

From the Circuit Meeting

An extraordinary Circuit Meeting was held on 10th December at Hanwell MC.

Opening Devotions

The meeting opened with a short devotional time led by Rev Ajay Singh, reminding us of Advent as a season of preparation. Ajay shared three reflections — *Experience (Past)*, *Experiment (Present)*, and *Expectation (Future)*— and read from Colossians 3:12–15 before leading the meeting in prayer.

Welcoming a New Circuit Steward

The Circuit Meeting warmly welcomed George Masih as a new Circuit Steward, representing King's Hall. His appointment was unanimously approved, and the meeting expressed gratitude for his willingness to serve.

Property Matters

Pitshanger Methodist Church

After considering options to sell or lease the building, the meeting agreed in principle to lease the church building, which is currently in use by several local groups with parts of it standing empty and unused. Drama Studio London (DSL) has expressed interest in leasing the site for £125,000 per year on a fully repairing lease. A short rent-free period will be arranged to allow DSL time to complete any necessary works. The lease will include provisions to encourage community use in keeping with Methodist principles. The meeting agreed to work with Adam Harvey, a surveyor, to negotiate the lease terms, and to appoint HCR Law for legal services. Existing tenants will be given immediate notice to vacate by the end of the summer term, allowing sufficient time for them to find alternative premises.

Costons Avenue (Vacant Manse)

The property has suffered from various leak issues. Repairs have been attempted several times but the problem persists. The meeting took the decision to sell the property, with an estimated market value of £720,000. Final leak repairs and remedial work will need to be done before sale and the Circuit Manager will obtain multiple estate agent quotes before proceeding with a sale.

King's Hall Update

- **Ringfencing Proceeds:** A portion of the proceeds from selling 89 Costons Avenue will be allocated to support the King's Hall development.
 - **Legal Agreements:** The meeting approved engaging **Simon Hands** to prepare an Access Agreement and Scaffold License, as well as a shared legal document securing future access rights for both King's Hall and the adjoining site.
 - **Site Security:** A hoarding will be placed at the front of King's Hall to protect it while awaiting further development.
 - **Feasibility Funding:** An application will be made to the Connexion for feasibility funding, covering up to 60% of eligible costs (max. £10,000).
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Finance

The meeting agreed to adopt the proposed circuit budget for the coming period, as presented by Stephen Sears, the Circuit Treasurer.

Circuit Vision and Mission

Augmented CLT Membership

To ensure representation from all churches, Claudette Hanson, Vinette Small, and Kathleen Loveridge have kindly agreed to join the Circuit Leadership Team on a temporary basis for discussions about the future mission and vision of the circuit.

Circuit Worship Meeting

The meeting agreed that an open meeting would take place on 8 January 2025 at Kingsdown to discuss managing circuit and joint services, with the aim of developing a plan for these services that benefits the entire circuit community.

Warm Spaces Funding (London District)

The circuit encourages applications for Warm Spaces funding (up to £1,000) to assist churches offering community support during colder months. Greenford is already applying to offset costs incurred by its Winter Night Shelter, and Ealing Green may follow suit.