

Yn Agglish Haasilagh ayns Mannin

**The Methodist Church**  
in the Isle of Man



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

**Minutes of the Circuit Meeting/Synod held at St John's Methodist Church.  
Wednesday, 11th December 2019, at 7.30pm.**

**Welcome and Opening worship**

Rev. Richard Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened in prayer.

**Present were:** Rev. Richard Hall, Rev. Andy Fishburne, Rev. Steve Ingrouille, Rev. Bryan Yardy, Rev. Richard Hooton, Rev. Chris Belfield, Rev. David Shirliff, Mr John Binns, (Secretary), Pat Costain, (Circuit Steward), Harvey Garton, (Circuit Steward), Gareth Moore, (Circuit Steward), Eddie Teare, (Circuit Steward), Caroline Salmon, (MWiB President), Judy Matthews, (District Property Secretary), Panda Dooley, (Lay Worker), Rita Norrey, (Lay Worker), Linda Eccles, (Lay Worker), Marion Watterson, (Abbeylands), Dorrie Garton, (Abbeylands), David Clague, (Baldrine), Jean Wilkinson, (Ballafesson), Linda Belfield, (Ballafesson), Simon Young, (Ballagarey), Sue Young, (Ballagarey), Lily Chapman, (Castletown), Jayne Mort, (Colby), Kevin Mort, (Colby), Jennifer Corrin, (The Cooil), Joy Creer, (The Cooil), Clair Gelling, (Crosby), Julia Sharples, (Glen Maye), Paul Craker, (Glen Maye), Shirley Harper, (Kirk Michael), Fiona Craknell, (Laxey), Connie Collister, (Onchan), Eileen Mellows, (Onchan), Howard Pilley, (Onchan), Jane Foxon, (Port Erin), Rosemary Cooil, (Port St. Mary), Hollie Johnston, (Promenade), Anne Cowell, (Promenade), Frank Cowin, (Promenade), John Craine, (Ramsey), Margaret Kennaugh, (St. John's), Henry Gorry, (Sulby), Derek Jones, (Sulby), Elaine Christian, (Trinity), Paul Craine, (Trinity), David Quayle, (Union Mills), and Chris Lyon, (Union Mills).

**Apologies were received from:** Rev. Rebecca Ingrouille, Phyllis Jackson, Geoff Collier, Keith Watterson, Hilary Sewell, Marilyn Cannell, Helen Norton, Peter Ledsom, Christine Sugden and David Holmes.

**There was no Lay representation from:** Agneash, Ballabeg, Ballakilpheric, Barregarrow, Bride, Peel, Pulrose, Sandygate and The Howe.

**Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday, 7th September 2019 at Union Mills Methodist Church.**

The minutes were agreed and signed, subject to the following amendments: Linda Eccles was present at the meeting but her attendance had not been recorded. Under item 3. b (Property Schemes) the wording should read "The new advocate at Corlett Bolton".

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Administration**

**Letters of Greeting were requested for:**

Heather Elworthy, Marinda Fargher, Noel Cringle, Dulcie Costain and Mona and Lennie Kerruish

## **1. Appointments**

There were no items to be addressed.

## **2. Staffing update**

The meeting was informed that Rev. Andrew Bradley had withdrawn his acceptance of the invitation as minister for the churches in the south. Rev. Richard Hall confirmed that this is still seen as a critical appointment and that it is hoped that there will be a positive outcome from the next round of stationing on January 13th.

## **3. General updates**

- Bible Month

The meeting was informed that Bible Month in 2020 will focus on the book of Ruth and that the timing is being reviewed. It is likely to take place between The Manx Music Festival and TT.

- Safeguarding

The meeting was informed that the regional team will be delivering training for trainers on the island in the Spring and that a further advanced course is to be run.

## **4. Development Plan/Grants Policy**

- Cliff College update

Rev. Steve Ingrouille gave an update on the role that Ben Hulme has assumed and encouraged people to pray for Ben, his wife and the churches involved.

