

**ST. AUSTELL METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD AT ST JOHN'S ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

**DEVOTIONS** , including Holy Communion, were led by Rev Stephen Caddick and included a reading from Romans 5.

**WELCOME** Members were welcomed to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES** were received from M Bray, A Cotton, A Grigg, C Grigg, B Hawken, H Hawken, J Hubbard, S Hunkin, D Mitchell, G Thornton, A Tregilgas, N Tregonning, A Trenerry, K Truscott, T Warren and C Yates; Mesdames S Battison, F Cole, D Grose, L Hawken, J Hubbard, H Johns, S Mitchell, J Warren and R Webb; Ms Helen Blamey. (48 trustees and 1 additional attender signed the attendance register. There was also an apology from Mrs Sally Wheadon who is not a trustee, but was hoping to attend to update the meeting on her training for the diaconate.)

**LETTERS OF SYMPATHY OR CONCERN** A letter of sympathy has been sent to Mrs Pam Ould. Greetings and best wishes will also be sent to Mr and Mrs Clifton Yates. A letter of sympathy and support will also be sent to those affected by the recent fire at Grenfell Tower in London. It was proposed by Mr Gareth Bray and seconded by Mr John Lewis that £1,000 be send to the relief fund. This was unanimously agreed.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** (28<sup>th</sup> March 2017) These were agreed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING** None

**BUSINESS**

**CIRCUIT POLICY AND ACTIVITY**

**a) CIRCUIT MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGY**

Originally it was intended to review this in 2016, but it has been decided to wait to start this in October 2017 so that the two new ministers coming to the circuit can be involved on the process. It is hoped to hold meetings where all can come and share ideas. It was pointed out that a stronger section in needed on youth development.

**b) PEOPLE**

**i) Update on Mrs Sally Wheadon's training for the diaconate** (*Rev Danny Wheadon*) The training is going very well and Sally is now coming to the end of the second year of her course. The Warden of Deacons spoke highly of her progress at the Convocation in Swanick. Sally is grateful for our prayers and support and Rev Danny was asked to give her the best wishes of the meeting.

**ii) Authorisation for Holy Communion for Rev Paul Parker** The paperwork is now in place for Conference to grant this, but the consent of the Circuit Meeting was required. This was proposed by Rev Danny Wheadon, seconded by Mrs Anne Keast and unanimously agreed.

**iii) Stationing 2018** The Circuit Leadership Team recommended that the circuit should not enter stationing for September 2018, when Rev Danny Wheadon will no longer be with us. It would be unlikely that the circuit would get another minister, having had two in 2017 and it was also not financially viable for the circuit to sustain four ministers for another five years after that date. The recommendation was proposed by Mrs Jenny Taylor, seconded by Dr Liz Burroughs and agreed unanimously.

**iv) Confirmation of Staffing of the Circuit for 2017-18** *(Rev Stephen Caddick)*

The circuit is delighted that two presbyters will now be joining us in September We shall be welcoming Rev David Hart to take pastoral charge of St Andrew's, Mount Charles and Polgooth and Rev Paul Parker, a probationer, to take pastoral responsibility for Bethel, Bugle, Stenalees, Roche, Whitemoor and Nanpean. Rev Stephen Caddick will have pastoral charge of Carclaze, Gunwen and Trinity as well as mentoring Rev Paul Parker. Rev Danny Wheadon will have pastoral charge of Lostwithiel, Tywardreath, Par St Mary's, Leek Seed, Tregrehan, Treviscoe and Indian Queens. John Keast will continue to be the lay pastor at St John's and Carne Hill. Although there will be a change of minister at Bethel, Mrs Carole Thornton will continue to be the lay pastoral assistant there. She and Mrs Sheridan Pengelly will continue to serve the churches as at present. Mrs Debbie Eade, Mrs Sue Battison, Mrs Sheila Allen and Mrs Ann Arnold will continue in their present roles.

**Liaison with Rev David Hart and Rev Paul Parker** *(Mrs Anne Keast)*

There has been regular liaison with both incoming ministers. Anne thanked churches for dates sent to her; those for the September to November plan have been passed on to the plan makers and dates for the Christmas season will be finalised once they are with us. Any fixed meeting dates not yet passed on should be sent to her so that these can also be put into the diaries.

**v) Appointment of Mrs Liz Foster and Mrs Jenny Taylor as circuit stewards**

This was unanimously agreed. Mrs Foster was proposed by Mrs Anne Keast and seconded by Rev Danny Wheadon and Mrs Jenny Taylor was proposed by Rev Danny Wheadon and seconded by Mrs Liz Foster. Mrs Foster will take up her duties in September when Mrs Sue Battison retires and Mrs Taylor in March when Mrs Sheila Allen retires.

**vi) The Farewell Service for Mr Jon Lewis**

This will take place at Mount Charles on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30 pm and will be followed by refreshments.

**vii) The Welcome Service for Rev David Hart and Rev Paul Parker** will take place at St John's at 6.30 pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and will be followed by refreshments. Rev Steve Wild will be involved in that service.

