landmark Travels project operating in the Treverbyn area with a wider programme of activities throughout the Clay Country. In 2017 in association with the Rescorla Centre there will be a series of events combining history, music and literature. The chapel was formerly the centre of the villages, so it is appropriate to focus activities on the chapel. Individuals and chapels wanting to be involved in any way in the variety of events should contact 01326 371888 or cornishstudies@exeter.ac.uk and John Keast will also circulate details.

c) **Fellowship services** (*Mr Max Richards*) It was suggested that the Methodist Connexion should be making available plenty of readers' services for use at fellowship services. It was pointed out that twelve services are available on line, but perhaps more are needed. This will be raised at the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting. There is also a library of readers' services at Nanpean.

d) **Methodist Prayer Handbook** (*Mr Michael Bray*) This excellent resource is available from Michael or SACRED Place.

DATE OF THE NEXT CIRCUIT MEETING: 8th December 2016 at Nanpean at 7.30 pm, to be followed by a meeting on 28th March at Roche