

## **CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP**

### **STAFF**

Revd Howard Long  
Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta  
Rev. Leslie Noon  
Rev. Andrew Walker  
Rev. Pam Cram  
Rev. Gillian Evans  
Rev. Malcolm Guest  
Rev. John Jones

### **LAY WORKERS**

Mr Huw Davies – Ogof Adullum  
Mrs Cerys Davies – Ogof Adullum

### **CIRCUIT ROLES**

Mrs Nancy Owens – Circuit Meeting Secretary  
Mrs Beverley Poiner – Education and Youth  
Mr Alan Cram – Local Preachers Secretary  
Mrs Heather Coleman – Circuit Steward  
Mr Jeff Coleman – Circuit Archivist  
Miss Janet Nielson – Circuit MWiB representative  
Mrs Pat Davies – Circuit Safeguarding  
Mrs Win Hawkins – Circuit Project Chair  
Mrs Sandra Pengelly – Circuit MHA representative  
Mrs Sybil Smith – Circuit Mission representative  
Mrs Lynne Taylor – Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Admin)  
Mrs Gill Worrall – Circuit Action for Children representative  
Mr Ken Allison – Circuit Steward  
Mr Andrew Phillips – Circuit Property  
Mr Keith Morris – Circuit Property  
Mr Martin Gregson – Circuit Treasurer

### **CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs Elaine Davies  
Mrs Maureen Estcourt  
Mr Brinley Jones  
Mr Owain Davies  
Mrs Ruth Painter  
Mrs Marjorie Probert  
Mrs Anne Gregson  
Mr Ian Campbell  
Mrs Jane Closs  
Mrs Hildegarde Roberts  
Mr Peter Scott  
Mrs Irene Dendle  
Mr Douglas Dendle  
Mrs Elaine Rees  
Mr Alan Jones

Mr Geoff Noon  
Mrs Jan Chaplin  
Mr Laurie Higgs  
Mr Les Want  
Mrs Sandra Cuthill  
Mrs Pam Tucker  
Miss Violet Soo  
Mrs Kath Jones  
Mr Malcolm Grimley  
Mrs Carol Fardoe  
Mr Quentin Hawkins  
Mrs Carolyn Jenkins  
Mr Patrick Jenkins  
Miss Selina Taylor  
Mrs Di Norton  
Mrs Ann Beynon  
Mr David Boakes  
Mrs Caroline Buckler  
Mr David Jones  
Mrs Susan Jones  
Mrs Blodwen O'Connor  
Mrs Pat Davies

REPORT OF CIRCUIT MISSIONS COMMITTEE TO CIRCUIT MEETING 15-6-17.

Circuit Missions Sunday will be on 8-10-17, at Brunswick, when the the theme will be OGOF ADULLAM, as voted to be the Circuit Project for 2017-2018.

The Project will be introduced in the afternoon meeting at 4pm by Huw and Cerys Davies, Pam Cram and Janet Neilson are arranging an interactive and creative session. This will be followed by our usual bring and share tea, there will be an evening service at 6pm. Preacher will be Carl Roberts, with possible Testimonies from Ogof Adullam members.  
Sybil Smith ,Secretary

## **Report from the Preachers' Meeting 05/06/17 Pitton**

1. 21 Ministers and Preachers present
2. Various members and friends who are suffering ill-health were remembered, and the death of Rev Peter Dolling recorded
3. Preachers "On Trial": Cerys Davies and Sue Raad received favourable reports on services taken; both progressing well with assignments. A request for "A Note to Preach" was received by Sarah Lloyd and after listening to her faith journey, the meeting unanimously agreed
4. Various concerns and issues from around the Circuit were recorded, including reports on the dry rot situation at Brunswick; the situation at Penlan; the shortage of organists/pianists--Joan West would be retiring (again!) at Wesley Brynhyfryd: possibility of investing in music CDs discussed; 40-50 guests at Ogof Adullam, where hot meal now provided—need for more volunteers
5. Rev Andy walker reported that the re-invitation process for Revs Howard Long, Siperire Mugadzaweta and Leslie Noon has commenced.
6. Rev Leslie reported that Safeguarding retraining continues.
7. Monthly LP study group continues to meet, plus further sessions on Ezekiel (led by Rev Dr Noel Davies)
8. All Ministers and Preachers asked to follow Connexional request to lead worship on letter of James throughout June
9. Rev Leslie concluded the meeting by leading a discussion on the forthcoming general election.

