

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

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting Held on 2nd March 2017
at Wallington Methodist Church, Beddington Gardens SM6 0HU

Those present: Revd Dave Dickinson (Chair), Revd Barnabas Alexander, Revd Mark Wakelin, Mr David Forty, Mr Richard Smith (Circuit Treasurer), Miss Raj Kalsi (Secretary) and 21 members whose names are recorded.

1. Opening devotions

Revd Dave Dickinson led the meeting in prayer.

2. Meeting Membership - confirmation of membership list

There were no new members to welcome to the meeting. The membership list was confirmed as accurate with no amendments.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Rev Rosemary Richter, Revd Nik Wooller, Ravi Saravanamuttu, David Gooch, Eileen Rice, Christine Asirwatham, Geoff Gunton and Gordon Fleming

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

The meeting agreed the appointment of Judith Yates and Nellie Showers as scrutineers for the meeting.

5. Minutes of the meetings held on 8th September 2016 (previously circulated)

The meeting accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016.

6. Matters arising

- a. Question was raised at the last circuit meeting held on 8th September 2016 regarding the elected number of representatives for Sutton Trinity. The Chair informed the meeting that the number of elected representatives has been increased to three in accordance with the correct calculations. There has not yet been an opportunity for Trinity to appoint its third representative.
- b. The Chair confirmed that John Dawson was commissioned in November last year as a fully-accredited Local Preacher.
- c. Sue Forty announced that Malcolm Booth will be representing Sutton Trinity on the Risk Management Committee.
- a. Richard informed the meeting that he has now received all the paying in books for the Connexional funds and will be contacting the Churches in April this year for them to forward their contributions for the Connexional funds.

7. Correspondence

- a. The Chair shared with the meeting a letter of appreciation and gratitude he received signed by the two Chairs of the District. The letter stated that they were thankful for the part our circuit played in the District's response to the refugee crises. Five transit vans of supplies had been delivered to Calais.
- b. The Chair also shared with the meeting correspondence he had received about Bible month: The Methodist Church is encouraging the Circuits to run a Bible Month during the Month of June 2017 focusing on the book of James. Dave has received a number of books, DVD's and cards and asked the meeting to have a look at them after the meeting.

8. Report from the circuit leadership team by Ravi Saravanamuttu

- a. Ravi sent his apologies to the meeting. The meeting accepted the report from the circuit leadership team included in the papers.

Manses

Chair stated that although there is an arrangement with Patricia Shepherd Letting Agents to oversee the manses, Philip Sandiford had asked to be reappointed as Manses secretary with reduced responsibilities, mainly to liaise with Patricia Shepherd in authorising any work they recommend. The meeting agreed.

Redevelopment at Wallington

The Chair reported that the Circuit Leadership Team had a very enlightening meeting with the Wallington Leadership team in November 2016, in which the Leadership team outlined its visions and plans for the re-development of the site. Wallington Leadership Team will share the presentation at the next Circuit Meeting in May 2017. Wallington would appreciate the appointment of someone from another church in the Circuit to liaise with Wallington to advise and support them. The Circuit Stewards will be asked to consider this in their next meeting.

Stationing

The Chair was pleased to report that Revd Nik Wooller has been successfully matched with an appointment in Scotland and will be living in Dundee. She will be serving three Churches for the next five years and will also have a District wide responsibility for the Scottish District. The Chair on behalf of the meeting congratulated Nik on her appointment and wished her well. There will be an opportunity for the Circuit to say farewell to Nik at a Circuit service on the evening of Sunday 23rd July

The Circuit has been unsuccessful in matching a presbyter to the Epsom/Cheam appointment. In response, conversations at Epsom and Cheam are beginning. Revd Mark Wakelin gave the meeting an update about the situation in Epsom. They have had consultations with the members at Epsom and engaged an outside facilitator to enquire from the congregation what type of appointment they wanted, this led to a range of possibilities such as employing a Minister from another denomination, a person who may be lay or Ordained. Mark asked the meeting to support them by agreeing that Epsom find a full time person who will be a Circuit appointment working in Epsom. The Chair will continue to have conversations with Cheam.

The meeting agreed to support Epsom to explore alternative means of appointing assistant ministers in Epsom for the next three years.