**viii) Safeguarding** *(Mr John Keast)*

The Creating Safer Spaces Refresher Foundation Module training is now underway. Mr Keast reminded those who have not yet done so to sign up for the courses still available.

**ix) Representatives to District Synod**

Under the new system ministers and lay workers working 20 hours or more (Mr John Keast and Mrs Sheridan Pengelly) represent the Circuit at Synod, as does one circuit steward. The circuit has a right to an additional seven representatives. It was agreed that the following should be the circuit's representatives and reserves representatives for 2017-18:

Mrs Ann Arnold

Mrs Barbara Bray (if she wishes to continue)

Mr Gareth Bray

Mr Michael Bray (if he wishes to continue)

Mrs Maria Hathway

Mrs Liz Foster

Mrs Anne Keast

Mrs Marjorie Keam (Reserve)

Mrs Carole Thornton (reserve)

(Mrs Foster and Mrs Keast will both be circuit stewards so one of them will be present in that capacity)

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

**i) Report from the Circuit Administrator**

Mr Keast reported the following:

- that the Circuit leadership team has revised the liturgical fees for the coming Methodist year;
- that the Methodist Connexion had now advised that lay workers should be paid the new living wage of £8.45 per hour
- that Mr Jon Lewis will be entitled to one week's redundancy pay for each year of his employment. This amounts to £1,021. 80. Mr Keast proposed that this be increased to £1,200 and was seconded by Mr Gareth Bray. Any holiday pay also due to Mr Lewis will be paid to him.

**ii) Formal approval of assessments for 2017-18**

The assessment sheet presented was unanimously approved. It now took into account the attendance figures for Par St Mary's and Stenalees, which had not been available at the previous meeting.

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

**i) Gunwen** *(Mr Ivan Phillips)*

The works at Gunwen are progressing very well. Those on the cemetery side of the church had just been completed. The windows will be put in very soon. The Sunday school area has been replastered. Mr Phillips stressed that £3,000 had been needed from the circuit in order to obtain a £27,000 grant applied for.

**ii) Par** Mr Keast pointed out that Par may need to put the project for new doors on the Property Consents website in spite of the cost being under £10,000. This regulation now certainly applies to new windows.

**iii) Bugle** *(Mrs Sheila Allen)*

Mrs Allen pointed out that Bugle, at the centre of the clay district, was a high area of deprivation and included many immigrant families, mostly Portuguese. There was now a feeling of optimism because a parent coffee group was now well supported and the recently founded youth club was welcoming 50-65 children weekly. Although a considerable amount of money had been spent on updating the hall with a new kitchen, toilets etc., a new heating system and new windows were now urgently needed. The recent quinquennial report as well as a report done by Mr Richard Holman showed that the hall was unsuitable for the groups using it in its present state. Bugle had very little money, so would be looking for support from the circuit, especially bearing in mind the new sparks of life evident at Bugle.

Mr Homan stressed that there were problems with health and safety, fire risks and disabled access in the present hall as well as other issues already highlighted and picked up in the

quinquennial. In his view, approximately £50,000 would be needed to put things right. Work needed should not be done piecemeal if it is to be done effectively.

Mr Chris Benney, the property steward at Bugle added that it had been frustrating trying to get quotes for work needed because people approached were not interested or failed to turn up at arranged meetings. He had managed to get a quote of £5,800 for new windows in the hall, but that was all. He also stressed that it was vital to get the necessary work done as soon as possible so that the youth club, parent group, council meetings and a ladies group could continue to meet in the hall.

It was agreed that in principle the Circuit Meeting wanted to support Bugle, but no progress could be made until an urgent church council was called to discuss the issues and decide the way forward. It should look to set up a group to plan a project if it was agreed to pursue this substantial refurbishment so that a firm proposal could be brought to the next Circuit Meeting. Chris Hunter of Scott & Co, who is involved with the Gunwen project, should be consulted and Gunwen might well be willing to give advice about grant applications.

**iv) Carne Hill** (*Mr John Williams*)

A planning application for the sale of half of the site for ten houses went in three weeks previously and the result should be known in about seven weeks' time. Consent for the demolition of the old chapel building was now agreed. Mr Richard Holman will be planning the demolition and getting estimates for it. The need for planning permission for the demolition will also be addressed.

**v) Indian Queens**

There is still a delay on replacing the doors because no conservation consent has yet been received from TMCP.

**vi) St John's**

St John's Property Committee has now met and decided that full renovation of Flat 18 is needed because dry rot has been found and there is no bathroom. A higher rental cannot be obtained until this work is done. Mr Keast proposed that a loan of £25,000 be granted to do the work. This was seconded by Mrs Sheila Allen and unanimously approved.

**vii) Treviscoe**

The garage there has been let to a neighbour for a long time, so consent was never obtained from TMCP. This must now be put in place. Rev Danny Wheadon proposed that the meeting approve this, it was seconded by Mrs Liz Foster and unanimously agreed.

