

The Methodist Church

Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on Monday 15th September 2008 at Bordeaux Methodist Church

08/32 Welcome, apologies for absence and notification of any other business

The Reverend David Hart gave a warm welcome to The Dean, Mr David Robilliard and the Reverend John Ironside who would be addressing the meeting on the work of Guernsey Welfare Service.

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Langlois, Sandra Gallienne, John Sheard, Jean Vidamour, John Le Page, Pauline Garland, Margaret Lewis, Joe Langlois, Carl Rosumek, Annette Rabey, Caroline Lane, Victor Lane, Heather Le Boutillier, Paul Le Boutillier, Pauline Powell, Miriam Bosworth, Margaret Penney, George Gallienne, and Derek Mechem

46 people attended the meeting.

08/33 Opening Devotions were led by The Reverend Anita Hart.

08/34 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June, 2008 which had previously been circulated, were accepted and duly signed.

08/35 Correspondence, greetings and pastoralia

The meeting was informed of the illness of Mr Derek Mechem, and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to him on behalf of the meeting wishing him well. The Reverend Graham Leaworthy had been taken from Sark to Guernsey due to illness. It was also suggested that the Secretary should send a letter to the Church Wardens in Sark wishing Reverend Leaworthy well. It was also requested that a letter be sent to Mary Teer in Sark offering condolences on the death of her husband.

Reverend Hart informed the meeting that the Secretary, Margaret Lewis was unwell and requested that Claire Teed act as secretary for the meeting which was agreed.

08/36 The work of the Guernsey Welfare Service

Reverend Ironside thanked the Methodist Churches for their support and donations. Fundraisers for Guernsey Welfare include tea on the Rectory lawn, ladies lunches and concerts. Guernsey Welfare started in 1896 and was concerned with moral welfare and attempted to fill the gaps in society. The work of the social workers included sending pregnant girls to mother and baby homes in the UK where the baby would be given up for adoption. Since 1969 the organisation has been known as the Guernsey Welfare Association. Vouchers are given out from the office and the social workers work with other charities to support the families that need the Service. Happy Days pre-school is part of the Service, with States support, funding the staff salaries also that of the social worker. The aim of the Service is to fill the gaps in the system and to help families when a crisis happens. 8th December will be the day for handing out Christmas gifts of chocolates, sweets etc. The meeting was asked for prayers and support of the work of this valuable Service.

08/37 Matters arising

08/37.1 Dates. 7th – 16th August 2009 – visit of the Methodist National Brass Band to the Guernsey Circuit, including a visit to Lihou Island.

08/37.2 The Methodist Conference approved the complaints and discipline procedure which is a legal requirement. A review of the system means the appointment of a Circuit Complaints Officer to replace the District based system. It was proposed that Jurat Alan Bisson be appointed which the meeting agreed to.

08/37.3 Derek Mechem would like to relinquish his duties as Treasurer of the Circuit Benevolent Fund. If anyone is willing to take over this role, please contact David Hart.

08/37.4 Claire Teed brought the name of Dr Maggie Costen, who is a member at Forest United and semi-retired to serve as a Circuit Steward for a period of office not to exceed 4 years from 1st September 2008. This was approved.

08/37.5 From the end of October a new group called Quench would be starting at 8pm on Sunday evenings, Christian fellowship including a meal in a restaurant which will be advertised in due course.

08/37.6 Ken Luxon, a Christian story teller will be visiting the island on 29 November. There will be a workshop on story telling, more details to follow.

08/37/7 Developing the Circuit Website. Andrew Male reported that he and Margaret Lewis had met with Submarine Ltd, the website design company, and work was in progress. It was hoped to have the site up and running by Christmas with a page per church.

08/38 The Mission and Ministry of the Circuit

08/38.1 Sara Gould, Senior Circuit Steward gave an update on the development of the profile for Superintendent Minister for 2010. She thanked church stewards, congregations, and ministers for their contributions towards the final profile. The post of Chair, Superintendent and Presbyter will be advertised in the Methodist Recorder before the end of September and interviews will take place in early December. The appointment will not be confirmed until the Methodist Conference in 2009. Reverend Robinson, the Synod Secretary reported that once the profile was received at Methodist Church House the advert would go out this month. It would also be advertised in the District, with the requirement that applicants be a minister in the Methodist Church. Reverend Hart expressed appreciation to the Circuit Stewards for all the work involved in preparing the profile.

08/38.2 Reports of Circuit Committees had been previously circulated and were accepted by the meeting. Members of the meeting were reminded of the Network fundraiser at St Paul's on 11th October with proceeds going to Maison de Quetteville.

Tony Reddall reported that last year World Missions raised £3,700 and this year £3,335, a reduction of £365. Mission in Britain had also had a decline of £300, and churches were urged to attempt to increase this figure.

David Hart reported that the Alderney and Sark District Committee had met. Irene Day had begun the last year of her current contract as Lay Worker. A consultation would take place with regard to a contract for a further 3 years from 2009. The results of the consultation will be brought to the Spring Circuit Meeting.