Alan Cram

## CIRCUIT MEETING JUNE 2017

### METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we held a very successful Circuit Service to dedicate our Easter Offering contributions.

This year the theme was "Shine Like Stars". It was one of the best services MWiB has produced. We thank Rev Linda Woolacott for her talk, delivered with good humour, but also a serious message.

During the service we were asked to write, on stars, the names of people who were, or who had been, shining stars in our lives, or write a short prayer for a situation needing the light of Christ or make a pledge – an action we would do to take the shining light of Christ into our communities.

People who were listed as being shining lights in our lives included our parents and families, Rev Frank Topping, Rev Mother Mary Agnes, Sister Sheila Parnell, Marjorie Goodwin, Harry Dangerfield, Dorothy Ridgewell and Gillian James.

Prayers included – peace throughout the world, help for the starving in Africa, improvement in relations between Christians and Muslims and that more people may come to know the life-transforming love of Christ Jesus

An action taking the shining light of Christ into our community is already evident with the Ogof Adullum project.

The amount collected this year, which does not include gift aid, was £2,578.77, a small increase of £75.69 on last year.

I would like to thank all those who contributed by giving money, all those who attended the service and participated in worship. Thanks to those who provided and served refreshments, and to all church treasurers and the circuit treasurer who dealt with the finance.

### AMELIA TRUST FARM

For all those interested in the work of the farm, they had a successful Spring Fair on 31<sup>st</sup> May. There have been many improvements at the farm, including new signage, more on-going activities, such as the gnome and fairy trail. They now have a donkey sanctuary, with four donkeys, and more outdoor seating for picnics and BBQs. The youngsters who work there have developed a "Logs for Sale" business, as well as selling eggs and seasonal fruit and vegetables.

Janet M Neilson (E mail iverbrustad1812@btinternet.com)

God's love in Jesus Christ for all people is good news for the world, but the reality is that fewer and fewer people in our communities have any connection with the Christian faith or Church. Some of them may become disciples through the faithful mission of individual Christians and congregations: some of them probably won't.



Pioneer mission and ministry is a vital approach if we are to make disciples of Jesus among those who currently seem most distant.

Through its response to Mission Shaped Church (2004), the Fresh Expressions Initiative, VentureFX, the Fruitful Field project, and Fresh Expressions in the Mission of the Church, the Methodist Conference has regularly affirmed the need to identify, train, support and deploy pioneers to

engage in this task.

The VentureFX scheme, with 14 pioneers, has provided a valuable opportunity to gain experience and learn about pioneering in a Methodist context.

The Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network now offers the opportunity to create a pathway for pioneers, and a report proposing how this might happen has been approved by the Ministries Committee and endorsed by the Methodist Council and the Conference.

The vision is to form a team of pioneers across the Connexion who are well equipped and supported in this form of mission, comprising those already engaged in doing this and those who are being called to do so. In the spirit of pioneering the vision will develop and evolve organically over a period of time in the light of experience.

The report, **A Pathway for Pioneers in the Methodist Church** is a separate attachment

With appropriate central support and oversight the pathway will be focused on the 11 learning network regions, starting in September 2015, with pilot schemes taking place in 2 regions (Bristol and the Midlands & North East) during 2014/15. It is designed to support both lay and ordained pioneers and will consist of 6 major components:

1. A strategic approach to and overview of pioneering in churches, circuits and districts, with a Fresh Ways hub in every region.
2. Assisting individuals in the process of discerning a call to pioneering.
3. Forming communities of practice among practitioner pioneers for whom this is a primary focus of ministry.
4. Linking each pioneer with a coach who will support them in their formation and ministry.
5. Opportunity for formal learning using a tailor-made approach for each individual.
6. Developing a personal portfolio reflecting the pioneers' journey of formation, learning and experience.

## Methodist Pioneering Pathways - FAQs

### **What do you mean by the term 'pioneer'?**

We mean someone who, through innovative and contextual mission, is working among non-churched people to form new ecclesial communities (fresh expressions of church). This is likely to be happening in the communities where people are rather than on existing church premises (though not exclusively so) and will involve engaging in sensitive cross-cultural approaches to mission and evangelism. Many forms of exciting pioneering activity takes place throughout the Church, but this ministry has a specific focus.

