

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

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting Held on 17th May 2017
At CARSHALTON METHODIST CHURCH

Those present: Revd Dr Dave Dickinson (Chair), Revd Ung Soon Nguang, Revd Rosemary Richter, Revd Nicola Wooller, Mr Ravi Saravanamuttu, Mr David Gooch, Mr David Forty, Mr Richard Smith (Circuit Treasurer), Miss Raj Kalsi (Secretary) and 18 members whose names are recorded. Also present was member from Wallington Methodist Church – Sharmini Saravanamuttu (Wallington Leadership team).

1. Opening devotions

Revd Rosemary led the meeting in a reflection and prayer.

2. Meeting Membership - confirmation of membership list

The membership list was confirmed as accurate. The Chair welcomed Messrs Segun Akindele and Richard Cornwell as elected representatives for Sutton Trinity. Dr David Gooch is a member of the meeting as Circuit Steward.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Revd Barnabas Alexander, Revd Gillian Long, Revd Philip Richter, Revd Mark Wakelin, Revd Des Williamson, Jan Angel, Chee Hong Fui, Nellie Showers, Ama Boachie Mensah, John Kingsnorth, Audrey Saunderson, Margaret Kercher, Stanley Jeyaraj, Caroline Cook and David Worthington.

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd March 2017 (previously circulated)

The meeting accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2017.

5. Matters arising

- Correspondence

The Chair informed the meeting of 3Generate Methodist event taking place in November 2017 for Children and young people and asked the meeting members to take leaflets which he had received.

-Connexional Funds Bank Account Signatories

Richard Smith explained that three signatories were required for the HSBC Connexional Fund Bank Account and proposed that Jan Angel, David Gooch and himself as authorised bank signatories. The meeting approved the signatories.

-Update on Ministry at Epsom and Cheam

Chair reminded the meeting that the last stationing round match was unsuccessful and at the last Circuit meeting it was agreed to withdraw the appointment from the stationing process so as to have the freedom to make alternative arrangements. The Chair was pleased to announce the situation has been addressed in two parts as follows:

- (i) Cheam: After conversation with the Stewards and Leadership Team at Cheam it was agreed that Revd Gill Long will, from September onwards, serve as Eucharistic Minister and chair the Church Council meetings. Alongside Gill, John Dawson will serve as voluntary part-time Lay Pastor for the next three years at Cheam. He will take one service a month at Cheam and will be available to the people at Cheam and the wider community and will also carry out Baptisms and Funerals at Cheam. The meeting approved the arrangements at Cheam.
- (ii) Epsom has chosen to advertise for a full-time minister, either lay or ordained, for a three-year appointment. The application for this appointment closes on Monday, 29th May and interviews are expected in early June. Epsom will be adjusting its share of Circuit costs accordingly after the appointment. The meeting agreed with the proposal at Epsom.

-Manor Green Road

No decision can be made regarding the manse at Manor Green Road, until it is known what is required of the property.

6. Circuit Leadership Team Report

Ravi apologised to the meeting for the incorrect report included in the agenda papers. He gave the following verbal report:-

-He thanked the Chair for all his hard work in achieving the satisfactory arrangements at Cheam and informed the meeting that Dave will be on the appointments committee of the potential appointment at Epsom.

-Ravi stated that the Superintendent Minister at Sutton Trinity is coming to an end of his appointment period and a decision as to whether he will continue with the appointment will have to be made by the invitation committee after consultation with Trinity Church and the Circuit Stewards.

-Manses: Ravi reminded the meeting that the Circuit has appointed a letting agent to manage the manses on a day to day basis so that all queries can be dealt with professionally and the arrangement is working well. However, a liaison was required between the Circuit and the Agent and Philip Sandiford has agreed to be the liaison.

-Ravi explained that at the last Circuit Stewards' meeting it was suggested that each Circuit Steward should have a particular responsibility to an individual Church in the Circuit. These arrangements have been made.

7. Safeguarding

Raj informed the meeting that the timetable for the dates of the Safeguarding training course for this year was included in the agenda papers.

8. United Church of St, Mark LEP

St. Mark LEP report previously circulated with the agenda papers. John Miller explained that process outlined in the report to get Methodist approval for adoption of the new model constitution is for information purpose. As required, he informed the Circuit Meeting of the process.

