

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

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
at Sutton Trinity Church

ACTION

<p><b>Present:</b> Revd Dr. Dave Dickinson (Chair), Revd Des Williams, Revd Dr. Mark Wakelin, Mr. Chris Shaw, Revd. Philip Richter, Revd Rosemary Richter, Revd Gill Long, Mr. John Dawson, Mr. Richard Smith (Circuit Treasurer), Mr. David Forty, Dr. David Gooch, and 19 members whose names are recorded. Also Mrs Liz Wood (Acting Secretary).</p>	
<p><b>1. Opening Devotions</b> Revd Dave Dickinson led the meeting in a prayer for Shrove Tuesday and John Wesley's Prayer set for the day.</p>	
<p><b>2. Meeting Membership</b> a) The Chair welcomed Liz Wood who had agreed to act as Secretary for the meeting, following the death of Raj Kalsi, the Circuit Administrator b) The Chair welcomed Jane Williams and Val Imms from Epsom as new members. c) The circulated list of members was <u>confirmed</u>.</p>	
<p><b>3. Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Revd Barnabas Alexander, Ravi Saravanamuttu, Janet Angel, .Audrey Saunderson, Nellie Showers, Gordon Fleming, Martin Trenaman, Christine Asirwatham. Jacky Waite, David Worthington, Ama Boachie-Mensah, and Caroline Cook</p>	
<p><b>4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (previously circulated)</b> The Minutes were <u>agreed</u> and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p><b>5. Matters arising</b> There were no matters arising.</p> <p><b>Correspondence:</b> The Chair drew attention to the 3 Generate Manifesto 2018 drawn up at a Youth Conference in 2017 challenging Churches, copies of which are available, and could be promoted in all Churches. (<a href="http://www.methodist.org.uk/3generate">www.methodist.org.uk/3generate</a>)</p>	ALL
<p><b>6. Reports which have been circulated.</b> a) Senior Circuit Steward's report - No questions b) Manses report - No questions c) Wallington Church Development report – No questions</p> <p><b>Local Preachers Meeting Report</b> Local Preachers Meeting had met last week, and are giving a Note to Preach to Simon Tang (Cantonese) and Jason Yip (English) of the Epsom Chinese congregation.</p>	
<p><b>7. Memorial to Conference on Models of Ministry</b> Conversations had taken place at Circuit Meeting and Staff Meetings to recognise the need to fill the vacancies in Methodist Ministry. 48 Stations this year will be unfilled in the Connexion, 2 in London. After discussion it was <u>agreed</u> unanimously to send the following Memorial to Conference: "The Sutton Circuit notices that there is a significant number of lay people who feel called to Local Ordained Ministry in many circuits, often non-stipendiary, and a lack of Itinerant Presbyters for Stationing, and recognises that God may be challenging us to respond to this. It asks Conference to act with urgency to select, train and ordain the people God is calling to the Ministry that God's Mission is demanding." This will go to the Memorials Committee to scrutinize, and if it is considered of sufficient merit, it will be debated in Conference.</p>	DD
<p><b>8. Circuit Safeguarding</b> Richard Smith said he was waiting for dates from Revd Mark Williams for training, both introduction and refresher courses after 5 years. When known, dates would be circulated. A new safeguarding policy for local Churches has been distributed to Church Safeguarding Officers.</p>	RS
<p><b>9. Appointment of Circuit Invitations Committee</b> This would be active this year to consider the re-invitation of Revd Mark Wakelin to Epsom. Ravi Saravanamuttu will convene the Committee which will comprise Circuit Staff, Circuit Stewards and the Senior Church Steward at Epsom. This was <u>approved</u></p>	RaviS
<p><b>10. Circuit Finances</b> a) <i>Examined Accounts 2016/17.</i> Richard Smith had prepared and circulated accounts. He had received a message from Revd Rosemary Richter to say that Revd Philip Richter would be retiring this August and the contribution to the Circuit will not be available for 2018/19 this being £3,000 from Connexion. This £3,000 had not been included in the accounts as presented and needed to be added to the Income from other trading activities (income) and Property (expenditure) in the Statement of Financial Activities. This will not change overall figures but note 8 to the report would need to be changed. Malcolm Booth asked about Manse accounts. There is not a manse reserve £18,000 being carried forward. He was not happy with the way the accounts were presented. Notional costs, accruals and actuals would all need to be reconciled before the 2017/18 Accounts are agreed. After discussion it was decided that the 2016/17 accounts could not be signed off, but that all the</p>	

