

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
SUTTON CIRCUIT
LONDON DISTRICT 35/39**

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting Held on 3rd February 2015
at Wallington Methodist Church, Beddington Gardens SM6 0HU

Those present: Rev Nick Oborski (Chair), Rev John Amankwatia, Rev Dave Dickinson, Rev Gill Long, Rev Mark Wakelin, Rev Mark Williams, Rev Des Williamson, Miss Shirley Breeden, Mr David Forty, Mr Richard Smith (Circuit Treasurer), Miss Raj Kalsi (Secretary) and 20 members whose names are recorded.

1. Opening devotions

Rev John Amankwatia led the meeting in reflection and prayer.

2. Meeting Membership - confirmation of membership list

The membership list was confirmed as accurate with no amendments.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Rev Jenny Impey, Rev Ernest Yu, David Gooch, Nick White, Philip Sandiford, Tony Brett Young, Ruth Pugh, Ravi Saravanamuttu, Tom Styche, David Worthington, Audrey Saunderson, Eileen Rice, Margaret Kercher, Gordon Fleming, Caroline Cook and Janet Angel.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

The meeting accepted the appointment of Judith Yates and Stanley Jeyaraj as scrutineers for the meeting

5. Minutes of the meetings held on 10th September 2014 (previously circulated)

The meeting accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Report from the circuit leadership team – Shirley Breeden

The meeting accepted the report included in the papers. Shirley wished Nick and his family the very best in his new Circuit and thanked him for all that he has done for this Circuit.

8. Circuit manses

Philip Sandiford has sent apologies, since he was as unable to attend the Meeting. The Chair and the meeting thanked Philip for the very detailed report and all his hard work. The Manses report which was circulated with the agenda papers was accepted by the Meeting.

Tenancy Agreements for Manses

Last year the Circuit Meeting agreed to devolve power to the Circuit Stewards to act on behalf of the Meeting each time a tenancy agreement had to be agreed. The Chair asked the Circuit Meeting if they were happy to continue to give the Circuit Stewards permission to act on behalf of the Meeting to agree to tenancy agreements for Manses as they arise since we cannot have a separate Circuit Meeting each time a tenancy agreement needs to be agreed. Circuit Meeting agreed to authorise Circuit Stewards to continue to act on behalf of Meeting.

9. Circuit finances.

a. Annual Report and Accounts year ended 31st August 2014

Report previously circulated with agenda papers, Richard informed the meeting that the report is with the Auditor awaiting authorisation once the meeting accepts it and pointed out that on page 4 of the report under **Issues for 2012/2015**, fourth line should be April 2015 and not 2014. Rev Mark Williams asked if on Page 15 of the report 'Ministers of other denominations recognised by Methodist Conference' could be amended to 'Ministers of other denominations authorised to serve by Methodist Conference', the Chair agreed that change of wording would be more accurate. The Chair thanked Richard for preparing the Annual report and the meeting accepted the annual report and accounts.

b. Draft Budget 2015/2016

In response to question from the floor (Sue Forty) regarding Manse letting costs in the Actual 2014/2015 figures, Richard Smith explained that the amount for Manse Lettings of £23,371 is the amount received from letting out the Manse at 16 Hall Road and 7 Waverley Way. The amount of £16,141 is the expense paid out for renting the house at 91 Hazon Way and the £500 letting expense is related to setting up costs for letting out 16 Hall Road.

The meeting accepted the budget, with none opposing.

c. Assessments

Richard explained that 2015-2018 assessments for the next three year cycle have been prepared using 2014/15 as the base and latest membership numbers to calculate the 2017/18 figures and then applying equal percentage increases to get the 2015/16 and 2016/17 figures. The assessments have been presented to the Church Treasurers at their last meeting who have gone through them in detail and they have accepted the figures. There is an increase in Epsom figures due to loss of Superintendent part of the

assessment and therefore they have one Minister and a proportion of 60% of Rev Nick Wooller. The other Churches have had a straight line increase in their assessments. The Chair thanked all the Treasurers for all their work.

The proposed assessments for 2015/16 were accepted by the Meeting with none opposed.