He added that flyers are available for Cliff Local and that new dates have been fixed for March 27th - 29th and June 19th - 21st. There will be a focus on effective evangelism, facilitated by Senior Tutor and 20 places are available. The sessions will take place at St. John's Mill and the cost is shared between the Connexion, the District and individual contributions of £50.00. Churches are encouraged to sponsor participants.

- Kerrowkeil update

Dealt with under Finance and Property Matters

## **5. Finance and Property Matters**

- Finance update

Kerrowkeil It was agreed that the building should be offered for sale in the absence of any firm proposals for a team to undertake responsibility for the site at no cost to the Circuit,

Orrisdale Eddie Teare reported that he was hopeful that things would soon begin to move forward and that proceedings were imminent. He has authorisation from the Circuit Meeting to appear in Court on behalf of the Church.

He informed the meeting that the Circuit holds £600,000 in reserves which is not allocated to anything specific. Charities are encouraged to hold only 6 months expenditure in reserve. The auditors require a policy on reserves.

He proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Frank Cowin and agreed:

**Our free reserves are held to further the work of the Church and our calling to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. In doing this we will use 10% of our reserves each year to fund our revenue expenditure. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and also when the level of reserves falls to approximately 50% of our annual revenue. In addition funds need to be held to upgrade our manses for the use of our ordained staff and to effect repairs in excess of the annual sum provided in our budgeting process. From time to time our churches undertake major capital projects to make their premises more suitable for modern worship and grants will be made available on a case by case basis. For example, we are aware that Sulby Methodist Church has major proposals to alter the building.**

He was pleased to report that Circuit is on budget. He added that the auditors want Kerrowkeil brought back on to Circuit balance sheet and that the final accounts will need to be agreed. He proposed that as long as there is no material difference to the accounts draft accounts as circulated, he and Rev. Richard Hall be authorised to sign them. This was seconded by Kevin Mort and agreed.

He proposed that that sale proceeds of the building in Ramsey be ring fenced for 5 years for the same term as it possible to claim the levy back from Connexion, for the provision of new premises for the Ramsey congregation. This was seconded by Simon Young and agreed.

- Manor Ark

He reported that there had been an approach from SUMT who are seeking to move their administrative base out of Mallmore and are interested in moving their offices into Manor Ark. This will provide some additional support for Panda, in that there will be more adults on the premises and generate some income. This will require the agreement of Douglas Corporation and the renegotiation of the lease. The meeting agreed that this should be explored. The youth group could be moved back to the Church Hall and that it would reduce the number of volunteers required, supporting Panda's work and allowing her to do more in the building, such as after-school clubs.

Eddie Teare proposed that the Circuit Meeting give permission to enter into a partnership with SUMT over the use of the Manor Ark building. This was seconded by Kevin Mort and agreed.

- Property updates

Eddie Teare sought approval for the replacement of windows in Peel Methodist church. The building is in a conservation area and so Circuit agreement is required, even though the cost does not reach the level normally required for property work of this kind.

This was seconded Howard Pilley and agreed.

It was requested that Schedule Bs be submitted by the end of December, and the meeting that October headcount figures are needed to review assessments,

Pat Costain added that Schedule A property forms need to be in by December 31st.

- Circuit Model Trust Fund

Eddie Teare gave a reminder about the District Advance Fund scheme which makes provision for churches to apply for missional grants of up to £2,000, and added that Circuit funds have to be accounted for separately.

The Circuit Advance Fund is renamed the Circuit Model Trust Fund, and holds the proceeds from the sale of buildings. Rev. Richard Hall shared a draft of the policy which provides for the use of the funds for any purpose that furthers the mission of the church, (but it cannot be used for repairs and maintenance). It provides for the total amount to be used in a particular year and the limit that individual churches can apply for.

The April meeting was to be asked to approve or amend the policy, when the assessments and budget are brought to that meeting. However, Eddie Teare requested that agreement be given so that it could be included in the budget for next year. Rev. Richard Hal proposed that a scheme be set up, Year 1 beginning in September, with a total of £50,000 being allocated and a grant limit of £10,000 for individual churches.

This was seconded by Harvey Garton and agreed.

## **6. Lay Employment Committee Report**

There were no matters to report.

