

The Methodist Church in the Isle of Man
Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held at St John's Methodist Church
Wednesday, 9th December 2015, at 7.30pm

Rev. Richard Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Rev. Graham Kent, Secretary to the Trustees of the Methodist Modern Art Collection, who attended with Tim Grass as an observer, then led worship which included the singing of the hymn 'Tell out my soul', a reading from Micah Ch. 4, a reflection on the message of Advent hope and prayers for those in need, thinking particularly for the Cumbria district and other areas affected by flooding.

The ministry of John Kennaugh was remembered.

Churches were requested to take the connexional appeal for flood relief into consideration when deciding where Christmas offerings should go.

Present were: Georgina Cowin, (Promenade), Hollie Johnston, (Promenade), Henry Gorry, (Sulby), Phyllis Jackson, (Sulby), John Harris, (Sandygate and Orrisdale), Chris Martin, (Bride), Lesley Bridson, (Trinity), David LePrevost, (Trinity), Mike Simm, (Agneash), Rev. Grace Easthope, Rev. Kath Corkish, Rev. Shirley Bench, Judy Matthews, (Circuit Steward), Frank Cowin, (Promenade), Christine Sugden, (Ramsey), John Craine, (Ramsey), Rev. Andrew Emison, Caroline Salmon, (Ramsey), Sue Montgomery, (Promenade), Jennifer Corrin, (Cooil), Joy Creer, (Cooil), Connie Collister, (Onchan), Eileen Mellows, (Onchan), Robin Turton, (Onchan), Howard Pilley, (Onchan), Tim Layhe, (Colby), Rev. Richard Hooton, Stephen Bradley, (St John's), Anne Hunter, (Onchan), Chris Lyon, (Union Mills), David Quayle, (Union Mills), Rina Curphey, (Castletown), Rosemary Cooil, (Port St Mary), Pat Costain, (Glen Maye), Paul Craker, (Glen Maye), Colin Clark, (Treasurer), Fiona Cracknell, (Laxey), Laura Ketteridge, (Administrator), Panda Dooley, (Lay Worker), Rev. Chris Belfield

Apologies were received from: Rev. David Shirliff, Dennis Grundy, Marilyn Cannell, Hilary Sewell, Carolyn LePrevost, Margaret Saddler, Brian Matthews, John Brown, Chris Wright, W.S. Gelling, Lily Chapman, Bruce Wallis, Helen Norton and David Gawne.

There was no lay representation from: Abbeylands, Baldrine, Ballabeg, Ballafesson, Ballagarey, Ballakilpheric, Barregarow, Crosby, Kerrowkeil, Kirk Michael, Peel, Port Erin, Pulrose and The Howe.

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 12th September 2015 at Peel Methodist Church

It was noted that the reference to a review of the terms and conditions of the letting of Park View in Item 10 should read: "there would be a report to the November Finance and Property meeting", (not September), and that in the list of those present, Caroline Salmon should be listed as a representative from Ramsey, (not Promenade).

Matters arising

It was noted that no-one had come forward to undertake the role of Disability Adviser, and that in the light of forthcoming legislation, this vacancy is becoming more of an issue and increasingly urgent. Churches were asked to give further consideration to finding a volunteer.

Colin Clark reported that Girish Agarwal does not wish to continue as Examiner of the Accounts, and he is seeking an alternative.

Administration

Letters of Greeting were requested for Calleen Cochrane, the Chairs of the Cumbria and Lancashire Districts, Peter Dale, Ken and Heather Elworthy, Dorothy Faragher, Joan Faragher, Irene and Jo Graham, Ella and Arthur Quilliam and Revs. Stephen and Rebecca Ingrouille

1. Appointments:

The post of Disability Adviser remains vacant.

2. Stationing update

Rev. Richard Hall spoke to the Report from Circuit invitation Committee confirming that Revs. Stephen and Rebecca Ingrouille had accepted a 1.5 ministry in a section that would be extended to include Laxey, Abbeylands and The Cooil for a period of 5 years from September 2016. Rev. Richard Hooton will be released from Abbeylands, will not assume pastoral oversight of The Cooil, but will assist Rev. Richard Hall in the Promenade and Trinity Section.

Laura Ketteridge expressed thanks to Invitation Committee

3. Finance and Property Matters

Nick Owen spoke to the minutes. He reported that the Ingrouilles would live in the Onchan Manse, that Rev. David Shirtliff would move to the Colby manse and that Rev. Richard Hall would move to the Devonshire Road manse. The opportunity would be taken to refurbish and update the Devonshire Road manse, particularly the interior and that £50,000 would be required to bring it up to standard, affirming that manses need to be up to standard so as not to discourage good ministers.

He proposed that, subject to an application to the Kelly Trustees, a budget of £50,000 should be agreed. Following discussion, Rev Shirley Bench proposed an amendment that an additional £15,000 be agreed, which was seconded by Frank Cowin. This was agreed with one against. Nick Owen's amended proposal, that a budget of a total of £65,000 be allocated was then seconded by Mike Simm. After some discussion the proposal was agreed with two against.

