

Minutes of the Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting at Sketty
Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Devotions: Led by Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 35 members present.

Apologies: Sybil Smith, Jane Closs, Bernard Gwyther, Bev Poiner, Diane Price, Bob Alderdice, Rev. Pam Cram, Alan Cram, Ann Beynon, Owain Davies, Vi Soo, Michael Roberts, Patrick Jenkins, Gill Watson

Minutes and Matters Arising: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held in December 2014 were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record. There were no Matters Arising.

Pastoral Matters: Congratulations to Rev. Siperire and Julius Mugadzaweta on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary and the renewal of their marriage vows. Congratulations were also accorded to Rev. Andrew Walker & his wife Emily on the birth of their son, Christopher, and also to Heather and Jeff Coleman who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Easter Saturday.

After a short stay in hospital, Ann Beynon is now at home.

Rev. Donald Knighton the former Chair of the South Wales Methodist District has been in hospital in the coronary care unit in Abergavenny where he has undergone a heart by-pass operation. Donald is still in hospital but his health is slowly improving.

Deaths: Rev. Long reported the passing of Doreen Leighton, (former steward at Pitton Methodist Church) and Michael Topliss, who preached in the Circuit when visiting the area on holiday. The Meeting was also asked to remember Jean Guest, following the death of her father.

Rev. Long read out the obituary of Rev. Alf Austin and led the meeting in prayer.

Student Presbyter: Elizabeth Harris who is a first year student at Queens College, Birmingham will take up a placement in the Circuit from 31st May to 5th July.

Sabbatical: Rev. Andrew Walker will begin his Sabbatical at the end of July until the 1st week of November 2015. He informed the Meeting that he intends to use the time to:

- 1) Reflect on the first ten years of his Ministry and to evaluate his strengths and weaknesses in order to better understand how he can be more effective in inspiring others to discover a saving relationship with Jesus and build the Kingdom of God.
- 2) To develop further the discipleship resource "Am I Bovered?" into a usable, publishable form, adding some theological reflection on the Spirituality of Young People.
- 3) To research ways in which churches can be a catalyst in investing in property to help alleviate the current housing crisis among our young people.

Representative to Synod: The next Wales Synod will be held in Newtown on Saturday September 19th 2015.

The Circuit is allowed to send up to seven lay representatives and anyone interested in attending this important Meeting should contact Rev. Howard Long.

Finance/Schedules: In the absence of the Circuit Treasurer, Rev. Long informed the Meeting that the accounts to the end of February are operating to Budget and that £1,354 has so far been raised for the Amelia Farm Trust; £4143 is in hand for Ogof Adullum with £355 being covenanted every month and that all Assessments have been paid on time.

Local Preachers : A report was received and circulated.

Social Issues: A report was received and circulated.

Safeguarding: A report was received and circulated. Alastair added that another training session (Module A) is being arranged for later in the year.
In the meantime we must all be diligent in the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

MwiB: A report was received and circulated. **N.B.** The Easter Offering Service will be held at Brunswick Methodist Church.

Methodist Homes: Sandra Pengelly thanked the churches for their donations which amounted to £1008.45p . The new magazine, 'Heart and Soul' is now available . Methodist Homes Sunday will be on 14th June and collection envelopes will be provided.

Action for Children: Gill Worrall reported that 2014 was the year that celebrated 145 years of Action for Children, an outstanding achievement which would not have been possible without the support of Methodist congregations in thousands of churches throughout the U.K. A very big thank you for all that you do for Action for Children.

Action for Children – Swansea Young Families Scheme

'Little Steps, Big Steps' : We are delighted to announce that from 24th March, two of the Young Families Schemes will be using the facilities at Penlan Methodist Church. Many thanks to Rev. Leslie Noon for all her help and support given to S.Y.F.S. in order to facilitate the move. Staff and parents are really excited about meeting in Penlan.

Sketty Methodist/Bethel URC: Rev. Leslie Noon revealed the new logo for 'Uniting Church Sketty' and referred the Meeting to the current 'Connect' magazine, (page 16) for further information regarding the official launch of the Church on a 'Festival Weekend' from Friday 29th to Sunday 31st May 2015.

