

Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

The Representative Synod held on 11 May 2019 Synod Summary

1. Synod met in the Stoke-on-Trent Mission Circuit from 9:30am to 3:30pm on 11 May 2019 at Swan Bank with The Revd Peter Barber in the Chair. Dispensations and apologies were recorded on the Synod Bulletin.
2. A welcome was given by the Superintendent Minister, The Revd Kathryn Stephens who led opening devotions.
3. The hours of business, and scrutineers' names were approved and following requests for nominees Revd Tim Simms and Mr Brian Barber were appointed to the District Policy Committee. By the required 75% vote in favour, Mrs Heather Staniland was appointed for a further term (having previously served for two terms). Mrs Beryl Stew and Mrs Sheila Scragg were elected by Synod to be members of Synod from September 2019.
4. The morning sessions of Synod were set aside for a series of break out session on aspects of Chaplaincy. Revd Derek Oldham led a session on Dementia, Mr Lloyd Cooke on Business, Revd Gary Windon on Hospice, Revd Christine Wright on Hospital, Revd Ruth Jeffries on Prison and Mrs Sharon Mayor on Rural chaplaincy. After coffee, the sessions were repeated and representatives had the opportunity to attend a different session. The sessions were interactive and feedback on all of them was very positive.
5. Two Circuit memorials, one from Cheshire South Circuit and one from Stoke North were circulated in the Synod booklet and were noted by the Synod.
6. Synod approved the merger from 1 September 2019 of the Chester and Delamere Forest Circuit and the Runcorn Circuit to form the North Cheshire Circuit
7. Before adjourning for lunch Synod took an offertory for the work of Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association which realised £512.19. Prior to the collection Mr John Bell spoke and gave both background on the charity and appreciation for our continued support.
8. The Revd Julie Herbert requested that permission to cease worship be granted to Kingsley Holt and Meerbrook Methodist Churches respectively both in the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit. In each case Synod agreed. Synod held the people concerned in prayer.
9. After lunch The Chair of District, attending his last Synod in this District, spoke about his ministry, both before and after ordination and shared some key observations and concerns.
10. The Synod Secretary, on behalf of Synod expressed appreciation for all that The Chair had achieved over 11 years and implored Synod members to ensure that expectations of the District Chair, including our incoming new District Chair were balanced and reasonable.
11. The Chair of District expressed thanks to the Stoke-on-Trent Mission Circuit for hosting Synod and to Swan Bank in particular for accommodating us.
12. The Chair led the concluding Worship.
13. Synod resolved to meet on Saturday 14 September 2019 in the North Cheshire Circuit at the Bishops High School.

Ian C White
Synod Secretary
16 May 2019