The Chair recommended that we withdraw our appointment from the Stationing process. The meeting agreed. The Chair also asked the meeting if it will continue to empower the Invitations Committee or the Circuit Leadership Team to take forward any possible staffing arrangements if they have to be made ahead of the next Circuit Meeting. Circuit Meeting agreed to authorise Invitations Committee or Circuit Stewards to act on behalf of Circuit Meeting.

9. Circuit manses

The manse report included in the calling papers was accepted by the meeting.

Manses Management Agreement

The Chair gave the meeting an update on the agreement with Patricia Shepherd. The contract with Patricia Shepherd was forwarded to the Legal Department in Manchester for approval. Some changes have been recommended which Philip Sandiford will integrate into the contract. Once Philip has done this, the Chair will forward the amended contract to Patricia Shepherd for their agreement.

Manor Green Road – Upgrade Project

The necessary upgrade to the Manse has been brought into question because no Methodist minister will be housed in 116 Manor Green Road from September 2017. The Chair asked the meeting if it would be advisable to have the work done at this stage or to put the project on hold until it is necessary and only to refurbish the manse for now. Suggestions from the floor included: it would be advisable to do the work whilst we know the costs, the upgrade would increase the value of the property. It was decided that since further thinking is required the Circuit Leadership Team will need to discuss this further at their next meeting. Question asked by the floor included: do we have the funding for the project. The Chair replied that a request has been made from St George's and that they are open to making the money available if required. The meeting requested that Philip Sandiford find out from the Surveyors what the value of the property would be after the upgrade. This would assist the CLT in its thinking.

The Chair and the meeting expressed their gratitude to Philip Sandiford for all his hard work.

10. Circuit finances

a. Circuit Shares

Report from Circuit Treasurers meeting included in the agenda papers. Cheam had offered 50% less than expected and two other churches also offered slight reductions. Nevertheless the shares offered met the budget figure with a small surplus. Richard highlighted an error in his 2017-18 figures: that for St Mark's should read 1160 and that for St Johns 1901 on page 8 of the agenda papers. The meeting accepted the proposed share offers.

b. Annual Report and Accounts year ended 31 August 2016

Report previously circulated with agenda papers. The meeting accepted the annual report and accounts

c. Draft Budget 2017/2018

The meeting adopted the Draft Budget previously circulated with the agenda papers.

11. Circuit appointments and Representatives to Synod 2016/2017

Circuit Treasurer

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 2017-8**'. The results of the voting were: 26 for, with none against the proposal (27 present). The Meeting therefore duly re-elected Richard Smith as Circuit Treasurer.

The Meeting adopted the remaining Circuit and Synod appointments for the year 2017-18 with the amendment to add Philip Sandiford as Manses Secretary and to change Methodist Homes and Ryelands Link/Event Coordinator title to 'Revd' instead of 'Mrs'.

12. Leaders of Worship and Preachers

The Leaders of Worship and Preachers report by Lucy Brown was included in the agenda papers. The report was accepted by the Meeting.

13. Safeguarding

a. Circuit Safeguarding Policy

Copy of Circuit Safeguarding Policy previously circulated with the agenda papers. The adoption of the policy was agreed by the meeting.

b. Training Update

Raj will inform the Church Safeguarding Officers of the Safeguarding Foundation Training Dates for this year.

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.

Report from MHA by Revd Anne Rusbridge

Anne spoke to the meeting about decision to change name for 'MHA Sunday Appeal' to 'Best Sunday for Ages'. Anne explained that the money which is raised by the Methodist Churches for the appeal annually goes towards providing a Chaplain in every home, music therapy and reflexology. Anne asked the Churches in our Circuit to hold a special service to recognise 'Best Sunday for Ages' on or around 11th June 2017 and take a collection to support MHA's work. On the 2nd July 2017 at 3.30pm there will be a Circuit Service at Ryelands when Churches can bring their MHA Gift envelopes. Anne asked all the Churches in the circuit to encourage at least 2 members of their congregation to attend the Circuit Service and also to contribute towards the worship.

15. Date and place of next meeting

17th May 2017 (Wednesday) at Carshalton Methodist Church, Coffee at 7.30pm, meeting at 8.00pm.

13th September (Wednesday), Venue to be confirmed.

16. Closing devotions

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