

The Methodist Church in the Isle of Man Minutes of the Circuit Meeting/Synod to be held at St. John's Methodist Church. Tuesday, 9th February 2021, at 7.30pm.

Welcome – Rev. Richard Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting

Rev. Andy Fishburne led the opening worship which began by the singing of Guide me, O thou great Jehovah. Rev Andy Fishburne then spoke about the guidance of God and expanded on the line in the hymn 'bid my anxious fears subside'. The worship time closed by the meeting saying the Breakthrough Prayer together.

Present Rev. Richard Hall (Chair), Rev Andy Fishburne, Rev. Steve Ingrouille, Rev. Sean Turner, Rev. Bryan Yardy, Rev. Richard Hooton, Rev. Chris Belfield, Helen Norton (Secretary), Pat Costain (Circuit Steward), Sue Montgomery (Circuit Steward), Phyllis Jackson (Circuit Steward), Harvey Garton (Circuit Steward), Gareth Moore (Circuit Steward), Eddie Teare (Circuit Steward/Treasurer), Caroline Salmon (MWiB President), Jennifer Corrin (Cooil), Kevin Mort (Circuit Local Preachers' secretary), Panda Dooley (Lay employee), Rita Norrey (Lay employee), Linda Eccles (Lay employee), Marion Watterson (Abbeylands), Keith Watterson (Abbeylands), Dorrie Garton (Abbeylands) David Clague (Baldrine), Pat Godby (Baldrine), Evelyn Bevan (Baldrine) Nora Lean (Ballabeg), Linda Belfield (Ballafesson), Jean Wilkinson (Ballafesson), Simon Young (Ballagarey), Sue Young (Ballagarey), John Cashen (Ballakilpheric), Anne Quayle (Barregarrow), Chris Martin (Bride), Claire Quayle (Bride), Lily Chapman (Castletown), Alwyn Collister (Castletown), Jayne Mort (Colby), Julia Gilbert (Colby), Joy Creer (The Cooil), Jennifer Corrin (The Cooil), Alison Lynch (Crosby), Julia Sharples (Glen Maye), Paul Craker (Glen Maye), Shirley Harper (Kirk Michael), Marilyn Cannell (Kirk Michael), Valerie Kinrade (Laxey), Fiona Cracknell (Laxey), Norma Owen (Onchan), Eileen Mellows (Onchan), Karen Elliott (Peel), Bert Quayle (Peel), Jane Foxon (Port Erin), Judy Matthews (Port Erin), Rosemary Cooil (Port St Mary), Amanda Walker (Promenade), Anne Cowell (Promenade), Frank Cowin (Promenade), John Craine (Ramsey), Sue Collier (Ramsey), Margaret Kennaugh (St John's), Yvonne Cresswell (St John's), Henry Gorry (Sulby), Derek Jones (Sulby), SF Bradley (Sulby), Lean Roome (Trinity), Elaine Christian (Trinity), Paul Craine (Trinity), David Quayle (Union Mills), Chris Lyons (Union Mills).

Apologies John Binns, Celia Marshall, Mike Simm, Margaret Sadler, Hilary Sewell, Anne Cowell, Dorothy Faragher, Alice Fairbairn, Joan Collister, **Hollie Johnston**, David Holmes, Chris Fairgreaves,

There was no lay representation from Agneash, Sandygate, The Howe,

Dispensations Rev. Rebecca Ingrouille, Rev. David Shirtliff

• **Synod Business.**

1. District Policy Committee. Minutes attached.

Appointment of scrutineers-

The meeting agreed to the appointment of Rev. Steve Ingrouille and Harvey Garton as scrutineers.

Nomination of District Chair for September 2021. (Recommendation from DPC. Reasoned statement attached).

Rev. Richard Hall read the reasoned statement for Rev Janet Corlett and asked for any questions. There were no questions just a statement of affirmation from Bert Quayle.

The vote was taken by paper ballot

Vote for 63 against 0

The minutes of the meeting on September 12th, 2020 were agreed and signed by Rev. Richard Hall

Matters arising -there were no matters arising

Administration- None

Letters of condolence were requested for the family of Barbara Kniveton.

Letters of Greeting

Heather Elworthy who is unwell, John Binns for his work as Synod secretary and Colin and Sonja Clark as Colin has been undergoing several weeks of treatment in hospital in Liverpool.

District Appointments

- **District Property Secretary-** this post still needs filling.

