

What's Happening in the West ?

Introducing "The Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit"

Enabling Mission – Serving Communities

Some Interesting Excerpts from their February/March 2010 Newsletter

Letter from the Superintendent-Designate – Derrick R. Lander



Dear Friends,

Time is moving on towards the new circuit, and I do pray that as local churches begin to experience working in Clusters they are beginning to discover ways to support each other in mission and fellowship.

This is a real opportunity for churches to explore supporting each other more effectively, whether ideas, officers, or avoiding duplication of meetings, etc. The new circuit enables churches to work together, but the end result lies with congregations grasping the opportunity.

I wish us well in this process.

On the horizon are the first meetings of the Area Meetings, and then at the end of April we shall be holding our first meeting of the Circuit Meeting. These will give us opportunity to test the size and composition of the meetings, as well as provide us with opportunities to meet from farther afield, and we will be able to appoint the officers and groups we need to elect for September.

I've included various pieces of news in the newsletter in the hope it will inform and reassure folk as we continue our journey. The destination is getting clearer, and while there is still lots to do, by God's Grace we can arrive together and on time.

Thank you for all the positive and exciting ideas that seem to be coming out of our conversations, and may God increase in each of us a deepening sense of our fellowship and purpose in the vision for our work across Shropshire and Marches.

With my sincere good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Derrick R. Lander".

INAUGURAL SERVICE

**Wednesday, 1st. September, 2010
7.00 p.m. at St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury.**

The first service of the new circuit. We will welcome the Revd. the Lord Leslie Griffiths as our preacher, local and ecumenical dignitaries as well as representatives of the district. We shall also welcome new ministers and commission the new circuit team.

Thought about a Coach, yet? For this really wonderful occasion, it may be worthwhile considering coaches setting off from different points around the new circuit. Not only would this be better for the environment, it would avoid a lot of difficulty with regard to parking around St. Chad's, as well as allow travellers to enjoy fellowship on the way to and from Shrewsbury. **Why don't you offer to organise a coach from your end of the new circuit ? (OR from elsewhere in the District ?) Speak to your minister about it now.**

THE (MINISTRY) AREAS

The geographical areas have now been agreed, and rather than drawing lines on the map, each area will be determined by grouping together teams of staff and their churches. There will be 3 areas described simply as North Area, Central Area and South Area, and as I imagine that every church will now know its minister from September, I have indicated below each area and the Ministry Team and local Administrator that will support it.

To know which area you're in, simply look for the name of your minister and... you have it.

The North Area

Ministry Team: Revd. Bill Huband (Assistant Superintendent)
Revd. Andrew Evans
Revd. Sue Atree
Deacon Tony Martin
Mrs Christine Jones (Lay Worker)
Mrs. Betty Hughes (Lay Worker)

The Central Area

Ministry Team: Revd. Derrick Lander (Superintendent)
Revd. Andrew Champley
Revd. Hazel Ratcliffe
Revd Sarah Wood
Mrs. Judith Mbaabu (Lay Worker)
Mrs. Trish Calvert (Lay Worker)

The South Area

Ministry Team: Revd. Jon Chesworth (Assistant Superintendent)
Revd. Gordon Tonge
Revd. Pauline Long
Revd. Helen Roberts
Revd. Frances Biseker
Revd. Deanne Evans



STAFF APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010

The observant reader will have noticed a number of new names in the lists of Ministry Teams. Through the Stationing procedures, we have secured for the **Central Area** two experienced ministers in **Revd. Hazel Ratcliffe and Revd Andrew Champley** Hazel will be coming to Church Stretton with her husband Phil. Whilst Andrew will be moving into the Minsterley manse. Also in the Central Area we shall welcome **Revd Sarah Wood** to live in Shrewsbury with her partner Sue. Sarah is a Probationer Minister highly regarded by her Principal and the ministerial training team, with skills and interests that bring additional resources to the circuit staff.

