

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
KETTERING & CORBY CIRCUIT (23/19)**

**Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on
Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm at Rothwell**

PRESENT:

Rev Martin Swan (RMS) – Chair
Wendy Curtis (MWC)
Mary-Ann Ansdell (MAA)
Lynette Muir (LM)
John Muir (JM)

Patrica Hone (PH)
Mike Dalton-Stirling (MDS)
Elizabeth Dalton-Stirling (EDS)
Alan Window (AW)
Anne Window (AWi)
Peter Shuker (PS)
Maureen Johnson (MJ)
Alan Johnson (AJ)
Maureen Ownsworth (MO)
Don Spooner (DS)
Jenny Spooner (JS)

PRESENT:

Ron Rudge (RR)
Joan Catherall (JCa)
Caroline Barratt (CB)
Marlene Fulton
Alan Joyce (AJ)

Carolyn Rice (CR)
Roger Keach (RK)
Paukine Smith
Ian Basson (IB)
Pat Basson (PB)
Peter Candlin
Andrew Stenson
Marlene Fulton (MF)
Jon Hall (JH)
David Cox
Julie Johnson

PRESENT:

Sue Walters

APOLOGIES:

Joan Gray
Ruth Fitch
Michael Curtis
Alan Deans
Anne Ellson

Fiona Schofield

1. Welcome and Opening Devotions

RMS opened in prayer and we sang “Father we love you”. RMS read a passage from 1 John telling us that God is light and we must live in the light or we cannot be his followers. We all sin and need to repent of our sins to follow Jesus. There followed a short time of quiet to allow individuals to do this.

2. Apologies

Please see the list above.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

RMS accepted and signed the minutes as a true record with the exception of the date at Item 15 which should read 2019. The location of the Leaving Service has since been changed to Rothwell.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Any Other Business

- RMS said he had many books which he did not wish to keep when he retired so he invited everyone to The Manse to take any that they would like on Saturday 6th July from 11.00am.
- JH gave an update on Mission Together which is starting from a small group in Central but hoped to involve all the churches over time. They have been working alongside Jill Marsh, the District Mission Enabler. The group had felt strongly that they should try to reach out to people in the community. As a consequence of this and following much prayer they had decided to set up a “pop-up” church which can be transported to any event. The first one will be in Kettering Town Centre on June 1st – a big orange gazebo has been purchased and this will be used as a base to meet people and to share their faith.

Various activities will be included for younger folk. They are being supported by volunteers from the Stamford Circuit. Jon asked for prayers and for someone to volunteer to make bunting.

In preparation there had been training events led by Jill Marsh and the next one would be at Central on 12th May from 12.30 – 3.00pm to which he invited people to come along.

- CB addressed the meeting. Caroline explained that, although she loves the role in which she is currently working, she felt that God was calling her to do more and, after consultation with Martin, she wished to be considered for the Local Preaching Course. This followed attending a Discernment course at District Level where she was encouraged to discern her vocation, gifts and skills and whether they were being used to their full potential. Caroline felt that doing the Preacher's course would enhance her current role. RMS said that Caroline was at the beginning of a journey which might eventually take her further than being a Local Preacher, that a lot of work would be involved and that Time Management would be important. He had really enjoyed working with Caroline and her enthusiasm was infectious. CB said how much she had appreciated Martin's mentoring and how well he engaged with young people. She thanked him for his ongoing support and encouragement.

6. Safeguarding

SW gave a brief update. MAA is helping with the recording of Safeguarding and DBS records. SW encouraged people to sign up for the Advanced Training currently being offered. If anyone needs a DBS she asked them to contact her.

7. Youth Work

CB addressed the meeting and covered the following points:-

- Schools work – she gave a description of the work she does at Kingswood Primary including leading assemblies, prayer space and an Easter Workshop for Yr 3. All are being well received and the spiritual input has led to very encouraging comments from the children themselves.
- Bishop Stopford School – Martin and Caroline took assemblies about the Passover Festival and have been invited back. They are also going to work with 6th Formers. They were encouraged by the number of children using the Chapel there during their break times for prayer, reading Bibles etc.
- Caroline had taken part in an Ecumenical Project in Cottingham Village Hall over the Easter period.
- Circuit Youth Group Update – numbers currently about 6, mainly from Central. They did a Lent series about travelling light and talked about Easter. She encouraged people to ask others to come – the next meeting is on June 2nd 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Rothwell when they will be talking about Pentecost.
- Caroline is currently advertising for more members for the Girls and Boys Brigades in the Circuit. She introduced a Flyer showing all the activities that regularly take place in the Circuit for families and young people. Posters had been sent electronically to the churches and hard copies were available. She encouraged members to put these up in as many places as possible in their church and villages so that families could see what was on offer in our churches.

