

# SOUTHEND AND LEIGH CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity No 1134248

Superintendent Minister – Rev Bryan J Tolhurst

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## Minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> Circuit Meeting held at Benfleet Methodist Church, High Road, Benfleet on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Present** Revs Tolhurst, Kirova, Page, Deans, Smith, Perowne and Hayman, three Circuit Stewards, Circuit Treasurer, 48 members representing 16 of the 17 Circuit Churches and four visitors.

1. **Opening Devotions** were led by Rev Keith Page
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from the Revs N Hooks and B Gutberlet, Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary and 8 other members. The signing-in register was completed.
3. **Greetings, condolences etc.** Welcome given to Rev Elizabeth Kirova, the new Minister at Canvey Island and Benfleet.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** had been circulated. These Minutes were accepted and signed by the Superintendent Minister as a correct record.
5. **Matters arising** The Secretary reported that a letter had been sent to Mr Fred Brown. A Church Stewards' Training day has been booked by Chelmsford Circuit – invitation has been extended to our Circuit for any to attend who are interested in Church Steward training - enquiries to the Secretary. The Local Preachers' Accreditation Service will be at Leigh Wesley on 16<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. The Superintendent Minister referred to the rebirth of Network (Methodist Women in Britain) in the Circuit with Mrs Credwyn Tolhurst as President. Reminder for the Cafe Church training at Benfleet on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Any other business items** Greenbelt – Rev Diane Smith; Tom Deans – Schedules; Eric Rowe – Westerley
7. **Report from the Circuit Invitation Committee** presented by Mr Patrick Smith (Circuit Steward) His report gave the following recommendations to the Circuit Meeting
  - Two new Presbyters should be sought to serve in the Circuit from September 2012
  - Appointment of Rev Norman Hooks should be extended for 5 years from 2012
  - Appointment of Rev Diane Smith should be extended for 2 years from 2012

The requisite Reasoned Statements had been circulated with the papers for this Meeting with the approval of the District Chair. The Superintendent asked if there were any opposition to these recommendations. None was made. The Stationing Profiles covering the two new appointments had been prepared but not yet confirmed. This must be done by 20<sup>th</sup> September. (Copy to follow. Full report is on file)

### 8. **Local Churches - Progress in Mission**

Keith Norman (Rayleigh) asked for continued prayers for Rayleigh Church. Some younger people had been attending recently with three showing an interest in membership.

Rev Diane Smith spoke of the success of Cafe Crew at Hadleigh. Fun Days at Chalkwell continued to be well supported. Coach to hear Will Graham on 23<sup>rd</sup> September – some tickets left. Also mention of a Quiz Night at Trinity on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Rev Keith Page informed the meeting that the Centenary celebrations at Belfairs had been most successful. Wesley had completed an Alpha Course and a Youth Alpha was running currently. People were coming in as a result, young people especially. Rev Page also informed the meeting that he was applying for early retirement.

Robert Gray (Benfleet) spoke of the activities of BOSCATS (Benfleet Operatic Society Children's Amateur Theatre) and their production of Honk! For five years this group of young people had presented entertainments in Benfleet to a high standard. The group rehearses at Benfleet Church.

Carole Glendenning (Rochford) referred to the effort being put into "Back to Church" Sunday (25<sup>th</sup> September)

Anne Sains (Hockley) gave information about the Holiday Club for about 20 children. Joint three-church Fayre was a great success.

Bob Briant (Shoeburyness) spoke of the Course in Evangelism due to run in October known as E111 and the associated course for children. This is a rather concentrated course but comes with high recommendations. More information direct from Bob Briant.

The Superintendent referred to Morethangold associated with the Olympic Games event at Hadleigh. He also repeated the need for items for the Circuit Prayer Book.

9. **Report from Conference, Synod etc.** None was forthcoming.
10. **Circuit Treasurer's Report** – presented by Mr R Reeves. The Accounts were not ready as the year end was 31<sup>st</sup> August. Early indications were that the action taken over the last year had been prudent. All assessments had been met with the exception of New Road. Trinity's accounts were well behind time – they were still to be completed for year end 2010. Changes in the Copyright legislation required churches to be licenced to play CDs unless in the context of a service of worship. See [www.ccli.co.uk/](http://www.ccli.co.uk/)  
Elm Road lease extended for 3 years. Many thanks to Ruth Lowden for work she has done on the Manses. Rayleigh Manse garden is done and refurbishment to the house will be carried out soon.  
It was previously agreed that money found in an old Network Account (see last Meeting) should go to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF). Now that Network has been reformed it is proposed to pass this amount to that new organisation. Agreed.
11. **Circuit Stewards' Report** – presented by Mr P Smith. Details were given of the Away Day for Ministers, Circuit staff and Circuit Stewards on 11<sup>th</sup> July. ArtServe (successor to the Methodist Church Music Society) is designed to cover all arts activities in the Methodist Church, not just music. Its conference is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October in Derbyshire. Funding day project planned for 9<sup>th</sup> November – details from Patrick Smith. (Copy to follow. Full report is on file)
12. **Circuit Secretary** – no report
13. **Safeguarding of Young People** – presented by Lucy Brown. Local officers will be contacted soon and all policies will be examined. New policy to come from the Connexion and it is envisaged that local officers will meet together shortly.
14. **Local churches business**  
Rayleigh – concert by Swayne Choral Society 15<sup>th</sup> October for the Organ Fund. 7.30pm. Support welcome.
15. **Local Preachers' Business** – nothing to report.
16. **Appointments** – Mrs Maureen Sams had agreed to become a Circuit Steward. Accepted with pleasure.
17. **Dates of next meetings** 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Thorpe Bay; 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Hadleigh; 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Rayleigh
18. **Any other business** Rev Diane Smith presented some slides of the Greenbelt festival to which some of our churches sent representatives and Tom Deans reminded the Meeting that Schedules for all churches and the seven manses are due for completion by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Any difficulty please contact Tom Deans.  
Mr Eric Rowe made a further plea for help with the conduct of prayers at Westerley each day.
19. **The Meeting** concluded with the saying of the Grace at 9.25pm

Signature.....Superintendent Minister

Date.....