In the **North Area** we look forward to the arrival of **Deacon Tony Martin** who with his wife Anne will be moving into a new manse in the Baschurch/Ruyton area of the circuit. He will work 30% time looking after 3 churches, and 70% working with children, young people and community development across the North Area.

In the **South Area** we are pleased that **Helen Roberts** has been confirmed as a Probationer Minister having already been with us for 1 year as a Student Minister. Helen will continue to live in Tenbury Wells where she is already establishing herself in ministry.

An already experienced ministry base will be strengthened by the new colleagues we have been blessed with, and we start in September with probably one of the most varied and balanced ministry teams imaginable. **We shall be able to boast a team of Presbyter, Diaconal and Lay expertise right across Shropshire & Marches, and I pray that we shall be open to finding new and exciting ways of using these Gifts of Ministry for a renewed commitment to mission and outreach as well as the nurture of our churches.**

May I remind us all that as well as having individual responsibilities and roles, the area teams will be encouraged to work collaboratively and to share their different skills and expertise where that supports colleagues and clusters. Occasionally we shall be able to extend this sharing across all the areas – one of the important opportunities in our restructuring of the Circuit Team.

THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE

Subject to the circuit's approval, the new circuit will have a group of senior officers to be known as **The Circuit Executive** - This will consist of :- The Superintendent Minister; the 2 Assistant Superintendent ministers; Circuit Treasurer; Circuit LP Sec.1 Circuit Steward from each Area; Circuit Secretary and Minute Secretary; Circuit Property Secretary.

The purpose of the Executive is to offer leadership in the development and proposal of circuit policy; reflecting on the needs and opportunities of the circuit; and having an over-view of circuit life in order to help the Circuit Meeting in the execution of its legal and spiritual responsibilities.

CIRCUIT PREACHERS

As circuit preachers gather, we shall be looking to form a Preachers' Meeting in each Area to provide continuing support, oversight and fellowship.

LPs and WLs will be invited to belong to an Area Meeting, but there will be flexibility about this, and in making the Plans, preachers will not be confined to one Area (in the same way as they are not restricted from taking services in other circuits now). Regarding Plan Making - the existing circuits to continue planning up to the end of August. From September we shall begin making Area Plans and thought is being given to a one-month Plan for September to help us establish the Plans and then a 3-month Plan to December.

A Prayer

God of the possible, as we look for guidance in all the preparation and planning for our new circuit, keep reminding us that it is your Church we are called to serve, and your Kingdom we seek for the people and communities we offer your love to. Help us to recognise the ways in which we need your strength to empower us; your wisdom to enlighten us; and your grace to work in us and through all we do in your name. We pray in the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.



There will be many opportunities for service in the new Circuit.

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR



Advertising for a Circuit Administrator has been finalised and adverts sent out to local and county employment services and newspapers.

Please pray for those who may be considering this post, and please pray for the team of people who will be supervising the examination of those applicants invited to the interviews.

More information about this post can be found by clicking [here](#).

Calling All Artists and Designers And anyone who would just like to 'Have-A-Go'



It would be really good if we could have a new circuit Logo to use on our Preaching Plans, letter headings and publications. Across the connection there are lots of examples of circuit logos, from a simple cross alongside a flame to more elaborate designs that include images people or places.

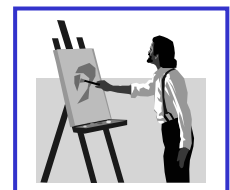
Could YOU design a logo for the new circuit? It would be really good if we could have some designs from which we could choose one - Why don't YOU have a go?

The name of the circuit is **'Shropshire & Marches'**
and our motto will be **'Enabling Mission – Serving Communities'**
So put on your creative caps - There will be three age categories:-

Children - up to 11yrs of age.

Young People - 12 to 18yrs of age.

Adults - 19 years of age and over.



There will be a small prize of a book or gift token for the best design in each age group, so, put on your thinking caps, get out your sketch pads and send me all your brilliant ideas **by April 30th. 2010.**

Derrick Lander