

NORTH LANCASHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT - LANCASHIRE DISTRICT 21/16

MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING HELD ON

9th MARCH 7.30PM 2022 VIA ZOOM

Circuit Staff

Revs Steve Charman (Chair) Keith Borwick, Roy Burley, Kara Cooper & Emma Holroyd (5)

Circuit Trustees

David Battarbee, Lesley Brookbanks, Rev Andrew Champley, Ruth Champley (Senior Steward), Jean Cooper, Sandra Cooper, Shirley Cormack, James Cottle, Shirley Eaton, Margaret Fancy, Barbara Fisher, David France, Mary France, Peter Gorst, Kathryn Haigh, Deacon Jane Harper, Cathy Hartley, Joan Jackson, Ian Love, Jenny Macking, Gary Marsh, Helen McGregor, Chris Newsome, Shirley Pollard, Hazel Preece, Judith Pye, Howard Rogerson, Susan Spencer, Phil Taylor, Jo Towers (Sec.) Maureen Turner, Michael Ward, Sister Vivien Ward, Jonathan Whitfield, Susan Wilson, Val Woods & Alwyn Yost (37) Paul Bowden joined the meeting at 8.30pm

Welcome & Opening Devotions - Rev Steve

Video Reading (from Ukraine) Psalm 31: In you Lord, I take refuge.

Remembering people suffering War and conflict of; Ukraine, Russia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Myanmar, Syria, Somalia.

Video Song – God Weeps and Prayer.

Apologies

Ian Abram, Norma Abram, Kathy Bamber, Paul Bowden, Ruth Dawson, Margaret Gammon, Brian Gorst, Edith Gorst, Dorothy Long, Barbara Newhouse, Rev Derek North, Moyna Patchett, Rev Ted Pullan, Liz Tuer & Denis Yates (15)

Making the Meeting official

***Proposal:** 'We meet for the Circuit Meeting via Zoom due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. It is in the best interests of the charity to meet via zoom rather than not to meet.' **Agreed.**

Minutes & matters arising 29.11.21 & 3.2.22 to be signed in due course. **Agreed.**

No matters arising.

Appointments

Scrutineers Appointed (to count votes) Peter Gorst, Deacon Jane Harper & Jonathan Whitfield.

Agreed.

***Proposal:** The Circuit Leadership team (CLT) are to be appointed as Circuit Invitation Committee ahead of the reinvitation process for Keith Borwick with Peter Gorst as Chair. **Agreed.**

Pastoral - A number of people across the Circuit are suffering with Covid. Rev Derek North, Sister Vivien, Keith's family, Sandra Lucas, Edith & Brian Gorst.

John Warrington (towards the end of the meeting we learnt that John had sadly passed away).

CLT - Ruth Champley - *see report*

Safeguarding - Cathy Hartley - *see report*

Graham Kay (District Safeguarding Officer) will arrange a face-to-face training session for the Advanced Module on Tuesday 17th May @ Brookhouse.

Cathy will be stepping down from her role in due course and we will be seeking a new Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

Finance & Budget 2022-23 - Sandra Cooper

Budget 2022-23 (See additional paper 1 Budget) (PDF or .doc)

***Proposal:** The budget as given is accepted for 2022-23. **Agreed.**

REMINDER – Local Church Accounts need to be submitted to Sandra ASAP

Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Peter Gorst - *see report*

Providing preachers to every church, every week is no longer possible - we do not have enough preachers or Worship Leaders and we are asking too much of those we do have.

Worship Leader Training - Posters for every church have now been distributed.

The Circuit Preaching Plan (see additional paper 2 Model Plan on our website to view) created by Steve, Peter (LP Sec) and Keith as Acting-Super - following conversations at CLT & the WL&LP meeting.

Breakout rooms to share reflections.

Reflections and comments

- 5th June Jubilee weekend- LA for every chapel for the morning service.
- The Circuit *Hybrid Service* on the 5th June at 7pm will be held at Brookhouse.

Worship Leaders are only appointed to lead worship to their church congregation and not to the Circuit. However, if a Cluster Church is formed (one church on multiple sites) (with a new name) – Worship Leaders are appointed to that church and can lead worship at any of the buildings that is part of that church.

