

The Methodist Church

Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2009 at Galaad Methodist Church

08/45 Welcome, apologies for absence and notification of any other business

The Reverend David Hart welcomed members to the meeting and received the following items to be considered under any other business:

- Visit to Guernsey of the Methodist Youth Brass Band
- Update on Maison de Quetteville
- Education and Youth Accounts - Administration

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Teed, Clive Falla, Rex Martel, Janet de Jersey, Colleen Ogier, Annette Rabey, Caroline Lane, John Sheard, Carmen Skuse, Mark Dorey, Angela Thompson, Heather and Paul Le Boutillier, George Gallienne,

49 people attended the meeting.

08/46 Opening Devotions were led by The Reverend Stephen Robinson

08/47 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September, 2008 which had previously been circulated, were accepted and duly signed.

08/48 Correspondence, greetings and pastoralia

The Reverend Carole Holmes informed the meeting that the Reverend Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott, daughter of Heather and Paul Le Boutillier, had given birth on 9 February to Isabella, Ruth. It was agreed to send her a card conveying the blessings and best wishes of the circuit.

Reverend Hart asked the meeting if it agreed that members of the District Synod should be included in the constitution of the Circuit meeting. This was accepted.

08/49 Matters Arising

08/49.1 Developing the Circuit Website It was noted that the circuit website was now up and running and a representative was required from each church to be given a username and password for managing their own updated work. Thanks were expressed to Victor Lane, Andrew Male and Margaret Lewis for their part involved in achieving this project.

08/49.2 Approval for revised system of Accounting: Circuit Benevolent Fund Bob Harbottle reported that since Derek Mechem had not been well the Circuit Benevolent Fund had been amalgamated with the Circuit General Fund, but could not be fully wound up because proceeds were still being received from an old War Stock Bond. The meeting agreed that this amalgamation should continue and the account finally closed at the appropriate time. Appreciation was recorded for the work which had previously been administered by Derek Mechem.

Administration of Education and Youth Account Mr Harbottle said this was a similar situation whereby the account had not been used for 2 years and the Bank had recently written to say that the account would be frozen until the paperwork for closure/continuation had been finalised. Similarly, proceeds were still being received from some old Treasury Stock so the account would have to

remain open until the Stock was redeemed. In the meantime the money would be amalgamated with the General Circuit Fund, administered by the Circuit Treasurer.

08/49.3 Update on MRDF application to Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission In the absence of Claire Teed, Reverend Hart reported that the MRDF representative, Brook Hayes, had a very successful meeting with the Commission, at which it had been agreed to support a water project in Uganda by granting the total £90,000 required. The Commission had been very impressed by the work that MRDF was trying to do.

08/49.4 Appointment of new Superintendent Minister for 2010: The Reverend David Hinchliffe Sara Gould said that 4 applicants had been interviewed in Guernsey on 12 December 2008 and the choice of the Reverend David Hinchliffe, had finally been made. David is married with 2 children and is presently serving with the Woking and Walton-on-Thames District. In 1997 he had trained alongside Stephen Maunder from Guernsey. He will take up his appointment in September 2010 but from September 2009 will shadow the present Chair of District, Reverend David Coote. Tribute was paid to the Circuit Stewards who had achieved a very complex task in writing a profile for the Post, which had to include the requirements of the Jersey Circuit as well as our own.

At this point, David Hart reported that the Alderney and Sark Committee had advised the District Synod that Mrs Irene Day would continue in her District appointment in Alderney for a further 3 years from September 2009.

08/50 The Mission and Ministry of the Circuit

08/50.1 Circuit Review and Pastoral re-organisation of the Circuit Sara Gould reminded the meeting that the present Church Reviews should be completed by 2 March and these would be considered by the Circuit Leadership Team at its meeting on 17 March. The Sections would require approval by the Circuit meeting in June so that a profile could be written for the new Superintendent Minister. The Circuit Leadership Team would revisit the Circuit Review and update it for the next 2 to 3 years for the new Chairman.

08/50.2 Application of Society to cease to worship under SO 943 and delegation of powers under the Model Deed cl. 16(k) – St Peter Port and application for sale of Ebenezer, Brock Road under SO 943

David Hart said that it was more usual for small chapels who were struggling to survive, to amalgamate with larger ones but in this instance it was a regrettable situation that St Peter Port found itself in this position despite the 70 strong membership with between 40 and 65 people attending morning worship. Various schemes had fallen by the wayside for one reason or another and the Society appreciated the enormous support it had received from around the Circuit. Reverend Hart also paid tribute to the open and warm hearted ecumenical support shown and in particular by The Dean of Guernsey, Canon Paul Mellor. He acknowledged the welcome which had been given by Les Cotils for the temporary location while other secular buildings had been explored, but in all cases the costs had been too high. It had therefore been decided that St Peter Port Methodist Church would cease to worship on 31 August 2009.

