

**Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit meeting
held on 19th September, 2013 at 7.30pm.
at Wesley Methodist Church, Brynhyfryd.**

Devotions: Led by Rev. Pam Cram.

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 37 members.

Apologies: Janet Neilson, Alan Cram, Rev. Gill Evans, Gill Watson, Carolyn Jenkins, Irene Dendle, Douglas Dendle, Elaine Phillips, Pam Evans, Marjorie Probert, Ian & Janet Campbell, Sandra Cuthill, Pam Tucker, Hildergarde Roberts, Vi Soo & Gill Worrall.

Minutes & Matters Arising: It was noted that Win Hawkins is now a fully trained Street Pastor.

Pastoral Concerns: Prayers were asked for those who are going through a difficult time at the moment, especially Janet & Ian Campbell, Rev. John Jones & Rev. Peter Dolling, and the family of Mary Davies, a lifelong member of Wesley, Eaton Road whose funeral was today (19th September).

Rev. Long announced that Rev. Pam Cram is to take over as deputy Superintendent now that Rev Alf Austin had become a Supernumerary minister. Rev. Long thanked Rev. Alf Austin for his help as the previous deputy.

Charity Commission: The Charity Commission's annual report will be ready in December.

Secretary's Notices: Please send any reports for distribution, at least a week before the next meeting (if possible) which is on 5th December.

Report from Synod: Rev. Andrew Walker gave a report from the Synod Meeting which was held on Saturday, 14th September 2013. **(Report attached)**

The Church Uniting in Wales - Circuit Response:

Rev. Long felt that everyone had had sufficient time to respond to the Church Uniting in Wales proposal. From the responses that he received not one person was in favour of it in its present form. The following response was compiled by the circuit leadership team after consultation with the churches.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit affirms the work of the Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales and has valued the consultation process for the

proposal of a Church Uniting in Wales.

This process has enabled the circuit to revisit the aims of the Trefeca Declaration and to assess the involvement and commitment to ecumenical work in the local churches. Even though some very good work is being undertaken in the Swansea and Gower area, including work with non-covenanted churches, we recognise, along with the Synod, that 'more needs to be done in terms of what visible unity means and how we understand it to accord with what Christ wills for our time and place'.

In the light of this assessment, the Swansea and Gower Circuit questions whether the time is right for a major scheme, and rejects the proposal of a Church Uniting in Wales in its current form. The Circuit requests that the commission present revised proposals that are not based solely on the historic episcopate of the Church in Wales and takes into account

- a) The validity of each covenanting denomination's ministry, not only the ordained but also recognised lay roles.*
- b) A recognition of the inclusive nature of ordained ministry and not one that is based on gender inequality*

These revised proposals would need to demonstrate evidence that the formation of a Church Uniting in Wales with added hierarchical structures and cost will improve the mission of the local church.

A vote was taken regarding the Circuit response and the vote against the proposal was carried with two abstentions. The circuit response will be forwarded to the Synod

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated to the meeting. It was noted that Win Hawkins has now completed the Faith and Worship Course and passed her final interview. A vote was taken to approve Win for admission as a local preacher and all voted in favour. The Accreditation Service will take place at Sketty on 26th September at 7.pm. All are welcome to attend.

Methodist Homes: Sandra Pengelly gave a brief report on MHA thanking the Circuit for the monies raised on MHA Sunday which amounted to £893.70 - an increase on last year's collection. She went on to say that funds were always needed for this important outreach and that anyone wishing to hold an event to raise more funds e.g. coffee morning/evening etc., display materials could be made available.

Safeguarding: Alistair Elkes-Jones gave a brief safeguarding report.

- 1) Currently, all those in the Circuit who are required to undergo safeguarding training have done so.
- 2) **CRB** (Criminal Records Bureau) has been superseded by **DBS** (Disclosure & Barring Service) and on-line applications can be made, but the Safeguarding Officer must have a copy of the subsequent document.
- 3) The safeguarding officer's email address is: **safeguarding.mumbles@gmail.com.**

Finance: Bernard Gwyther the Circuit Treasurer presented a detailed Financial Report for the year ending 30th August 2013.

A vote was taken and the accounts unanimously approved. Rev. Long reminded the Church Treasurers of the need to complete finance schedules, which are now available on line.

Social Issues: A report was circulated prior to the meeting and Rev. Pam Cram drew the Meeting's attention to the formation of a Swansea 'Credit Union' (Loans and Savings Abertawe). She has joined the scheme and encourages others to do likewise.

Street Child World Cup March 2014 in Rio. Nigel Cram is raising money for this event and has a 'Donate' page online, if anyone should want to support it.

On Thursday 26th September a course on 'Addictive Behaviour' will be held at Elim Pentecostal Church, Swansea.

4) On October 9th at the YMCA building, an evening by BOAZ from 5.30 to 8.30 pm. (Workshop & Discussion) on Working with Asylum Seekers.

Rev. Long suggested that non- perishable goods be included in gifts for the Harvest Festival services, which could then be donated to the food bank at Ty Croeso.

Mission:

i) A report was received and circulated to the Meeting. Missions Sunday will be held at Sketty Methodist Church on 13th October at 3.30pm. The speaker at 3.30 is David Padfield, speaking on Water Aid which is the new Circuit Project. A 'bring and share' tea at 4.30pm. after which a service will be held at 6 pm. when Rev. Stephen Wigley is the preacher.

Rev. Long urged everyone to support this worthwhile project.

ii) **Connect Magazine:** Thanks were accorded to all contributors and special thanks to Myra Maddock for all her hard work in producing this excellent edition. Rev. Long encouraged all churches to circulate the magazine as widely as possible.

iii) **Night Shelter:** The Circuit will be fully involved in the Night Shelter project which will run from January to March 2014. training days will be organised nearer the date and participants must hold a valid **DBS** vulnerable adults.

iv) **Outreach Group:** The next meeting will be held at Brunswick on 21st October at 7 pm.

v) **Ty Croeso - Clydach:** A report was received and circulated.

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Property:

i) Schemes:

Morrison - update report received and circulated.

Wesley Roof - Work completed.

Murton Roof - Work completed

ii) Schedules :

Rev. Long will distribute these shortly.

Horton's Bi-Centenary : This will be celebrated on the morning of October 13th when the preacher will be Rev. Stephen Wigley.

AOB :

1) A MacMillan coffee morning will be held on Saturday 21st September at Penlan. All welcome.

2) A walk in aid of Stepping Stones, will take place at 2pm. on 28th September from West Cross to Victoria Hall, Mumbles.

Rev. Howard Long thanked Wesley for their warm welcome and for hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9 pm. and The Grace was shared.

Date of the next meeting 05.12.13 at Morrison.