<p>necessary changes should be made and accounts be re-circulated with the Minutes, and be approved at the next Circuit Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May which is before June 30<sup>th</sup> the final date for Charity Commission submission.</p> <p>b) <i>Proposed Budget for 2018/19</i>. This was <u>agreed</u></p> <p>c) For information only, <i>proposed shares</i> of £338,318 in total would be sufficient to run for the year 2018/19 John Dawson asked about the £500 increase for Cheam. Treasurer had offered a £9,000 decrease last year and wanted to give something back.</p> <p>d) The <i>Connexional Funds</i> had been updated with the contributions made directly from the individual churches which explains the higher figures for some funds.</p> <p>e) <i>Circuit Model Trust Fund</i>. Statements of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 showed an available balance at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 of £49,539.39 (previously £43,519.39) as Wallington had withdrawn need for a Layworker. There was no change in September Levy for Epsom.</p> <p>d) <i>Independent Examiners</i>. Richard Smith advised that Harry Wilkinson had asked to stand down as independent examiner, and that he and an Epsom finance head had met with Jacob, Cavenagh and Skeet of Robin Hood Way, Sutton, and had appointed them for Epsom. Richard asked that the meeting also appoint them as independent examiners for the Circuit. The meeting <u>agreed</u>.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>RS</p>
<p><b>11. AOB</b></p> <p>Maureen Patel, for information, spoke of a problem at Bandon Hill Pre-School. Last year the Government had offered 30 hours of free childcare. In November the Methodist Church decided that all employees in the London District should receive, as a minimum, the new London living wage of £10.20 per hour. This is becoming unsustainable as majority of children are funded by Councils who pay only the Outer London hourly rate which is two pounds less than the Inner London rate. It means that the Pre-School faces closure in 20 months. It was also pointed out that the Pre-School is a major source of rent for Bandon Hill. A lot of discussion followed regarding rates of pay, and creating a balance with the living wage to all employees. The Chair ended the discussion by stating that, as a back-stop if they are unable to sustain the Pre-School, grants could be made available by the District to plug the gap. Maureen Patel is in discussion with the District over this.</p>	<p>MP</p>
<p><b>12. Sutton Circuit Development Plan</b></p> <p>The Chair introduced the Plan by saying that in October 2017 the Circuit Leadership Team had held an Away Day with a facilitator to spend the day thinking and reflecting on the state of the Circuit and identifying priorities that they hoped to develop, which would stretch and challenge the Churches. Revd Mark Wakelin and Jan Angel had prepared a Plan to cover the themes of Worship, Mission, Kingdom and Service. He then handed over to Revd Mark Wakelin.</p> <p>Revd Mark Wakelin said that the Away Day had been a very positive meeting and the resultant plan was a tool for discussion which comes with the endorsement of the Circuit Leadership Team. It was a work in progress, with decisions to be made between good things. Document to be useable by all Churches in the Circuit. Philip Sandiford said he had read the Development Plan with enthusiasm. Banstead Leadership team felt it was a challenge for today, working together in fellowship. He asked about the time scale. Revd Mark Wakelin said there was to be a review in July with feedback from the local Churches, but it may take up to three years for things to be noticeable. The process had begun on the Worship section with Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting together. The Chair said that as an example of Kingdom, in the Autumn someone would be working in a local Church and moving into other Churches to encourage people to talk of God and of their faith. Revd Mark Wakelin said some things are better done at Circuit level. David Gooch said that the Circuit Leadership Team had taken on ownership of actions at Circuit level and was asking the churches to take on ownership at the local level. The Circuit Budget for 2018/19, agreed earlier, contained a £10,000 provision for Mission Development. It was hoped that each Church could commit to doing something positive. Sue Forty said that at Carshalton the Revd Dave Dickinson would be chairing the Church Council meeting and that the Plan will have been discussed prior to that meeting by its Leadership Team. John Dawson asked if Lay Ministers could be added to Continuing Development in Key Actions under Worship. There was a positive mood; a consensus about decisions, and willingness to participate to achieve success. Stanley Jeyaraj said that at Wallington they were already doing this and more, and Jacqueline John felt that we could share and learn from each other. David Gooch asked that each church should discuss the Development Plan before the next Circuit Meeting and that there be an item on the Agenda for the Churches to report back. The meeting <u>agreed</u>. The Chair said that Senior Stewards from each Church would be invited to the Review Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July to be held in Sutton.</p>	<p>DD</p>
<p><b>13. Date of next meetings:</b> <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Carshalton at 8.00pm and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.</b></p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>14. Closing Devotions</b></p> <p>The Chair paid tribute to Raj Kalski, the Circuit Administrator, as it was the first Circuit Meeting since she had died. The Meeting stood in silence to remember her.</p> <p>The meeting then closed with The Grace.</p>	

Note: In order to help achieve the goals of Priority 1 – Worship, in the Circuit Development Plan, Revd Mark Wakelin will be chairing Local Preachers’ Meetings in future.