**ix) Whitemoor** (*Mrs Ros Owens*)

Whitemoor needs to apply for a caution to be put in place concerning a layby to safeguard the right to enter and leave the carpark. There was unanimous approval given.

**x) Manses**

Mr Keast reported that the name of the manse at Mevagissey had now been officially changed from *Grey Gables* to *The Manse*. He also thanked Richard Holman for all the very hard work he was doing to make the manse ready for Rev David and Mrs Anita Hart.

**xi) Access Audit**

Information was now ready for each church to take away from the meeting.

**xii) Property Matters** has just been published again by the Connexion and was available.

## **e. REPORTS OF CIRCUIT ACTIVITY**

Written reports from Carole Thornton, the lay pastoral assistant in the eastern section, Sheridan Pengelly, the lay pastoral assistant in the western and northern section, Sheila Allen and Ann Arnold lay pastors for residential homes, Jon Lewis on Youth Work, Sue Battison on Children and Families Work, Dorothy Grundon on Methodist Women in Britain and Carolyn Rowse on Local Preachers and Worship Leaders were received and approved. Thanks were expressed to Jon Lewis for his work with youth over the last three years and it was stressed that youth work would not be neglected when there would no longer someone in Jon's role. The circuit would welcome volunteers to champion and support youth work in the coming year.

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** (*Mr John Keast*)

Volunteers are needed for a reconstituted committee. An email will be sent out to churches appealing for support for this. The Strawberry Fayre took place at St Andrew's on 15th June as usual and raised over £500. On the Family Fun Day at Trethurgy on 24<sup>th</sup> June there will be a fun run in fancy dress to raise money for Action for Children. The circuit service for Action for Children will be at St John's on 9<sup>th</sup> July and any help with organising that would be appreciated.

### **SHOEBOXES 2017** (*Dr Elizabeth Burroughs*)

Dr Burroughs said that Operation Christmas Child and the shoebox appeal was not a good way to help in third world countries. She suggested several reasons for this:

- It damages the local economy because people then do not buy from local shops and those who make things have no market for their goods.
- Toys sent are often not appropriate.
- It is also expensive to send boxes abroad and money could be better spent in other ways.
- It is better to support work done by agencies like Christian Aid which encourage countries to become financially independent.
- Finally, Samaritan's Purse is a very large American company and there are also some concerns about its founder.

Dr Burroughs suggested that this year churches should work with local agencies to gift to local children in need. The Circuit could also undertake to support a project abroad such as providing a water supply for a village, funding a school etc.

In the considerable discussion that followed, points made included:

- Local children are already supported by some of our churches, such as St John's.
- People get great pleasure out of putting shoeboxes together and some feel there is little else they can contribute to help others in need.
- Many of our churches support many different causes, such as Christian Aid and Action for Children, so shoebox collection is only one of many examples of their charitable giving.
- It would be good to be able to send things that would support people in their training for work.
- Other organisations also collect shoeboxes for children and the elderly, such as *Teams for You* and *Linked to Hope*, many of which are sent to Eastern Europe. Boxes for families and the elderly were also in some cases included. (The point was made that this might also be

damaging the economy in Eastern Europe.)

It was concluded there were clearly two main issues:

- the appropriateness of Operation Christmas Child as the organisation used
- the appropriateness of the shoeboxes themselves, bearing in mind their destination.

It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the circuit to make a decision on this issue at the present time, because many of our churches are already geared up for sending the shoeboxes as usual this year. However, it has always been up to individual churches whether or not they participate in this and any church is free to carry on this year or opt for an alternative as it chooses. Churches will be informed about the issues raised and the ensuing discussion so that church councils can make a decision about the course to take this year if a decision has not yet been taken. This will also give time for exploring the feeling within the churches about this, so that a Circuit Meeting recommendation can be agreed for the future. The possibilities to use alternative organisations to Operation Christmas Child and alternative destinations and contents for shoeboxes can also meanwhile be explored more thoroughly. The Circuit Meeting in September or March at the latest can make an informed recommendation to churches in time for Christmas 2018.

### **WEBSITE**

The circuit website has been rebuilt and thanks were expressed to Mrs Lyn Hawken and her son, Matthew for their work on this. Any pictures and information for the website should be sent to Mrs Lyn Hawken or Mrs Debbie Eade. The website address is [www.staustellmethodist.co.uk](http://www.staustellmethodist.co.uk) and the password to access the Circuit Directory may be obtained from the administrator.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION**

- a) Date of the next Circuit Meeting** will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at St John's at 7.30 pm.
- b) The Circuit Calendar for 2017-18** is now available for churches to collect at the end of the meeting.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **SACREd Place**

The SACREd Trust is grateful for the support it receives, but needs the continued support of all the churches in Mid Cornwall. The AGM will be held at Mount Charles on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30 pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

**DATE OF THE NEXT CIRCUIT MEETING: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at St John's at 7.30 pm**