

Minutes of a meeting of the Circuit Leadership Team held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 13:30 hrs at Davenport Road Methodist Church.

Present: Revd. Andrew Biggs (Chair), Revd. Sue Jacobs, Mr. Eddie Fowler, Ms Val Donoghue, Revd. Ian Worrall, Revd Jason Cooke.

In attendance: Caroline Todd (Minutes)

1. **Opening Prayer** was led by Revd Andrew Biggs.
2. **Apologies:** Martin Hannant, Rosemary Britton
3. **Minutes** of meeting held 25th March were agreed.
4. **Matters** arising from Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March. There were none.
5. **June Pratley:** Andrew noted that after 15 years' service, June had resigned as Minute Secretary for this meeting. Thanks were recorded. The circuit administrator would now take on the role.
6. **Rev'd Nicola Blois:** Andrew noted that Nicola had recently passed away. Her funeral would be held on 19th May at 10.00 am
7. **Rev'd Sue Jacobs** - Probationer committee decision (approved to continue on probation for second year). Congratulations were recorded.
8. **Church updates:**
 - 8.1. Churchill - Celebration service 26th July (changed from 19th)
 - 8.2. Charlbury - Celebration 3pm 20th July. Final communion service for local congregation to be held on Sunday 27th July.
 - 8.3. Applications to cease to meet have both been approved by the District exec and will go to synod on 10th May: Noted.
 - 8.4. Carterton
A conversation took place around the scheme already in place. AB noted that Consent for refurbishment of toilets, kitchen and roof repairs was not required as this could be classed as maintenance. Technically, consent was only needed where there were structural changes. It was noted that there were small elements of work that could be done before Kathy arrived but she needed to be kept in the loop. Ian would draw together a group to schedule works.
9. **Stationing** - Replacement for Rev'd Jason Cooke
 - 9.1. District briefing meeting 13th May 9am on zoom for CIC members already notified. This was a meeting to discuss the new protocol for appointments, revised annually.
 - 9.2. Meeting with Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks, Chair of District, for CLT members - 16th May 7pm for 45 minutes on zoom.
 - 9.3. Profile for High Street and Faringdon
This was discussed in the presence of Jason. The wording was based on Jason's final profile so needed updating to keep it relevant. AB noted currently it was too long and needed to be cut down to two pages. AB to check membership numbers.
10. **Hosting Synod**

A request had been made by district seeking alternative venues in the district to host Synod. It was noted that West Oxfordshire would most likely not be able to host a synod as it had no churches big enough. Synod was a big event and would need somewhere with ample parking and IT facilities. The only suggestion was Davenport Road and Sue would make enquiries.
11. **Finance**

Eddie Fowler gave a brief update on the MTF (held with TMPC), which included the sales proceeds from the sale of Burwell Meadow. The balance of the fund now stood at £1.3m. With commitments already earmarked the remaining balance remained at £588,084. AB requested we should look at it with the 5-year projection and see how that fits in with the end balance. It should be noted that there would be the sale of two more churches in the near future.

Eddie explained that because we were now in the situation of having a full audit, we were now being asked to provide valuations on all the manses. This would take place in the next day or so.

12. **Synod** - Who is attending? Revd Julie Biggs was now a confirmed representative, Eddie Fowler, Andrew Biggs and query Matt Wareham (previously expressed an interest but not confirmed with Andrew)
13. **AOB** – Richard Bowler had accepted an invitation to join CLT and would be joining the next meeting as a new member.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

15. Wednesday 23rd July at 2.00pm at Davenport Road

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Notable Dates:

- 13th May 09:00 District briefing meeting for CIC
- 16th May Stationing consultation with Chair of District for CLT 7pm
- 20th July. Charlbury - Celebration 3pm
- 26th July (changed from 19th) Churchill - Celebration service
- 27th July 6pm Farewell Service for Rev'd Ian and Sue Worrall Preacher - Rev David Winstanley
- 30th August (Saturday) 3pm Welcome Service for Rev'd Kathy Flynn - Carterton - Rev'd Sonia Hicks
- 30th November (1st Sunday in Advent) Circuit Service at Davenport Road at 3 pm (tbc with church – Sue to coordinate). Andrew to lead and Sue to Preach (request to involve youth band).