

**Minutes of a Circuit Meeting
Held on 17th March 2015 at
Ashley Road Methodist Church**

1. Opening Devotions
Led by Revd. Betto Viana
2. Welcome
Revd. Tony Cavanagh, Superintendent Minister welcomed all to the meeting, acknowledged that we had some visitors who would be making a presentation and informed the meeting of a change in the running order of the agenda.
3. Membership of the meeting
The membership of the meeting was agreed as per the published list of Trustees. In addition to the Trustees there were two observers, in addition to those making the presentation. It was requested that apologies be recorded on the attendance sheet.
4. Letters of Greeting
The meeting was advised of the three deaths since the last meeting.
Revd. John Goodhall; Revd. Brian Burns; Derrick Merrifield. Tony led the meeting in prayer remembering the work of these three and including prayers for Pat Goodhall; Anthea Burns and Brenda Merrifield.
5. Minutes of the last meeting.
In addition to two minor adjustments the following two changes were made.
At 10.4 the meeting was asked to include 'pre' before school, at Upton and again at 10.4 the loan of £25.000 was to be repaid over 10 years and not five as shown in the minutes. With those amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2014 were agreed as a true record.
6. Matters Arising.
There were none not covered in the current agenda.
7. The meeting then moved on the presentation made by "The Wave @ Swanage"
A presentation was made by Tom Bullock and others representing The Wave in Swanage. A full report of the presentation is shown at Appendix one.
8. Deacon's Report
Suzie Viana covered three aspects of her work: Foodbank : Transform : Toddlers :
The Foodbank based at St Georges and supported by the Trussell Trust is performing well. Recent analysis shows that we hand out more bags per hour than any other centre in the South of England. Support at St Georges is being provided by a variety of church based members plus help from the wider community. Despite the rule that we can only supply three days food for three days in every six months, Suzie assured the meeting that no one went home without food. There is a need for us to be able to signpost people who come to us for help. At the moment it is for other organisations to provide the food vouchers but

sometimes our visitors do not know where to go for help and advice. It's more than just getting a food voucher,

Transform is the work we are doing amongst the prostitutes who work out of brothels. Suzie and a small team visit taking with them cakes and advice. There is a need for more 'cake makers' and for the non bakers, prayer is needed.

The next move will be to attempt to work with those prostitutes who work from home. This is more difficult and requires a lot of prayer and specialist help to show all these women that there are other ways of supporting themselves and their families.

Toddler Groups There are, currently, 5 groups operating out of the Bournemouth church, catering for various numbers. Nationally, 52% of all children in the UK attend a toddler group with a church connection. The next move is to try to get parents to help with our groups because our few church based helpers are getting tired. Parents will be able to bring new skills and gifts which will aid development.

Suzie then introduced the issue of homelessness in Bournemouth and the need for churches to work together. We need a place where we can work, and provide sleeping accommodation. Despite the common view of Bournemouth as a wealthy place there is real poverty in a number of areas which we, the church, need to address.

9. The 'Spire'

Exciting times for Poole Methodists and the Sea Change Project since the last Circuit Meeting! Fair to say had some behind-the-scenes issues with paperwork and illness, but working through them.

Community cafe has been open since the beginning of the year. Initially 5 days, now 6 days a week. Busy virtually every day. Already paying its way even though this is the low season. Recently inspected and awarded 5 star hygiene rating.

Three part time paid staff plus volunteers. Volunteers from church and community partners:

- BoP COAST - work related activity for adults with disability and illness.
- BoP family champions - supporting families back into work and learning
- Poole Well being collaborative - community activities to improve health of vulnerable people

More than just a cafe

- Space and welcome for families with large rear children's area
- meeting place - friendship groups: knitting, scrabble, etc
- AJ's mums and toddlers group uses rear half Tuesday afternoon
- Book swap, second hand books for sale, new Christian books on sale or return.
- MUFaI and community arts partners. ~

Chapel:

- Together at One service 6 days a week 1 pm for 20 mins.
- Ecumenically led many different ministers, lay preachers, organisations, even VP of conference.
- Always go round the cafe tables and ask if people want to come into the service.