Eric Waldron said the Church Council decision to cease worship had been a bold step to take and present members were now considering the move to other churches. It had been with great sadness and pain to acknowledge that the Society had run its course. He therefore put the proposal to the meeting that worship should cease from 31 August 2009. Following a short prayer of blessing and guidance, this was accepted.

David Hart explained that the members of the circuit meeting would have to take over the managing powers of the Trust, which would entail mainly insurance matters and on-going maintenance prior to the disposal of the premises after 31 August. The meeting unanimously approved the acceptance of these delegated powers.

It was noted that there were presently 3 expressions of interest from various property developers and Andrew Male would approach the Environment Department to see what kind of use they would put on the property, to help the Trust decide on a buyer. In answer to a question from Michael Le Tissier, it was noted that there were enough funds left to cover the on-going works. The store roof needed repair and guttering unblocked, but in the future the circuit meeting would have to give permission for further maintenance. Reverend Hart said an inventory would be drawn up of books, communion ware, etc some china pieces dating back to the original Ebenezer Church.

Canon Paul Mellor expressed on behalf of the Anglican Deanery the on-going offer of unconditional support open to the St Peter Port Society, as it was familiar with and shared the feeling of being 'exiled'. In addition, the Treasurer and Senior Steward of St Peter Port were asked to take back to the present membership the offers of help and assurance of a warm welcome in all the other churches in the Circuit.

St Peter Port had been given the opportunity to make their own wishes known and had been assured that they were welcome to visit other places of worship with a view to transferring their membership. It was suggested that the membership as a whole be lodged with one of the other Circuit churches as a holding bay while people found the right place for themselves. In the meantime continuing pastoral care would be assured by the Circuit Staff and this future issue given consideration by them.

08/51 Circuit Financial Affairs

08/51.1 Presentation of Circuit budget for 2009/10 and update on new assessment system Bob Harbottle said that the budgets had been updated from that presented to each Church Treasurer in January, but there had been no great changes. The budget for 2009/10 in the sum of £329,000 was therefore approved.

Concerning the new assessment system, bids had been received and overall showed the budget would have a shortfall of £10,000 per quarter. The methods set out for raising funds were approved.

Mr Harbottle said that because the present church contributions would not meet the budgetary requirement, each Church Council would now have to reconvene to reconsider its bid in time to finalise the budget at the June Circuit meeting. The revised bids would have to be sent to the Circuit Treasurer by April. Reverend Robinson said the basic shortfall was a result of the closure of St Peter Port. Gavin Johns asked if the managing trustees could then give a sum of money from its capital to cover the shortfall. However, it was considered that this would only give a false picture overall as it could only be a one-off handout and any future shortfall in the budget would have to be met annually.

The meeting agreed the Church Councils should be given the opportunity to reflect on their bids, given that some church numbers were on the decline and some churches had been unaware of the situation with St Peter Port. The Church Councils were thanked for their contributions so far.

08/51.2 Registration of the Circuit as a charity under the Charities and Non Profit Organisations (Registration) (Guernsey) Law, 2008.

Reverend Hart thanked Clive Falla for getting the Circuit registered as a Charity under the provisions of the new Law of 2008. This meant that individual churches did not need to register and could be recipients of donor payments. It was noted that Alderney is covered under this Law, but not Sark.

08/52 Reception of reports from Circuit Officers The reports, previously circulated, were approved and thanks extended to the various Officers.

Noting the contents of the World Mission report that insufficient funds had been paid into the account to enable any amount to be remitted to the Connexional Fund, Paul Chesworth pointed out that people should be aware that this situation was a sign of the changing times.

David Hart made special reference to the Alderney and Sark reports, and commended the Sark website and retreats it was now offering.

Carole Holmes said the Education and Youth section was in the process of being revamped and reviewed. She had posed a series of questions on the Circuit website which she hoped people would read and give her some feed back. Meetings had been poorly attended in the past, but she hoped the Sunday School Rally would go ahead at the end of June and PACE were organising a Praise Party on 25 April. Carole asked if people would give her their email addresses if they wished to be included on her mailing list of events.

