

Update from Circuit Gathering.

Things we were asked to discuss -

What decisions are there to be made by Circuit in the next 12/18 months when the Circuit will possibly be down to one Minister.

- eg. Sell a manse or retain and rent out.
- General conclusion - retain manses as Circuit asset to house future staff when the revival comes and use as income through rental to sustain work.
- What we expect from our ministers - do our expectations actually match up with time and resources available, Ministerial calling etc.,
- How could we use lay workers to ease the load of the Minister - how would this be financed.

- What resources do we hold and is full benefit being gleaned from them - financially and as an asset to offer to others.
- General conclusion - These are all being assessed individually whilst being aware that some are not actually owned by the Methodist Church. Could churches offer their buildings to other denominations, local groups etc.,

- What shape should the Circuit take - eg. Do we have a Circuit hub with satellite churches around the wide area covered by the Circuit. Where would these be situated. Who would administer these churches ?
- Could churches share buildings for worship etc., -
- General conclusion was that this required careful and prayerful discussion in individual churches.

- Are our churches in the right places or should we look at relocating (possibly to an already existing building nearby)
- Again needing careful and prayerful consideration and possibly some difficult decisions.

- How can we engage with a wider range of people ? Are we offering the style of worship at suitable times to meet present needs.
- Church Councils must look at where they are situated, what are the dynamics of their locality, the leadership available and be brave.

- Circuit needs to formulate a vision for the future based on the input from all the churches.
- Churches need to be open and honest with themselves, others in the Circuit and God. Only if and when churches feed back their responses can the Circuit move forward in confidence.

Individual churches -

What is the way forward in each individual context to be church to the local and wider community. Points for consideration.

- Are there more ways in which we can connect with other denominations to share resources of people and buildings.
- Do we send out the message of the Gospel from how we are church. Does everything we do have a faith element.
- Are there more ways in which we can engage with a wider range of people and how do we resource them.
- Are we, as individuals, being as generous as we can be in our giving to God - not just financial but in our time and commitment.
- What is our vision over the coming five years.