

**Minutes of the Swansea and Gower Circuit Meeting  
Held at Horton Methodist Church  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

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

**Present:** Revd H. Long in the Chair, 36 members and 1 guest Grace Coleman

**Apologies:** Rev Andrew Walker, Rev Pam Cram, Maureen Estcourt, Brin Jones, Di Norton, Violet Soo, Jane Closs, Pat Davies, Irene and Doug Dendle, Selina Taylor, Peter Scott, Ruth Painter.

**Circuit Meeting Membership:** It was noted that Jan Chaplin and Pam Tucker should not be on the list of Trustees. Revd Long asked for any changes to be notified to Nancy Owens so that the Trustees List can be kept up to date.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed and signed by Revd H. Long as a true and accurate record with one amendment Carol Fardoe not Susan.

**Matters Arising:** The situation regarding organists throughout the Circuit is in hand.

**Pastoral Concerns:** Clive Jones is in hospital. The meeting noted with sadness the recent passing of Bernard Gwyther and Rev Peter Dolling. Revd Long shared with the meeting the obituary for Rev Peter Dolling which he would be sending to Conference. Revd Long led the meeting in prayer.

**Synod Matters:** A policy meeting will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Finance:** The Balance Sheet and Income/Expenditure account up to 31 May 2017 were circulated and presented to the meeting. These were accepted unanimously by the meeting. The Independent Examiners Report has been signed by Gordon Down & Co. Ltd as approved accounts. Martin Gregson thanked Church Treasurers and Churches for agreeing the 2017-2018 Budget. Revd Long thanked Martin.

**Safeguarding:** Lynne Taylor reported that seven safeguarding training courses have taken place and 156 (87.2%) people have been trained. The total remaining to be trained is 21. The next training is planned for September onwards. All but 2 audits have been received. Revd Long thanked Lynne for taking on the administration side of safeguarding. Thanks were also expressed to Pat Davies and Rev Leslie Noon.

**MWIB:** A report on Methodist Women in Britain was circulated. Revd Long thanked Janet Nielson for all her work in organising the Easter Offering Service.

**Methodist Homes:** Sandra Pengelly thanked everyone who contributed to raising £725 plus £47.25 in gift aid last year. Any money raised for Methodist Homes to be forwarded to Sandra Pengelly and only the envelopes that have been gift aided.

**Action for Children:** Gill Worrall reported that 16<sup>th</sup> July is Action for Children Sunday and there will be envelopes available in churches. 29<sup>th</sup> July a street collection will take place at the bottom of Newton Road. Helen Jones, the deputy Church Manager at Mumbles, is running a half marathon for Swansea SAIL. Sponsor forms are available.

**Local Preachers:** Cerys Davies and Sue Raad are on trial. Sarah Lloyd has received a Note to Preach and will commencing training as soon as possible. Win Hawkins will be her mentor.

### **Property:**

Brunswick: K. Allison reported that the Surveyor has stated that the building can continue to be used as long as regular inspections are carried out. The building may have to be vacated at the end of the year and will have to be demolished. A briefing note has been prepared for a multi use building with a worship area and meeting room. The remainder of the plot will be used for housing. The housing part of the scheme will fund the whole project. Charles Palmer, Secretary to Connexion visited on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and is very supportive of the idea. He believes that Brunswick could be a beacon. We have been in touch with TMCP who need a qualified surveyors report. R. Fisher has been asked to provide this by the end of June. A briefing document has been send to 4 housing authorities, 2 have expressed interest and we have been referred to Housing Justice Cymru (a Christian charity involved with housing) Pobl (Gwalia) and Family Housing. The tenant is in the process of being rehoused. The dry rot specialist will then treat the property which will be part of the redevelopment project.

Quinquennials: The Circuit is carrying out quinquennials.

Health and Safety: The Health and Safety Policy should be accepted and in place in all churches now.

### **Mission:**

ZRJ Trust: Win Hawkins reported that at the end of April 2017 the charity had a balance of just under £19k plus £4k held by Circuit which means the orphans can be supported for several more years. There is great concern about the situation in Zimbabwe. The food and clothing taken to the school last Autumn are still locked away awaiting final authorisation to distribute to the families. Rev. Mugadzaweta will be in Zimbabwe in August for a Methodist Conference and while there will spend some time trying to sort out the bureaucracy which is denying the children and young people the resources that they need and for which we have been raising funds. The Trustees are organising a fund raising supper and Bible quiz at Murton on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Ogof Adullam: Huw Davies thanked everyone in the Circuit for their support. They are currently looking for volunteers to train in September. Training involves substance misuse, enabling, safeguarding, mental health training and autism. There are 35-45 guests each evening and they all receive a hot meal. Clothing donations are not being accepted at the moment for health and safety reasons.

Ogof Adullam are hoping to stay at Brunswick as long as possible. They will be closed for the whole of August. A number of volunteers have done sponsored walks for the charity. Ogof Adullam is now getting recognised by the homeless agencies in Swansea. Recovery housing and support is much needed. A Sofa Fellowship is currently being run on Sundays 2-4pm.

Penlan: At the moment there are no Sunday morning services on the Plan for Penlan. To abide by the lease with Swansea Council one evening service is being held a month. The Rev Carl Roberts would like to use Penlan on Sunday mornings. He works with the Prison Fellowship and Ogof Adullam. Penlan Church Council are meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June to approve the licence. Revd Long was hopeful that Sunday morning services will soon be held in Penlan. Revd Long thanked Blodwen O'Connor for all she does at Penlan. 19 employees of Price Waterhouse Cooper visited Penlan to carry out some gardening in support of Action for Children. Revd Long and others have also been gardening.

Connect: New Connect magazines are now available. These are in colour. Revd Long thanked Myra Maddocks for producing the magazine. In the centre is a report from John Howard in Palestine.

Pioneer Ministry: A video explaining Pioneer Ministry was shown. Huw Davies will be trained as a Pioneer and will be the first to be registered in Wales. Huw explained that guests are more scared to go to church than we are to visit Ogof Adullam. Revd Long wished Huw well with the training.

**Invitations Report:** Heather Coleman reported we are in the middle of the consultation process for Red Howard Long, Re Lesley Noon and Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta. They have all asked to be considered for re-invitation. Heather explained the guidelines which have to be followed and asked everyone to remember in their prayers the staff going through this process at this time.

### **Any other Business:**

The Circuit Missions Service will be on 8th October at Brunswick and the theme will be Ogof Adullam, the Circuit Project for 2017-2018. The preacher at 6pm will be Rev Carl Roberts.

Rev Gill Evans will be holding her open day at Riverside on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Revd Long thanked Horton for their hospitality.

The next Circuit meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> September at Penlan.

The meeting closed with the Grace.