

**Minutes of a Circuit Meeting
Held on 10th September 2014 at
Broadstone Methodist Church**

1. Welcome

The Revd. Tony Cavanagh, Superintendent Minister, welcomed all to the first circuit meeting of the new Poole Bay Circuit.

2. Agree Membership of the meeting

It was noted that 6 observers were present from a variety of churches but, apart from those, the membership was agreed from the current list of Trustees

3. Apologies for absence

A number of apologies had been received by the circuit office; these and other were noted on the attendance sheet, signed by those trustees attending the meeting.

4. Vote of thanks

Following the formation of the new circuit, a number of Circuit Stewards had stood down from their posts. Tony Cavanagh paid tribute to the work and dedication of those stewards and presented each with an envelope:-

Carol Carter; Marjorie Culpan; David Kendall; Alan Purchase

5. Welcome to Revd. Betto and Deacon Suzie Viana

Betto and Suzie had been introduced to the circuit at the reception service on 6th September and had attended a meeting of the Bournemouth churches on the 9th. This was, however their first circuit meeting and they were very warmly welcomed.

6. Letters of Greeting and items for prayer

None were forthcoming.

7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was noted that the meeting were missing the report from the Preachers meeting in respect of Poole and Swanage. It was agreed that the circuit office would append them to the minutes. With that the minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising

8. Devotions

These were led by Mrs Christine Thompson

9. Governance

9.1 Constitution of the Circuit Meeting

The proposed constitution having been previously circulated was put to the meeting.

There was a general discussion during which a number of members made comment on their experiences from other circuits and views as to how many members from each church should attend.

In the end it was agreed that the proposed constitution, effective from the November 2014 meeting, should stand but would be reviewed in one year.

Put to the vote is was agreed with 3 against and 2 abstentions

9.2. Governance Structure

The Structure as outlined in the minutes of the June 2014 meeting was put to the meeting.

Put to the vote it was agreed with 2 abstentions

9.3. Appointment of Circuit Secretary

It was proposed and seconded and passed that David Ramsden be appointed Circuit Secretary, but confirmed that this was only Secretary to the Circuit Meeting.

9.4. Responsibilities of Trustees

Jane Shipton-Ashwell, Circuit Manager addressed the meeting on the matter of trustees, explaining that this was a legal position and that all should access the Charity Commission website in order to understand their responsibilities. There was yet one further form to complete and attendees were asked to sign this prior to leaving the meeting.

10 Life of the Circuit

10.1 Team Ministry

Tony Cavanagh opened the subject by saying that there was much discussion still to take place and that it was unlikely that those discussions would reach a conclusion before the November meeting. This was accepted.

10.2 Appointment of Stationing Committee

It was proposed that the committee comprise of:

All Ministers

The Circuit Leadership team

One, named, Steward Representative from each church, (not necessarily the senior steward)

Put to the vote it was passed without dissent.

10.3 Profile for Presbyter

A profile for a Presbyter had been circulated prior to the meeting. A number of changes to the main copy were made to clarify the position. However this profile gave rise to a further discussion on Team Ministry. There were many contributions from the trustees and it became clear that the concept of team ministry was not fully understood. Tony Cavanagh agreed that there needs to be a separate discussion on what team ministry means and how it can work for the Poole Bay Circuit.

Put to the vote the profile was agreed subject to the amendments made.

The agreed profile is shown on appendix A to these minutes

10.4 Profile for a Deacon

A profile for a Deacon had been circulated prior to the meeting. Many of the points made concerning the profile for a presbyter were applicable to this profile.

Put to the vote and with the agreed amendments, the profile was agreed

The agreed profile is shown as appendix B to these minutes

10.5 Report from Preachers' Meeting

The minutes of this meeting has been, previously distributed by the Circuit Office and are shown as appendix C to these minutes.

10.6 Adoption of Safeguarding Policy for Poole Bay Circuit

Tony Cavanagh explained that, as a new circuit has been created, it was necessary to formally adopt the safeguarding policy. There is no change to the policy, previously agreed, and the eastern section had carried out the adoption on 9th September. The western section of the new circuit adopted at this meeting. In answer to the question, "Is it necessary to carry out an annual review, the answer was yes, we are required to carry out an annual review.

