

Minutes of the Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting - Morriston Thursday 15th September 2016 – 7.30 pm

Devotions: Led by Rev. Andrew Walker.

Present: Rev. Howard Long in the Chair and 30 members present plus two guests: Huw Davies and Nancy Owens.

Apologies: Selina Taylor, Alice Rutter, Kath Jones, Geoff Noon, Gwen Dumelow, Hildergarde Roberts, Ken Allison, Jane Closs, Dianne Price, Mike Price, Ruth Painter, Violet Soo, Elaine Rees, David Boakes, Owain Davies, Jeff Coleman.

Minutes & Matters Arising: The Minutes of the previous meeting held at Reynoldston on June 9th 2016, were signed by Rev. Howard Long as a true and accurate record.

A well attended Accreditation Service was held at Mumbles Methodist Church for Caroline Buckler.

A service was held at Clydach to mark the retirement of Rev. Pam Cram. Pam is now a Supernumerary Minister. Rev. Leslie Noon will take over duties at Clydach and Rev. Long will take over duties at Penlan.

Linda Woollacott who is a Supernumerary Minister has recently moved to Penllergaer.

Pastoral Concerns: Prayers were said for the families of the late Enid Ponsford (Sketty), Freda Cooke (Wesley) and Jim Hudson (Brunswick).

Circuit Stewards: Rev. Long informed the Meeting that Derek Norton was stepping down as a Circuit Steward after eight years service. Many thanks were accorded to Derek for all his hard work. Mike Price (Murton) and Ken Allison (Mumbles) were welcomed as new Circuit Stewards. Rev. Long also informed the Meeting that Diane Norton was stepping down as Circuit Secretary and that Nancy Owens of Wesley would take over the secretarial duties. He thanked Diane for her service.

Charity Commission – Annual Report: This report has been deferred until the December Circuit Meeting.

Finance: Martin Gregson circulated and presented draft reports to the Meeting .

Penlan: A report was received and circulated.

Ogof Adullam Project Coordinator & Assistant Post: Rev. Long was pleased to inform the Meeting that a grant for £50,000 has been received from the Connexion and a further £25,000 from Synod to finance (over 5 years) the employment of two part-time posts.(See article in the Methodist Recorder – Aug. 26th) Heather Coleman added that the appointments could be made in early November. Rev. Long thanked Heather for all her hard work in acquiring the grants.

Safeguarding: Lynne Taylor gave a brief verbal report. Training material is not available yet so training has been delayed until January 2017. Approximately 150 people, including those new to post and those requiring 'refresher training' will be involved.

Most Church Safeguarding Audits have been completed, but those outstanding need to be completed by the next Church Council Meeting.

Rev. Long informed the Meeting that Rev. Noon and Pat Davies are in the process of becoming Safeguarding Trainers.

MWinB Janet Neilson said that there was nothing to report at present.

Local Preachers: A report was received and circulated and it was noted that Jeff Coleman would be receiving a 40 Years Preaching Certificate at the Circuit Mission Service on the 9th October.

Property: Rev. Long introduced Keith Morris (Uniting Church Sketty) as the new Circuit Property Secretary, who will be responsible for coordinating the Property Team.

- 1) Property Team: The property team comprising property stewards from all churches will meet on **Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 11 a.m. at Wesley.**
- 2) Scheme – Wesley: Elaine Davies reported that the refurbishment/ building work was now complete and that they were just awaiting the final invoice. All church groups (including 'Lite- Bites' etc) have now recommenced. Elaine thanked everyone for their support for this project and special thanks to Rev. Howard Long for his leadership and guidance.
- 3) Manses: Report received and circulated.
- 4) Quinquennials: Sketty and Wesley churches are scheduled for the autumn and manse inspections at Worcester Drive, Channel View and Sketty Park Road are to be arranged.

Mission:

- 1) Circuit Project – ZRJ Trust: See attached report.
- 2) Night Shelter: Rev. Leslie Noon will be proposing to Swansea Hope that Uniting Church Sketty be a venue for January 2017. Further details to follow.
- 3) Mission Service – Sunday October 9th at Penlan at 6. p.m. when the speaker will be Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley. See attached for more details.
- 4) Ogof Adullam: Rev. Long thanked Huw and Cerys Davies for their hard work. Huw gave a brief report on the current situation regarding training for volunteers and announced that, following the summer break, the drop-in would re-open on Monday 19th September. He also shared, with the Meeting, two letters from former 'guests' expressing their deep appreciation for all the help and support they have received.

The Ogof Adullam project has been chosen by the Fundraising / Engagement Team at Methodist Church House in London to feature in the Advent resource material focusing on Mission in Britain. (See Connect Magazine and Methodist Recorder dated August 26th 2016)

- 5) Connect : Once again, thanks were accorded to Myra Maddock for editing and producing the magazine.

- 6) Methodist Homes for the Aged. : Sandra Pengelly asked that cheques /gift aid envelopes from MHA Sunday collections be forwarded to her. The autumn edition of 'Heart & Soul' magazine is now available and leaflets advertising 'Older People's Day' during the weekend of 1st - 2nd October are also available.

TMCP – (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) – A film to launch the new TMCP website was shown to the Meeting, but due to the poor sound quality, it was suggested that it would be better viewed 'on line' and Rev. Long offered to email a link to facilitate access. **(Link Attached)**

There being no further business, the Meeting ended at 8. 55 p.m. with the sharing of The Grace.

Forthcoming Events:

*An evening with Garth Hewitt at Uniting Church Sketty on November 12th at 7.30p.m,
Castle Square: A service to be held on Wednesday 14th December.*

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 08.12.16 at Brunswick at 7.30 p.m.

***Future Meetings : Monday 20.03.17 at Murton
Thursday 15.06.17 at Horton.***

