

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of Local Preachers, Leaders of Worship and Readers

**Hexham West End Methodist
Church, 28 April 2022 at 7.30pm**

1. Rev Paul Dunstan, Superintendent, took the chair, and welcomed everyone, according a particular welcome to Elaine Goy, who has recently moved into the Circuit. In the absence of the Secretary, Bob McAlpin recorded the Minutes.
2. Opening Devotions: Sandra Martin had been appointed to do this, but was unable to be present. Alex Dunstan led devotions, with an interpretation of Psalm 95, and prayer.
3. Pastoral Matters: Tokens of support would be sent to Sandra Martin and Tom Dodds.
4. IN ATTENDANCE: [Names are recorded in the Attendance Book].
5. APOLOGIES: [Names are recorded in the Attendance Book].
6. MINUTES of the meeting held on 13 January via Zoom, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.
7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES not otherwise on the Agenda: Marie Beard noted that the Corbridge congregation were no longer meeting in the chapel. Instead, they are holding weekday fellowship services in the Lady Chapel of St Andrew's Church. These are held on the fourth Tuesday and the second Thursday of the month. Marie reported a positive feeling for these services, and invited support, and volunteers to lead services. [Those interested are asked to contact the Corbridge Church Stewards.] In particular, leaders are sought for services on Tuesday 26 July and Tuesday 23 August.
8. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS not on the Agenda: none. [But see notes at Item 14 below].
9. PREPARATION FOR SERVICE:
 - a. Preachers On Note: None
 - b. Progress of Preachers On Trial:
 - i. Robin Charlton: Marie Beard led an interview of Robin, giving him an opportunity to relate his call to preach with his experience and professional duties. Alex Dunstan commended Robin for his high standard of work in preparation and training. It was unanimously agreed that Robin should proceed further towards Full Plan.
 - c. Arrangements for preachers to be heard and a report prepared:
 - i. Trial Service: Robin Charlton: It was agreed that a Trial Service be conducted by Robin Charlton at Acomb on Sunday 26 June. Bob McAlpin will report, and he agreed to contact the Church Stewards at Acomb to make the appropriate arrangements. The intention is that Robin be interviewed again at the Meeting of January 2023.
10. Future Training and Development Opportunities:
 - a. A few books from Corbridge Chapel were made available at the Meeting.
 - b. No study days are planned in the immediate future.
11. Safeguarding: Paul Dunstan reminded all preachers of the importance of booking safeguarding training well in advance of expiry dates. Training opportunities are limited and advanced training cannot be completed unless foundation training has also been redone. For these reasons, the recommendation is that LPs and Worship leaders begin thinking about training **a year in advance** to ensure no one is prevented from preaching due to expired safeguarding certificates. The requirement on Local Preachers and others to renew Safeguarding awareness training within deadlines was proving difficult to fulfil. In view of the Covid pandemic, it was felt that some relaxation of the requirements was justified. However, this was unlikely to be granted.
12. Peer Review: For various reasons this had not really had a chance to begin properly. The practical difficulties, notably of smaller numbers of available Local Preachers, were discussed. The target remains one review per annum. It was agreed that at the next Meeting the names those who had been reviewed should be noted.
13. News from Churches: None.
14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS as notified at 7 above:
 - a. Robin Charlton indicated that professional duties required him to change an appointment. Bob McAlpin agreed to circulate the information to all Local Preachers, to seek a replacement for him.
 - b. The Plan for June-August 2022 had multiple 'Local Arrangements'. Jenny Porterpryde noted the reduction in number of available preachers, and the particular difficulty of congregations' simultaneous hours of worship. She suggested that congregations be invited to consider staggering their hours, or even their days, of worship – although this might result in heavy

workloads for preachers! [Changes of hours of worship are matters for the congregations themselves, and the Circuit Meeting].

- c. Sandra Martin had raised the matter of finding a replacement when preachers are unable to fulfil appointments. It was agreed that the present policy of personal responsibility should continue, although the Circuit would help in cases of severe emergency. The superintendent paid tribute to those who accepted replacement duties, sometimes at short notice.

15. Future Meetings (all at 7.30pm, volunteer for devotions):

- a. Thursday 21 July 2022 at 7.30pm at **STOCKSFIELD**, to include a service of Holy Communion
- b. Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7.30pm at West End

16. Jenny Porterpryde led prayers for Paul and Alex Dunstan, whose last Meeting in the Circuit this would be. The Meeting was closed with the sharing of the Grace at 8.35pm

Chair.....

Date.....