

Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting at Reynoldston
Thursday 9th June 2016

Devotions: Led by Heather Coleman.

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 28 members present. Rev. Long also welcomed 2 guests to the Meeting: Ken Allison (who would give a report regarding Penlan Church) and Win Hawkins (who would give a report on ZRJ Trust).

Apologies: Peter Scott, Jeff Coleman, Gill Watson, Rev. Leslie Noon (who is on Sabbatical), Laurie Higgs, Pam Tucker, Maureen Estcourt, Patrick Jenkins, Selina Taylor, Owain Davies, Malcolm Grimley, Violet Soo,

Minutes & Matters Arising: The Minutes of the previous meeting held at Wesley, Eaton Road Church, Brynhyfryd, were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record. It was noted that it was the last Circuit Meeting before Rev. Pam Cram retires in August. See 'Connect' magazine for Rev. Cram's thoughts on retirement and her twenty six years as a Methodist Minister. There will be a Cymanfa Ganu service at Clydach on 24th July at 5.p.m. to mark Pam's retirement. The Meeting wished Pam well.

Pastoral Concerns: Prayers were asked for Keith Morris (Circuit Property Secretary) and family, whose grandson, Thomas, was tragically killed in a car accident on Wednesday evening.

The funeral of Neil Cunningham took place today (9th June) at Mumbles Methodist Church.

Representatives to Synod 2016: The representatives who will attend Synod in September are: Heather Coleman, Martin Gregson, Cerys Davies, Derek Norton and Sybil Smith and Staff.

Finance inc. Budget 2016/17: A financial report was circulated to the Meeting by Martin Gregson. The report was accepted unanimously by the Meeting. Martin thanked church Treasurers for agreeing the Budget increase. He was also pleased to report that the accounts for the year ending August 2015 have now been audited and registered with the Charity Commission. Martin thanked the former Circuit Treasurer, Bernard Gwyther, for all his hard work.

Circuit Forward Planning – Penlan: Ken Allison addressed the Meeting and gave an interim report on the progress made so far, by the Penlan Forward Planning Group. In order to comply with the conditions of the Penlan lease, it was proposed that a monthly act of worship take place on the premises. This was seconded by Andrew Phillips and unanimously agreed by the Meeting. Support from other churches and ecumenical partners was encouraged.

**Ogof Adullam Project Coordinator
& Assistant Post:**

An update was given by Heather Coleman regarding Synod's support for this project (£5000 per annum for five years) and Circuit support (£2000 per annum for five years). The application to the Connexion (Mission Alongside the Poor) has been submitted and we await a decision.

Safeguarding:

Lyn Taylor gave a brief report with 3 main points:

- 1) Annual audits need completing as soon as possible
- 2) Role descriptions for existing office holders are currently being implemented in our churches beginning with Pastoral Visitors. Role descriptions are an important part of our safer recruiting policy.
- 3) New materials for training are currently being tested and should be available in September.

It was noted that future training sessions would be given in much smaller groups and that some people who attended courses some years ago will need to attend a 'refresher course'.

MWiB: A report was received and circulated. Janet Neilson asked the meeting that as the 'Order of Service' was now available on PowerPoint, whether it was necessary to purchase hard copies. The Meeting agreed to the use of PowerPoint exclusively. Rev. Long thanked Janet Neilson for all her hard work.

Methodist Homes: There was no written report but Sandra Pengelly reminded the Meeting that Methodist Homes Sunday, the theme of which is 'Creating Communities that Care', is on 12th June.

Action for Children: No written report was received but it was noted that 'Action for Children' Sunday is on July 10th.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated. Congratulations were accorded to Caroline Buckler for completing the Local Preacher study course, and Dr. Alan Cram asked the Meeting to formally accept Caroline as a Local Preacher. This was unanimously agreed. A service of accreditation for Caroline will be held at Mumbles Methodist Church on **21st July at 7.p.m.**

Property:

- 1) **Property Team:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, the introduction of Keith Morris (new Circuit Property Secretary) has been deferred.

- 2) **Circuit Property Meeting:** The meeting of church property representatives will be held at Murton Methodist Church on Wednesday 15th June at 10.30 a.m. It is anticipated that there will be two meetings a year to share concerns and information. The meeting in November will be held in the evening.
- 3) **Schemes – Wesley:** Elaine Davies informed the Meeting that both the building work and the financial budget were on target and that a coffee morning will be held on **July 9th** from 10.a.m. to 12. noon for those who wish to view the renovation.

- 4) **Brunswick:** Heather Coleman gave a brief update regarding future plans.
 - 1) Architects plans for the front of the building have been approved and the quotation regarding cost is expected soon.
 - 2) Work on the rear of the building will involve refurbishment and updating to an acceptable standard for letting purposes.

- 5) **Uniting Church Sketty:** Gwen Dumelow reported that it was good to be back worshipping in the Wesley building. Balcony work involving improved seating etc. has now been completed. It was pleasing to note that new people had joined the congregation recently and everyone was looking forward to the return of Rev. Leslie Noon after her Sabbatical.

- 6) **Manses:** Derek Norton reported that annual inspections of Manses is ongoing and that, so far, no major issues have arisen.

- 7) **Quinquennials:** The current round of quinquennials is ongoing, with Murton recently completed.

Mission:

- 1) **Circuit Project 2015/16 – ZRJ Trust:** A report on the work of the Trust and fundraising was given by Win Hawkins. (See attachment)

- 2) **City Centre Ministry – Brunswick:** A report was received and circulated. Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta informed the Meeting that the 'Christianity; Explored' course is starting on **Tuesday 21st June, at 7.p.m.**

- 3) **Ogof Adullam:** Cerys Davies reported that there were 35 plus guests attending every night and that the Leadership Team was in the process of being formed. It was pleasing to note that several guests, who are recovering alcoholics, were now serving as volunteers and that some have now become Christians. Thanks were accorded to Brunswick Church and the Circuit for all their support with special thanks to Heather Coleman for all her hard work.

4) Connect: Many thanks again to Myra Maddock for another edition of Connect Magazine.

N.B. See Rev. Long's message regarding celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday at Murton on June 25th and also the new Bible Society book 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves'.

Circuit Service – July 24th Clydach at 5 p.m. : To mark the retirement of Rev. Pam Cram.

AOB: Dr. Alan Cram informed the Meeting that '**Cytun**' would be hosting a talk regarding the Referendum at 7.30 p.m on June 21st at Penllergaer Church.

The Blessing: The Meeting closed at 8.50.p.m. with the sharing of the Grace.

Date of next Meeting : 15.09.16 at Morryston

Future Circuit Meetings : 08.12.16 at Brunswick. Monday 20.03.17 at Murton

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