

The Circuit Website: A Call for Collaboration and Engagement

Introduction

Dear All,

On Wednesday, 10th September, you unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Nana Onumah as the new Circuit Website Managing Editor. If you had read my Statement to the meeting, you should have realised that you were also committing yourselves to supporting him as he takes over this important responsibility.

The Vision for the New Circuit Website

When the new Circuit Website was being developed, I wrote the following:

The New Circuit Website

The World's Window on the Circuit

www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Aims and Purpose

The primary aim of the website is to interest and inform individuals who are not yet connected with our churches. Additionally, it serves to keep our members and friends up to date with what is happening across the Circuit.

Opportunities for Local Churches

As we build the new Circuit Website, each church has the opportunity to update and expand its individual pages. Currently, the pages contain:

- Pictures
- Address and location
- Minister's name and contact details
- Main contact information
- Service details
- In most cases, a brief description of the society

Some churches have also included details of their activities. However, there is much scope for adding more information in many areas.

Suggestions for Enhancing Church Pages

Consider including the following on your church's page:

- A concise history of your church alongside more photographs
- Detailed descriptions of activities, especially those involving collaboration with other churches or the wider community
- Reports on special occasions, accompanied by photographs

If your church produces a regular magazine or weekly news sheet, these can serve as excellent sources for content and may be published in full or in part on the website.

Calendar of Events

The website features a calendar where you can add details of regular meetings and special events. The breadth of content is limited only by your imagination. The guiding principle should be to assume that the reader knows nothing about your church.

How Can This Be Achieved?

The most effective approach is for someone in each society to take on responsibility for reviewing the website, acting as a contact with the editorial team, or even joining the Web Team.

(This section was originally written for the Circuit Magazine about 10 years ago and has been only slightly edited.)

Current Reflections and Call to Action

It appears that only a few have seriously considered this invitation or have responded to subsequent calls to promote their church as an interesting, attractive, and inclusive place. The website is an opportunity to showcase your church as a welcoming environment where readers can find a non-threatening place for play and worship, should they desire it.

At the Circuit Meeting Rev Richard Atkinson stressed the need for greater involvement by the individual churches in promoting their activities on the Website, observing that there are many events that don't get publicised.

When Nana takes over, he cannot be expected to be a reporter, so it is up to members to write and post items of interest. i.e. to take up the suggestions listed above.

Most of you, as Stewards, Church Council Secretaries or Sub-Editors, have permission to edit Pages and Articles; in addition, you can add dates to the Diary, the procedures are easy and have been explained many times.

The Website is also a powerful administrative tool, where data and information can be stored securely.

Every church has its own space to store documents which can only be accessed by members of that church with Cloud Access, and the Cloud Admin group.

Accessing the cloud also gives some groups access to CHRESTOS, a system designed to assist the creation of the quarterly Preaching Plan. The CHRESTOS TOOLS are:

Periods, where the dates covered by the Preaching Plan are defined.

Availability, where regular preachers can state their availability.

Planning Grid, this is only accessible by the Plan Admin Group.

Service Codes, the key to the codes shown on the Preaching Plan.

One more essential part is the '**Churches**' section which your church

Plan Contacts are expected to keep up to date and to state any plans made for services in the upcoming quarter. Failure to update this has caused unwelcome delays in producing the Preaching Plan; **please do your part**.

I thank all who have made contributions in the past and hope more of you will do so in the future.

My Very Best wishes to you all

Roy Collis Retiring Website Manager