

The Methodist Church

Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2008 at Les Camps Methodist Church

08/19 Welcome, apologies for absence and notification of any other business

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Lewis, Joe Langlois, Arthur Mignot, Graham Martel, Annette Rabey, Caroline Lane, Mark Dorey, Angela Thompson, Eugene Gidney, Heather Le Boutillier, Paul Le Boutillier, Nellie Le Feuvre, Michael Ward, George Gallienne, Brenda Langlois, Joan Stanford, and David Robilliard.

52 people attended the meeting.

08/20 Opening Devotions were led by The Reverend Stephen Robinson.

08/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February, 2008 which had previously been circulated, were amended, accepted and duly signed.

08/22 Correspondence, greetings and pastoralia

It was recorded with sadness the death of Mrs Barbara Le Pelley since the last Circuit meeting.

A project called Mission to Guernsey by the people of Cobo Mission Hall with Mr Paul Le Boutillier is to be held from 10th–12th October 2008. It was proposed that the Sunday evening be made a Circuit Service, for all Methodists to attend on 12th October at St James. The proposal was carried.

08/23 Matters arising

08/23.1 David Hart reported that the Directors are unable to make a firm proposal at present, but if there was any change, the Circuit Meeting would be informed.

08/23.2 The Reverend Carole Holmes reported that the section had met three times about the calling to build a new church. There was insufficient common ground between the three churches, and the findings would be reported back to the Church Councils of Forest, Torteval and Delisles. Mr Bob Thompson felt the working party didn't expect to do what was done and was told not to explore the route of a new site. Mr Henry Le Tissier said the working party was not a comfortable place to be and felt unable to answer the theological questions being asked of the group. The Dean made a plea for ecumenical involvement as they are in the midst of similar discussions.

David Hart responded regarding procedural questions – the practicality being, if churches work together there has to be a common mind about calling. It was clear that much ground work was needed and it was not a case of “not being allowed” to investigate. The scheme must be properly audited. It was reported that of the four churches initially involved in the discussions, Les Adams and Forest United opted not to continue their involvement in the scheme.

08/23.3 Mr Clive Falla reported on the proposal to engage a Guernsey-based surveyor to carry out Quinquennial inspections. David Hart had met with Mr Ross Paisley of Lovell Ozanne and his estimate and draft contract was awaited.

08/23.4 Mr Bob Harbottle reported that the signatories on the Circuit accounts are Mr Graham Solway and Mr Harbottle. He requested that a third be added, Mrs Sara Gould and that Mr Harbottle be able to continue to transfer funds between the accounts by himself. This was approved.

08/24 Financial and Property matters

08/24.1 Methods of setting the Assessment – presentation of proposed Share system

Bob Harbottle presented the Circuit Leadership Team's proposal of the dividing of the Circuit budget into 1,000 shares and individual Church Councils choose how many to contribute on a quarterly basis. 2½% leeway would be given and any surplus greater than that amount would be placed in a mission project fund. If the take up of shares was more than 2½% below budget, churches would be invited to re-submit share options to meet budget. Budgeting would need to be earlier (February) so the Circuit Meeting can confirm the bids received. The proposition was carried. Mr Colin Bond asked if the Meeting could express the thanks of the members to Bob Harbottle for all the time and hard work he had spent on preparing the new system.

08/24.2 Other financial matters

Mr Harbottle requested that the adoption of the accounts be postponed to September (having already been circulated).

08/24.3 Approval of Schedule of works for St Martins Manse.

Mr Andrew Male reported that to deal with the damp in this Manse, two quotations had been obtained for insulation in the walls which is applied to the outside of the building. The quote for £15,840 with a contingency of £1,000 should rectify the damp problems and reduce the fuel costs. The schedule was approved.

08/25 The Mission and Ministry of the Circuit

08/25.1 Mr Roger Browning reported that Mr James Menhenitt had been recommended by the Local Preachers meeting onto full plan as a Local Preacher. This was approved by the meeting. A Circuit Service for James would be held on 9th November.

08/25.2 Harvest Pack. Mrs Claire Teed informed the meeting that the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) had produced a new Harvest Pack, the 2008 theme being Ethiopia, for use by Preachers and Worship Leaders in Harvest services. Roger Browning has several packs which are available to church leaders.

