

# 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 78<sup>th</sup> Circuit Meeting held at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

**Present** Revs Tolhurst, Kirova, Page, Hooks and Hayman, five Circuit Stewards, Circuit Treasurer, 43 members representing 16 of the 17 Circuit Churches and two visitors.

1. **Opening Devotions** were led by Rev Elizabeth Kirova.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from the Revs K Page, D Smith, M Deans and B Gutberlet and 7 other members. The signing-in register was completed.
3. **Greetings, condolences etc.** The Meeting heard that Mr Eric Rowe (Shoebury) was unwell. A letter was requested.
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** None
6. **Any other business items** None that would not come up under the Agenda items.
7. **Report from the Circuit Treasurer** Mr Reeves presented the Financial Statements and Trustees' Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and copies were available to members. The accounts had been audited by the Independent Examiner and were found to be in order. (A full copy of the accounts is on file) The Treasurer highlighted the anticipated income from the letting of 76 Elm Road over 2 years (£40,000), work at the 259 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh was proceeding and the problems with BT at the Benfleet Manse was now resolved. Thanks were expressed to Ruth Lowden (Manses Co-ordinator) for her work on the Manses. No questions were forthcoming for the Treasurer. The accounts were agreed and accepted. Two further sets of accounts were presented (copies on file) relating to the General Account and four subsidiary accounts (Circuit Advance Fund, York Road Funds, Manses Revaluation Fund and Audio/Visual Fund). These were explained, agreed and accepted.
8. **Report from the Circuit Invitations Committee** presented by Mr Patrick Smith (Circuit Steward). After discussions with the Chair of the District, the District Lay Stationing Representative and with the Superintendent Minister it has been decided that, after an adjustment to the relative profiles, a Probationer Minister should be applied for to cover the Rayleigh and Hockley Churches from September 2012 (there is a limit of the size of the church/churches a Probationer is allowed to cover) and that a new Presbyterian be sought to cover Highlands, Belfairs and Wesley Churches. This would leave Thundersley, New Road and Rochford under Rev Bryan Tolhurst's ministry for the time being. For the Presbyterian's appointment the list of available Presbyters has been examined but a 'late entry' has been brought to our attention. Rev Julia Monaghan has been invited to visit the Circuit on 26<sup>th</sup> November and to meet the Circuit Invitation Committee. (Full report on file)
9. **Report from the Circuit Stewards.** Apart from the Report under item 8 the Stewards reported that the Circuit Leadership Team felt that Wesley/Belfairs/Highlands combination was more acceptable and that the Oakview Close Manse would be the better option for the minister serving those Churches. Agreed that Rev Bryan Tolhurst should vacate Oakview Close and move to Ormonde Gardens around August 2012. (Full report on file)
10. **The Circuit Meeting Secretary** reminded the Meeting that the next Circuit Meeting would be the appointments meeting at which we will need nominations for a Circuit Steward, Circuit Treasurer and Secretary of the Circuit Meeting.
11. There was no report from the **Education and Youth Committee.**
12. A Financial Statement from the **Connexional Funds Treasurer** was presented. (copy on file and available from the Secretary if required)

- 13. Report from the Property Co-ordinator.** Mr Tom Deans presented the 2011 Property Schedules C & D. They were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman and the Secretary without amendment. Tom Deans also endorsed the thanks expressed earlier to Ruth Lowden for her work in connection with circuit property.
- 14. Local Churches – Progress in Mission**  
**Great Waking** reported on plans for an ALPHA Course in February 2012. **Wesley** reported a reduction in Youth Funding but that a new Youth group was being established and that Messy Play was taking place on Wednesday mornings (work in association with the Salvation Army)  
Mrs N Charles (**Belfairs**) reported plans for Lent meetings on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. Rev Diane Smith reported through the Chairman, there will be a Circuit Service at **Trinity** on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 4pm to see the video “Walking in His footsteps”. She also mentioned The Holy Land video which would soon be available. Roots Hall Market stall will be running from 7am to 12noon on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December. Circuit support is requested. Samuel from **Hadleigh** committed himself to follow Jesus. His baptism will take place at Easter next year. After School club at **Hadleigh** – up to 30 junior school children attending. Cafe-style worship at **Hadleigh** once a month. **Hockley** had a most thoughtful Fun Day and Back to Church Sunday brought several people to worship. Finally carols at The Castle P.H. in **Hadleigh** on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Thanks to everyone involved in all these activities.  
Advent Course proceeding at **Highlands** and GoingforGold event also. Rev Hooks referred to a meal with young people arising from the E111/Alpha courses. One person baptised by immersion at **Whittingham Avenue**. Rev Kirova referred to the Hadleigh Olympic event. We should join as a Circuit to celebrate the event. Olympic torch to each church as part of Circuit Service.
- 15. Local Churches Business**  
David Johnson (**Wesley**) brought two projects to the Meeting. Upgrading required to the kitchen – cost approx £20,000 – has been approved by the Church Council. Circuit approval sought – Agreed. Intimation of work proposed at **Wesley** to give more flexibility, better disabled access and an improvement in the heating. Mr Clifford Patten appointed to produce plans. Total cost approx £234,000 . Circuit approval sought – Agreed. Maureen Sams (**Chalkwell**) distributed posters for the Big Christmas Sing on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 3 to 4pm. Support please. Also **Westerley** has its Open Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Keith Norman (**Rayleigh**) advised the Meeting of the publication of a Booklet of short stories compiled by Rev Brenda Gutbelet. Minimum £1 a copy.
- 16. Safeguarding.** Report submitted through the Chair from Lucy Brown (on file). Safeguarding training dates still awaited. Lucy and Sarah Hooks are planning training and a weekend retreat weekend for anyone interested in Children or Youth Work. Dates 28/29 April 2012
- 17. Matters referred by Synod etc.** Deferred Special Resolution - vote to be taken. To amend the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. Those hitherto known as Ministers now to become Presbyters as Deacons are now regarded as “Ministers”. Vote taken 54 for and 0 against. (Reminder about Synod at Rayleigh 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012)
- 18. Appointments** – none to be made
- 19. Dates of next meetings** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Hadleigh, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Rayleigh and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at Belfairs
- 20. Any other business.** The Secretary reminded the Meeting that Rev Tania Brosnan and her husband are due to move to North Yorkshire in early January. Agreed that a letter be sent with the good wishes of the Circuit.
- 21. The Meeting** concluded with prayer at 9.20pm

Signature.....Superintendent Minister

Date.....