

**Draft Minutes of the Methodist Church in the Isle of Man Circuit Meeting/  
Synod held at St. John's Methodist Church on Thursday, 6th May 2021, at  
7.30pm.**

Revd Richard Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Opening worship** Revd Richard Hall led the worship beginning with a reading from John's Gospel Chapter 15 9 -17 which told of Jesus command to love one another. We then sang Hymn 615 'Let love be real' Revd Richard Hall ended the time of worship with a prayer.

**Present** Revd Richard Hall (Chair), Revd Andy Fishburne, Revd Steve Ingrouille, Revd Bryan Yardy, Revd Richard Hooton, Revd Chris Bellfield, Helen Norton (Secretary), Pat Costain (Circuit Steward), Sue Montgomery (Circuit Steward), Harvey Garton (Circuit Steward), Gareth Moore (Circuit Steward), Eddie Teare (Circuit Steward/Treasurer), Caroline Salmon (MWiB President), Kevin Mort (Local preachers secretary), Panda Dooley (Lay employee), Rita Norrey (Lay employee), Linda Eccles (Lay employee), John Binns (Lay employee), Marion Watterson (Abbeylands), Keith Watterson (Abbeylands), Pat Godby (Baldrine), Jean Wilkinson (Ballafesson), Linda Bellfield (Ballafesson), Simon Young (Ballagarey), Sue Young (Ballagarey), Ann Quayle (Barregarrow), Chris Martin (Bride), Claire Quayle (Bride), Alice Fairbairn (Castletown), Alwyn Collister (Castletown), Janet Mort (Colby), Julia Gilbert (Colby), Joy Creer (The Cooil), Jennifer Corrin (The Cooil), Alison Lynch (Crosby), Julia Sharples (Glen Maye), Paul Cracker (Glen Maye), Shirley Harper (Kirk Michael), Marilyn Cannell (Kirk Michael), Fiona Cracknell (Laxey), Eileen Mellows (Onchan), Norma Owen (Onchan), Bert Quayle (Peel), Judy Matthews (Port Erin), Jane Foxon (Port Erin), Rosemary Cooil (Port St Mary), Amanda Walker (Promenade), Anne Cowell (Promenade), Frank Cowin (Promenade), John Caine (Ramsey), Margaret Kennaugh (St John's), Yvonne Cresswell (St John's), Henry Gorry (Sulby), David Holmes (Trinity), Leon Roome (Trinity), Elaine Christian (Trinity), David Quale (Union Mills), Chris Lyons (Union Mills) Andrew Foxon, Evelyn Bevan

**Apologies** Phyllis Jackson, Mike Simm, Hilary Sewell, Valerie Kinrade, Celia Marshall, Sue Collier, Paul Craine

There was no lay representation from Agneash, Ballabeg, Ballakilpheric, Sandygate, The Howe.

**Dispensations** Revd Rebecca Ingrouille, Revd David Shirtliff, Revd Sean Turner,

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at St.John's Methodist Church.** There were two corrections to the minutes.

**Matters arising** -none

**Administration** -none

### **Letters of Greeting**

Nick and Joy Owen moved off Island and are now living in London

Mrs Elizabeth Kissack on reaching her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Colin Clark who has been in hospital since December first in Liverpool then more recently in Nobles hospital.

Kelly family

### **1. Circuit Appointments**

- **Circuit Treasurer**
- **Circuit/District Property Secretary**

There are no volunteers so far for these important positions. It is vital that someone volunteers soon.

### **2. 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).**

Revd Richard Hall informed the meeting that Revd. Andy Fishburne had been offered a post with Connexion, subject to approval of the Methodist Council. Andy was congratulated on this appointment and comments were made about how much his ministry on the Island had been appreciated. Pat Costain informed the meeting that an advert would be placed for a temporary minister until a new minister can found through stationing for September 2022. The stationing committee would still be need for Revd. Andy Fishburne replacement.

**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.

### **3. General updates**

- **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid envelopes available.

- **Bible Month**

The Island is celebrating Bible month in June with most other Districts. This year during Bible month we will be looking at Mark's gospel. There is a book of resources available and on May 20<sup>th</sup> there is a training event particularly for preachers to review resources. There will also be daily devotions on Mark's gospel available.

- **Safeguarding** -no updates

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

- **Kerrowkeil see attached papers.**

Andrew Foxon spoke for the proposal to keep Kerrowkeil. He reminded the meeting of the agreement at the September Circuit Meeting. Then, Andrew went through the new proposal. He suggested there may be viable alternatives to proposal item 2, which could mean the Circuit would not have to pay for repairs. He told the meeting that John Wesley preached on the site before the church was built there.

Eddie Teare then spoke on behalf of the Circuit Stewards. He said that there were several problems in keeping Kerrowkeil. Firstly, it would cost an unquantified amount to repair. Also, the insurers are threatening to stop the insurance cover as the building have been empty for some time and would be deteriorating. Eddie says it would be a big job to fund raise for. Eddie also wondered how it would fit in with Mission. Eddie stated that the Circuit Stewards recommend selling Kerrowkeil.

