

indefinitely. Potentially any query into the past can be applied to the database, as long as you have access or can ask someone who has.”

27/13 Establishing Synod Policy

(i) Safeguarding

Rosemarie reported that the every member of the committee should undergo foundation and leadership safeguarding modules, and that Synod needed to keep a record of the dates when that training had been undertaken. A question was raised concerning the availability of this information on a database but the meeting was told there was no such record at the moment. Dates of leadership courses were publicised:

19 October 2013	Llanyrafon, Cwmbran
18 January 2014	Buckley Cross, Buckley & Deeside; Kidwelly, Llanelli & Carmarthen
10 May 2014	Vale of Glamorgan.

(ii) Policy Up-date

All current Synod Policies are on the Wales Synod Web site. A revised draft of the Synod Safeguarding Policy will be considered at the next SPC.

28/13 Implementing Synod Policy

(a) *Financial Report* paper previously distributed
In Richard’s absence, Graham presented the report which was RECEIVED.

(b) *Accounts 2012/13* paper previously distributed
The audited and signed accounts were ACCEPTED.

(c) *Reserves Policy* paper previously distributed
The reserves policy was ACCEPTED.

(d) *Trust 14508*
The Trust supports the work of an HE Chaplaincy in Cardiff and also the Synod Enabler (Cultural Diverse Congregations). Grant contribution to the HE Chaplain would cease in 2015 and to the Synod Enabler in 2016, but it was anticipated that financial support from the trust could continue beyond the terms of the grants.
The accounts for Trust 14508 were ACCEPTED.

The manse “Ty Newydd” in Wrexham, formerly occupied by Richard Hall, was now surplus to requirements and the meeting’s permission to sell the property was sought. The meeting AGREED.

(e) *Property Returns*
Jack stated that he was willing to try to resolve any problems with the new electronic system, and reminded the meeting that he would retire in August 2014.
The implications for the rating of ancillary premises when not used for church purposes were highlighted with a number of examples from within Synod. Any church or circuit involved in valuations from the HMRC as a result of hiring premises should contact Jack for assistance.

29/13 SPC Business

(a) *Trinity, Newport Road/Four Elms Road, Cardiff*
Peter Holwell reported that a Project Committee had been formed and links were being developed with a variety of ethnic groups who were seeking to use the premises. Rev

Irfan John was organising an International Nativity on 30 November in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

(b) *Closure of Splott church, Cardiff*

The Circuit meeting in September had agreed that Splott should cease to meet and sought SPC approval. The meeting APPROVED

Conversations were in hand with groups expressing interest in leasing the whole of the premises.

(c) *Approval of Probationer and Deacon Appointments*

Stephen requested approval to the following:

Probationers:	Bridgend united area and Mid-Glamorgan Mission	APPROVED
Deacons:	½ time in Cardiff and ½ time in Wrexham	APPROVED

(d) *Candidates for Presbyteral Ministry* - Five people had indicated their intention to candidate for ministry, including Stephen Boxall (Gwent Hills and Vales) who had indicated limited availability for stationing - paper previously distributed. The meeting gave its approval

(e) *Permission for "authorised to serve" minister in Cardiff East*

Stephen requested permission for Rev Janice Jones, a Presbyterian minister from Wrexham, to serve in two ecumenical churches in Cardiff East area. The meeting AGREED. The application would go to Conference in 2014.

(f) *Cardiff HE Chaplaincy*

Stephen reported that Delyth Liddell would commence maternity leave at the beginning of January and cover was needed for 9 months with the option of a further 3 months. It was Delyth's fourth year of appointment when normally a review would be undertaken. He proposed that a small group be appointed to act on behalf of Synod to meet with Delyth for an interim review with the intention of an extension of 1 year. A fuller review would be undertaken on her return to work in 2015. The meeting APPROVED. Stephen also reported that issue of chaplaincy cover during Delyth's absence was being explored.

(g) *Reports of sabbaticals* papers previously distributed

30/13 Chair's Business

Stationing

Stephen reported that 167 appointments were needed throughout the Connexion and there were 119 Presbyters available. 50 Probationer appointments are required, with 25 already being stationed, leaving a further 25 still to be stationed from the 167 vacancies. There were 30 Deacons available with only 20 appointments to fill at the present time, with some part time appointments. There were four couples of Presbyter/Deacon available. Discussions connexionally were taking place to solve this potential problem of having too many deacons for the stations available.