Nick reported that an offer of £240,000 had been received for the Pine Hill manse and proposed, (seconded Ann Hunter) that the offer be formally accepted. This was agreed. Thanks were expressed to the circuit stewards for their work.

With regard to Quinquennial Inspections, churches were reminded that they have 14 days to say whether they are dissatisfied with the report. Rev. Andrew Emison recommended that inspectors be accompanied, and this was reiterated by Mike Simm. Rosemary Cooil added that the inspector that undertakes inspections for the Anglican church appears to be very good, and will recommend contractors.

Churches were also reminded that electrical inspections should take place every five years, and Frank Cowin added that inspections of lightning conductors are also required.

A reassurance was given that the appointment of a 1.5 post to the Onchan section will have no adverse impact on the budget.

It was reported that the users of the Park View premises would not, for the time being, have their terms and conditions changed and that the provision would be looked at again when ministry in the west of the island is reviewed.

Colin Clark reported that the letting income from users of the Willaston premises is £5,000 p.a., and that this provides accommodation for the District Office. Nick Owen proposed that a budget of £4,000 be delegated to the Circuit Stewards, (seconded Rev. Richard Hooton), which was agreed.

Rev. Richard Hall reported that the area adjacent to Willaston is to be scheduled for redevelopment and that there is interest in the site. Douglas Council are keen to engage with other parties, and do not want to see the community facility and the work of the Live at Home scheme lost. The meeting gave permission and encouragement to explore possibilities and to look at collaboration with the council on future plans, which would ensure that office and community space is retained.

The meeting was informed that the Croit e Caley organ remains available, and Peter Jones, (the organ builder), has stated that it is an instrument worth preserving. The costs of removal, re-installation and renovation are not prohibitive and the members were encouraged to communicate this to anyone who might be interested.

4. Pulrose Update

In the absence of Rev. David Shirtliff, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

5. District Policy Committee Recommendations

It was reported that a 'Churches alive in Mann' celebration of what the churches are doing was scheduled for February 1st at Ballakermeen High School.

6. Lay Employment Committee Report

There were no new developments to report.

7. Leaders of Worship and Preaching Report

There was no report as the recent meeting had been cancelled because of the weather.

A reminder was given about the visit of Rev. Ruth Gee, past president of conference, on January 8th and 9th.

8. MWiB Report

Caroline Salmon gave a report highlighting particularly the resource packs 'Grow your own dementia-friendly church resource', and 'Shoreline conversations'. She gave a reminder about Community Action Grants, for which she has the forms. She spoke about the Swanwick MWiB conference from April 15th – 17th where the theme will be 'Finding our voice: Heritage, Gender and Story' and the keynote speaker will be the Vice-President of Conference, Dr. Jill Barber.

She also reminded the meeting about the 'Knit-in' on Tuesday 8th March, and the Easter Offering Service on May 5th at 7.30 pm when the theme will be 'Child Get Up'. (Cheques should be made out to the World Mission Fund and sent to Ann Craine at 6, Elm Bank, Glen Vine, IM4 4FF).

She also reported that Anne Browse, the Connexional President of MWiB will be visiting the Isle of Man for the weekend of October 1st – 2nd and that there are plans for an afternoon tea followed by a talk. Anne will be available as a preacher on the Sunday.

9. Sierra Leone Report

In the absence of members of group, Rev. Richard Hall gave further information about the appeal for funds for the AIDS clinic, and reported that Phil Craine is submitting an application to the Isle of Man Government for matched funding from the Overseas Aid Fund.

10. Youth and Children's Committee Report

There was nothing new to report.

11. Matters from The Connexion

Rev. Andrew Emison spoke about the forthcoming Equal Marriage consultation. He and Caroline Salmon had attended a facilitators training session at Cliff College. He reminded the meeting that the 2014 Conference had instituted a two-year period of reflection and that a decision was to be made about whether the Methodist Church should revisit the definition of marriage. He referred the meeting to the 1992 Conference statement on Marriage, Relationships and Family Life. He and Caroline will be organising two meetings where people will be encouraged to listen to each other and which will form the basis of a District response to inform a Conference decision about whether to have further consultation.

12. Future Events

(i) President's Visit

Rev. Richard Hall reported that discussions are ongoing about a missional event during the visit which will take place from March 23rd - 28th and that in 2017 there will be a visit from the Vice President, Rachel Lampard.

(ii) Methodist Art Collection - Progress Report

Rev. Graham Kent was able to respond to questions and comments and reminded the meeting that the visit of the collection is a missional opportunity. He directed people to links on the Methodist Church website where there are examples of how the collection has been used:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/artcollection/index.htm>

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/the-methodist-art-collection>

Diary Dates

The next Circuit Meeting will be at 7.30 pm on March 9th at St Johns.

District Business

1. Property scheme approvals

Nick Owen proposed acceptance of the offer of £240,000 for the Pine Hill manse. This was seconded by Rev. Shirley Bench and agreed.