- To consider whether churches can each receive a Subscription to a Christian Preaching resource like 'Spill the Beans' or 'Roots' to help with their local arrangements.

A Local Arrangement is the responsibility of the Church Stewards – note: they should not ask a preacher, Minister or Supernumerary to undertake a Local Arrangement.

Special Occasions over the Summer e.g., Church Anniversaries – if the Circuit is informed, we will endeavour to allocate a Preacher to these services.

Worship Leaders & Local Preachers will need to be aware of which Sundays are the 'Pressure Points' and try and be available when they can. In June we will require considerably more preachers to fulfil the services and the flexibility for preachers to attend the specific churches that are open on these dates.

Circuit Property - James Cottle Jamescottle43@gmail.com - *see report*

Wesley House Quernmore - Rev Andrew Champley

A decision to renew the boiler at Wesley House at a cost of **£4903 agreed.**

Sue Bridges is to act as the agent for the sale of both houses. A pastoral approach to the tenants who are anxious about the future and will need to know the likely timescale for the sale is advised. We may need to consider arranging an independent water supply for both properties and there are some legal complications regarding joint/shared access. A minimum of four months' notice will be given to the tenants.

Action: To continue to proceed as Andrew has advised **agreed.**

Updates - Quernmore Sale & Wray Sale

- Wray – The sale has been agreed by the ex-Methodist group and we are now waiting on solicitors to draw-up the legal documents.
- Quernmore – we are waiting on a Septic Tank survey.

Action: A renewal of the licence for the ex-Methodist groups to continue using and hiring the chapels from the 1st May 2022 is required. As such an application will need to be made to the Connexion. **agreed.**

Replacement Projects – (see additional paper 3 Replacement Projects)

***Proposal:** Wray > Garstang as a Replacement Project (partial funding). **agreed**

***Proposal:** A decision to look at all the circuit properties we are selling -to see which properties we would invest in using the sale figures of the other properties. **agreed**

Action: A Circuit Property Plan to be created.

Garstang Feasibility Group Update (see additional paper 4 Garstang Report)

The nursery will be Ofsted approved and we will seek to offer a Christian contribution to be part of this.

***Proposal:** We engage an architect to progress the project and oversee the development. **agreed**

***Proposal:** We dedicate the Garstang Community Hub to be the Circuit Replacement Project from the sale proceeds of Wray- **agreed**

Lune Valley Feasibility Group Update

- Regular Monthly meetings are taking place with the feasibility group.
- A very positive report has been received from a District visit and the Feasibility Group are looking into which of the buildings are to be invested in and exploring where best the mission comes from.
- A substantial donation has been received with a specific request that it is used towards opening a café.
- The feasibility group are looking into developing the work at Brookhouse.

***Additional help and support from the Circuit would be appreciated ahead of the June Circuit Meeting.**

Tewitfield Update

The congregation are planning to form a new church/charity (as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and are seeking a legal route to take-over the premises from the Circuit.

An Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service will take place at ~~3pm on 26th June 2022~~. This date was subsequently changed to 3pm on 3rd July 2022.

Emmetts Update

A Thanksgiving Service will take place at 2pm on 12th June 2022.

Matters regarding wider Methodism - District, Connexion

Annual Charity Commission Report for year ending August 31st 2021, see additional paper 5 Circuit Annual Report.

Action: One spelling error to amend.

***Proposal:** The Annual Charity Commission Report to be submitted to the Charity Commission **agreed.**

District Synod 2023 - Our Circuit will be hosting Synod on **6th May 2023**

GDPR Annual Returns are to be completed and given to Roy by the **end of May 2022.**

Dates of Circuit Meetings (7.30pm):

North Lancashire Methodist Circuit

Thursday June 16th, Scotforth Road, Lancaster

Any Other Business

The Prayer Buddy Meeting has been cancelled due to Covid and a new date will be arranged.

*Reports are accessible on our website [North Lancashire Documents \(northlancsmethodist.org.uk\)](http://northlancsmethodist.org.uk)

Thanks to Emma for overseeing Zoom

Thanks to everyone for attending

The meeting closed with a song/video by Margaret Rizza 'Calm me Lord' and ended at 21.55