

ST. AUSTELL METHODIST CIRCUIT

MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD AT MOUNT CHARLES ON 14TH JUNE 2016

DEVOTIONS included Holy Communion and were led by Rev. Danny Wheadon.

WELCOME – Rev. Danny Wheadon welcomed members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES were received from Messrs. G. Coad, H. Hawken, J. Hubbard, S. Hunkin, M. Jenkin, J. Lewis, J. Lobb, M. Richards, A. Sanders, O. Sleeman, G. Thornton, A. Tregilgas, C. Yates; Mesdames M. Adams, S. Battison, H. Blamey, A. Champion, S. Coke, D. Grose, J. Hubbard, H. Johns, A. Keast, S. Mitchell, P. Ould, R. Owens, D. Pearce, S. Rabey (40 trustees and 4 additional attendees signed the attendance register).

The meeting was reminded that any changes to the trustees must be notified to either Mr. John Keast or Mrs. Debbie Eade in order that the Charity Commission records can be updated.

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY OR CONCERN – a letter of sympathy had been sent to the family of Mr. Derek Lobb. A thank you card had been received from Mrs. Ann Arnold following her retirement and an email ‘thank you’ had been received from the Cumbrian Flood Appeal for the Circuit’s donation and advising that £4 million had already been distributed. A letter of sympathy would be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Tony Barrett following the death of their daughter, Becky, on 4th June.

NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS – two matters to be discussed under Any Other Business were the Children and Families Worker at Mount Charles and Mr. Stephen Hatch.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15th March 2016) – these were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

CIRCUIT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT

This would be reviewed in September 2016.

1) **PEOPLE**

- a) **Candidature of Dan Balsdon** – Dan spoke about his move to Birmingham in early September where he will live in a two-bedroom flat on campus with his family. He thanked everyone for their love, encouragement and nurture throughout his twelve years in the Circuit. Rev. Danny Wheadon presented him with a card and cheque and offered the prayers and good wishes of the Circuit.
- b) **Training of Sally Wheadon** – Sally currently has a placement in Bodmin which she is enjoying very much.
- c) **Stationing 2017, Appointment of Invitations Committee and Preparation of Profile** – the process of finding a replacement for Rev. Joan Watson would begin in the Summer and the appointment of the CLT as the Invitations Committee was unanimously approved.
- d) **Staffing of Circuit** – a paper outlining the proposed arrangements for staffing and pastoral support from September 2016 had been distributed. There would be a need for more lay pastoral cover, particularly in residential and care homes, and in children’s work. The Circuit would cover four areas, the East section (Rev. Danny Wheadon and Mrs. Carole Thornton covering seven chapels), the North and East section (Rev. Stephen Caddick and a Lay Pastor to be appointed covering seven chapels), the North and West section (Pastor John Keast and a Lay Pastor to be appointed covering five chapels) and the South and West section (this section, covering two chapels, would hopefully be served by a new URC Minister at Mevagissey and Mr. Tony Warren, although the situation at Mevagissey was currently being discussed at a meeting being held at the same time as this Circuit Meeting). Many people spoke in favour of more lay pastoral support, particularly in residential and care homes, of which there are at least forty in the St. Austell Circuit, and Mrs. Carole Thornton outlined some of the work she had undertaken that day, advising that the role needed much flexibility. The meeting was advised that there is an amount of £40,000 allocated in the budget which could be used for this work. The structure of the proposed arrangement in principle for a twelve month interim period was agreed (proposed by Jenny Taylor, seconded by Liz Burroughs and unanimously approved).
- e) **Safeguarding** - Mrs. Lyn Hawken and Mrs. Sheila Gill had agreed to share the post of Lay Circuit Safeguarding Officer, one covering children and young people and the other covering vulnerable adults. This was unanimously approved.

2) **FINANCE (Mr. John Keast)**

- a) **Report from the Circuit Administrator** - with regard to finance everything appears to be on track and thanks were extended to Debbie Eade for taking on some of the financial administration duties.
- b) **Liturgical Fees** – these had not been updated since 2013 and, following Carne Hill’s temporary move to St. Dennis Church, an anomaly between the fee being charged for funerals by the Anglicans and the Methodist Church had arisen. It was suggested that the fee for a Methodist funeral should therefore rise to £268 to bring it in line with the Anglicans at St Dennis.
- c) **Online Banking** – guidance from the Methodist Church had been received regarding online banking and authority was needed from the Circuit Meeting in order to set up these facilities (proposed by John Keast, seconded by Liz Burroughs and unanimously approved).
- d) **Small Trust Funds** – due to recent changes in the guidelines for trust funds which produced less than £1000 income pa, authority was needed to close six small trust funds which were producing minimum interest and the meeting agreed to pass this to the Circuit Leadership Team to progress once the appropriate wording had been received (proposed by Colin Grigg, seconded by Liz Burroughs and unanimously approved).
- e) **Association of Church Treasurers** – the meeting was advised that membership of this Association is free and more information is available from John Keast.