Discussion took place about the need for a representative from the young people at the Circuit Meeting. RMS said that from what he had experienced working alongside Caroline we need to start listening to our young people who often have very deep questions on big issues. He spoke about Caroline's enthusiasm and rapport with the young people and raised the question of increasing Caroline's hours as he felt it likely that the work she is doing will grow.

CB informed the meeting of good parenting courses being run by Hope Church and that they are suitable for anyone working with youngsters, not just parents.

8. Treasurer's Report:

PC addressed the meeting having previously circulated financial documents. He highlighted the following:-

- The whole cost of the yet to be appointed Outreach Lay Worker and 50% of the Youth Worker's cost is to be taken from the MTF. District Assessments now include the amount in a Circuit's MTF when calculating a Circuit's assessments each year so it seems sensible to use the MTF as a source of this expenditure. He asked for approval of this by the meeting.
It was proposed by Don Spooner and seconded by Wendy Curtis. All in favour.
- Some Circuit expenses have risen by more than 5%. Peter proposed that the Assessments for each church are increased by 5% next year. This was proposed by Peter and seconded by M.Ownsworth. All in favour.

RMS expressed his thanks to Peter on behalf of the meeting.

9. Lay Worker Update

WC informed the meeting that no-one had applied for the position. It would be revisited at a later point in time.

10. Mission Monies – 20Ks

PC addressed the meeting and explained that CLT had discussed the issue of the remaining monies and had decided that the remaining monies would be kept as a pot towards a possible second minister. However this does not mean that those who have not claimed their share of the 20K will lose it. Any church can submit a request for monies towards a project involving mission – there is no deadline.

11. Grange Update

MWC informed the meeting that this was still ongoing and awaiting completion.

12. News from the Churches

Cornerstone – the congregation is growing. They are continuing with their occasional lunches and coffee after the service is becoming an important time for getting to know people better. The application to Corby Council to improve the toilets had been turned down as the Council had too many applications. Refurbishing the toilets would be their next project.

Central – held a Passover Meal for the first time. It went very well and everyone learnt something about the Passover which is an important part of our Christian background. Thank you to the organisers.

St Giles – On Good Friday they joined with the other churches for a service, followed by the Walk of Witness, ending with coffee at St Giles. In the afternoon they enjoyed a time of quiet and reflection.

The audio-visual work in the church has been completed and hopefully this will enable further outreach activities. Some of the £20K was used to employ a Bereavement Support Worker who is settling in and has held an afternoon tea for people who live on their own which was well-attended.

Rothwell – Holding a coffee morning for Christian Aid this Saturday and a breakfast on Sunday morning before the service. The film evenings are going well although the family film evening has stopped until September as families tend to be out doing other things through the summer. Some of their 20K has been put towards black-out blinds to give the building more film opportunities.

Some church members had just returned from an Emmaus weekend where they had benefitted tremendously spiritually and IB encouraged others to attend such weekends in the future.

Burton Latimer – the church have been invited to join an Alpha course being run by Open Doors, to be held in the local library on Tuesday evenings. It is open to all and MJ encouraged people to attend.

13. Leaving and Welcoming Services

Leaving Service confirmed as 28th July 2019 at 10.30am at Rothwell

Welcoming Service confirmed as 31st August 2019 at 3.00pm at Central

14. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 18th September at Cornerstone at 7.30pm

15. Closing Prayer

RMS – this will be his last Circuit Meeting before retiring. He encouraged the Circuit not to make God too small. He has more resources and gifts than we can ever imagine and RMS encouraged the meeting to think big in our visions for the Circuit.

The meeting finished with the Grace at 8.40pm

Signed

Date