9. Appointing a Circuit Invitation Committee

The Chair explained that the Circuit Invitation Committee comprises the Circuit Leadership Team, plus a representative from each local church, although it is not essential that all Church representatives attend all meetings. The Chair asked the Circuit Meeting members to go back to their Churches and nominate a person to be representative on the Circuit Invitation Committee and to inform Raj by the 16th June 2017 the name of the representative. The meeting accepted the composition of the Circuit Invitations Committee.

10. Wallington Development Presentation

Presentation by Ravi:

Wallington is a Town Centre Methodist Church with diverse group of people: diverse ages, diverse activities and diverse origins. Warm and welcoming community, care for each other and the Lord.

Ravi presented a graph showing the attendance figures of the different age group members at Wallington, in the past few years and explained although the numbers have reduced but there is a reasonable spread. A new building will help attract more people as the old building is not attractive and not easy to access. The Church is based on a very good site and visible to many people as it is directly opposite Wallington Railway Station, has several bus stops, next to the Wallington High Street and across from Lidl.

Presentation by Sharmini Saravanamuttu

Sharmini spoke about the good worship they have at Wallington which is helped by a number of factors including good musicians and worship leaders. The state of their building is impeding their worship in diverse ways and it would be good to have Café style worship for their young people. Visual aspects of

worship are reduced by the pillars in the Church and sound system does not work very well. Their outreach includes those who already attend Church and outsiders. They have a thriving junior Church. They also have a number of young people attending some of who have been there from the time they were born and other who have joined later The young people are very supportive and encourage each other and after the Sunday Morning service they meet up at Café Nero and in the future it would be helpful to provide them with facilities at the Church. They have a Prayer hour once a month on Saturday's where people from outside Church join as well, to pray for the community and the wider world. The Church also has active class groups which meet regularly. Other groups who meet at the Church include Men's Saturday Breakfast, Monday morning Playbox group which meet during term time, Thursday morning coffee during term time run in partnership with Orchard Hill College and Monthly Saturday Market which is run on the same day as the Wallington farmers market. Wallington also work together with Bandon Hill and provide a pianist to Ryelands on Sunday. In the future they would like to have a Café at the entrance of the Church so that they can invite people in or provide for people already using the accommodation at the Church.

Presentation by Judith Yates:

Wallington has recently reconstituted their development team and are pleased to welcome Ian Hay. Judith presented to the Circuit meeting picture of the existing Church which is on the corner of Shotfield Road and Beddington Gardens. The Church was opened in 1908 is has a leaking roof, windows are in a bad state and it is not ideal for current form of worship. They also have a Church Hall which was built in 1950 and is not in such a bad state and at one point they were considering keeping it. There is also a youth centre built in 1960 which is very dilapidated and at the moment is only used for storage purposes. Following the last Quinquennial inspection the work that is required in the next five years will cost a minimum of £350,000.

Proposed Plans: At one point they were planning to keep their existing Church hall and rebuild the front corner but this was not financially viable. The current plan is to demolish everything and build a two storey Church building on the front of the site. The rest of the site will be sold for a residential development with the expectation the money from that will fund the new building and Wallington will raise funds for the fixtures and fittings. As it will be a two storey building, access to the lower floor will be from Beddington Gardens and the access to the upper floor will be from Shotfield. The upper floor will have a dedicated sanctuary area, there will be a moveable screen which can be opened up for larger occasions. There will also be Ministers office and Vestry on the upper floor. On the lower floor there will be direct access from the Road into a Coffee shop, halls, kitchen, WC and storage areas.

Finance: There is currently planning permission for the Church building which runs out in October this year. They are in conversation with TMCP, Manchester who have been very helpful with the advice. At the moment they have an Architect, Solicitors and are at a stage of finding a developer for the residual site and are confident the scheme will work. They already have some money for fixtures and fittings from fundraising and have raised £45,000 and will apply for grants from District, Connexion and various foundations.

The Chair thanked the Wallington team for their presentation and commented that such a project has promise and that it is a mission based project.

Judith Yates asked at what point approval was needed from the Circuit Meeting. The Chair indicated that, if necessary, an Extraordinary Circuit meeting can be called to give approval.

11. Date and place of next meeting

Thursday 13th September 2017 at St John's Church, Belmont Coffee at 7.30pm, meeting at 8pm.

12. Closing devotions The Chair closed the meeting in prayer.