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

Schemes/Possible Schemes

St. John’s – there continues to be a problem with dry rot in Flats 16 and 16A but the tenant in Flat 16 has still not vacated the property. Preparations are in place to serve an eviction notice but it is hoped that this will not prove necessary.

Gunwen – the proposed scheme at Gunwen, in conjunction with the Friends of Rescorla and the Heritage Trust, was discussed. An application to SITA for a grant of £30,000 needed an undertaking by the Circuit to give their support to the scheme at Gunwen for ten years. (Concern was expressed by one trustee from Carne Hill that the scheme at Gunwen had been approved by the District whereas a previous scheme at Carne Hill had not. It was noted that the Gunwen scheme was very different, being community-based and not solely the chapel’s project.) The support of the Circuit was proposed by John Keast and seconded by Sheila Allen with 38 voting in favour and 2 voting against.

Carne Hill – the chapel at Carne Hill was closed on 23rd March by Methodist Insurance on health and safety grounds. The community at Carne Hill are worshipping at the Anglican Church in St. Dennis and an important meeting on the way forward is being held on 17th June. The need for the continued support and prayers for the people at Carne Hill was reiterated.

Leek Seed – consent for the flat roof project has finally been received.

Mount Charles – improvements to the sound system had been made which is working well.

Traviscoe – five windows have now been replaced and a grant of £500 towards the cost of these was proposed by John Keast, seconded by Colin Grigg and unanimously approved.

Trinity – work relating to the quinquennial inspection was being carried out.

Manses

Meadway – work is continuing and thanks were again extended to Richard Holman for his help with this.

Grey Gables – the Circuit Meeting needs to give consent to the preparation of a new sharing agreement for Grey Gables between the URC and the Methodist Church and this was agreed. (The manse is owned by the Methodist Church and the church is owned by the URC).

Graham Avenue - Tony Watson continues to be pastorally cared for and is hoping that he has found a suitable house to rent.

Property Returns

Property returns for Whitemoor and St. Andrew’s are still outstanding.

4) **REPORTS OF CIRCUIT ACTIVITY**

Written reports from Carole Thornton - Lay Pastoral Assistant in the Eastern Section, Jon Lewis - Children and Youth Worker, Anne Keast on children's work, Dorothy Grundon on Methodist Women in Britain and Carolyn Rowse on Local Preachers and Worship Leaders were received and approved. It was noted that the Mission and Outreach committee had ceased to function due to lack of support. The MWiB Day of Reflection at Treviscoe, held the previous day, was much enjoyed by the small number that attended.

5) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Paediatric First Aid Course – to be held at St. John's on Saturday, 25th June and Saturday, 2nd July. Four spaces still available – please see John Keast if interested.

Creation Fest – to be held at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge from 6th to 12th August.

Relmagine Conference – to be held in Swanwick, Derbyshire from 3rd to 5th October, 2016.

Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme – to be held at Whitemoor on Friday, 1st July, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

John Keast advised that he had envelope scheme catalogues available if required.

6) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Children and Families Worker – Mount Charles - Liz Burroughs spoke of plans to employ a part-time children and families worker at Mount Charles. This project had received District support by way of a grant and the encouragement of the Circuit for the work at Mt Charles was now requested – this was agreed.

Stephen Hatch – Stephen has recently returned from two years working in Tanzania. His wish is to return, possibly for up to ten years, to work primarily as a Maths teacher but also teaching Science and RE. He will be supported financially by the Church Mission Society but would also be grateful for the support of the Circuit. He has visited several churches in the Circuit to talk about his work in Tanzania and it was suggested that he could make a similar presentation at the Circuit Meeting in September.

Mevagissey – Anne Keast, who had returned from the meeting in Mevagissey, informed this meeting of the outcome. Members had been asked to vote on whether to invite Sally Bateman to become the new minister at St. Andrew's. The Church Council voted in favour (10 for; 1 against) and church members voted in favour (22 for; 9 against). However, URC rules state that 80% of the vote must be achieved and this criteria was not realised.

7) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, 20th September, 2016 at Bugle at 7.30 p.m. A list of Circuit dates, including Circuit Meetings, had already been distributed.

Reports to the Circuit Meeting need to be in writing. Please send any reports by Monday, 12th September to Anne Keast, the Circuit Meeting Secretary, at 6 Highfield Avenue, St. Austell, PL25 4SN, or preferably by email to her (anne@keast.myzen.co.uk).