08/53 Notice of the annual appointment of Officers and Representatives Members were informed that the appointment of Circuit officers will be made at the summer Circuit meeting on 25 June 2009. However, to give maximum notice of the need for Officers, the present meeting was asked to note that all Officers will require re-appointment, or, in the event that they no longer wish to serve, a replacement will be needed. All appointments are listed in the Circuit Directory, or set out in the Agenda and also listed below in these minutes. People were asked if they were not willing to serve, then please let Margaret know in the Circuit office no later than 2 April 2009. The list of those for re-appointment or for initial appointment will be circulated.

A new Circuit Steward will be required, to replace Sara Gould, who retires in August 2009.

In addition to those listed in the Directory, the following serve as representatives to the District Policy Committee and District Synod.

District Policy Committee – meets at least once a year

Two vacancies for lay representatives. One nomination has been received, for Mrs Claire Teed. One further vacancy exists, which could be a Minister. Reverend Paul Chesworth said he would be willing to fill this vacancy and this was therefore approved by the meeting.

District Synod – meets once a year.

One vacancy – nominations required.

Mrs J De Jersey
Mr M Le Poidevin
Mr M Le Tissier
Mrs M Lewis
Mrs M Penney

Mrs K Saddington
Miss J Vidamour
Mr M Ward
Mrs E Weston
Mr H Winterflood
(vacant)

08/54 Circuit Property Business

08/54.1 Arrangements for Quinquennial Inspections It was reported that work was being done to look at the schedule and churches will be informed which ones would be coming up for inspection. It was hoped to get two smaller churches together with a larger one plus one manse on the same schedule. Alderney would need to know when their quinquennial inspection was to take place.

08/54.2 Presentation of Schedules It was necessary to show all schedules as being completed, and to date, two churches had yet to submit their paperwork. The Circuit Property Secretary had been assured that there were good reasons for the delays in these cases and all would be to hand before the meeting of the District Synod. The presentation of schedules was agreed.

08/54.3 Update on work at St Martin's Manse Andrew Male reported that all work was now complete on the Manse and satisfactory.

08/54.4 Notification of scheme by Circuit Property Committee There were three schemes to be approved and signed.

- **Delisles** Mr Winterflood said that one new boiler had been installed for the church and paid for, but they needed to purchase a new boiler for the Hall. However it had been agreed it was a convenient time to change the system of heating in the Hall from oil to electric storage heaters at a cost of about £8,000 and this money could be covered by funds in hand. The scheme was approved and schedule 1 signed.
- **St Paul's** Bob Harbottle said it was proposed to replace one large boiler with two smaller ones at a cost of £19,645. This was agreed and schedule 1 signed.
- **Alderney Manse** Andrew Male told the meeting that two quotes had been received for general maintenance and roof repairs. The cost was in the region of £19,310. As the work had been outstanding for some time it was agreed to get this carried out as soon as possible with money from the Circuit Advance Fund. The schedule 1 for the scheme was signed.

08/55 Any Other Business

- Methodist National Brass Band – Nathan Falla, a member of Galaad, and his wife were the link with the Band which would be visiting Guernsey from 9 to 16 August 2009. As the Band only met about 3 times a year it had been difficult to finalise a programme with them. The latest email had indicated that they were expecting to be accommodated at Les Camps Methodist Church and fund raising was needed to help with fares, etc. The meeting agreed to leave final details with the Circuit Leadership Team and were asked if anyone was interested in getting involved with the Band to let Carole Holmes or David Hart know.
- Maison de Quetteville – Tony Reddall spoke on behalf of Paul Le Boutillier saying that work was well ahead of schedule and the Directors had appreciated all the help it had received from Circuit churches so far. Details of the proposed opening in the Autumn would follow in

due course and although financially there was still a long way to go, they were confident that the outstanding money would be met.

- Jesus Christ, Superstar – Liz Langlois said this musical was being performed at Capelles on 19 – 21 March and although unable to publicise it to the wider world, Circuit churches could be notified via the Circuit Bulletin.

08/56 Closing Courtesies Reverend Hart thanked Galaad for receiving the meeting and thanked members for attending.

08/57 Date and Place of next meetings

The next Circuit meetings are arranged, at Rohais on Thursday 25 June 2009, St Martin's Mission on Wednesday 23 September 2009 and we request Wesley on Monday 8 February 2010.

08/58 Closing Devotions

Reverend Hart asked that Church Councils prayerfully consider their bids for assessment and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm with the words of the Grace.