

NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST CIRCUIT

Shadow Circuit Meeting at Burniston Methodist Church 19th October 2011

The Reverend Mark Haynes Chair of the meeting welcomed everyone. There were 82 representatives plus 4 observers in attendance.

Opening Devotions – were led by the Reverend Mark Haynes

The Chairman introduced the meeting by explaining that the objective of the formation of a Shadow Circuit Meeting was the next step in the amalgamation of the four circuits in September 2012. He thanked everyone for their tireless work on the Steering Group and its ancillary meeting groups.

The meeting was shown the structure of the new circuit agreed by the Steering Group and said that the Circuit Meeting should become the heart of the circuit. He explained the role of the Leadership Team which would act on behalf of and report back to the Circuit Meeting. The Leadership Team will be:

The Circuit Staff (Presbyters, deacon and lay workers)
8 Circuit Stewards
The Circuit Treasurer
4 Lay members (one representing the areas of each of the current circuits)

The Chairman suggested to the meeting that representatives from the churches to future Shadow Circuit Meetings should be adjusted from 1 per 100 members to 1 per 75 members. It was felt that this reflected a better representation. The meeting agreed.

Dates for meetings - The following dates were proposed to the meeting:

Shadow Circuit Meetings – September and April
Leadership Team - November and July
Staff and Stewards – to be suitably spaced between.

The meeting agreed that this was a sensible way forward..

The meeting was shown a schematic plan of the proposed Task Groups and the Chairman explained that the way we work at present would change. He explained the roles and objectives of each group and reminded everyone of the recently circulated pamphlet ‘Is God Calling You’ which invites all those who feel they have a contribution to make to any of the task groups to fill in the enclosed form.

Diane Robinson told the meeting about the progress of the preachers training group currently operating across the four circuits.

John Pugh spoke to the meeting about MRDF informing of the vitally important work of the organisation throughout the world and the important part contributions make to such work.

Helen Webster – Probationer Deacon at Whitby, introduced herself and explained her role in the community, her work with youth and families and within the church.

Elizabeth Clark – Presbyter Sherburn Circuit introduced herself and spoke of her ministry in the past and how it continues in the Sherburn Circuit and of her role as Rural Officer.

Bob Jackman – Senior Steward at Seamer Church spoke about the forthcoming visit January 13th of the President to Conference. Elizabeth Clark is holding a workshop on November 5th at Seamer Church addressing what happens in small rural churches using material from “Presence”. It is hoped to put together a presentation to put before the President of Conference during his visit.

Diane Robinson – Circuit Steward Scarborough – informed the meeting of the link made with the Methodist Church in Colombia and the visit made last year by the Bishop from Colombia. Slides were shown of the life and conditions faced by the people of Colombia.

The Chairman told the meeting it was good how we were going forward and sharing in Mission.

Finance – Ken Marsden Circuit Treasurer Elect gave a broad outline of the finances of the new Circuit explaining the projected income and expenses for the first year of the Circuit which show a total Income of £325,000 and an Expenditure of £375,000 leaving an annual Deficit of £50,000 .

It is proposed to freeze churches’ contributions at 2011/2012 level in the first year of the new Circuit with the shortfall taken by reducing the general reserve and/or drawing from Model Trust Funds.

The question was asked ‘Can we increase giving from the churches in future years’

Questions were invited and received from the floor and addressed by Ken Marsden.

The Chairman introduced the Presbyters and Lay Workers to the meeting.

He told the meeting that a profile had been submitted for a replacement Presbyter in Scarborough for next year. We were then asked by Connexion if we might consider a Probationer. The Chairman outlined how this might work – with Elizabeth Clark taking responsibility for Seamer, the Probationer would work as part of the team with especial responsibility for Queen Street and shared responsibility at Westborough and Cayton.

The Chairman spoke of the role technology would play in the administration of the Circuit.

The meeting was told that it is proposed to offer occasional workshops for learning in Mission and Pastoral Care ie: working with the elderly and vulnerable in our communities.

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday April 24th, 7pm at Filey Methodist Church