08/25.3 Circuit Web-site funding. David Hart proposed the allocation of £1,500 to cover setting up costs for a Circuit Website. It is understood that 30% of people looking for a church when they move to a new district, use the web. The intention is to make a tool of evangelism and witness. Each church in the Circuit will have the opportunity to advertise on the site. Voluntary offers of help had been received, but

the work was too great to complete on a voluntary basis. The website will be run by the Circuit Administrator. The initial set up costs by a local professional organisation called Submarine are £3,000. Submarine would host and design the site. An application for matched funds (£1,500) will be made to the District. The proposition was approved.

08/26 Circuit Review – Future staffing arrangements

David Hart explained the timetable for the Chair, requiring the profile for the Superintendent in September/October 2008 and the Chair will be designated by the 2009 Conference. There were several questions regarding future staffing in the Circuit and District which the Chairman answered.

Mrs Sara Gould brought a substantive proposition to the meeting and introduced it by recapping what has happened so far. The Circuit Leadership Team's task had not been easy, following the release of the proposed sections in the Circuit Bulletin.

The meeting was asked to:

1. Accept the Circuit Mission Policy as described on page one of the paper entitled Future Pastoral arrangement of the Circuit,
2. For the Chairman/Superintendent minister who is yet to be appointed, to lead Les Capelles and Bordeaux Church,
3. To accept there will be one less minister in 2010 in order to allow the Circuit planning to take place on this basis and
4. Accept the proposal of a provisional Sectional arrangement as described in the paper. This pastoral plan would be reviewed by the Circuit Leadership team, following the completion of church reviews in the early part of 2009 by each church in the Circuit. The church reviews will be in a common format for the whole Circuit similar to the documents completed in 2007 and each Church Council will be asked to approve its review response at the February meeting in 2009, before the CLT bring a pastoral plan to the June Circuit meeting.

Mr Herbert Wintertflood presented two amendments to the document 'Future Pastoral Arrangements of the Circuit' which were seconded by Mr Henry Le Tissier. They were taken in two parts.

In item 4.2 – to remove the sentence 'The proposed allocation of churches to ministers will remain in place until the Circuit meeting re-visits this business in 12 months time'. The Meeting voted on the above amendment and it was lost. The second amendment fell by the withdrawal of the seconder.

Mr Colin Bond proposed the three parts of the proposed Circuit Mission Policy be combined. This was seconded by Robert Langlois.

The Superintendent minister resisted the amendment because it compromised the need for prioritising resources within the Circuit. With this explanation, Mr Bond withdrew his proposal. The meeting approved the four substantive propositions brought by the Circuit Leadership Team.

The meeting voted on each of the four propositions and they were carried by an overwhelming majority.

David Hart thanked the Circuit Leadership Team colleagues for all the hard work on these arrangements.

08/27 Appointments (effective for a period of twelve months from 1 September 2008)
The following appointments were approved:

- 08/27.1 Mr Roger Browning as Secretary of the Local Preachers Meeting
- 08/27.2 Mr Bob Harbottle as the Circuit Treasurer
- 08/27.3 Mrs Sara Gould and Mr Andrew Male as Circuit Stewards
- 08/27.4 Mrs Claire Teed as a Circuit Steward for a period of office not to exceed four years
- 08/27.5 To appoint a fourth Circuit Steward if a nomination has been made – no appointment made
- 08/27.6 To appoint *en bloc* all Circuit Officers save those above listed in the Circuit Directory
- 08/27.7 Circuit Auditor – Messrs Perkins

David Hart thanked Mrs Rachel Meinke for all she has done on behalf of the Circuit.

08/28 Any Other Business

World Missions - Mr Tony Reddall reported that he had received £1,100 from Circuit Churches. Last year the total was £3,700. He asked members to remind Churches about contributions to this work.

08/29 Closing courtesies

The Chairman thanked the members of Les Camps for their hospitality.

08/30 Date and place of next meetings

- 15th September 2008 at Bordeaux
- 16th February 2009 at Galaad
- 25th June 2009 at Rohais

08/31 Closing Devotions

David Hart closed the meeting at 9.25 pm with the Words of the Grace.