Penlan – Forward Planning: Rev. Noon reported that although Penlan Church is situated in one of the most deprived areas in Swansea, and membership is currently low, positive steps forward have been made and things are happening! Swansea Young Families Scheme- (Big Steps, Little Steps') are using the premises on a regular basis, and a Christian gardening project ,led by Carl Roberts, who is working every Friday with young men who have a variety of social problems. Any help and support from Church members would be appreciated.

Morrison – Forward Planning: Heather Coleman reported that :

- 1) General maintenance and repairs are on-going.
- 2) Access via the internal/external steps to the first floor is a problem for some members of the congregation and the viability of the cost of a stair lift is being investigated. While this is under consideration, Sunday services are being held

upstairs/ downstairs on an alternating basis.

- 3) Enquiries have been received regarding the hiring of the premises.
- 4) A fund raising concert by the Morriston Ladies Choir was held on 27th February and there will be a sale of garden plants plus other stalls on 23rd May.
- 5) Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta is running a fortnightly Bible study group.
- 6) There have been 3 or 4 new people attending the church services.

Gower Churches: (Rev. Andrew Walker)

Murton:

- 1) Discussions regarding property improvements are currently taking place, with Rob Fisher (architect) advising.
- 2) Discussions are also taking place with Stewards and others in the Leadership team as to the best way of leading the church forward making the best use of peoples' skills and gifts.
- 3) The possibility of jointly funding a Youth Worker for South Gower is being discussed with representatives of the Church in Wales.

Horton & Pitton:

A new Prayer Meeting group meets on the second Monday in the month to look at ways of encouraging congregations to consider how best we can work with the newly re-structured Gower Ministry Area.

Reynoldston:

a) - Continues to flourish and the 'Knit for Africa' initiative has been very successful. b) Messy Church is a great Ministry among all the Gower churches and we have probably reached around 100 different families since October 2012. c) The 'Stable Trail' which was so successful in 2013 will be repeated again on Saturday 12th December this year. d) The 'Am I Bovered?' group is also doing very well and we are gradually outgrowing our present venue. A new group for younger people, called 'Whatever' started in September and is also flourishing.

Rev. Gill Evans' fund raising event for the school in India, (which now has 197 pupils), will take place this year on June 20th.

Mission

- 1) Circuit Project 2015 – Amelia Trust Farm: A report was received and circulated
- 2) City Centre Ministry – Brunswick : A report was received and circulated.
- 3) Ogof Adullum Project: No report – but see article in 'Connect' Magazine (page 9)
- 4) Night Shelter: Gwen Dumelow reported that due to a lack of referrals, the Night Shelter closed at the end of February. For more detailed information, see page 11 of 'Connect' magazine. Our grateful thanks are extended to all those who gave so generously of their time and money for this worthwhile project. As a result of the generosity we experienced and the early closing of the Night Shelter, we have a surplus of funds for 2015 and would prefer not to hold over that money until 2016.

We suggest that the surplus should be divided between Ogof Adullam and a local Homeless charity.

- 5) Connect: Rev. Long reported that the Circuit Magazine 'Connect' has been nominated for an award from the National Association of Church Editors. The awards will be presented

at Westminster Central Hall on Saturday 9th May. Thanks to the editor, Myra Maddock and all who contribute to the magazine every quarter.

6) Ty Croeso & Foodbank: A report was received and circulated.

Property

- 1) Schedules: All are up to date.
- 2) Title Deeds: All Title Deeds are accounted for except those of Wesley/Eaton Road which were destroyed during the Blitz, but thanks to the diligence and hard work of Gwen Dumelow, we have managed to acquire replacements from the Land Registry.
- 3) Schemes – i) Wesley : Fund raising for the proposed alterations is on-going and grant applications are in hand. A 'Dutch' auction has been arranged for April 28th.
ii) Capel y Nant : The major refurbishment of the Church Hall is now complete with the addition of a projection screen and storage cupboard. The opening took place on 5th March and all concerned are very pleased with the result.
- 4) Manses: Derek Norton reported that the general maintenance of manses is on-going and that future major works involve a new roof to the Sketty manse and the kitchen refurbishment of the Brunswick manse.
- 5) Quinquennials: All quinquennials are in hand.

AOB There was no other business.

The Blessing : The Meeting ended at 8.50 pm. with the Blessing.

Date of Next Meeting: 18. 06. 15 at Pitton

Future Circuit Meetings: 17. 09. 15 at Clydach.