

Minutes of Swansea & Gower Circuit Meeting
held on 19th June 2014 at 7.30 pm
at Horton Methodist Church

Devotions: Opening devotions were led by Heather Coleman.

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair, 36 members and 2 visitors from Bethel URC - (Denis Earp & Pat Davies).

Apologies: Ruth Painter, Pam Evans, Sandra Pengelly, Rev. Andrew Walker, Carolyn Jenkins, Patrick Jenkins, Peter Scott, Vi Soo, Elizabeth Davies, Ian Campbell & Janet Campbell.

Minutes & Matters Arising: The Minutes of the previous meeting held in March 2014 were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record with one correction : Mission Vi) (d) Alan Cram and Martin Gregson wished to point out that they cannot give confidential advice on personal money matters but are available to give talks or training to groups if required.

Secretary's Notices: The secretary requested that Members submit their reports a week before the next meeting and also, those who have computers, to please bring agenda and reports to the Meeting as the hard copies are for those without internet access.

Pastoral Concerns: Prayers were asked for the following people who are going through a difficult time at the moment: Peter McNiven (the husband of Rev. Betty McNiven), Ian Campbell, Doreen Yorke, Sue Whitelock who is poorly and in hospital, Michael & Eleanor Thomas, whose mother passed away recently and Kathryn Lawson, who continues to make progress, although still in hospital. Prayers were also asked for Averil Waugh whose husband, Rev. Ian Waugh, (Superintendent Minister of the Llanelli & Carmarthen Circuit), passed away last week. It was agreed that a card of condolence should be sent to Averil and the family. Congratulations to Pam & Alan Cram, on the birth of their granddaughter and to Austin and Julie Bradley on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Invitation Committee: The work of the Committee and consultations are on-going and a report/recommendation will be made to the next Circuit Meeting.

New Circuit Stewards: Martin Gregson was welcomed as a new Circuit Steward and will take up office from 1st September 2014.

Synod Lay Representatives: In addition to three Circuit Stewards (Bernard Gwyther, Heather Coleman & Derek Norton) Sybil Smith (Brunswick), Brian & Elaine Rees (Penlan) and Huw Davies (Brunswick) will attend the Synod as Lay Representatives at Newtown on Saturday, September 13th 2014.

Charity Commission: The report to the Charities Commission was submitted and accepted. Thanks were accorded to Gwen Dumelow and Bernard Gwyther.

Finance inc. Budget 2014/15: Bernard Gwyther gave a detailed report which was unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated with one amendment: the Para-Olympic Games are to be held in Swansea this year (2014).

Social Issues: A report was received and circulated. Rev. Pam Cram drew attention to the following: 1) Modern Slavery Report and the possibility of a training course (to be discussed by the Mission Committee). 2) MRDF has changed its name to 'All We Can'. 3) Harvest Appeal: Churches encouraged to send out invitations to services.

4) Tools with a Mission: Items can be taken to Morryston Church on Tuesday 22nd July and Thursday 24th July. These will be collected on July 26th.

Safeguarding: No report was received but it was noted that Jean Lang (Mumbles) has now been appointed the Southern Safeguarding Officer for Wales Synod. We wish her well in her new post. For those who have not already undergone training, a new Module A Training Session will take place on 21st October 2014.

MWIB: A report was received and circulated. Janet Neilson expressed her delight that the sum raised this year for the Easter Offering was £2256.69, thereby exceeding £2000 for the first time.

Methodist Homes: A report was received and circulated.

Sketty/Bethel URC: A report was received and circulated and a 'sung' presentation made to the meeting by members of both churches, seeking the approval of the meeting for the proposed L.E.P. which was carried unanimously.

Mission:

i) Circuit Project- 2013/14- Water Aid: Funds received so far total £3171.

ii) Circuit Project 2014/15: A report was received and circulated and a proposal to support the Amelia Farm Trust as the 2014/15 Circuit Project was unanimously accepted by the Meeting. It was noted that volunteer help is still needed at the Amelia Farm. Deacon Lorraine Brown will speak at the Mission Service in October.

iii) City Centre Ministry - Brunswick.: A report was received and circulated.

iv) Ogof Adullum Project: Preparations regarding facilities and training are on-going and the proposed 'Drop-in Centre' is due to open from 5pm to 9 pm three

evenings a week from October.

v) Outreach Group: A report was received and circulated. It was noted that the Group considered it important that leaflets/invitations be circulated re- important dates in the Church year. (i.e. Harvest/Back to Church Sunday/Christmas/ Easter)

vi) Street Pastors: Win Hawkins gave a brief report outlining the duties of Street Pastors and an insight into the achievements over the past year. More Street pastors are needed. Posters are available for each church, to encourage members to train for this worthwhile outreach. The next training session begins in September. Congratulations to Quentin Hawkins for completing his Street Pastor training. Finally, Street Pastors are holding a celebratory service at the Waterfront Church on 14th July. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Win Hawkins as numbers are required for catering purposes.

vii) Connect: The Connect Magazine was available to distribute to all churches. Thanks were given to Myra Maddock for her continuing hard work on this interesting publication.

viii) Ty Croeso & Foodbank: Items required in addition to those regularly received are as follows: UHT milk, fruit juices (not needing refrigeration)/ sugar/ tinned steamed puddings. For more information see on-line 'Faith in Food Banks'

ix) Website: Selina Taylor is organising a training meeting at Sketty Methodist Church for one representative per church on July 29th.

x) 2014 IPC Athletics European Championships 18-23rd August: See **Connect Magazine** for more details.

Property:

i) Schedules: Rev. Howard Long reported that the Circuit had been commended by the Synod property Secretary for completing and submitting property schedules on time. The property checklists have now been distributed. These will form part of the property schedule returns for 2014.

ii) Schemes: a) Morrison An excellent result was achieved at the Spring Fayre and Plant Sale on 31st May, raising £709. Thanks to all who supported the event. Building work and refurbishment are continuing with some minor problems being dealt with. However, more major work cannot be achieved until enough money has been raised by fundraising and grants.

b) Capel y Nant. Thanks were given to Circuit and Synod for money given towards refurbishment / building work. Final paperwork is in hand.

iii) Manses: Derek Norton (Circuit Steward) reported that three major items of expenditure were required at this time: 1) New roof (Sketty Manse) 2 & 3) Old/outdated kitchens at Worcester Drive and Linkside Drive Manses.

Therefore, a request was made for £20,000 to be drawn down from the Model Trust Fund to cover the cost of these works. Bernard Gwyther (Treasurer) supported the request and it was carried unanimously by the Meeting.

iv) Quinquennials: All are up to date at the moment, but the cycle begins again later this year with Brunswick, Pitton and Morriston.

The Blessing; The Meeting closed at 9 pm with the Blessing.

Date of next Meeting: 4th September 2014 at Murton Methodist Church.

Dates for your diaries:

September 27th at Penclawdd Community Hall : Ruby Anniversary celebration of Alan and Pam Cram. More details to follow.

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