

The Methodist Church

Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 at St. Martins Mission.

08/73 Welcome, apologies for absence and notification of any other business.

Reverend David Hart welcomed members to the meeting and thanked Mrs Kathleen Bichard for agreeing to take the Minutes this evening and all agreed with this arrangement.

Reverend David Hart asked Reverend Anita Hart and Mr Michael Le Tissier to be the scrutineers for the ballot concerning item 08/77.3 and this was agreed by all present.

The following items were received to be considered under any other business:

- * District Manse Committee.
- * "God Store".

Apologies for Absence were received from Reverend Arthur Mignot, Margaret Lewis, Nigel Lewis, Roy Le Poidevin, Carol Langlois, Joe Langlois, Carl Rosumek, David Robilliard, Anne Benson, Katina Jones, Caroline Lane, Michael Le Pavoux, John Sheard, Marion Dorey, Paul Le Boutillier, Pauline Powell, Margaret Penney and Michael Ward.

44 people were present at the meeting

08/74 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2009 which had been previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendments:

- 08/64 Reverend Stephen Robinson would be replaced when he retired in "2010" not "2011".
- 08/68.3 "Vale Parish" should read "Castel Parish".
Delete "Caretaker's Cottage".

08/75 Correspondence, greetings and pastoralia

No action required from this present meeting.

08/76 Matters arising

08/76.1 Parochial rates levied on Methodist Churches. Reverend David Hart had received relevant paperwork on this and had spoken to The Dean, who had circulated it to his colleagues. Reverend Hart was also in the process of contacting States Committees to seek clarification of the basis of the changes and the re-classification of Les Capelles Community Centre building as "retail premises". This may also require seeking the Law Officers' advice. Reverend Hart would report back to the Circuit Meeting in February 2010. The Dean said the Methodist Church had the full support of the Deanery, who would assist in joining in the

campaign, as there seemed to be inconsistency in St. Peter Port parish for the rates of the Methodist and Anglican Churches.

08/76.2 Arrangements for worship on Liberation Day, 2010. The Dean reported that Liberation Day 2010 would revert to the traditional way, where there would be two Services: a “Churches Together” Service and the “Royal” Service at the Town Church, both at 10.30 a.m. The General of the Salvation Army would be preaching at the “Churches Together” Service. Reverend Hart asked that local Methodist Church Councils discuss what they felt was right for their respective congregations and to report back at the Circuit Meeting in February.

08/76.3 Appointment representatives to District Synod. Reverend Hart reported that no names had been received by him. There are 12 seats and currently 9 are filled and he would encourage three people to offer to be representatives at Synod. Attendance would be one meeting a year and those attending must be members of the Methodist Church in the Circuit. Anyone wishing to become a representative should contact Reverend David Hart or the Circuit Office.

08/77 The Mission and Ministry of the Circuit.

08/77.1 Recognition of those authorised to Preside at the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Reverend David Hart informed the meeting that Conference had approved the recognition of Irene Day in Alderney and David Hollingsworth in Sark to administer Holy Communion for the Connexional year 2009-10. An act of worship to mark this important occasion then followed.

08/77.2 Sharing in New Wine and Healing on the streets. Reverend Paul Chesworth gave a presentation of ecumenical work he was involved in. This included “Healing on the streets”, which was to be a Training Weekend 2nd/3rd October; Alpha Courses; Guernsey New Wine; new and varied initiatives local Churches were undertaking, e.g. Les Camps praying with those present before/during/after Services. Currently 20 people from various denominations around the Island were involved in working together, and had much to offer each other, which it was hoped would become a successful partnership and be effective in the Kingdom. Reverend Chesworth also referred to the opportunities given to individuals within the Circuit to attend Conferences out of Guernsey funded by the District Development Fund. Reverend Chesworth requested development of a Circuit policy with local Churches outside Methodism, but it was also important to uphold the Methodist doctrine. Reverend Hart thanked Reverend Chesworth for the presentation and was encouraged that people had found new ways in their Christian lives. The Circuit Meeting endorsed the initiatives and promised to pray, as well as giving support and encouragement to this work.

