

Minutes of the Whitehaven Methodist Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 14 December 2011 at Frizington at 7.30pm

Present (27) Philip Peacock (Chair), Philip Adamson, David Andrews, Katie Bell, Jean and Tom Bitcon, Christine and Keith Bradshaw, Ian Coates, Alan and Barbara Coyles, Jackie Davies, Gwyneth Everett, John and Judy Hall, Margaret Hargreaves, Lorrie Larkham, Doug and Linda McDevitte, Gill Mitchell, Nan Pryde, John Roberts, Mary Snape, Brenda Walker, Gerry and Hilary Wilson, Mabel Wilson

Apologies (11) Grace Adamson, Gillian Bounds, Celia Davis, Keith Gurney, Sandra McAdam, Jean Millie, Alan and Mavis Moore, David Opie, John Pryde, Betty Wilson

In attendance Lindsay Gray

Devotions were led by Gerry Wilson

1. **Constitution of the meeting** The circulated list was agreed. Lindsay Gray was welcomed to the meeting. Former members Rev Norman Fishburn and Mary Thompson and Irene Coyles, the wife of Ossie Coyles, who have died were remembered and a letter would go to Mary's family.
2. **Minutes** of the 14 September 2011 were confirmed
3. **Matters arising** Item 7b Synod report - we are now asked to provide a circuit Olympic champion. Please tell Philip Adamson if you are interested.
4. **Worship** David A reported on the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' meeting including a change to the watchnight service in the plan at Seascale - now at 1145pm preceded by a social evening from 8pm with a bring and share supper. Rev John Bannister has asked whether we would like to extend the 3pm Sunday St Nicholas' service to include Methodist and possibly United Reformed Church leadership and the idea was recommended to this meeting and agreed. The new PPL licence from CCL mentioned in the September meeting would be needed at Egremont and Seascale for music at social events and this was agreed. There was a favourable report on the district training session with the ex-Vice President Eunice Atwood. Discussions continue about the replacement of *Faith and worship* and the worship leaders' training course and draft objectives were shared. Any other churches intending to buy *Singing the faith* are reminded to do so this month before prices increase. It was felt that *Leading worship when there is no preacher* would be particularly useful for church stewards who are responsible for local arrangements and it was recommended that we ask David Edmondson to run a session. This was agreed. Churches were reminded that readers' services are still available on the Methodist church website at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openyou.content&cmid=2859>.
5. **Networking**
 - a. **West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership**
Lindsay Gray reported on the launch of the public consultation and ways to be involved. Details were circulated to churches.
 - b. **Changes to Deed of Union: Deferred special resolution** The proposed changes regarding naming ministers as presbyters and deacons were supported on a ballot vote (23 for, four against and no abstentions) and would be voted on by churches. The Secretary would collate responses.
 - c. **Ecumenical declaration of intent** was signed by leaders of the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Cumbria on 27 November with the support of other churches. A survey of local churches would be circulated shortly.
 - d. **Fruitful Field report** Members were asked to make any comments by 23 December on this report on future training which aims to increase lay and continuing training.
 - e. **District Going for Growth** 17 March at Penrith Methodist Church with the President and Vice President.
 - f. **Churches Trust for Cumbria** 'Our First Three Years' reports were circulated.
 - g. **D:Sign** is a new three part resource aimed at stimulating conversations on what living life to the full might look like at any stage of life and faith journey or none.

6. Mission

- a. **Public issues** Keith reported that the proposed threat to closure of station booking offices has been alleviated. Anyone interested in joining the group discussing West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership is asked to contact him.
- b. **Sellafield chaplaincy** David Opie's report was received.
- c. **Future staffing of the circuit** Churches are reminded that responses are needed by 14 February so that information could be circulated with the next agenda. There was a report on administration where we have volunteers to take on appropriate work. Consultation with neighbouring circuits suggested that sharing ministers would be unlikely. It was noted that all the Methodist ministers in Solway and Cockermouth and Keswick circuits are due to move in 2014 and replacing them would be difficult both financially and logistically.
- d. **Safeguarding** A training and awareness evening was arranged for 28 February at Gosforth at 730pm. Leaders of Worship and Preaching have a session on 6 March at Hensingham at 730pm and those who could not attend in February would be welcome then. A church model policy for the circuit is being produced which can be customised. Jackie and Lorrie were authorised as verifiers for CRB checks. Will churches please let Lorrie know the name of church safeguarding officers.

7. Resources

a. Finance

- i **Treasurer** Barbara reported on spending. The audited accounts were approved. A deficit budget for 2012-13 was agreed. A revised reserves policy to form part of the Trustees' annual report for 2010-11 was slightly amended and agreed together with amounts from the Circuit Model Trust Fund for the current year for Egremont, Moresby Parks, mission, manse repairs and income shortfall. It was agreed to increase the salary of the Sellafield chaplain by 3.5% from the spring anniversary of filling the post.
- ii **St Nicholas' fundraising** day is arranged for 23 June.

b. People

Philip will take a sabbatical in 2012-13, probably around March-May.

c. Property

- i **Lowca** Alan reported no progress.
- ii **Moresby Parks** It was agreed to pay from the Circuit Model Trust Fund the £3,600 consideration to Lonsdale Settled Estates to complete the Deed of Release of the Covenant which was deferred at the September meeting. This would be repaid when the land was sold. The intention is to sell adjacent plots together and we will need a surveyor's report. Outline planning permission has been granted for five houses on the two plots.
- iii **St Bees** BT has asked for permission to attach a telephone wire to the building. This will need either a wayleave or easement. The Church Council have agreed and the Circuit also agreed it.
- iv **Egremont** £216k has been raised to date including £53k locally together with a £20k loan from Carlisle circuit out of the £280k cost. It is hoped that the scheme will go ahead shortly, phased if necessary. Copeland Community Fund's refusal to fund places of worship has again been followed up.
- v **Manses** Ian reported on work done including Tillydrine central heating. Outstanding are minor items including pointing in Westfield Drive. Ian was thanked for his work. Schedule C on manses was approved.

8. Appointments

Circuit stewards including Financial steward - no nominations yet. There was a presentation to Keith to thank him as he retires as a circuit steward.

9. Dates of meetings

Gosforth Wednesday 14 March (reports to Hilary Wilson by 15 February) and Moresby Parks 13 June both at 730pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.