

NORTH LANCASHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT - LANCASHIRE DISTRICT 21/16

MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD ON

22nd SEPTEMBER 7.30PM 2022 AT LUNE VALLEY METHODIST HUB & ZOOM

Attendance in Person:

Circuit Staff

Revs Keith Borwick (Chair), Roy Burley & Emma Holroyd (3)

Circuit Trustees

Paul Bowden, Rev Andrew Champley, Ruth Champley, Jean Cooper, Sandra Cooper, Barbara Drayton, Clive Drayton, Margaret Fancy, David France, Mary France, Brian Gorst, Edith Gorst, Peter Gorst, Kathryn Haigh, Gary Marsh, Shirley Pollard, Judith Pye, Jo Towers, Jonathan Whitfield, Denis Yates & Alwyn Yost (21)

Attendance via Zoom:

Circuit Staff

Rev Kara Cooper (1)

Circuit Trustees

David Battarbee, Marian Brewer, Daphne Cockerill, Rodney Doldon, Barbara Fisher, Dorothy Long, Ian Love, Helen McGregor, Richard Preece, Rev Ted Pullan, Howard Rogerson, Susan Spencer, Liz Tuer & Michael Ward (14)

In Attendance

Shirley Cormack, Shirley Eaton, Ruth Yates (3)

Welcome & Opening Devotions – Rev Emma Psalm 63 1-8 ‘Give Thanks’ & Prayer.

Dispensation

Rev Steve Charman

Apologies

Lesley Brookbanks, James Cottle, Deacon Jane Harper, Cathy Hartley, Deborah Lovett, Jenny Macking, Lisa Marple, Rev Derek North, Hazel Preece, Susan Wilson, Val Woods (11)

Making the Meeting official

Proposal: ‘We meet for the Circuit Meeting Hybrid form – both in person and on zoom. It is in the best interests of the charity to do so, to include as many Trustees as possible’. ***Agreed.***

Minutes & matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on 16th of June 2022 ***agreed*** as correct and signed by the chair, Rev Keith Borwick.

No matters arising.

Leaflets for Calder Vale’s Macmillan Coffee Morning in foyer.

Appointments

Circuit Stewards: Paul Bowden elected to serve as a Circuit Steward. ***Agreed.***

Representative to Synod: Susan Wilson ***Agreed.***

Circuit Invitation Committee: Kathy Bamber & Shirley Cormack ***Agreed.***

Action: We still require a new Safeguarding Officer.

Pastoral: Rev Ken Clapham is improving and is now able to drive.

Action: Jo to contact Ken to check if he is available to preach on the next plan. **Actioned 29/09/22**

Jenny Butcher is leaving the Circuit.

Action: Keith to write a letter to thank Jenny for her service as a Local Preacher in our Circuit.

Rev Anton Müller Ecumenical Officer is leaving three parishes.

Action: Keith to write a letter of thanks.

Inform: The Ministerial Staff are appointed to chair Church Councils, all the Local Church Meetings and if necessary, Circuit Meeting, Worship Leader & Local Preachers' Meetings, and any other Circuit Meetings.

Strategy – Peter Gorst (see separate document)

Apologies that it has not been possible to consult the Circuit prior to forming this Strategy document.

Action: **Church Stewards** to circulate the document amongst the churches.

CLT - Ruth Champley (see appendix at the end of the minutes)

2023 Stationing and Circuit Invitation Committee

PROPOSAL: The **Circuit meeting** appoints that the invitation committee for the next twelve months will be made up of: (1) All **CLT including the Circuit Treasurer** (2) Kathy Bamber, Shirley Cormack & Cathy Hartley (Jonathan Whitfield as a reserve for Cathy) and have delegated powers to offer initial invitations. **Agreed.**

Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting: The meeting will take place on **Thursday 22nd September.**

The Church resource directory has had a response from seven churches - Peter will send a second request to the churches that have not replied.