10. Circuit appointments and Representatives to Synod 2015/2016

Circuit Appointments

Circuit Treasurer

The Chair asked the meeting if anyone would be interested in the role of the Circuit Treasurer as Richard has been Treasurer since 2000, as there were no offers from the floor the Meeting took a balloted vote on the proposal that '**Richard Smith be re-appointed as Circuit Treasurer for the Sutton Circuit for the financial year 2015-6**'. The results of the voting were: 30 for, with one against the proposal (31 present). The Meeting therefore duly re-elected Richard Smith as Circuit Treasurer.

The Meeting adopted the remaining appointments with the addition of Mrs Sue Forty as Chairman of Risk Management Group.

Representatives to Synod

Alan Jameson asked the meeting if anyone else was willing to be representative from Circuit to the Synod as he is currently also member of Synod for the Sabbatical Group, as there were no volunteers Alan agreed to continue as representative to Synod for year 2015/16. The Meeting reappointed Mr Alan Jameson, Miss Shirley Breeden, Mr Philip Sandiford, Miss Jacky Waite and Mr Chee Hong Fui as Synod representatives for the year 2015-6.

11. Leaders of Worship and Preachers

Nick White sent his apologies to the Meeting. The Leaders of Worship and Preachers report is included in the agenda papers. The report was accepted by the Meeting. The Chair was pleased to announce that Valerie Imms has completed her training and successfully passed all the units. She has had her final interviews at the Local Preachers meeting and they are happy to recommend her as Accredited Local Preacher. The Chair confirmed that her Recognition Service will be on the 1st March 2015 at Epsom Methodist Church and will be a Café Worship Service. The meeting was happy to approve Val's Accreditation as Local Preacher.

12. Safeguarding

Circuit Safeguarding Policy

Copy of Circuit Safeguarding Policy previously circulated with the agenda papers. The adoption of the policy was agreed by the meeting. The Chair informed the meeting that Diane Tomson will not be able to continue her role as Circuit Live Cases officer for both Vulnerable Adults and Children as she and Tony are currently in the process of moving home at the end of February. The Chair thanked both Diane and Tony for all the contributions they have made over the past years both at Bandon Hill Church and the Circuit, and wished them well for the future. The Chair proposed that whilst a suitable person is being sought to fill the role, the Chair and Raj Kalsi will share the role of Circuit Live Cases Officer and requested the Meeting to find out from their Churches if anyone is interested and suitable for the role.

13. Fairtrade Circuit

The Chair recently received a request from Alice Gem, a member of the London Borough of Sutton Fairtrade Group, who is inquiring how many of the Churches in the Circuit have a Fairtrade Status. The Chair explained that a Fairtrade status is when you have a certificate from Fairtrade to show that you are complying with Fairtrade requirements. St Mark's, St John's, Sutton Trinity, Wallington and Bandon Hill confirmed that they are Fairtrade Churches. The Chair encouraged the remaining Churches who are not Fairtrade to have a discussion with their Church Councils and consider whether it is appropriate to apply for the Fairtrade status.

14. Reports from Circuit committees

Reports from the Circuit Model Trust Fund Committee and the various mission funds, included in the agenda papers, were accepted by the Meeting.

15. Good news from Churches

The Chair thanked the Churches for sharing their good news reports included in the agenda papers, and asked if there was anything else the Meeting would like to add to the good news reports. Rev Mark Wakelin informed the Meeting that Michael Harvey will be coming to Epsom Methodist Church on Saturday 4th July 2015 to lead a day on 'The Culture of Invitation' and asked the Meeting to add the date in their diaries and to encourage members at their Churches to attend.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank everyone for all the contributions they have made to the Circuit and at their Churches. He asked the Meeting to take back to their Churches and share what has been discussed at the Meeting and invited everyone to attend the Circuit Service as his farewell service at 6.30pm on the 26th April at Carshalton Methodist Church.

16. Wallington Building Development

The Meeting was asked to remember Wallington in prayer during the development.

17. Date and place of next meeting

Thursday 14th May, Epsom Methodist Church, Coffee at 7.30pm, meeting at 8.00pm.

18. Closing devotions

The meeting was closed by sharing together the words of the Grace.