Revd Richard Hall then led a time of discussion where everyone had opportunity to contribute. There were many speakers both for keeping and selling Kerrowkeil.

Revd Richard Hall suggested that first there should be a vote on whether the vote for keeping or selling Kerrowkeil should be done on paper rather than show of hands. The meeting was in favour of a paper ballot. Revd Richard Hall proposed we voted on the four proposals for Kerrowkeil on block. This was seconded by Pat Costain. Voting papers were distributed, collected and counted by Rita Norry and John Binns.

Revd Richard Hall then led the meeting in prayer while the votes were being counted.

The votes were 42 against 15 in favour. So Kerrowkeil will be put up for sale

- **Proposal re possible youth worker scheme**

Revd Richard Hall stated that there was a proposal to offer £7,000 from District Advance fund for youth workers. Any church with a need for a youth worker could apply but the church must match £ for £ the money given by the District Advance fund. There would be several different youth workers across the Circuit where there was a need. Revd Richard Hall reminded the meeting that the District Advance funds is partly funded by Connexion. Individual churches would be responsible for advertising and appointing their youth workers.

Revd Richard Hall proposed the £7,000 be made available for youth workers.

Gareth Moore seconded the proposal, and it was agreed by the meeting.

## **5. Finance and Property Matters - combined with this meeting.**

- **Finance update**

- **Circuit Budget**

Eddie Teare spoke about the Budget for 2021/22 Circuit Expense Fund, after a short time for questions Eddie proposed this budget was approved

This was seconded by Kevin Mort and agreed by the meeting

- **Circuit Assessments**

Eddie Teare then discussed the Circuit Assessments. He asked meeting to agree the Circuit Assessments in principal although there were adjustments needed as Abbeylands has the incorrect number for attendance. Eddie asked

churches in future to check information is correct for their church promptly so that correct calculations could be made.

There was a question about Pulrose as the congregation was no longer worshipping there. Revd Richard Hall informed the meeting that the building at Pulrose was still used. On Sunday morning it is used by the Salvation Army; who are paying rent. Also, there are both SUMT Youth Service and Farrane services once a month in the evening. During the week the building is used extensively by the local community. At present, Pulrose has no managing trustees so there is a suggestion that it would be covered by Trinity.

Eddie Teare proposes that the assessments be agreed in principle. Kevin Mort seconded this, and it was agreed by the meeting.

- **Property updates**

**Sulby** no progress due to Coronavirus

**Orrisdale** The court case is being held next week and Eddie Teare will be attending on behalf of the Circuit.

**Promenade** no progress due to Coronavirus

**Laxey and Baldrine** both churches will be having a Mission Review with the new Chair of District after she starts in September.

**Port St Mary** - Rosemary Cooil informed the meeting that the cost of all building work has rocketed by about 30% due to Coronavirus. Work has gone out to tender with three builders. One was not interested, and she was waiting for quotes from the other two.

**Port Erin** Judy Matthews reported that there have been 4 viewings of the church and 2 offers made. They could be coming to the June meeting asking to have permission to sell, possibly subject to planning permission being granted for residential use.

**Kerrowkeil**

- **TMMCP.** Paper to follow.

**8. Lay Employment Committee Report.** No report

**9. Safeguarding.** No update

**10. Leaders of Worship and Preaching Report** No meeting due to Coronavirus

**11. MWiB Report** Caroline Salmon reported that MWiB are looking forward to the Easter Offering Service this Sunday night at Ballagarey at 6.30pm. This year it is called 'Into all the world' and we will be sharing stories of people across the world who have shared the good news of the gospel and think about our own journeys of faith. We look forward to receiving your churches gifts for The Methodist Churches World Mission Fund.

On Tuesday 18th May 2pm in St. John's Hall, we will be holding our postponed Annual Knit In this year raising money for Motiv8 here on the island, All We Can and MWiB. Please sponsor someone from your church or anyone is welcome to come along for tea and cake to support this event.

Please do make sure you take a poster for your church. Unless someone has already agreed to print one off.

Also, can I please remind everyone to send their money for both Easter Offering and Knit In to Ann Craine as soon as possible so that she can get it all banked before the changes that are coming into effect on the 29th May.

It was great to share the annual MWiB conference online this year and not need to travel across. It was good to hear about the work that is being done by Sister Imelda Poole and Renate to try to prevent trafficking of girls across Europe and particularly from Albania. We also shared online a celebration of 10 years of MWiB and saw the bunting that we made on the island in our brief period between lockdowns early February alongside panels made across the connexion.

I am looking forward to sharing online on Monday 17th May an event being held by the New Room Bristol on Craftivism: How can you gain a political voice through craft. It is a part of their series of Wes Talks.