The Preaching Plan Held Cluster Zoom services during July & August hosted from Lancaster & Trinity Goosnargh.

Action: **Church Stewards** to email Rev Keith with feedback, how these Zoom services were received – Pros & Cons.

Christmas Day & New Year's Day Services- advise if services are being held.

Winter Plan – consider clustering to save energy costs.

Safeguarding (see separate report)

The **Foundation Module** via Zoom on **8th October** has only got **one person** booked (**CLOSING DATE 30TH SEPTEMBER!**)

The **Advanced Modules** will take place on **17th November & 28th November** and a reminder that all **Local Preachers and Worship Leaders** must complete this training.

Safeguarding Policy for 2022-23: permission to sign. **Agreed.**

Action: All Local Churches to renew their Safeguarding Policy at their next Church Council Meeting.

National Audit for Safeguarding – no further information.

Finance & Budget 2022-23 - Sandra Cooper (see separate Document)

Grant Application for new IT via the CLT to be extended for 12 months.

Action: New Bank Account details to be circulated to Treasurers. **Actioned 24/09/22**

Tewitfield: Synod gave permission to cease worship and sell. Section 333: Resolution **agreed.**

Any two of the following charity trustees of the Charity be authorised to approve, sign, and execute any document to which the charity trustees of the Charity from time to time are a party with the intention that any document executed under this authority will have the same effect as if executed by all of the charity trustees of the Charity:

PROPOSAL: Rev Andrew Champley, Rev Roy Burley & Rev Steve Charman **agreed.**

The Circuit Stewards would prefer us to use a different Surveyor for Tewitfield than we have been using for other properties. Rev Keith has contacted the Superintendent of North Cumbria Circuit who has recommended their surveyor. This has approval of TMCP and the District Property Secretary.

PROPOSAL: To seek permission to use someone different **agreed.**

Project Updates: (See Property Updates re: Sales/ Closures- separate paper)

The district will visit to check if the Lune Valley Hub is a suitable venue to host the Spring Synod.

Circuit Property – Awaiting Quinquennial Reports

Property Review Group – initial report at the November Circuit Meeting.

GDPR & Data Retention: All new Trustees must complete a new Declaration Form. We have spoken to the Legal Counsel from the Connexion and it has been confirmed that, Trustee Declaration Forms do not have to be completed annually though it is good practice to do so. (The Methodist Church Website currently shows incorrect information (since June 2020) regarding Trustees). GDPR forms to be completed by all Trustees every two years for the Circuit Directory.

Data retention reminder – Retention Schedule for Methodist Records circulated from **Rev Roy 15/09/22**

Matters regarding wider Methodism - District, Connexion

- **New District Chair** – Rev Phil Gough preaching at **LMC on 16th October 2022 & Trinity Goosnargh on 29th January 2023.**
- **Synod April 2023** – HELP required
- **ECO Circuits** – District Chair would like us to become an ECO Circuit with at least one Church becoming an ECO Church.
- **Regional Re-organisation** update – Clustering of Districts like NW Mann.

Dates of Circuit Meetings (7.30pm)

Monday 28th November LVMH, Wednesday 8th March 2023 Garstang & Thursday 15th June 2023

Any Other Business

The October Count Sheet and Prayer Handbooks for each Chapel are ready to collect for each Church.

Thanks to Ian Love for correcting the Dates of the Circuit Meeting, to Roy for operating the Sound, to Emma for overseeing Zoom and Jo for notes to Rev Keith.

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Final message of faith and sharing God's love to others as we serve our communities.

The meeting closed by sharing the grace at 21.19

Appendix CLT Report

CLT Report to Circuit Meeting Thursday 22nd September 2022

Since the last Circuit Meeting in June, the Circuit Stewards received the news which has now been disseminated to the whole Circuit, that our Superintendent, Rev Steve Charman, has been appointed (subject to Conference approval), as Deputy Chair of Shetland with effect from 1st September 2023.