There is also a need to have just one main safeguarding officer plus, a deputy.

Jane Shipton-Ashwell to be the main officer and Joan Jackson to be the deputy.

11. Property

11.1 Property Schedules

The property schedules are on-line and need to be completed and there are a number that are still outstanding. Property Stewards are asked to bring these up to date.

11.2 Statistics

Ministers were reminded that the Statistical return needs to be completed.

11.3 Update work required this year

11.3.1 Cherry Hill Manse is to be brought back into circuit use and the current tenants are to be given notice. They are aware that their tenancy ends in 2015 but it was agreed that they should be given notice now that there will be no extension to the agreement.

11.3.2 York Road manse requires some update work in that the kitchen needs to be replaced, a new fire place needs to be installed, and new carpets are needed and general redecoration to be done. This work will be carried out in August 2015

11.3.3 Gannetts Park Manse will need to be assessed, now, for work, to be carried out once Revd. Graham Shaw moves out.

Put to the vote, all this work was unanimously approved

12. Finance

12.1 Agree the final accounts for Poole and Swanage

Put to the vote the accounts were approved without dissent

12.2 Copies of the 2002/2013 Accounts

It was noted that some of the accounts for individual churches in the old Poole and Swanage Circuit were still outstanding and these should be submitted to the circuit office as soon as possible.

12.3 Timetable for 2013/2014 Accounts

4 churches in the circuit have still to finalise expenses and payments for the year and these need to be completed as soon as possible. The draft accounts to be presented to the Nov/Dec meeting with the finals in March 2015.

12.4 Lychett Matravers

A grant from the circuit of £1500 pounds has been made towards the cost of damp-proofing which is being carried out at the earliest date to prevent further damage.

12.5 Swanage

103 High Street Swanage was built in 1807 and is a grade 2 listed building. Work is needed, which the church will bear the cost of and, once completed one of the shops' will be let on a short-term lease.

The main church expresses thanks to the circuit for the support that has been received towards the work being carried out. The church has raised some £30,000 from its own efforts and has received further grants from the circuit, the Talbot Village trust and others.

13. News from the churches

Poole.

Work continues and it is hoped to open the cafe in November and to hold a half hour daily service. The aim of the services will be to “Make Christ sensible to people”.

The Garfield Weston Trust has made a grant of £200,000 towards the refurbishment work.

General

David Howe, Lytchett Matravers, drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that Conference had received a report on ‘Statistics for Mission’ which showed that membership of the Methodist Church had decreased by over 30% from 2003 to 2010.

Whilst some can be attributed to deaths of older members, there are a considerable number just leaving the church for various reasons.

It would be salutary to ask those who we have known personally, why they have left and report back to the next Circuit Meeting. The Chairman agreed that it would be an agenda item.

There was a general discussion when, again, a number of members told of their experience in various churches. There is clear evidence that membership in the Methodist church is in decline, and Tom Stuckey, a former President of the Methodist Conference was quoted as saying, “If churches are not prepared to operate out of their comfort zone, resources are unlikely to be made available”.

We are challenged to decide whether we are worshipping God or buildings? We have to let go, a point that was emphasised by Revd. Betto Viana.

14. Any other Business

Shoe Boxes

The meeting was advised that Wareham would again be hosting the Shoe Box appeal for Romania and that storage space is available. All churches in the new circuit are aware of the Romania Show Box Appeal.

15. Conference

Linda Shah gave a report on her attendance at Conference and this is shown as Appendix D

16. Closing Devotions

Rev Chris Moreton reminded the meeting of the ministry of those who have served the Lord down through the past years and particularly remembered Deacon Daphne Collingwood who had died recently. Chris then led the meeting in the closing prayers.

The date of the next Circuit Meeting is to be 9th December and will be held at Winton Methodist Church, Heron Court Road, Bournemouth, BH9 1DE