Community partners:

- List now stands at 20 groups who have expressed an interest in carrying out activities in The Spire. 6 of 20 now using building. Many more in phase 2. Won't be the same as now!
- Office: SMILE helping single parent families, PMC - Anglican pioneer ministries, others soon
- Cafe space use: CVS volunteers fair, BoP environmental stall, Reconnect group. Bookings gradually ramping up.

Phase 2:

- Building new community annex and fitting out ground floor
- Foundations and structural frame now complete. Drains and floors next

- Nearly on time. Small amount of contingency spend - boundary walls and foundations
- Church to move down to Spire in September.
- Ashley road properties on the market soon.

Phase 3:

- Fundraising ongoing. Looking for someone with time and some experience of applying to trusts or even just writing sales documents. Anyone in your churches?

What about the real project: growing the Kingdom of God.

Vision to become a community hub where the church is relevant to people again.

Witness through serving the community. Then hopefully people will respond.

- Hope the above shows community hub is being formed. People are wanting to use it.
- Lost count of number of times strangers have said “it wonderful what’s being done here.” Already so many “why are you doing this” questions.

All ongoing. Welcome your help and prayers as we carry on through this time of change and challenge.

10. Other Outreach and Mission - Report from Linda Shah

First of all I would like to bring to your attention that in September Poole Bay Circuit is hosting Synod. The venue has been booked at Bishop of Winchester Academy, near Castlepoint. Di Baggs is co-ordinating this event, but there will be a great deal of work to do as you can imagine and, nearer the time, we will be looking for all kinds of help from all our churches. This is a great opportunity for us to work together to make this a real circuit effort and to ensure that this is a very successful event for the District and for Poole Bay.

I have been asked to bring to the meeting an item of news from some of the other churches in the circuit not yet mentioned and I particularly want to bring news of what is happening in some of our smaller churches, the majority of which certainly punch above their weight.

The smallest church in our circuit is Wool. Recently three members completed training as Worship Leaders, bringing the total number of worship leaders to five from a total of thirty members and adherents. We do wonder whether this could be the highest ratio of worship leaders to members in a Methodist Church in the UK, but have not been able to verify this. It certainly, however, shows a tremendous commitment within this church. This small church has also raised sizeable sums of money which not only helped church funds, but also enabled donations to be made to a trust for a family in great need in Corfe Castle and to Canon Andrew White’s charity which promotes reconciliation in the Middle East. Although small and with many elderly members, the Methodist Church at Wool continues to be at the centre and heart of village life.

At the last Circuit Meeting we heard that, as the heating in the Anglican Church at Lytchett Matravers was no longer working, the Anglicans were worshipping with the Methodists at Lytchett Matravers Methodist Church. This has gone very well and it has been decided that, although the Anglicans will return to their own premises at Easter, the two churches will carry on meeting together once a month, alternating the venue between the two churches.

The Wareham Methodist Church, although facing some very serious problems, continues to play a full part within the Wareham Church family and to provide a welcoming presence and hospitality on the main road through the town.

This summer is a very exciting time for our Upton Church as the second Sunday in June marks its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Preparations are well in hand for the

celebrations to mark, not only what has been achieved during those one hundred and fifty years, but also the fact that the Methodist Church has provided a Christian presence and has served and, most importantly, continues to serve the community in Upton in many different ways. I understand that at last weekend's Mothering Sunday service, the church was packed to capacity and this is an excellent sign of all the good work going on there.

Finally, at Broadstone since the New Year we have seen members volunteering to run three new groups on the church premises, catering for different age groups and interests and attracting people from both the church and the local community. At the last Messy Church, lunch was served to a hundred and fifteen children, carers and helpers, including at least ten new families. In addition, Karen, our children and young families' worker has extended her work with young mums who now meet regularly on a Wednesday evening, most of whom had no previous affiliation with the church. She is now planning to cast the net a bit wider to include the whole family.

This is a very brief insight into some of the ventures taking place around our circuit. I am sure you will appreciate that it has not been possible to mention everything that is taking place and I hope you will forgive me if I have omitted to mention other activities which are going on, but I hope it has given you a flavour and a feel for what our circuit is doing. We are facing challenging and difficult times at the moment and it is easy to feel down and to lose sight of the good things that are happening. It is important to keep our eyes fixed on what is being done and achieved in our churches; the positive work that goes on day by day and the exciting results that come when we are prepared to step out in faith, allowing the Spirit to lead us. I would like to thank all of you for the work you do on a daily basis in furtherance of the work of God's Kingdom in this Circuit. May God bless you all.