- **District Treasurer-** a new District Treasurer is needed from September.

Rev Richard Hall asked people to pray about these posts and volunteer themselves or suggest others. He reminded the meeting that these are two particularly important posts.

Rev Richard Hall explained that the meeting would return to Synod business at the end of the Circuit agenda.

Circuit Meeting Business.

1. Circuit Appointments

- **Circuit Treasurer** a new Circuit Treasurer is needed from September

Staffing update

• Appointment of invitation committee. (this is the year in which we must consider the possible extension of the invitation of the Revd. Andy Fishburne with effect from September 2022). The invitation committee should consist of: The Circuit Superintendent. One representative of each of the churches in the West. Three Circuit Stewards. Three Presbyters. Specific names will be brought to the meeting for appointment. No work will be done by this committee until after the briefing in May.

Rev. Richard Hall explained to the meeting that work could not begin until May as new guidelines are given in May. Names of the invitation committee will be brought to March meeting.

2. General updates

• Christian Aid

Rev. Richard Hall reminded the meeting of Christian Aid week in May. He emphasised to the meeting the importance of supporting Christian Aid this year. It has been an extremely difficult year for many but especially for poorer countries. Richard also reminded the meeting that the Isle of Man appeal was for a particular project.

• Bible Month

Rev. Richard Hall told the meeting that Bible Month is in June (as usual). This year the Island will join with others in having Bible Month in June as the TT races are not taking place.

- **Development Plan/Grants Policy**

3. • **Kerrowkeil update** - Andrew Foxon was unable to attend this meeting so the Kerrowkeil update will be covered in March Meeting

4. **Finance and Property Matters** - There was no Finance and Property Matters meeting held this quarter.

Accounts and authorisations

Rev. Richard Hall lead a discussion on the Circuit assessment papers, which the meeting had received by email. These papers were the results of assessment meeting on Feb 4th, 2021 in which each section was represented. The attendance count for each church had been updated, which did not include special services. Rev. Richard Hall explained that Column D in the spreadsheet provided (Schedule B assessment) are all assets **except** those set aside for a project previously approved by the Circuit Meeting. Rev. Richard Hall said we all should be look at old 'things' we should stop doing also stop keeping money for a rainy day. The total balance worked on was the total balance from last year. Rev. Richard Hall shared David Quayle's vision of a bridge in which the stones all support each other. The churches should be like this all supported by each other.

Rev. Richard Hall explained that the assessment would be recalculate every year so that up to date information was used to calculate the assessment.

The new calculation of assessment was agreed, proposed Rev. Richard Hall, seconded Gareth Moore.

- **Finance update**

Eddie Teare reminded the meeting that he was retiring from the post of Circuit/District Treasurer. He would stay until the end of the current financial year. Someone needs to be appointed soon to work alongside Eddie Teare. Eddie explained how hard he and all the Circuit stewards worked, but they were criticised rather than thanked for all their hard work.

Eddie Teare explained the budget a short fall Circuit Assessment but there were reasons for this shortfall. There had been no assessment paid by the churches during lockdown. The Circuit had paid for a Cliff College Intern and we now have the Southern Team.

Eddie T proposed that the letter of engagement for the auditors be signed.

Seconded

2nd Judy M

Carried

- **Property updates**

Sulby - It was stated that Sulby church have been getting heating, plumbing and structural reports. They are busy working towards the £125,000 cost of the work.

Orrisdale

Promenade. The church council appointed a working group to look into the church's finances. The group have worked extremely hard and done an excellent job.

It was reported that the Promenade church was open again. There is reserved parking for the church but how that will work in practise is unclear.

Laxey and Baldrine - Laxey are investigating relocation into Village centre.

Baldrine are investigating relocating worship from the church building to their hall.

Both Laxey and Baldrine need to apply for planning permission for residential use for their churches before proceeding further.

Rev. Richard Hall proposed that the application for residential use for Laxey and Baldrine churches be permitted. This was seconded by Simon Young and agreed

Port Erin - The Church Council and members of Port Erin Methodist Church request permission from the Circuit/District to put the 1903 Chapel building for sale on the open market. It has become impossible for the church family to continue to maintain the chapel, materially and financially, but they are firmly convinced that they do have a place in the life of the village, and that the proposed plans for the remaining buildings will enable them to go forward in their vision of what God is asking them to do in Port Erin. They therefore request permission for Black Grace Cowley to market the chapel on their behalf. Rev. Richard Hall proposed that the Circuit give permission to Port

Erin Methodist Church to put the Chapel building for sale on the open market. This was seconded by Kevin Mort and agreed.