08/38.3 David Hart reported on Pastoral Care which had been discussed and approved at the Methodist Conference with regard to confidentiality. Later in the year there will be a one day consultation on the Conference report. This item was being brought to the attention of the meeting for information only.

08/38.4 Reverend Paul Chesworth shared some thoughts on his recent sabbatical, having valued the time he had been able to spend with his wife and family. Now feeling refreshed, he reflected on the short trips he had made – two visits to Cliff College where he had previously studied and attained his MA. He had spent time researching the gap between church and the secular world and recognised a need for radical change in the way ‘we are church’ and that it is time to act. He had spent time with his mother visiting Scotland, been walking in Wales, reading history and at the end of the sabbatical had spent two weeks at the New Wine Conference. It had been a big personal journey and very special for the family too.

Mr Hart expressed thanks to all the preachers for covering for Paul during his absence.

David Hart reported on the part-time academic research project he has undertaken for the past 6 years and is now in the writing up year. He wanted to record his thanks to the Circuit for the 2 years grant support he had received.

08/39 Circuit Property business

08/39.1 Clive Falla reported on the arrangements for quinquennial inspections. There were concerns about the inspection reports, partly by some of the work done, and what was found that needed to be done. It had all been done to meet Standing Orders. Clive questioned whether trying to inspect 4 to 5 properties in 1½ to 2 days was reasonable. A quotation had been received from Lovell Ozanne Surveyors to inspect all Methodist properties in the Circuit at a charge of £35,000, over five years. The question was raised of what the cost would be to a church if work was not done or went unnoticed. Detailed inspection of premises is required on a regular basis. At this point Mr Andrew Male stated that although he is a Director of Lovell Ozanne Architects, he is not a Director of and has no financial interest in Lovell Ozanne Surveyors.

Mark Dorey suggested that other quotes could be obtained. Mr Falla informed the meeting that Lovell Ozanne Surveyors are very experienced at inspecting church buildings. The quinquennial inspections are to be restructured and the figure quoted includes the manses and L’Islet. Clive Falla brought the proposition that Lovell Ozanne Surveyors be appointed which was seconded by Bob Harbottle, and carried by a majority.

Treasurers were asked not to delay in letting Clive have their accounts. Treasurers were reminded that the electronic property schedules should be forwarded to Clive and not to Manchester, after they have been signed at Church Council meetings.

08/39.2 Michael Le Poidevin gave an update on St Peter Port, Brock Road. The on-going drying out of the building is going well and samples will be sent to professional advisers in the UK next month. Mr Hart is in contact with Will Moray and the local NCH for a decision, there being no firm proposals yet.

08/39.3 Andrew Male reported on the St Martins Manse – the builders are in and work on the bathroom is in progress. Next spring the District Manses Committee will visit all manses.

08/39.4 It was also reported that the wheelchair ramp at Wesley was nearly finished.

08/39.5 The Alderney church is undergoing a 6 month trial of drying out the building. They have been advised to remove the paint which would be an expensive project and the scheme will require Connexional consent as it is a conservation area. The States of Alderney have given approval to remove the paint.

08/39.6 Les Camps have plans to refurbish the balcony in the church, which will require a schedule – further information will be available at the February meeting.

08/40 Circuit Financial matters

Mr Harbottle reported that St Peter Port had a shortfall of £6,000 to £7,000 which would be covered by reserves. Full accounts will be brought to the Spring meeting and uploaded onto the circuit website for inspection. At the June meeting, the adoption of the 2007 accounts was overlooked. The meeting agreed the adoption of the accounts.

08/41 Any other business

08/41.1 Paul Chesworth asked for feedback on Fresh Expressions from the workshop on 1st March 2008.

08/41.2 Claire Teed asked for support of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund event, entitled “A sit down meal to stand up and take action against poverty” on Friday 17th October at Les Capelles Community Centre, with MRDF speaker Brook Hayes. Brook will also meet with the Overseas Aid Commission during her visit to Guernsey.

08/41.3 Katina Jones reported that the Girls Brigade at Wesley was due to close at the end of the summer, but has now 5 trained leaders and will re-open on 16th September. It was requested that the Secretary, on behalf of the Circuit meeting write to acknowledge and thank Marlene Taylor for 46 years service to Girls Brigade.

08/41.4 Sara Gould reported that the musical production of Joseph had been a great success at Les Capelles and auditions would be held on 19th September for the next production being Jesus Christ Superstar.

08/41.5 A request for aid after the devastation in Haiti was brought to the meeting – donations can be made to MRDF for the tropical storm victims.

08.42 Mr Hart thanked the Stewards and members of Bordeaux for their hospitality.

08.43 Date and place of next meetings

Galaad – Monday 16th February 2009

Rohais – Thursday 25th June 2009

St Martin’s Mission – Wednesday 23rd September 2009

08.44 Mr Hart invited the Dean of Guernsey to close the meeting with prayer.