

Circuit Meeting Webinar, 16th September 2020

Key notes:

- All circuit meeting members were sent a link to join, to reduce the number of people online, each church were asked to send one rep.
- Devotions were led by staff members
- The last meeting took place in September 2019
- Thanks were given to all involved in the UCI Bike championships from cake baking to volunteers and organisers
- Connexion are doing a weekly prayer from 12.45 to 1pm on a Tuesday, please see the Methodist Facebook page
- District Flourish is being planned for 17-19 Sept 2021 in Scarborough
- Circuit Flourish is being postponed to Spring 2021
- A team is in place for when Gordon Hay goes on sabbatical next Spring
- At the LWP meeting, 2 new notes put in place: Mark Wheatley and Kath Jones and they will be working with the team. Celebration to be planned to mark Mike Greenberg's 25th anniversary in preaching.
- We have appointed a new Quinquennial Architect who is very good and has given us a better deal
- Conference deferred special resolution: There is a suggested change to the model trusts and votes are needed from churches in the autumn and circuit in the spring – in essence who is allowed to use our buildings for worship and is around the issue of licences and leases.
- The staff have worked incredibly hard to try and include everyone when Covid restrictions were put into place and had to undergo a huge learning curve. It is appreciated that some people were missed and they are trying to rectify this
- Church re-opening: Killinghall is to be the first to open for services, a draft plan is in place and the others are opening at various different dates
- A huge thanks to the Circuit support team who are working hard in getting churches ready to re-open under new Covid rules. They have supported churches with risk assessments, shopping lists and a number of other tasks.
- There is a policy in place for those at risk – we do not expect you to come back if you feel unable to do so.
- The circuit is running at present 50% of previous capacity in terms of preachers.
- Online services: Various things were trialled and tested. Services online got longer and have now been reduced back down to 30m. There is a 9am Sun Love feast zoom, there is a weekly circuit email with a downloadable service for use at home, the morning prayer team has increased in number and this will continue on a Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 8am on Facebook. 10.30am Sunday services will still be available on Facebook and Youtube (please subscribe, we currently have 79 subscribers and we only get an official video channel on Youtube once we hit the 100 subscribers mark) We also have a Dial a Thought tel no 648644 (local call rate) which is updated on a Thursday. The Circuit team have tried to cover all bases. These will all continue for now alongside the worship at church.
- Wesley: Jinnah's are paying rent at a delayed agreed rate, we are looking at 2 partnerships. The first with MHA who will be using the centre as well as our resources (eg. Breakfast). The second with the Harrogate Homeless Project who would like to take over the whole of the lower hall. If they move out of Wesley House, we may be able to refurbish them and convert them into office space. The trustees have agreed with the proposals and a lottery bid is in place for funding (news hopefully by the end of the month). Plans in place to create toilets upstairs and refurbish the kitchens. Staffing is being reviewed.
- 20+ is now 'Future Mission and Staffing working group' - those involved include: Ron Hicks, Bill Rodham, Les Sudron, Rachel McCallum, Gordon Hay, Ben Clowes, Shelagh Outhwaite, Don Rolls, Mark Wheatley and Judith Yeats. The team were asked to seek funding for a town centre deacon and pastor for every church. District approved funding for a deacon but the bid, although successful, was suspended by Connection due to Covid. Grants are now being sought from District under 'God for all'. A huge thanks to all involved, especially Ron Hicks.
- Answers to the 4 questions sent to Nidd Valley Circuit are being analyzed and will be circulated in due course. A set is being sent to the youth within the circuit. Ben highlighted some comments that seemed to pop up frequently eg. an excitement over the online work that the circuit team have been doing and a

regular comment about there normally being too many meetings. The circuit team are working with the District to look at how we can lighten the governance load but also to see how the online work can continue into the future.

- Finance: the sale of 7 Park Road was closely monitored by TMCP. Surveyors and solicitors were hired and the advice was to accept the offer being made. The contracts are currently with the solicitors. Ed is waiting for a few final bits to come through before finalising the accounts, but does not anticipate any drastic changes. Due to the fact that Wesley's income is mainly generated by room lets and in light of Covid closure, they did not have to pay an assessment this year. We are catching up with quinquennials and electrical inspections for all our properties. There will be a deficit for the year, but this what the reserves are in place for. A budget is in place for staffing for 2021. The funds we will receive for 7 Park Rd are not infinite and each church needs to build a reserve. Those churches with high reserves were asked to consider helping those with low reserves. We have changed our bank account to one where online payments can be made, we anticipate to be up and running with CAF from October.
- The meeting concluded with some good news stories around the circuit which included Doves, Resurrected Bites, the Wesley Lockdown Experience and the Great Pannal and Trinity Zoom Quiz Night.
- The webinar was recorded and will be available on Facebook and on Youtube.

Please refer to all reports sent by email

If you would like to watch it online, here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0N_UZGmb6g