



Mission Committee

Minutes of the meeting on 7th September 2011

1. Opening Devotions

Rev. John Rowe opened the meeting with a reading, thoughts and a prayer.

2. Attendance

Rev. John Rowe, Martin Sheldon (Trinity), Gill Williams (Llandaff North), Ann Merrick (St Andrews and M.W.I.B), Jayne Powell (Conway Road), Pauline Tang (Radyr), Cath Taylor (Radyr), Gill Peace (St Andrews), Sue Morris (Cathays), Martin Hunt (Cathays), Tom Davies (Pontprennau), Daisy Edwards (Cyncoed, representing Keith Norton), Judith Powell (Whitchurch), June Bennett (Cathays), Peter Richards (Llandaff North), Janet Rees (Cyncoed), Jenny Howells (Christchurch, Minute Secretary.)

3. Apologies

Deacon Liz Rowe, Richard Hodgson (FWM Treasurer and Radyr), Margaret Morgan (Cathays), Jacky Phillips (St Andrews), Jenni Clarke (Caerphilly.)

4. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted by the meeting and signed by Rev. John Rowe as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

- John Rowe said the Jenni Clarke had asked him to tell the meeting that after the discussion at the last meeting concerning Space 4 U Caerphilly were making it the focus at their harvest celebrations this year.

6. Communication

There was much discussion as to how the information discussed at these meetings could be disseminated to all the churches in the circuit. Sue Morris felt it was up to all those present to give a brief report to their churches. Martin Sheldon felt we could make use of the circuit web site but it would have to be updated regularly.

It was decided to:

- Ask Madoc to put the minutes on the circuit website and also to send them out as soon as he receives them.
- At the end of each meeting one or two important items to be sent out in the form of an A4 newsletter (one sheet). It should have pictures as well as a message in order to give it impact. Jenny Howells agreed to do this and send it to Madoc to distribute with the minutes as soon after the meeting as possible.

7. MRDF and emergencies, Christian Aid, One World Week

Gill Peace reported to the meeting on a variety of subjects including the above. (see attached sheet). She also mentioned:

- The Fair Trade Conference on 15th October and wondered if there would be anybody in the circuit who would like to go.
- Many of the organisations she reports on are now cutting back on paper resources and are asking people to download them instead. However they are still available for anybody not able to download.
- She hoped that there could be, in future, an 'event' Saturday or evening e.g. for fair-trade or Christian Aid at cluster level. She asked those present to raise this in their clusters.

John Rowe thanked Gill for keeping us up to date and said it was particularly nice to get some feedback as to how the money donated is spent. He also said that it was not always necessary to concentrate on particular organisations during their specific focus weeks, as indicated on the preaching plan, but that these could occur at other times in the year. He thought that, as there was to be a circuit service once a month from January, maybe the mission committee could take up one of the organisations and focus on their work at one, or more, of these services. He noted that it was good to see that the collection at the circuit service on 4th September at Rumney was for Homes 4 U.

8. World Mission Fund

As Richard Hodgson was unable to attend the meeting he sent the following report.

'As an indication of circuit monies given during (Methodist) year 2010/2011 I have sent a total of £7181.10 to the central account but of this, the sum of £646.34 related to the previous year (received very late) which leaves a total of £6534.76 for 2010/11. I have still to receive the bank statements for the year end which may again show some very late receipts and, importantly, I cannot give an accurate figure until I receive the year end report from London which in the past has shown as much as a further £1000 having been sent direct. Once I have these two missing pieces of the jigsaw I can give an accurate figure (and – Judith- complete the return which you have sent to me) but the indication is not good with unfortunately a downward trend.'

9. Mission in Britain

Peter Richards reported that a total of £3076.36 had been received from thirteen churches in the circuit. A further £55 had been received from Rumney after he had dispatched the circuit schedule.

He thanked all the contributing churches for their continuing support.

This figure is slightly up on last year but generally there is a downward trend. He felt this was partly due to the fact that we do not receive any literature from the fund or any feedback as we used to. He also felt that congregations were continually giving to various charities throughout the year. (See attached sheet)

A.O.B.