We were already aware that Rev Keith Borwick hopes to “sit down” in August 2023, and so we are faced with the prospect of trying to fill two ministerial positions in the current rounds of stationing.

This is the responsibility of the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Invitation Committee, and we are bringing a proposal tonight to widen the membership of the Circuit Invitation Committee to include a range of views from different parts of the Circuit.

There is, as we are all aware, a shortage of Presbyters available for stationing, and there are more stations to fill than Presbyters available. To this end, the Circuit Stewards have prepared a “Strategy Statement” which has already been outlined by Peter.

We have been in constant communication with Rev Phil Gough, District Chair, and he has advised that it is unlikely that we shall be able to appoint two Presbyters to this Circuit for 1st September 2023. The appointment of a Superintendent will probably be designated a “Critical Appointment” and there is a good chance that this station will be filled by an experienced Presbyter.

We have, therefore, been in contact with the Warden of the Diaconal Order, who came to visit us on 5th September, looking at the Garstang Project in particular, to assess the suitability of the station for a Deacon. There are obvious differences between a Diaconal appointment and a Presbyteral appointment (there are some booklets at the back of the Church regarding Deacons and their work, and I urge you to take one and read it). We felt, however, that with the support of some of our supernumerary ministers, it might be possible to fill this station with a Deacon.

The process for appointing Deacons is different from that for Presbyters, as they are stationed directly by the Warden. We have therefore, submitted a Diaconal profile to the Warden for her to consider and give us some more feedback about the suitability of the position for a Deacon.

In the meantime, because deadlines loom, we have submitted two Presbyteral profiles to Rev Phil Gough, who has approved them, but feels that the matching committee is unlikely to be able to match a Presbyter to the second profile.

The matching process for Deacons will take place in January 2023, and we will have to wait for our profile to be considered then.

In addition, we have been looking at our funds and the possibility of monies being added to them as we sell buildings. We would like to be able to bring a proposal to the next Circuit Meeting to spend some of this money on Ministry and Mission, which could well involve extra Lay personnel to help with the new projects. (We would have brought a proposal tonight, but the sales are still not completed, and we did not want to be presumptuous.)

We expect to hear about the Superintendent station in November, when the prospective “match” will meet with the Circuit Invitation Committee and some members of the Churches for whom they will be responsible. The Circuit Invitation Committee will then meet to decide whether we will issue

an invitation to this person, and they, in turn, will decide whether they feel that it is the Lord’s will for them to come to this Circuit.

We will, then be turning our attention to the station at Garstang and filling it according to our understanding of the Lord’s will for this Circuit and will keep you updated at the November Circuit Meeting.

We have, of course, been doing all of this while our Superintendent is on sabbatical, and I should like to thank Rev Keith for all his work and support as Acting Superintendent. He has been an untold blessing to me and the other Circuit Stewards in his gentle, but firm way of dealing with issues, and his energy in helping us to put forward the profile for Garstang has been inspiring. We owe him a great debt of gratitude which we can never repay, and we all want the Garstang project to go forward to recompense his vision and hard work in some small way. We also thank him for all the other duties that he has performed as Acting Superintendent over these fifteen weeks, and the patient way that he has dealt with the many property issues and everyday pastoral issues alongside his own duties as Minister.

THANK YOU. KEITH.

In summary, then:

- We have submitted two Presbyteral Profiles, one for Superintendent, one possibly for Garstang
- We are discussing with The Warden of the Diaconal Order the possibility of a Deacon for the Garstang Project, and possibly other Diaconal work.
- We await a response from the Stationing Committee, expected early November.
- We are considering the possibility of extra Lay Personnel as we will have some funds released from the sale of buildings and may be able to apply to the new Connexional Fund “New places for New People”.

We seek your prayers as we continue to explore these avenues and look forward to bringing you some further news at the November Circuit Meeting.

Thank you

Ruth Champley

22nd September 2022