There are so many ways in which we can learn and engage and give through the great expansion of online activities in the last year.

Our AGM will be on Wednesday 14th July at 7.15pm at St. John's Methodist Church and everyone is very welcome to attend.

**12. Sierra Leone Report** - Paul Craine had sent his apologies.

**13. Youth and Children's Report** – Panda Dooley reported that lockdown had affected several vulnerable young people. Panda reported that they were back to meeting on Friday night. She informed the meeting that 3 generate will happen in some form. It might be online or in person, but the exact format is uncertain at present. Panda told the meeting that we have some amazing Young People on the Island. Revd Richard Hall suggested that churches with secondary school children attending should contact Panda so they could be encouraged by meeting with others of the same age.

**14. Matters from The Connexion** None

**15. Future Events Diary Dates:**

- May 8th Preparation for Bible Month Day on Zoom. May 20<sup>th</sup>
- June "Bible Month" 30 Days with Mark.
- June 17th Circuit Meeting venue tbc 7:30pm at Promenade
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May -Prayer Day

• **Synod Business.**

**1. District Policy Committee.** Not meeting

**2. Report from Methodist Council.** Helen Norton reported that it is difficult to summarise 3 days of meetings and a couple of weeks of reading beforehand into a short report. So here are some items I found worthy of noting.

One of the Council items I always find particularly interesting is the Connexional Team update. This is always packed full of exciting innovations.

One of these reported to the March Council is part of the God for All strategy - **Everyone an Evangelist**. "The Everyone an Evangelist process - a small groups-based training programme designed to build confidence and capability in the whole church for evangelism, to be undertaken by groups from local churches - is in active development with a diverse design group. Two pilots will launch in May 2021 with wider sign-ups starting in September 2021". I think this will be an exciting adventure to be part of.

Another interesting paper was the '**Methodist Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity**'. Paragraph 5a of this report gave real life examples of people who had experienced prejudice because of colour, gender, sexuality and even education (or lack of it). This is followed in 5b by examples of good practise. Reading this report showed me how blessed we are in the Isle of Man as I believe we have many examples of good practise. If you do know of anyone who

has experienced prejudice in the church, please do let someone know so it can be tackled and not just ignored.

There is also much energy being put into reorganising both the Conference and the Methodist Council. Eventually, it is suggested that the Council will be replaced by a smaller Executive Council. The main difference is the Executive Council will 'not be representative of the Districts in the way that the Council currently is' but will be replaced by a group who are chosen for their skills in the various areas needed. Standing Orders requires that "the Conference shall from time to time, and not less than once in every five years" review the size of the membership of the Conference. This, however, has not been done since 2013 but there is a lot of thought being put into making Conference and the new Executive Council work well for everyone. This is very much a work in progress.

**3. Special Resolutions.** Revd Richard Hall summed up the changes the Special Resolutions allows. He empathised that the resolution allowed churches to agree the lease the building for longer than 1 year which is currently the case.

Revd Richard Hall proposed the Special Resolutions. Bert Quayle seconded the proposal. Votes: for 57, against 0, abstentions 0.

#### **4. District Finance.**

Eddie Teare explained the two items marked in red on the District Budget 2021/22. First was the money for Youth Workers as discussed earlier under Circuit Business. Secondly was money put aside for Mental Health training.

Eddie Teare proposed the budget, and it was seconded by Claire Quayle and agreed by the meeting.

##### **• Budget Grant Applications -From Districted Advanced Fund**

The Promenade church has applied for £2,000 for their updated projector system - using monitors. This was proposed by Revd Richard Hall, seconded by Pat Costain and agreed by the meeting.

Onchan Imagine which is an after-school club at Onchan Methodist Church has applied for £350. This money will provide materials and refreshments. Many of the children attending are unchurched. This was proposed by Revd Richard Hall, seconded by Bert Quayle and agreed by the meeting.



Thie Dy Vea or House of Life retreat centre where Revd David Shirriff is involved has applied for £2,000. Thie Dy Vea has been badly hit by Coronavirus and is asking for the money for set up costs. This was proposed by Revd Richard Hall, seconded by Jane Foxon and agreed by the meeting.

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#### **Property.**

#### **Confirmation of any circuit approvals.**

**Kerrowkeil** -The meeting voted on the Circuit decision and confirmed the Circuit decision and Kerrowkeil will be put up for sale.

**TMMCP**- The meeting was asked to confirm the existing membership of TMMCP. A list of names was read and agreed by the meeting; see attached paper.

#### **6. Any other business – please notify Revd Richard Hall at least 24 hours before the meeting. Only genuinely urgent matters will be added on the day**

There was a question about the continued need for confidentiality regarding Revd Janet Corlett's appointment as the new chair of District. Revd Richard Hall said we could speak about Janet's appointment, but nothing must be put on social media.

The meeting ended with the singing of Hymn 67 'This, this is the God we adore'.