- **Circuit Mission Service.** The planned service for November has been postponed due to a very full plan with two circuit services already on it. (4th September - , Rumney rededication. 16th October - Recorded services for a Sunday Morning radio programme at Cyncoed. The Mission service will now take place at Trinity on the 1st Sunday in December. The focus would still be on Space 4 U and Homes 4 U. John Rowe has already consulted with Irfan John about it.
- Daisy Edwards asked, on behalf of Keith Norton, what the committee had decided about asking Douglas Alexander to speak. Jenny Howells referred her to the minutes of the last meeting when it had been decided to defer it until next year. However the meeting asked Daisy to ask Keith to contact Douglas Alexander to ascertain whether he would be willing to speak and, if so, for some available dates. He would be asked to speak on International Development.
- **JMA.** John Rowe had again looked at the web site but there was still no information. Sue Morris (Cathays) and Jenni Clarke (Caerphilly) were trying to keep it going in their churches despite there being no information.
- **Cardiff Nativity.** Liz Rowe had received information on this. It was going ahead and it was hoped it would be bigger and better – they were even considering a live donkey!! Information would be sent directly to individual churches in the next few weeks and information to schools would go out much earlier than last year. Liz Rowe would keep us informed.
- Peter Richards and John Rowe showed the meeting 'The Link'. (copy attached)The newsletter produced by Llandaff North Methodist, Christchurch U.R.C. and Whitchurch Methodist. They explained that they had been distributed on Saturday 3rd September to 2500 houses in the catchment areas of the churches. The idea for the newsletter had come from Liz Rowe who had led a committee to produce it. The meeting felt it was an excellent idea, especially as it was eye catching and attractive, and what outreach was all about. They would take back the idea to their own clusters.
- The meeting were also shown the first magazine of cluster 2 (produced by Liz Rowe) with information about the six churches. This would be distributed to the congregation at a cluster service on 11th September.

10. Items to be Highlighted for distribution

- Space 4 U and Homes 4 U – Mission Service in December. Jenny Howells to ask Irfan John for some photographs.
- Communication.

11. Date of the next meeting 14th February 2012 at Christchurch 7:30

12. The meeting closed with a prayer.

NB Attached to these minutes is the first Mission Committee Newsletter. You will receive one after each Mission Committee meeting. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF YOU CONGREGATIONS. THANK YOU**

Report from Gill Peace

Campaigns

- **Christian Aid** New phase of the climate change and with new action card just launched at Greenbelt. Deadline for action card end November 2011. More information at www.Christianaid.org.uk/climate change
- **Tax Justice** On line action before G20 meeting this November to end tax aid secrecy. www.christianaid.org.uk choose Act Now! And then Trace the tax bearing witness event 1st October in Manchester.
- **Jubilee Debt Campaign** The IMF has made huge profits from lending during the credit crisis and there is a meeting this month to decide what to do with the billions. Anti-poverty campaigners want the money to be used to further write off debts of the poorest countries. Urgent on line action (in next two weeks) www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk choose campaign then IMF.
- **Fair Trade** Supporter Conference 15th October in Birmingham. Fair Trade Foundation has harvest resources for churches, school assemblies etc. www.fairtrade.org.uk
- **MRDF** Harvest materials available. Look on line to download or order resources. www.mrdf.org.uk/resources

Emergencies

- **East/Horn of Africa** CA has already spent more than £500,000 in support of relief in Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya (mainly for Somali people) eg providing new water sources for livestock and people as well as food. For Somalis they have helped move people away from the overcrowded refugee camp to better accommodation and been running programmes to feed children not reached by the main UN efforts. MRDF are working through ACT and have sent over £245,000 for work in Oromia district of Ethiopia and in refugee camps in Kenya. Also some ongoing work in Mali where acute food shortages exist.

Reporting back

- **Haiti** (Jan 2010) – CA helped 60,000 people. Despite the difficulties partners organisations provided emergency food, medical care, shelter and trauma counselling. Since the initial phase they have been building homes, supporting peoples return to livelihood with loans and agricultural advice.
- **West Africa Appeal 12 months ago** CA mainly working in Niger.

One World Week – Living for One World

- 23rd -30th October 2011. Living for the planet and living for the people. Worship resources and activity ideas for events or working with groups. www.oww.org.uk/resources