

Whitehaven Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 7.30pm at St Bees

Present: Grace Adamson, Philip Adamson, David Andrews, Cyril Atkinson, Alistair Bell, Katie Bell, Alec Bounds, Ian Coates, Jackie Davies, Lindsay Gray, Margaret Hargreaves, Wendy Kilworth-Mason (Chair), Lorrie Larkham, Andy Lennox, Sandra McAdam, Doug McDevitte, Linda McDevitte, Katrina MacEwan, Jean Millie, Alan Moore, Mavis Moore, Nan Pryde, Mary Snape, Mandy Taylor

Apologies: Neil Bingham, Gillian Bounds, David Davies, Celia Davis, Gwynneth Everett, Alison Henshaw, Karen James, Gill Mitchell, John Pryde, Maureen Pyke, Michael Watts

In attendance: Jim Barwise, Paul Kerry

1. **Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.
2. **Constitution of the meeting:** the list circulated with the attendance sheet was confirmed. Best wishes were sent to Gillian Bounds whose father is now seriously ill. Katrina MacEwan also wanted to thank Gillian for her concern.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting of 8 June 2016 were agreed with the deletion in minute 6 v of the two sentences beginning 'When Moresby Parks church council...' and substituting 'Concern was expressed that there should be a named person from St Bridget's to act as the equivalent of a property steward.' Nan Pryde was thanked for chairing the second part of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising** minute 7a The Reach team will not be making a presentation in the near future.
5. **Mission**
 - i. **Trusteeship** The advice from Methodist Insurance which includes indemnity for all reasonable actions was noted.
 - ii. **Moresby Parks future arrangements** Rev Paul Kerry and Jim Barwise updated us on their plans for Moresby Parks. The congregation remains steadily in the upper 20s including a number of people from the village for whom this is their only church. Following on from the social events which have been held, flyers were distributed and a survey done which included primary school pupils. The key areas of concern were the lack of community buildings and demand for both a toddler group to feed into the school nursery and a lunch and other group for older or isolated people which also attracted interest from Church View, the Walsingham home next door and Emmaus House. Age UK have expressed an interest and could provide volunteers. As a result a planning meeting was held which agreed to start Moresby Sparks toddler group and a Time for everything lunch group with considerable interest also in a dementia group, both for people living with dementia and carers and for which a leader is available. In practical terms St Bridget's would pay a licence fee which should cover the cost of heating etc that would be reviewed annually and would contribute to or pay the costs relating to the quinquennial inspection. Jeff Rudman would be responsible for maintenance. Hensingham church council has agreed to take on pastoral responsibility for Methodist members. Katrina has obtained a grant from

the Hadfield Trust for socialisation work at Moresby Parks including a toddler group to be administered by the circuit.

It was unanimously agreed in principle to go forward with plans to licence St Mark's to St Bridget's on a yearly rolling basis, negotiating licence costs annually.

- iii. **Public issues** report on anti-racism from Alec Bounds was received.
- iv. **Safeguarding** Jackie Davies reminded church councils to review policies at autumn meetings, to display them and let her have a revised copy. Initial training will need to be refreshed in a year's time.
- v. **Church councils** were also reminded to consider their main mission priority for the next circuit meeting and to discuss any preferences for styles of worship.

6. Networking

- i. **Methodist conference** Wendy reported on personal highlights including an ordination service together with reflections on the business such as the work on family relationships and becoming an inclusive church exemplified in the safety pin as a symbol of anti-racism. She recommended the podcast on the Methodist church website <http://methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/london-2016/watch-again>.
- ii. **District synod** 10 September included a variety of workshops that can be used in the circuit.
- iii. **Growing together** (God for all) Rev Jacqueline Curtis and Rev Peter Turnbull's last service at Cleator Moor on 11 September was well attended including by Cleator Moor and Frizington congregations. Interviews have been held for the St Bees post and an appointment made. The launch of the East Whitehaven mission community is at St Andrew's Mirehouse on 25 September at 600.
- iv. **Shackles Off** Mandy Taylor reported on the last year's progress. It was agreed to endorse a reapplication to the District Advance Fund for a further three years from December at £6,000 a year.
- v. **Celebrating together** Rooted and grounded in love 17 September 1000-400 at Ambleside church centre.
- vi. **Dementia awareness** session will be run at a later date – daytime would be preferred.
- vii. **Circuit fundraising** Nan offered to organise an afternoon tea event with entertainment on Saturday 20 May next year at Cleator Moor which was agreed and church councils are asked to appoint a representative to be involved. Pilgrimage walks along the old railway lines was suggested.

7. Resources

- i. **Finance report** Accounts for 2015-16 are being finalised and will be presented in December but there is no deficit on the year. Home and overseas mission and Network accounts were received. Last year's circuit charity, the local branch of Parkinsons, has received about £1100.
- ii. **Property**

- a. **Moresby Parks** land sale is close to completion. It was recommended that to dissolve the church council could have an impact on the sale (as trustees' signatures are required) and it was suggested that the council continue for the moment.
- b. **Manse** Ian Coates thanked those who have worked with him over the years he was property secretary. Minor electrical and items have been or are being dealt with. The gas boiler has been serviced and seems in good health. Roof felt and tile replacement can now go ahead at an appropriate time as the finance is available. St Bees and Seascale quinquennial reports will be passed on when received.
- iii. **People**
 - a. **Property steward** vacancy
 - b. **Synod representatives:** vacancy for one representative – Gwynneth Everett was elected.
- iv. **Administration** It was confirmed that circuit meeting minutes (minus any confidential items) and plans are posted on the circuit website.

8. **Worship**

- i. **Leaders of worship and preachers' meeting** 31 August
 - a. Confidential minute
 - b. As we now have no one in training for either worship leading or local preaching church councils were asked to consider whether there are people able to become worship leaders or share in other ways eg with intercessions – appropriate training could be available. There was a discussion on different forms of worship. Ideas included Iona, Taizé and café style worship, love feasts, seeker or healing services, meditative ones, more extended periods of contemporary worship, Bible studies with participation and more visual forms of worship dependent on what churches were looking for.
 - ii. **Spirituality** Rev Jeff Thomas will lead a service on 23 October at Egremont at 1100 followed by a shared lunch for officers and anyone interested – please let Gillian or Alec Bounds have numbers for lunch by 16 October.
 - iii. **Circuit commissioning service** 18 September 230 at Frizington to rededicate office holders in the circuit and its churches.
9. **Dates of meetings** 14 December at Frizington, 15 March (altered from 8 March) at Cleator Moor and 21 June at Seascale all at 7.30pm It was agreed that from March meetings would normally be on the third Wednesday each quarter but possibly the first one in December depending on closeness to Christmas.

The meeting closed with the grace at 9.25pm.
da 15.09.16

Please send items and reports for the next meeting to David Andrews by 23 November

14 December is also the copy date for the next Link