08/77.3 Candidate for Presbyteral Ministry, Mr. David Hollingsworth. David Hollingsworth was introduced by the Superintendent, as a candidate for presbyteral ministry and gave an account of his call to ordained ministry. He spoke of how his work in Sark had acted as a catalyst of thinking and praying with a ministry in different forms and different places. Being able to administer Holy Communion was a transforming event. He now had a desire to explore the vision that God was calling him to the presbyteral ministry. He did not see this as to elevate, but to be in a particular place and to travel alongside all God’s people to offer the Ministry in his heart of transforming the lives of individuals – to encourage, to enable through Sacrament and work the lasting nourishment God can offer; to transform the

heart of humanity and to become a 'bridge' that spans all. To perform all the duties would be a true calling, which would enable him to play his part in bringing the wonderful message of Jesus Christ to everyone. He feels in his heart that it is God's will that he candidates in the Methodist Church, with God bringing him to this through listening clearly.

Reverend Chesworth said he felt that David's sense of call is profound and deep and David said this was so.

Reverend Hart thanked David for his testimony. A ballot was then held and the meeting voted 43:1 in favour to support David Hollingsworth as he offers himself as a candidate.

08/77.4 "Churches Together" 'Church Fair' 18th-19th September 2010. The Dean informed the meeting that contact had been made with St James' Hall about staging a Fair as a 'shop window' for all the Churches in the Island. Churches would be invited to show what they do and it would be a similar layout to the Careers Fair. A number of possible times in the Church year had been discussed, i.e. Pentecost weekend as the "birthday" of the Church; the "Unity" week in January. The date now being proposed was September 2010. Reverend Hart said areas such as the Methodist Relief Fund could be included.

08/77.5 Chaplaincy at MHA (Guernsey) Ltd. Andrew Male reported that discussions had been held with the Directors of MHA in the light of the need to appoint a chaplain to work in Maison L'Aumone Dementia and Maison de Quetteville. The meeting agreed with the suggestion that the Superintendent Minister undertake this work for a period of not beyond August 2010. The Dean reminded the meeting that the Reverend Linda Le Vasseur, a Director of the Company, and Reverends Claes Selim and Jan Le Billon shared in the life of the Homes. The Dean said Reverend Hart would have the support of his Anglican friends for this 'hard ministry'.

08/77.6 Reception of Reports of Circuit ministry and activities. Reverend Hart thanked everyone for all the Reports, which had been previously circulated.

Tony Reddall updated the information given under Minute 8/77.5 that the Head of Home for Maison de Quetteville had been appointed. There was a limitation on numbers to be invited to the official opening of Maison de Quetteville on 17th October, but there was an open invitation to the celebration that evening at Les Capelles, when the guest will be Pam Rhodes (Patron of Methodist Homes UK). Details would be in the Circuit Bulletin.

08/78 Circuit Property Matters.

08/78.1 St Peter Port-Ebenezer progress report and responsibilities of Circuit Meeting as Managing Trustees. Andrew Male reported on progress with the sale of Ebenezer Church. Plans had been prepared for two submissions for outline planning consent. The Circuit Stewards proposed that Cooper Brouard's be appointed to act as agents for the sale and this was agreed. Once a purchaser has been identified, consent will be required from the Methodist Property Office for the sale to go ahead. Reverend Hart asked the meeting to allow the Circuit Stewards to act in the interests of the Circuit between scheduled Circuit meetings. This was agreed.

Reverend Hart expressed thanks to Andrew Male for the use of his professional skills concerning Ebenezer.

Michael Le Poidevin reported that various items which had belonged to St Peter Port Church had been disposed of to 8 Churches in the Circuit. The keyboard had been on the inventory for which no bids had been received. Michael Le Poidevin proposed that the keyboard be donated to the Guernsey Fellowship Singers. The money raised at their events is always given to Charity, so they have no funds to pay for the keyboard. The Circuit Meeting agreed to this proposal. Kathleen Bichard, Secretary of the Singers, thanked St Peter Port and the Circuit Meeting for this very generous gift.

08/78.2 Progress report on St Paul's renovation scheme. Sue Seymour reported they were waiting to hear from the Methodist Property Office with permission to proceed.

