

Whitehaven Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 7.30pm at Gosforth

Present (20): Grace Adamson, Philip Adamson, David Andrews, Cyril Atkinson, Alistair Bell, Katie Bell, Alec Bounds, Gillian Bounds, Ian Coates, Alan Coyles, David Davies, Jackie Davies, Margaret Hargreaves, Wendy Kilworth-Mason (chair), Andy Lennox, Doug McDevitte, Linda McDevitte, Katrina MacEwan, Mary Snape, Mandy Taylor

Apologies (13): Barbara Coyles, Gwynneth Everett, Allison Hanshaw, Karen James, Lorrie Larkham, Jean Millie, Gill Mitchell, Alan Moore, Mavis Moore, John Pryde, Nan Pryde, Maureen Pyke, Michael Watts

In attendance (2): Mary Moore, Ian Parker

Opening devotions were led by the chair.

There was a presentation by Rachel Holliday about this year's circuit charity, **Calderwood House** followed by questions.

1. **Constitution of the meeting:** the list circulated with the attendance sheet was confirmed.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting of 20 September were confirmed.
3. **Matters arising** Wendy announced that her sabbatical will be 15 March-15 June 2018.
4. **Mission**
 - a. **Future of circuits** Reports from Egremont, Hensingham and Seascale churches were received which generally supported the views expressed at the September circuit meeting.
 - b. **Public issues** Alec Bounds' report on fixed odds betting terminals was received.
 - c. **Safeguarding** The second refresher training was successful and another will be needed for those who have been missed. There are still some DBS checks to be done. The circuit safeguarding policy was updated with the same wording as the current one (and today's date). The new model church policy means we need policies updating at spring church councils and the circuit meeting. Churches were reminded that Jackie Davies needs to see church policies each time they are updated.
 - d. **Mission priorities** Report back on progress from church councils was received from caféchurch, Egremont, Hensingham and Seascale*. Remaining churches were asked to report in March.
 - e. **Whitehaven mission community** It was agreed to make a contribution from the mission fund towards Moving Mountains expenses on behalf of caféchurch of £375.
5. **Worship**
 - a. **Leaders of worship and preachers' meeting** 29 November. Harold Smith from Kirkland is now hoping to train through Anglican channels. It was suggested that Moving Mountains should be included in prayers at all services in the new year. The circuit mission statement was updated as regards worship as follows:

We are open to explore the breadth and depth of worship in our desire to grow closer to God. Local preachers and worship leaders will try to respond to the requests of individual churches to meet their preferred worship styles. Churches should review their requirements and how they have been met annually when they review their mission statement and then feed back to the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' meeting.

We would celebrate the ministry of worship leaders over the last twenty years in 2018. There was a discussion on quality worship, preaching and its alternatives.

The Easter offering would again be dedicated with prayer in each church and money brought to the June circuit meeting.

- b. **Circuit memorial service** Churches were asked to consider at church councils whether somewhere other than the Meeting Place would like to host this next year.
- c. **Love feasts** Report back from church councils: Egremont, Hensingham and Seascale would welcome love feasts in future. Seascale would also like more café style worship in the hall.

6. Networking

- a. **Synod** 28 April – volunteers are needed as we will be hosting the representative session at Cleator Moor. Please let Gillian Bounds know if you can help.
- b. **Circuit fundraising** Afternoon tea at Cleator Moor on 19 May at 2.00pm.

7. Resources

a. Finance

- i. **2016-17 final accounts** Mandy Taylor reported that these are awaiting independent examination. Income was £73,088 and expenditure £77,214, an excess of £4,126 and an end of year balance of £60,741. The model trust fund currently has £160,000+.
- ii. **Budget 2018-19** was agreed. Noting the deficit budget of recent years that has diminished reserves, churches were encouraged to make a greater financial commitment to the circuit (by considering matching the generosity of others). and report back in March.
- iii. **Reserves policy** will be presented to the March meeting.
- iv. **Standard forms of accounts** Please let Mandy have outstanding ones by the end of December.
- v. **Keswick and Cockermouth circuit loan** is likely to be taken up shortly, and the **Shackles Off** loan has been made.
- vi. **North Cumbria circuit** have asked for a loan towards replacing manses and it was agreed to lend £50,000 for nine months.

b. Property

- i. **Moresby Parks** The sale of land was completed on 16 November. A final church council on 5 December agreed to offer the chapel for sale to Moresby parish for £50,000 and appoint Sintons as our solicitors. It was noted that the parish have £15,000 available and will be applying for a grant and loan from the Diocesan Growth Fund. It was therefore agreed that the church council should cease so that trusteeship of St Mark's Methodist church Moresby Parks would be transferred to the Whitehaven circuit meeting which would deal with any sale and that members should become a class of Hensingham and this meeting agreed. David Davies will be the contact as far as the sale is concerned. The circuit meeting appointed David Davies and Philip Adamson to attend parochial church council meetings when appropriate and report back to the circuit meeting at least annually. The bank account would be closed at an appropriate time and the balance transferred to the circuit account. It was agreed that Methodist worship should continue regularly at St Mark's after any sale. Appreciation was made of the work at St Mark's with hope that it would go from strength to strength.

- ii. **Manse** Ian Coates reported that the electrical installation upgrade is complete including the loft light and a smoke alarm and the raised path to the shed has also been completed. The quinquennial review is due in 2018 and items from the previous report have been completed. It was agreed to submit the manse report (Schedule C) to the district.
- c. **People**
 - a. **Property steward** vacancy
 - b. **Link editor** David Andrews has offered to take over for the time being and this was agreed.
 - c. **Invitation Committee** annual reappointment - staff and stewards (which now includes Nan Pryde, Ian Parker and Lindsay Gray) were appointed.
- 8. **Dates of meetings** 14 March at St Bees (note change of date), and 20 June at Frizington and 19 September at Cleator Moor all at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed with the grace at 9.15pm.

Please send items and reports for the March meeting to David Andrews by 14 February

Copy date for *Link* is 28 February

* **Seascale mission priorities: Reach out to the community** Fundraise for local charities - Wasdale Mountain Rescue, Blood Bikes etc. Support local artists and craftsfolk with free event to raise their profile and sell their goods. Church run groups eg Saturday coffee, Women's Outlook, Tea and Chat, Memories Group etc plus support Shackles Off.

Amend the building Work in progress to make the church space more flexible. Some pews have been removed and replaced with chairs to give space at the back of the church. Our loudspeakers in the church have been replaced to give much better sound quality for recorded hymn music. Some new equipment has been purchased for the hall eg tables, chairs, crockery, new cooker.