Port St Mary -

Rosie Cooil described the problems Port St Mary Church were having with installing disabled access. Currently not having this access causes significant problems. She described the tragic incident of a wheelchair user having to crawl into the building as he was determined to attend an event. Rosie was also concerned that at united services, held at Port St Mary Church, disabled members of other congregations were unable to attend. The builder who was intending to carry out the work is unable to proceed at current time or the estimated cost because of the Covid situation. The work will now cost more than £2,000 so Port St Mary Methodist Church has requested permission to have the work done at this increased cost.

Rev. Richard Hall proposed that the Circuit give Port St Mary Methodist Church the permission to pay the extra cost. This was seconded by Rev. Chris Bellfield and agreed.

At this point Rev. Richard Hall reminded the meeting of Circuit and District grants that were available. He stated that there had not been many applications for these grants.

Peel – Rev. Andy Fishburne spoke of the importance of mental health and told the meeting about Renew cafes. Renew Wellbeing helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. Renew spaces are simple cafe style spaces run by local churches where hobbies and activities are shared or co-produced, e.g., knitting, jigsaws. Each cafe space is attached to a quiet room or prayer space. Each church partners with a mental health professional from the local council to ensure good inclusive practices for safe spaces where it's **OK not to be OK**.

Peel chapel are asking for a grant for

1. **Basic Kitchen** to be put into vestry, which would then have a dual purpose as kitchen and vestry.
2. **Heating** - infra red heaters were planned to be installed in the worship area where there is already a café area. The infra-red heaters will be more

efficient. Later Peel were going to investigate having solar panels installed to reduce their carbon footprint.

They are planning to open the café a Friday afternoon to attract parents/carers while children were in school during the afternoon.

Rev. Andy Fishburne requested a £10,000 grant to carry out this work.

Rev. Richard Hall proposed that the grant be approved. It was seconded by Bert Quayle and agreed.

Kerrowkeil - to be deferred to March meeting.

- **TMMCP.**

The Circuit Meeting nominates people to the TMMCP. Rev. Bryan Yardy was nominated to be on the TMMCP and it was agreed, proposed Pat Costain, seconded Claire Quayle.

Treasurer of TMMCP - It was agreed that Alan Gelling become Treasurer of TMMCP, proposed Rev. Richard Hall and seconded Pat Costain.

5. Lay Employment Committee Report. Nothing to report

7. Safeguarding.

Charlton has new dates for Foundation Training. If anyone missed the last Foundation Training, they should contact Charlton for details.

8. Leaders of Worship and Preaching Report

Kevin Mort reported on Caroline Salmon's welcomed service on 29th November 2020. Caroline was welcomed as a fully credited Local Preacher. Kevin also reported that another local preacher Simon Young was now on note.

Kevin also stressed the Worship Leaders Course which is running alongside the Local Preachers Course.

The next meeting for Local preachers and worship Leaders is at St John's Church on 9th March at 7:30pm.

Rev Richard Hall stated that since he has been on Island there had always been a Local Preacher either on trial or note. This compared favourably with many larger Circuits across the Connexion.

9. MWiB Report -Caroline Salmon informed the meeting that the Mexico Day £1260 raised for Migrant café in Mexico. Caroline thanked people for their support.

On February 20th MWiB are meeting to make panels- and as at every meeting eat cake!

She informed the meeting that the annual Knit is on March 9th. The money raised will be shared between Motivate, All We Can and MWiB.

The Swanwick Conference will be on-line so anyone can join but you must register. The speaker is Sister Imelda Poole. There is a plan for people to gather together to join the conference. There is even the suggestion of a sleep-over; more details to follow.

The Easter offering Service will be on 9th May at Ballergarey. Congregations should bring their envelopes from last year. If any churches do not have envelopes, please inform Caroline.

12. Sierra Leone Report

Paul Craine reminded the meeting that next week it will be 10 years since the twinning of the Methodist Church in the Isle of Man with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL). Sierra Leone ranks 187th on the UN Human Development Index so we are twinned with a church in an extremely poor, predominantly Muslim, country. MCSL was formed by slaves returning 200 years ago from Nova Scotia. Today it is a remarkable church with 50,000 members and 240 congregations running three hospitals, three development projects and more than 100 schools.