08/78.3 Changes to Property Consents System. Tony Reddall reported that there were two main changes for the procedure for dealing with property matters. With effect from 1st January 2010 for schemes of refurbishment etc. for buildings, a decision as to whether any of it may be done, will be raised with the District Synod and not Property in Manchester. To achieve this, a District Consents body needs to be set up, comprising 4 Jersey and 4 Guernsey representatives and the Chairman of the District. The meeting agreed that the Reverend Hart and Mr Tony Reddall would approach people. As names had already been put forward for the Jersey representatives, names from Guernsey were required as soon as possible. The second change is that all work will be done "on line" and no longer as paper documents. There will be a Website accessed by a password.

08/79 Circuit Financial Matters.

08.79.1 Resolution to change the signatories of Circuit accounts. Bob Harbottle stated that Graham Solway needed to be taken off the signatories of Circuit Accounts, due to his ill-health, and also Sara Gould, who was no longer a Circuit Steward. It was proposed that the signatories would be Gavin Johns instead of Graham Solway, and Andrew Male to replace Sara Gould. This was agreed by the meeting. Reverend Hart thanked Bob Harbottle for the amount of financial work he undertook on behalf of the Circuit. Bob Harbottle said he would thank Graham Solway for his work and this was agreed.

08/80 Safeguarding policies and enhanced disclosures.

Reverend Hart reported that Guernsey was moving in line with the England and Wales 'Vetting and Barring' model. More details of this change, which is expected to come into effect in October 2010, will be announced in the circuit bulletin and on the web site.

08/81 Ministerial invitations: Report of the Circuit Invitation Committee.

Andrew Male reported on the process being undertaken for appointing a new Minister to serve St. Paul's, Galaad and Wesley. The Circuit Stewards had met with the Church Stewards from those three Churches to obtain their views to contribute to the preparation of the Profile. The Circuit Invitation Committee had then met to discuss the Profile which was now in its final form. There had been a good representation of the thoughts and wishes of the Circuit. The next stage was for the Profile to be passed to the Chair of the District by 1st October. A copy was available for inspection but no further changes will be made. Reverend Hart said there had been an enormous attention to detail as it is a very important

document. He asked if, on the advice of the Circuit Invitation Committee the meeting would accept the Profile and this was agreed.

08/82 Any other business.

08/82.1 District Manse Committee. Michael Le Tissier reported that the two dwellings in Alderney and Sark would soon be inspected

08/82.2 “God’s Store”. Maggie Costen informed the meeting of an idea being considered of setting up a virtual store of needs in the community (e.g. cutlery, mattresses, food etc), with offers of help. Vazon Elim Church proposed to prepare a database of items and members of the public could contact the Circuit Stewards and information added. She asked the Circuit Meeting to pray for this idea and would be pleased to receive any feedback from the Churches. She would keep the Circuit Meeting informed.

08/82.3 Welcome Service, Saturday 4th September 2010.

Reverend Robinson informed the meeting this had been arranged and would be the welcome to Reverend David Hinchliffe and the other new Minister to the Circuit. The Secretary of Conference would be available to attend. The Dean made a note of this date.

08/82.4 65th Anniversary of Liberation / 70th Anniversary of Evacuation in 2010.

Reverend Tom Vidamour had mentioned to Reverend David Hart that 2010 would not only be the 65th anniversary of Liberation, but the 70th Anniversary of the Evacuation from Guernsey, and asked if some thought could be given to those children who were evacuated, which for some was not a happy experience. Reverend Hart suggested that anyone with views on how this anniversary could be marked sensitively, to contact him privately. The Dean said the Evacuation Society would be involved in marking this 70th Anniversary.

08/83 Closing Courtesies.

Reverend David Hart thanked St Martins Mission for hosting the meeting and all who had attended.

08/84 Date and place of next meetings.

The next Circuit Meetings are arranged as follows: at Wesley on Monday 8th February 2010; Forest United on Thursday 24th June 2010 (if required); and confirmation is awaited from St. Paul’s for Thursday 23rd September 2010.

08/85 Closing Devotions.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m. with Prayers led by Reverend Stephen Robinson, remembering Reverends David and Anita Hart as they enter the stationing process for next year, and for all the items discussed this evening, followed by the words of the Grace.