

Notes on Worship Leaders Meeting – 14 May 2018 at North Street

Present: Revd. Rob, Geoff Dickinson, Sue Brownbill, Peter Mason, Ruth Meredith, Jayne Bunn, Wendy Cain, Viv Wyatt.

Apologies: Sheila Scragg, Adam Meredith, Ruth Parrott

Safeguarding – GD reminded Worship leaders that they all needed to have current DBS certificates and attend Safeguarding training at 4-year intervals. DBS certificates could be arranged through the presbyter responsible for their church and records needed to be kept by the Church Council as the worship leader is a local church appointment.

Worship Leader reviews. – GD explained that worship leader appointments needed to be reviewed every three years, and subject to satisfactory review the appointment could be renewed for a further three years by the Church Council. It was intended that the review takes the form of a pastoral conversation with the presbyter responsible for the church. The outcome would be reported to the LP meeting and if appropriate the Church Council Secretary would then be advised that a further appointment could be made by the Church Council. The requirement to involve the LP meeting is because Methodist SO require the LP meeting to oversee the training and review of Worship Leaders.

Training for new Worship Leaders – GD reported that information had just been published that relaxed the requirement for new Worship leaders to fully complete the first module Worship: Leading and Preaching course. That was now to be seen as the “Gold Standard” but circuits could arrange their own training based on relevant sections of Module 1 as appropriate to the local church situation and the gifts of the Worship Leader.

Relationship with Local Preachers

- Many Worship Leaders experienced a feeling that Local Preachers were very reluctant to release and “control” over the content of a service and they were more often involved by Presbyters.
- Worship Leaders welcomed the opportunity to collaborate in service preparation.
- Some Worship Leaders felt that they came into their own when there was an LA on the plan, and in some chapels that was how they were used.
- Revd. Rob encouraged Worship Leaders to be confident especially in signaling their availability for particular services. Given that most churches cannot supply a Worship Leader every Sunday, it was important that the preacher is given a lead by the local church on the availability of a Worship Leader.
- The Worship leaders saw no value in attending one LP meeting per year. However they thought it a good idea to have an annual training day for both preachers and worship leaders. GD agreed to investigate the possibility of a session on music with worship for Spring 2019.