

**Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting  
held on 20th March 2014 at 7.30pm  
at Brunswick Methodist Church**

**Devotions:** Led by Rev. Leslie Noon

**Present:** Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 34 members.

**Apologies:** Alice Rutter, Janet Neilson, Sandra Pengelly, Elaine Phillips, Beverley Poiner, Sheila Morgan, Ann Beynon, Hildergarde Roberts, Sybil Smith, Vi Soo, Martin Gregson, Ian Campbell, Janet Campbell.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous meeting held in December 2013 were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising:** i) 'Church Uniting in Wales': Rev. Long reported that following the Y Cyngor consultation, there was little support for the proposal as it stands, that it was too focused on structures and ordained ministry, and that more work was needed. ii) Same Sex Marriage : Consultation has taken place regarding Government legislation, but the results are not yet known.

**Pastoral Concerns:** Prayers were asked for the following who are going through a difficult time at the moment: Rev. John Jones's wife, Gwen ,who had an emergency operation and is now recovering at home, Sue and Colin Lawson,, whose daughter Kathryn is still very poorly in hospital in Cardiff, Jean Powell who had a short spell in hospital, Doreen Yorke who suffered a stroke whilst at a service in church and Ian and Janet Campbell .

Rev. Alf Austin informed the Meeting that Bronwen Hull (a member of our Brunswick Church) has passed away and thanks and prayers were said for her ministry over many years.

**Circuit Invitation Committee:** An Invitation Committee made up of representatives of all the churches was set up to oversee stationing matters. The first meeting of the committee will take place on Wednesday May 14th at 7.pm. at Sketty Methodist Church.

**Circuit Stewards:** Ian Campbell has stepped down from Circuit Stewardship, due to ill health. Rev. Long thanked Bob Alderdice for agreeing to become a Circuit Steward and he will be welcomed to this post at the Aldersgate Service at Brunswick on May 18th. Gwen Dumelow, who is due to stand down, has agreed to continue in office until a further appointment can be made.

**Finance:** Bernard Gwyther presented the Finance Report which was unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

**Local Preachers:** A report was received and circulated.

**Social Issues:** A report was received and circulated. It was noted that Nigel Cram would be giving a presentation regarding 'The Street Child World Cup' on Tuesday May 6th. Rev. Cram also gave out posters regarding 'Tools with a Mission' and leaflets re- a 'Quiz Night' at Morriston.

**Safeguarding:** No report was available, but Rev. Long urged all churches to keep policies up to date regarding this issue.

**MWiB :** There was no report, but it was noted that there would be an Easter Offering Service at Sketty Methodist Church on June 15th.

**Methodist Homes:** There was no report but it was noted that 'Methodist Homes Sunday' would be 8th June (Pentecost).

**Sketty/Bethel URC:** A report was given by Rev. Leslie Noon regarding the proposed Local Ecumenical Partnership (L.E.P.) between Sketty Methodist Church and Bethel URC. Negotiations are on-going regarding finance and ministry, but formal agreement should be reached within the next few months when the proposal will be presented to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

**Mission:**

i) Circuit Project - Fund raising for Water Aid is currently doing well and thanks were expressed by Rev. Long for the money raised so far.

ii) City Centre Ministry : A report was received and circulated to the Meeting and it was noted that the Hill Church, which has started using the premises at Brunswick on Sunday afternoons, have settled in well and are pleased with the facilities.

iii) Outreach Group : A report was received and circulated. Quentin Hawkins 'floated' the idea of a party which could be held on the Sunday after Easter to celebrate the Resurrection. He also encouraged the meeting to buy Real Easter Eggs and also to **invite** and **encourage** people to attend church services.

iv) Night Shelter: Rev. Long thanked all fifty volunteers from the Methodist Circuit, who have been involved in this very successful project, which closes at the end of March, and added that it was pleasing to see so many churches from different denominations working together. He reported that many of the guests have benefited from this outreach and most have now been found permanent accommodation.

v) Connect : The Connect Magazine is now available and thanks were again accorded to Myra Maddock for all her hard work and also to all contributors.

vi) Ty Croeso & Foodbank: A report was received and circulated to the Meeting. Rev. Pam Cram amended her report to read: *Assemblies of God not Elim*. She also added that :

- a) Cafe Church would be held once a quarter.
- b) Children's activities were being organized.
- c) Ty Croeso would be a distribution source for 'Book Night' (18 copies of 6 different books would be available to hand out).
- d) Alan Cram said that both he and Martin Gregson are available to anyone who requires confidential advice on personal money management.

vii) Rev. Howard Long advised the Meeting that items of interest can be added to the website through Selina Taylor.

### **Property:**

i) Schemes - 1) Morriston: Heather Coleman reported that renovations and repair work are now nearing completion and that regular activities are planned . e.g. Coffee mornings, book readings, Quiz Night.

2) Capel y Nant: A report was received and circulated regarding rebuilding work/improvements to the church. A request was made to the Meeting for a contribution of 10% ( £1000) towards the cost. This was unanimously agreed.

ii) Manses: All are currently in good order, although some repair work has been necessitated due to adverse weather conditions.

iii) Quinquennials : All churches are up to date at the moment, but Pitton will require an inspection during the summer of 2014.

**Brunswick:** A presentation was given by Huw Davies regarding the proposed use of a room at Brunswick Methodist Church for a Drop-in Centre - (Ogof Adullum).

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm. with the blessing.

**Date of next meeting is 19th June 2014 at Horton Methodist Church at 7.30 pm**

### Dates for your Diary:

*Monday April 7th : Quiz Night at Morriston M.C. at 7 pm*

*Friday May 16th: Humbrella Choir concert at Brunswick M.C. at 7.30.pm*

*Sunday May 18th: ~Aldersgate Service at Brunswick M.C.6.30.pm*

*Saturday 14th June: Open Day at Rev. Gill Evans (Middleton) Coffee/Lunch/ Afternoon Tea.*

*Sunday 15th June: Easter Offering Service at Sketty 6.30 pm.*