The twinning was going well until the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone between 2014 and 2016. In 2017 the President of the MCSL Conference died in office. The current President of Conference of Sierra Leone (Bishop Mark Ngobeh) was preparing to visit the IOM after the UK Conference in 2020 but that was cancelled due to Covid. Sierra Leone is now experiencing its second lockdown because of Covid.

The construction of MCSL's People Living with HIV clinic is complete but has not yet been able to open. In Sierra Leone, unusually, most AIDS cases are women and children. Information has been distributed to preachers for Sierra Leone Sunday on February 14th in the hope that the twinning can be recognised in every church. Paul indicated that it would be good to have some new members on the local twinning committee (Lannoonaghey = twinning/pairing) - please contact him if you are willing to serve in this way.

13. Youth and Children's Report

Panda Dooley now only works 7 hours a week at Pulrose. Panda asked the meeting for prayer on Fridays 7-9 pm while the Youth Club meets. Panda is now ambassador for Generate 360. There is a fantastic Youth Worker for 3Generate who will be meeting with Isle of Man younger people later in the year.

Some of Pulrose young people had attended Rev. Andy Fishburne's Farrane services. It was great to see them taking part.

During lockdown Panda had lots of interaction with the Pulrose young people.

- There is a possibility of youth worker for Pulrose and Rev. Richard Hall will have proposal for the next meeting in March.

14. Matters from The Connexion

Conference is still planning a real conference, rather than by Zoom. However, people from the Island will have problem attending if they having to self-isolate on their return.

15. Future Events Diary Dates:

- March 9th LP/WL Meeting St. John's. 7:30pm
- February 20th Circuit Prayer Day - date will be changed because clashes with MWiB
- March 10th DPC Trinity M.C. 7:00pm March 10th F&P Trinity M.C. 8:00pm
- March 18th Circuit Meeting St. John's 7:30pm
- April 4th Easter Day.
- May 8th Regional Training Day
- June "Bible Month" 30 Days with Mark.
- June 17th Circuit Meeting venue tbc 7:30pm.

- **Synod Business continued**

3. Report from Methodist Council-

Helen Norton reported on four items from the Methodist Council. Firstly, the Methodist Church has been asked to urgently to examine what would be required to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. So, in any planning as a District/Circuit or individual churches we need to be thinking about reducing Carbon Emissions.

Secondly, the problems caused by churches that closed but had existing Trust Funds. In both cases there was disagreement as to where the funds should go. So, if there are any churches planning to close either now or in the future please make sure the managing trustees of any Trust Funds have made plans for where the money should go.

Thirdly, worship resources on the presidential theme from a global perspective have been produced. These are available for accredited preachers and for those responsible for leading an 'Own Arrangement Service' or Celebration Praise. These resources can be found on the Global Relationships pages of the Methodist website.

Finally, the Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedures was brought to the meetings attention. Leaders of worship can use the resources in this document to make clear statements that domestic abuse is wrong and challenge the myths that allows domestic abuse to continue.

Helplines and services specific to the Isle of Man

Relate: 01624 632902

Relate have counsellors trained in domestic abuse. Email: relate@mcb.net
www.relate.org.uk

Victim Support: 01624 679950

Helping people cope with crime. enquiries@victimsupport.im
www.victimsupport.im

Women's Aid Domestic Abuse Helpline and Women's Refuge: 01624 677900

3. Special Resolutions - this will be covered at the March Meeting

4. District Finance.

Accounts and authorisations

Eddie Teare stated that the financial statements had been reviewed by Howard Pilley. Eddie thanked Howard for his hard work.

It was agreed that Rev. Richard Hall and Eddie Teare sign off the report; proposed Rev. Richard Hall and seconded by Sue Montgomery

5. District Grant Applications

- **Ramsey**

Ramsey had applied for a grant for £2,000 for audio equipment.

This was agreed, proposed Rev. Richard Hall, seconded Kevin Mort.

6. District Property.

The confirmation of approvals at this circuit with regard to property and finance matters was agreed, proposed Rev. Richard Hall, seconded Elaine Christian.

Any other business -

Simon Young Suggested the meeting thanked Eddie Teare for all his hard work as Circuit/District Treasurer. This followed by a round of applause from the meeting

The meeting concluded with the singing of "This, this is the God we adore"

Date of next meeting March 18th.