### **Will there be some paid pioneer posts available?**

Currently there are no plans to provide central funding for pioneer posts; Methodist resources are presently quite thinly spread. Local circuits and districts are likely to create pioneer appointments for both lay and ordained people as they do now, using either existing resources such as advance funds, or else by releasing funds for pioneering through creative approaches to deploying ministry or by realising capital from property sales. Mostly these will be advertised through the usual channels and, for presbyters and deacons, pioneer opportunities will sometimes be highlighted in stationing profiles.

### **What are the advantages of participating in the pathway?**

The pathway is not compulsory for any pioneer, and not everyone may wish to be part of it. However, for many people it will help to make sense of and support their calling to be a pioneer in a Methodist setting. We hope that it will offer:

- A sense of belonging and being affirmed as a pioneer within the wider Methodist context
- The opportunity to engage with and be encouraged by a network of peers
- Opportunities for appropriate formal learning and personal development
- Sharing of experience and good practice
- Journeying with and being supported by a coach
- Access to resources and relevant information

Pioneers sometimes feel that they belong to two worlds, the church of which they are a part and the community in which they work, but don't necessarily feel at home in either. The pathway will have the potential to holding support pioneers in this place of tension and ambiguity.

### **Who is the pathway for and how can I be part of it?**

We intend that the pathway will be accessible to a wide range of people involved in pioneering mission and forming fresh expressions of church. The Fresh Ways hub and members of the regional network team will do their best to support all those who are engaging in innovative mission among

non-churched people. There will be resources, gatherings and advice which will be helpful. From September 2015 onwards there will be someone in each region to contact and who will be able to assist or point you in the right direction. For those for whom it is agreed that this is a primary focus of ministry, there will be the opportunity to be linked with a community of practice, a coach, and formal learning opportunities as appropriate. We want to try to ensure that support and encouragement is available to all, while giving appropriately focused attention to those for whom this is a primary focus of ministry. The pilot schemes will give us the opportunity to determine how this can best work out in practice.

### **Is the pathway accredited?**

Not necessarily. It is a means by which pioneer ministry can be recognised and affirmed but, rather than graduating after taking a course, instead a personal portfolio will reflect the stage of an individual's journey and formation. In relation to the formal learning opportunities, those who pursue some undergraduate or postgraduate study will of course have that study accredited. Other modules and courses may result in a certificate or diploma or may simply be audited (i.e. participation without engaging in formal assessment). The pathway will encourage a process of ongoing and life-long learning, rather than a course to be taken in order to gain a qualification.

### **Do I have to be a Methodist?**

The pathway is primarily intended to support Methodists who are engaged in innovative forms of mission. There may be aspects from which non-Methodists can benefit but our resources are limited and there are often alternative local support frameworks which might help others. In supporting those for whom pioneering is a primary focus of ministry, we will be asking that they are members of the Methodist Church.

### **What will a community of practice be like?**

It will be a peer-network of people who are practitioner pioneers. It will probably involve regular gathering together, mutual commitment and accountability, learning, prayer, sharing and encouragement. Within communities of practice a rhythm or rule of life may evolve. Within this community it will be possible for people to develop their capacity for theological reflection, especially in relation to the context in which they are working.

### **What will the role of the coach be?**

The coach will journey with the pioneer, helping them to develop in their discipleship and ministry. The coach will not be there to instruct or advise, but to ask the right questions and to help the pioneer to engage effectively with their context and in their understanding of what God has called them to do.

### **Will I need to be itinerant?**

For lay people, it is more likely that pioneers will already be working in a local context and the pathway will simply support them in what they are already doing, or help them to develop something there. However, the different elements of the pathway will help an individual to develop a personal portfolio which will be a reflection of their experience and learning should they feel that

God is calling them to work elsewhere. This would be helpful to lay people applying for pioneer appointments in a different place. Presbyters or deacons would naturally be committed to the discipline of itinerancy but, if they are on the move to a new appointment which they hope will have a pioneering dimension, the portfolio will supplement their stationing profile in conversation with those who have responsibility for their stationing.

**Can I candidate for ordained ministry as a pioneer?**

It is not currently possible to do this, and there are a number of issues which need still to be resolved before this can happen, but it is our hope that it will eventually be possible. Of course it is possible for candidates for ordained ministry to indicate a sense of call to pioneering, but there is limited capacity to address this in initial ministerial training and in initial stationing.

**Does this mean that other ministries are not valued?**

By no means. A great deal of pioneering mission is already taking place among ministers and lay people and is to be welcomed and supported. Our hope is that the pathway will support them in what they are already doing as well as encouraging many others to follow suit.