

**Minutes of the Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting
Held at Murton Methodist Church
Monday 20th March 2017**

Devotions: Led by Rev. A. Walker

Present: Revd H. Long in the Chair and 44 members

Apologies: Peter Scott, Violet Soo, Laurie Higgs, Les Want, Pam Ticker, Pat Davies, Elaine Rees

Circuit Meeting Membership: A list of attendees to the Circuit Meeting and registered with the Charity Commission has been circulated. It was noted that Jean Powell's name will come off the list Martin Gregson will be listed as Circuit Treasurer. Revd Long asked for Nancy Owens to be informed of any changes so that she can update the trustees list with Charity Commission.

Revd Long welcomed David and Susan Jones, Caroline Bucker and Susan Fardoe to the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 8th December 2016 were agreed and signed by Revd H. Long as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising: Revd Long has experienced problems accessing information from Rev John Howard in Israel/Palestine. He will contact Rev. Howard again and hopefully include a report in the next issue of Connect

Pastoral Concerns: Revd Long led the meeting in prayers for Bernard Gwyther, Clive Jones, Rev Peter Dolling and Maggie Crawford whose husband passed away recently. The death was recorded of Betty Riley who has a founder member of our Penlan church.

Congratulations were given to Austin Bradley of Clydach on his 90th birthday and Ken and Sheila Singleton on their Golden wedding anniversary.

Rev. Betty McNiven has informed Rev Long that she has decided to attend the Quaker Meeting House and will not be taking anymore preaching appointments in the circuit. The meeting agreed to send a card thanking Rev. McNiven for all she had done in the Circuit especially Brunswick.

Synod Matters: Jean Lang, the Synod Safeguarding Officer – South is retiring on 31st March 2017. The meeting agreed to send a card to Jean.

Cerys Davies reported on the Big Day Out on 4th February when over 50 young people from Methodist Churches in South Wales visited Swansea. An article on the day is featured in the new Connect magazine.

Stationing Invitation Committee: In 2018 three ministerial appointments come to an end. The meeting agreed the formation of an invitation committee to oversee station matters. The committee will be made up by the following members
Chairman – Rev. Andrew Walker, Secretary – Nancy Owens, Circuit Stewards – Heather Coleman Ken Allison and Martin Gregson. Members representing the

Circuit Churches – Geoff Maddock, Selina Taylor, Hildegard Roberts, Kath Jones, Blodwen O'Connor, Alan Jones or Jan Chaplain, Doug Dendle, Jane Gronow, Brin Jones.

Finance: The Balance Sheet and Income/Expenditure account for the second quarter were circulated and presented to the meeting. The meeting to discuss the budget for 2017/18 will take place on 4th April 2017 at our Sketty church.

Safeguarding: Refresher training is taking place at Sketty and training sessions are being planned for Mumbles and Wesley. The circuit Safeguarding Policy for 2017 was reviewed and agreed by the meeting.

MWiB – Easter Offering: Easter Offering envelopes have been distributed to all churches in the Circuit. Easter offering cheques to be taken to the Easter Offering service or passed to Martin Gregson. The Easter offering service will at Penlan on Sunday 21st May.

Methodist Homes: Sandra Pengelly distributed the latest Hearts and Home magazine. 11th June is Methodist Homes for the Aged Sunday.

Action for Children: A report on the work of Action For Children in Wales was distributed which included news of the rebranding of the charity, Methodist Partnership and how church members can support this important work. Gill Worrall reminded the meeting of the different Action for Children projects in Swansea. 9th July will be Action for Children Sunday.

Local Preachers: A report from the local preachers was circulated. Alam Cram thanked Cynthia Mumford for preparing the minutes of the local preachers meeting.

Property:

Brunswick: Following a request from Revd Long R. Fisher has carried out a report on Brunswick. It has now become clearly evident that the church has sustained timber decay over the years. Remedial costs are likely to be £200k plus. Dry rot has gone into the cottage next door and will spread eventually to the whole church. The church council is meeting regularly and considering the following points:

1. The tenancy of the cottage.
2. Building and redevelopment
3. The congregation – where will they worship when they leave the building
4. Ogof Adullum and its future work

Revd Long stated that our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Siperire and all the members of Brunswick.

Quinquennials: Wesley will be completed next month. Revd Long stressed the importance for church trustees to act on the Quinquennial recommendations.

Health and Safety Policy: The Circuit Property Committee met and have drawn up a Health and Safety Policy to be adopted by all Church Councils throughout the circuit.

Mission:

1. Circuit Project – ZrJ Trust: Win Hawkins reported that the AGM was held on 18th January 2017. Existing trustees were re-elected and committee members reappointed. In the financial year ending November 2016 the charity received an income of £11,898. ZrJ is very grateful to everyone who gave so generously and for their support throughout the year. In 2016 £6,000 was spent on two years school fees for 30 pupils and the provision of clothing and stationery for the children and young people being supported. The current balance is approx £17.5k. Guidance is being sought from the Charity Commission regarding charities which fund activities abroad.
2. Night Shelter: Rev. Noon reported that the night shelter was held at Uniting Church Sketty throughout January with volunteers from Sketty and some from other Circuit churches. The Night Shelter is continuing throughout March with Hill Church taking over Saturday nights from UC Sketty. Revd Long thanked UC Sketty for hosting the shelter.
3. Ogof Adullum: Cerys Davies said there was an excellent relationship with the night shelter co-ordinator. There has been an increase in the number of guests which is now 40+. Due to the dry rot problem the store room is being cleared out and they are no longer able to take donations of clothing. The preference is to stay in Brunswick for as long as possible. A number of volunteers have carried out a sponsored walk to raise funds. The number of volunteers has dropped. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Cerys.
4. Penlan: Penlan is a church with a lot of secular activities during the week but no congregation. Monthly evening services have been held with the support of Wesley and Christwell URC. These have included different types of worship. Christianity Explored was held in January and February and two people who attended that course now attend Sunday evenings. There is a large percentage of young single parent families in Penlan and Messy Church is being considered but support is needed to do this effectively. If anyone would like to help please see Ken Allison.
5. Connect: The new Connect magazine is now available. Revd Long thanked Myra Maddock for producing the magazine
6. Missions Committee: Following a ballot the meeting voted that The Circuit Project for 2017/2018 will be Ogof Adullum.

Any other business

Janet Nielson mentioned the lack of organists and pianists throughout the Circuit. She asked if the Circuit staff could discuss this and share accompanists throughout the Circuit. Rev Long agreed to look into it.

Gower Show

Rev. Walker gave a short presentation of the Gower Show which will be held on Sunday 6th August. He appealed for helpers to assist on the day. A Methodist Church presence is needed along with the Church of Wales.

Murton are skyping their church services for those people unable to attend. If any church would like advice on this please see Rev Walker.

Revd Long thanked Murton for their hospitality.

The next Circuit meeting will be on 15th June at Horton.

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm with the grace.