

The Methodist Church

Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on Thursday 21 February 2008 at Les Cotils Christian Centre

08/01 Welcome, apologies for absence and notification of any other business

The Reverend David Hart gave a warm welcome to the 2 representatives of the Church of England Deanery Synod, in particular to the Dean of Guernsey, the Very Reverend Canon Paul Mellor, who was attending the meeting for the first time since his recent illness.

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Teed, Brenda Langlois, Rev Jurat Peter Lane, Michael Le Poidevin, Graham Martel, Rev Mignot, Joan Stanford and Tony Reddall.

08/02 Opening Devotions were given by Reverend Hart taken from the book of Luke.

08/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007, which had previously been circulated, were accepted unanimously and duly signed.

08/04 Correspondence, greetings and pastoralia

Reverend Stephen Robinson reported that David Falla of Les Capelles was presently ill in hospital and likely to be there for some time. It was agreed to send greetings and prayerful good wishes to him and also condolences to Michael Le Poidevin on the death of his mother, whose funeral would be held at Les Camps Methodist Church on Tuesday 26 February at 2.30 pm.

08/05 Matters arising

08/05.1 District Synod – appointment of representatives

The meeting approved the appointment of the following to be circuit representative members of the District Synod for a period not exceeding 3 years from 1 March 2008:

Mrs Margaret Penney
Mr Michael Le Poidevin
Mrs Janet de Jersey
Mrs Margaret Lewis
Miss Jean Vidamour
Mr Michael Ward
Mrs Eve Weston
Mr Herbert Winterflood

A further 4 vacancies remain unfilled and it was agreed that David Hart should appoint these on invitation without referring back to the Circuit Meeting.

08/06 Financial matters

08/06.1 Methods of setting the assessment – progress of circuit review

In answer to a question from David Hart, Bob Harbottle reported that he had not had any feedback on the the proposed new method of assessment other than Les Adams, Rohais, St Martin's Mission and Torteval were favourably inclined towards the concept of the idea.

Carole Holmes said that her previous circuit had adopted a sharing scheme for church contributions and in her experience it had worked very well. It had given a sense of responsibility to the churches in the circuit.

David Hart said it was important to receive feedback from the churches by June so that the Circuit could agree a final proposal. It would not be activated until the connexional year 2009/10 which was a year later than originally anticipated. Capelles had requested further information and it was suggested they speak with Carole Holmes.

08/06.2 Other financial matters

A paper had earlier been circulated at the meeting. This contained details of the statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 August 2007, including analysis of various funds and notes to the accounts. Mr Harbottle suggested these papers be examined at home and brought back to the next meeting for acceptance. This was agreed.

08/07 The Work of God and the life of the Circuit

08/07.1 – Work among children and young people

Carole Holmes reported that the Education and Youth Committee had been given a package of work to look at and there was lots going on. However, the Committee needed to be informed of what was happening so that support could be given to each church, and it was currently looking at ways of improving on that co-ordination. The next Circuit Bulletin, currently being prepared, contained these comments and asked for support especially in trying to establish a database of resource material.

Training had been considered, as a result of which Eric Grimsley from the Guernsey Youth Service had given the Committee loads of ideas. There was a lot of local training which the Circuit could tap into free of charge and information on this could be best accessed on the Circuit website. The feasibility of employing a Circuit Youth Worker was being examined but there remained a host of underlying questions, identifying areas of possible work which required a sharing of identification of particular work across the Circuit. The Meeting gave its blessing to the furtherance of these considerations, to the Committee.

The Dean suggested that the Committee also consider the ecumenical aspect and to especially contact Mrs Emma Kierl who was involved in youth work. He named 2 resources on-line which may be useful, one was the **National RE Council and the other was ?**

08/07.2 Work among elderly and vulnerable people

It was reported that Reverend David Hart and Rachel Meinke had yet to meet with the Directors of MHA so that it was hoped to bring a proposal to the next Circuit meeting.

08/07.3 Discussions on mission in the 'Western Parishes'

It was reported that a working party had been established from the four churches which was looking at ways whereby these churches could be more receptive and effective in the West of the Island.

08/07.4 Fresh Expressions day – Saturday 1 March

The Reverend Paul Chesworth explained that a morning workshop for all the Circuit would take place at Les Camps from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm on 1 March. It was hoped to be a challenging and thought provoking time of exchanging ideas by those people who wanted to move the present perspective and explore ways of being a more effective church in the 21st century.

08/08 Circuit Reports

Local Preachers – Roger Browning presented this report which had previously been circulated. It was noted that Miss Gwen Naftel had requested to have her name withdrawn from the list on the quarterly plan because of ill health and her inability to preach in the future. This action was not considered to have set a precedent for future preachers. It was agreed to send a letter of greeting and thanks to Gwen. Best wishes were also extended to Janet de Jersey who had recently been accepted On Trial and also to Jo Langlois and James Menhenitt in the continuation of their studies.

The following reports were accepted having been previously circulated:

- Network
- Connexional Funds
- Mission in Britain
- The work in Sark
- The work in Alderney

The report on the continuing work at Wesley was circulated at the beginning of the meeting and thanks were extended to Stephen Robinson and Bob Harbottle for their management.