Two Superintendents were needed, in Bangor & Holyhead and Vale of Glamorgan, together with a Probationer in Bridgend and Mid Glamorgan Mission. Four Presbyters were needed, in Cardiff, Mid Glamorgan Mission, Welshpool & Bro Hafren and Wrexham. Two part-time Deacons were required in Wrexham and Cardiff.

Entering stationing were Revds Kim Kerchal, Susan McIvor, Mark Rowland, Verity Phillips, Una McLean and Deacon Stephen Roe.

31/13 Matters to/from related bodies

(i) *Healthy Church* paper previously distributed
It was agreed this paper would be taken to churches for discussion and appropriate action

(ii) *Synod 2014*
The search for a new venue for the meeting was in hand.

(iii) *Synod Youth Work Action Group*
Richard Sharples reported on the work with 11 to 18 year-olds.
A young person was needed to join the group for three meetings a year held in Abergavenny.
Two young people were in the "One Programme", one in Carmarthen and one in Wrexham.
Synod contributed £30 to each young person attending 3Generate.
Synod Sleepover would be held in the first week in February 2014 at three venues: Wrexham, South East and South West.
James Kennedy from Newport "Lab Project" had visited the group and talked about youth apprenticeships.
Felicity Jepson Randall was the Synod Children's Officer.
Richard reported that communication was critical to keep everyone informed of activities and venues, etc. A separate web site was now available with a link to the main Synod site. A larger budget would be needed next year.
Street Children World Cup information leaflets were distributed to the meeting.

(iv) *Methodist Council*
Graham Illingworth reported the following agenda items of the meeting taking place on 14/ 15th October 2013:

Update on the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network
Report on the Joint Implementation Commission
A review of the role of the Warden of the Diaconate
Further updating regarding Civil Partnerships & Legal Definition of Marriage
Scotland District – implications of Conference decision to remove the Connexional Liaison Office role

(v) *Matters to/from Connexion*

Luke Curran had been appointed as Wales Regional Co-ordinator, Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, which is a Connexional post.

There were three areas to report.

1. The dispersal of the balance of monies held by Wales Training Network was as yet unresolved.

2. Probationers would no longer receive book grants under the new system but Synod resources would continue to make a contribution. Support to Pembroke Circuit Probationer, being half the travel costs to the Under 5s group would continue as part of Pembrokeshire funding.

3. A work plan was being finalised for the forum and names were being considered for the forum team. Luke Curran and Amy Adams together with a third post for a, yet to be appointed, Welsh speaker were the Wales' based staff

The CDiM money from Connexion would no longer be available per capita from September 2014, rather training organised by DMLN team was envisaged. It was agreed that Wales Synod would continue making money available to ministers individually here to ensure they can continue their professional development. The sum would continue at £250 per person in this transitional year.

(vi) Y Cyngor

A significant number of responses to the questionnaire following “The Gathering” had been received and meetings would be held shortly to correlate the findings into a draft reply. This would be considered at the next meeting of Y Cyngor, with the aim of preparing a Wales Methodist Church response. This will be circulated to all churches in Wales following approval of the document by Y Cyngor. The next meeting of Y Cyngor would be held in November.

32/13 Ecumenical Matters

(a) Gordon Sollis, the Synod representative on the Light Ship sponsoring group, reported on the situation, stating that funding was difficult and the URC contribution would in cease in 3 years’ time. The trustees of the Light Ship had agreed to mothball the project until the spring. Stephen would include the Light Ship in discussions at the Synod Leadership Team and the schemes and grants committee would consider the information available and forward a report to the SLT. Stephen was attending a forthcoming meeting of church leaders with the Trustees and confirmed that we would deal with this matter through normal Synod processes.

(b) Stephen reported that Roy Watson wished to inform the meeting that the Cytun International Forum had ceased to meet. However, the Lebanon and Syria Christian Aid Council was on-going and Roy attended the meetings.

33/13 Next Meeting

Saturday 16 February 2014

at Newtown Methodist Church, commencing at 10.30am