## **7. Leaders of Worship and Preaching Report**

Rev. David Shirtliff reported that the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders' meeting it had been agreed that Pauline Corlett should move from 'On note' to 'On trial'. He added that an encouraging 'Half-way' interview had been conducted with Linda Eccles and that she has passed her portfolio.

## **8. MWiB Report**

Caroline Salmon reported on the Creativity Day, at Union Mills, where square panels which will become part of a Thursdays in Black to form part of a waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance global exhibit to be displayed in 2020 at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva and at other major events and which will continue to be expanded up to the World Council of Churches Assembly in 2021. Paula Gelling from Victim Support had spoken about the work Victim Support on the Isle of Man. A parcel of fabric had been handed over to Jenny James on behalf of Days for Girls on the island. There is to be a Coffee Morning in Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Febuary at the home of Sue and Geoff Collier.**

Caroline went on to provide an update on the attendance of Valeria from Burundi at the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Area Seminar in Kenya in November, which had been paid by MWiB in the Isle of Man.

She drew attention to a leaflet that has been produced by MWiB about Supporting People with hearing Loss in Church which she has available for anyone interested.

She added that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm at St. John's Methodist Church where planning will be undertaken for the Knit-In on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at St. John's, the Easter offering service at Ballagarey on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.30pm and the visit of the present MWiB President to the Island November 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

## **9. Sierra Leone Report**

Paul Craine reported that construction of the centre is complete and that the connection of utilities and an update on a formal opening is awaited. He added that there had been huge strides in the treatment of HIV, that Church is growing and very involved in health and social care and that it is now time to begin to think of further opportunities to develop the twinning link.

## **10. Youth and Children's Report**

### **• Manor Ark**

Panda reported that a good team of volunteers has been recruited and that between 9 and 16 youngsters are engaging every week. Some of them are attending church and bible study, and attended the Connex service. Strong relationships are developing, good conversations are being had, and that there have been some coffee shop outings. The schools work is continuing to develop and a new head has been appointed with whom there is a good working relationship. Panda has worked with SUMT on transition days, has involvement with the school Christian Union and has been mentoring and supporting two girls.

### **• 3 Generate**

Panda spoke about the experience of 3Generate and shared a leader, student and parent perspective. She added that it had been a very encouraging experience to

see emerging young leaders, and there are opportunities to invite representatives to the island.

## **11. Matters from The Connexion**

Rev. Richard Hall gave an update on the consultation process regarding the provisional legislation following “God in Love Unites Us”. Some disquiet was expressed that individual church members did not have a voice and a vote.

Rev. Richard Hall outlined clearly the nature of the way that the Methodist Church undertakes decision making through representative conferring. Every church appoints representatives and named substitutes to the Synod/Circuit meeting, whose integrity and judgement is respected, and who vote in the context of prayerful discernment in the meetings.

## **12. Future Events Visit of President and Vice President 2020.**

Attention was drawn to the following meetings:

- January 11th Synod re: “God in Love Unites Us” (Marriage and Relationships) St John’s Methodist Hall 12:30 to 4:00pm. (Commencing with a bring and share lunch and communion.)
- February 3rd to April 9th Richard Hall Sabbatical. (Rev. David Shirtliff will be Acting Superintendent, and Paul Davies, Chair of the Lancashire District, will be Acting Chair)
- April 21st Circuit Meeting 7:30pm venue tbc.
- June 5th – June 9th 2020 visit of the President and Vice President of Conference.
- June 27th – July 2nd Methodist Conference in Telford.

## **District Business**

### **1. District Policy Committee**

Appointment of New District Chair for September 2021.

John Binns reported that the stationing profile and the Person specification had been agreed by the District Policy Committee and that it was expected that the Secretary of Conference, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hustler, would visit the island to continue the process.

### **2. Report from Methodist Council**

There was no report at this meeting

### **3. District Finance.**

It was confirmed that TMMCP historically had included Colin Clark as a member, as Circuit/District Treasurer. Rev. Richard Hall proposed that Eddie Teare become one of the trustees. This was seconded by Simon Young and agreed.

Judy Matthews informed the meeting that she would be stepping down as District Property Secretary from January 31st and that a successor needed to be appointed.