

**Minutes of a Circuit Meeting**  
**held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at**  
**Upton Methodist Church**

**1. Welcome**

Revd. Tony Cavanagh, Superintendent Minister welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a very happy Methodist New Year.

**2. Opening Devotions**

Di Baggs, Senior Circuit Steward, led the meeting in opening devotions.

**3. Agree Membership**

The membership of the meeting was agreed as per the signing in schedule. It was noted that there were three non-voting visitors to the meeting.

**4. Apologies**

Members were asked to note any apologies on the signing in schedule.

**5. Letters of Greeting**

There were no requests for any letters to be sent or for prayers to be offered.

**6. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June were agreed as an accurate record. However there was a small amendment in that although the Vauxhall Choir were not making a charge it had subsequently been agreed that an entry charge of £5 would be made and further confirmation, as reported, that the money raised would be donated to B'CARS.

There was a request made at the meeting for volunteers to make cakes and provide biscuits for the event and so that the choir can be fed. St George's Church will be providing sandwiches but help is needed for the provisions of cakes and biscuits. There was also an appeal for a full audience.

**7. Matter Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last minutes which will not be covered in the current agenda.

**8. News from the Churches**

• **Upton.**

The meeting was shown a short video of the Shoe-Box appeal and the effect it was having in Romania. Both Chris Moreton and Fraser Smith have both been to witness the effect of the appeal. It was noted that the closing dates for the 2015 appeal is 4<sup>th</sup> November.

• **Poole**

The meeting was advised that the move from Ashley Road to the Spire is currently in hand and that this is a major exercise. It is hoped that the first service at The Spire will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> October albeit that date might slip by one week. Thanks were expressed to all that had provided help and assistance during the move.

## 9. Governance Matters

- **Safeguarding**

The Circuit Safeguarding Policy was agreed and signed by the Superintendent.

The meeting was advised that the churches in the eastern sector had approved their safeguarding policies and statements. Other churches in the Poole Bay Circuit will need to do likewise in the short term.

## 10. Life of the Circuit

- **Staff**

Revd. Mark Kimber addressed the meeting and outlined the medical problems that forced his inactivity over the past months. Depending on the results of future tests, Mark is looking forward to resuming his role albeit at a reduced pace. In the meantime, following discussion and advice from Tony Cavanagh, the meeting agreed unanimously to offer Mark a one year extension to his current appointment, which Mark has accepted.

Linda Chester has not been able to join the team as previously advised. However she will still take preaching appointments.

Tony Cavanagh advised the meeting that this past year had been very difficult for the staff but that it is still the ambition to run the circuit with three teams of Ministers.

- **2016 Stationing**

The meeting was apprised of two Ministerial requests to be made for the 2016 round of Stationing. One is for a Presbyter and the second for a Deacon. With some minor amendments to the Diaconal profile, both applications were approved.

It was announced that the existing Circuit Invitations Team would continue, largely as it currently is.

- **Senior Steward's Report (Di Baggs)**

Since we last met in June it has been a busy time in the life of the Circuit:

In July we said farewell to Graham and Sandy as they left to start their retirement in Devon. Graham's farewell service was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and it was a joyous occasion for all who attended. He was presented with an iPad from the circuit.

Following Graham's departure work started on the Swanage manse. Along with some internal decoration, a new kitchen was installed. These refurbishments were completed by mid-August and Chris and Liz were able to move to Swanage and settle before the start of this new Methodist year.

Work has now commenced on the Broadstone manse preparing it for Sue and Colin to move into. The refurbishment here includes a new bathroom and kitchen along with some internal painting. Work should be completed by the end of September to allow Sue to move early October.

Following Sue's move to Broadstone consideration will be given to the Headswell manse and its future.

Di reminded the meeting that the Circuit is to host Synod at the Bishop of Winchester School, Mallard Road on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Preparations for this significant event in the Methodist year started six months ago and have been ongoing since.

All churches have been contacted to organise teams with regards stewarding the car parking, coffee & lunch breaks and clearing up at the end. Di expressed the thanks of the CLT to all those who have made themselves available.

At the last Circuit Meeting it was suggested that all Church Stewards got together on an informal basis to discuss common problems. Many of our churches are struggling to find people to take on responsible roles in their churches. A date has now been arranged; Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at Broadstone. From 7:00pm onwards coffee will be served and the meeting will start at 7:45 pm.

- **Report from the Preacher's Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> September (Gloria Dennigan)**  
Mr Richard Barker has resigned as a Local preacher as he and his family now worship in an Anglican Church.  
Mr Eifron Hopper has been reinstated as a Local preacher.  
Mrs Angela Bartlett has been given a 'Note to Preach'. Her mentor will be Revd. Sue Gowling.  
Mr Denis Dean, Mr Les Smith and Mrs Zoe Marriott were continued 'On Trial'.  
The meeting had a speaker, Mr Matthew Reed, who came to introduce the new method for training Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. There are eight modules. All will complete modules 1-4 and Local Preachers will also complete modules 5-8. The new method will replace the Faith and Worship Course
- **Vauxhall Male Voice Choir**  
Further reference was made to the visit of the choir, reported elsewhere in these minutes (Item 6).

## 11. Property Matters

There were three matters that required decisions

- **Springbourne Lease**  
It was proposed that we consider extending the lease of Springbourne for a further six years. Jane Shipton-Ashwell, Circuit Manager gave a very full explanation of the complexities of renewing the lease for the premises. There are long standing mortgages on the property which include restrictions as to the use of the building. These mortgages do not accrue interest and the Circuit obtained the necessary permissions to lease the building when the original lease was drawn up. Whilst the meeting was happy, in principle to grant a new six year lease, the detail will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- **St. Luke's Road Manse**  
The meeting ratified the decision to extend the lease of this property until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.  
Unanimously agreed
- **Property Schedules**  
All churches were reminded that they should submit their schedules on time by the next Circuit Meeting (9<sup>th</sup> December 2015).  
The meeting was advised that a standard 'model' lease and licence is in the process of being produced and, once completed will be mandatory for all church lettings. Failure to use the new forms could invalidate our Methodist Insurance Policy.

## **12. Finance**

- **Related Parties Document**

Members were asked to study the document, which has been circulated, and advise the Circuit Office of any changes that are needed so as to comply with our duty under the Charity Commission Rules.

- **Auditors for 2014/2015**

The meeting ratified the decision to appoint Messrs Princecroft Willis as our auditors for the 2014/15 accounts.

- **Value of Circuit Manses**

The meeting ratified the decision to standardise our manses valuation for accounting purposes by using the insurance value across the Circuit for the 2014/15 accounts.

## **13. Any Other Business**

No notice of other business had been sent to the circuit office as requested.

However there was a request for a volunteer, not a member of the Synod, to provide transport for a guest speaker back to the railway station. Mr Derek Simmons so volunteered.

The meeting was advised of the next Circuit meeting which will be held at The Spire on 9<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm with the collective saying of The Grace.