11. Governance

The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of Revd. Elizabeth Rundle to join the team on a twenty hour per week plus two Sunday per month contract. This was unanimously approved.

Tony Cavanagh advised the meeting that the circuit had been unsuccessful in the current round of stationing and that the list was now closed. As a result we will continue with the staff we currently have. Next year we will, once again, seek to appoint both a Presbyter and a Deacon. Tony assured the meeting that regardless of who was appointed to have the pastoral care of a church, the skills and gifts of all the Ministers would be available across the circuit.

Pastoral care across the circuit would be as follows:

Tony Cavanagh and Betto Viana will have care of the five Bournemouth churches.

Mark Kimber and Sue Gowling will have the care of Broadstone, Poole and Upton

Chris Moreton will have care of the Purbeck churches.

The Invitations Committee will be reformed in order to produce the profile for the next round of stationing.

Tony advised the meeting that, due to the itinerant nature of Methodist Ministers it is possible that by 2017 we could be in need of 6 new presbyters. "We are where we are" and there is need for prayer, However whatever, God is working his purpose out.

12. Bournemouth Churches

Tony advised the meeting of meetings that were taking place in the five Bournemouth churches in an effort to address issues over worship. Once these meetings have taken place the Leadership team will meet to assess what each church had said and where we should go. However, whatever is decided it will be necessary to implement change by September.

13. Report from the Preachers Meeting

The meeting learned of the death of Horace Lord.

Denis Dean had his first interview and it was agreed that he, Tom Bullock, Andy Shenton, Les Smith and Zoë Dangerfield should all continue 'On Trial'.

Clive Allen reported that five people had completed the Worship Leaders' Training course at the western end of the circuit and want to become Worship Leaders in their churches.

The Poole and Swanage Circuit and Bournemouth Circuits had different policies for issuing Long Service Certificates for Local Preachers. P & S issued them after 25 years but Bournemouth after 40 years service. To synchronize things the following will receive Long Service Certificates:

Martin Priddey 25 years

Kevin Thomas 25years

Terry Fish 35 years

Clive Allen 40 years

Stan Avis is retiring from preaching and will receive a Certificate for 60 years service at Victoria Park on 22nd March at 6.30p.m.

Brian Tucknott and Gloria Dennigan have agreed to carry on as joint secretaries of the meeting until September 2016 when a new person(s) will take over. Neither Brian nor Gloria wish to take on this job on their own.

14. Lay Employees

Jane Shipton-Ashwell reported that a number of vacancies had been filled. Sarah Barker has joined as a Financial Administrator. A new Pastoral Visitor joins us on 23rd March. Michelle, from the circuit office will now be spending a limited number of hours helping the Superintendent with some of the administration of the circuit...

Jane made a request that when information is requested, churches make a speedy response. This has not always been the case in the past.

The new Circuit Directory is now available as are the Preaching Plans. Because of inevitable changes, churches are asked to check the circuit website for changes to the plan.

Revd. Dr Mark Kimber is still not fully back at work which will entail changes to the plan.

15. Property Report

There was no written report and no verbal update was needed.

16. Finance

There was unanimous approval for signing off:

- The Poole and Swanage Accounts for 2013/2014
- The Bournemouth Accounts for 2013/2014
- Standard letter from Trustees to Auditor
- Post Field-Work Events
- Related parties form
- Key Issues memorandum

The Auditor has requested that we use a uniform method of valuing our properties and this is for action by the Circuit Property Steward.

It was agreed by unanimous vote to grant Sara Barker access to the Poole Bay CAF Cash bank account. A new mandate would be set up to initiate this.

It was requested that all outstanding church accounts are in the Circuit Office by 31st March.

6.

17. News from the Churches

Trinity reported that they had formed a Trinity Outreach Partnership to engage with the local community over the use of their premises. They also promoted the book by Andy Flanagan "Those who Show Up" which sets out a vision for Christian involvement in Public Life.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The Superintendent announced that the date of the next meeting would be 10th June and advised that there would be minimal Business Issues and more Mission.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.15pm

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