

**CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
13th MARCH 2018
SWANAGE METHODIST CHURCH**

The meeting commenced at 7:30pm

- 1. Welcome: Rev Tony Cavanagh welcomed all to the meeting**
- 2.** Tony advised the meeting of Val Wells' offer to fulfil the role of Circuit Meeting Secretary. Tony proposed the appointment. Chris Moreton seconded. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.
- 3. Opening Devotions:** were led by Dennis Dean
- 4. Agree Membership:** The attendance list was circulated and agreed by the Trustees
- 5. Apologies for absence:** Pat Goodall, Ros Murray, Di Baggs, Tony Fernand, Lesley Fernand, Sheila Slattery, Suzannah Wood, Richard Sheppard, Rev. Nick Wood and Deacon Suzie Viana
- 6. Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer:**
No items were brought to the meeting.
- 7. Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 5th December (already circulated) - Agreed**
- 8. Matters Arising –** There were no matters arising.
- 9. News from Churches**

Clive Allen reported that the ecumenical scene in Lytchett was good but that SPLAT was not going as well as hoped. A holiday club was planned for April in the village hall run by the Lighthouse Church. Hopefully SPLAT would be merged into the mid-week meeting in the future.

Pete Smith from The Spire reported that Connexion had agreed to refund the levy on the manse sale and that three grant applications had been approved; £10,000 from the Hunter Road Trust, £25,000 from Garfield Weston and £50,000 from Trust House. This meant that there was only £87,000 left to raise but there were various grant applications still outstanding and a Gift Day would be held. Hopefully building work would have commenced by the time of the next meeting.

Deacon Sarah reported on the first successful Board Game Café which involved playing games and eating pizza. Seventy people attended and the Tesco community partner provided the pizza.

Rev. Sue Gowling reported on the success of their first café worship held the previous Sunday and attended by over 100 people.

Steve Shipton-Ashwell shared that the 2nd Half Project, being run at St George's, Boscombe, which helps the homeless to re-establish a normalised life, has just opened a café to the general public and invited the meeting to visit the café, which is open on Mondays from 10am to 1.15pm

Rev Chris Moreton reported on the development of a community emergency response programme in Swanage which came into operation last week for the first time when a local man went missing. Three churches were open to provide facilities for rest, refreshments and support for the police and search and rescue services.

Tony encouraged everyone to take these good news stories back to their churches.



The Methodist Church

POOLE BAY CIRCUIT

10. Governance

10.1 Circuit Review Update and Progress

Not all the churches had responded to the Circuit Review yet so not much progress had been made and it was not going to be possible to meet the June deadline. In light of this and acknowledging its effect on future stationing requirements, Tony suggested that the Circuit prepare to seek one Presbyterian in the forthcoming round of stationing to give us time to assess our needs going forward.

The Circuit Finance Group will continue to review the financial situation in the meantime.

We do not yet know the intentions of all involved but could potentially have 3 Presbyters and 1 Deacon seeking moves or retiring next year. Tony advised that whilst we could ask for however many ministers we wanted, initial conversations with the Chair of District indicate that we are likely to only get one replacement and it is possible that we would not get any.

Churches will be requested to produce an initial profile that may need to change as the conversations progress.

10.2 Arrangements to cover Sabbaticals

Rev. Mark Kimber will be on sabbatical from 2nd April – 1st July. During this period, Rev. Sue Gowling will cover relevant meetings and be the first point of contact for any pastoral issues, which she will then share with Rev Chris Moreton and Deacon Sarah Wickett, as appropriate.

Rev. Tony Cavanagh will be on sabbatical from 1st June – 1st September and during that time Rev Nick Wood, Rev Betto Viana and Deacon Suzie will provide cover. Betto will be acting superintendent although Rev. Sue Gowling will lead the stationing process, as Betto will, himself, be entering into stationing. Sue Gowling will chair the September Circuit Meeting.

10.3 Circuit Invitation Committee

The Invitation Committee will be made up of the Circuit Leadership Team and the Senior Stewards of all Churches. Sue Gowling would inform everyone of dates in due course. Sue, Di Baggs and Jane Shipton-Ashwell will be attending the initial briefing by District on 8th May.

11. Finance

11.1 Adoption of 2016/17 Accounts

Copies of the Accounts had been circulated and Jane was thanked for all her work in their preparation. Andrew Creamer pointed out that the Accounts were very difficult for the lay person to fully understand and questioned whether it would be possible to present a simple summary. Jane agreed to consider providing summary notes to read alongside the annual report next year and to provide a Profit & Loss Statement.

Jane explained that whilst the Auditors may look at material things rather than all the detail, detail still had to be included. Requirements are much stricter under FRS102 and it took numerous drafts of the Reserves Policy wording to satisfy the auditors.

In response to a question raised prior to the meeting, Tony advised that in adherence to CPD, a maximum of £10,000 per annum can be drawn down from TMCP funds to support assessment.

The figure for salaries was below budget in 16/17 because we had some vacancies and some of this money has been used to help Swanage church with their 17/18 assessment.

Jane explained that the reason that expenditure is sometimes higher than that budgeted, was due to the decisions taken by the Circuit Meeting to use monies over and above those budgeted, as in the recent grant to The Spire Development Project.

The question was asked what happened to Funds held by churches which have now closed? This depended on the terms under which the money was given but would usually follow the congregation or if that was not possible, is passed to the Circuit.

The Alice Cox Trust is monies left to the old Westbourne church and has been held by Circuit for the use of the Bournemouth church. The Frampton Legacy is restricted for the use of Springbourne Family Centre and the Foodbank Fund contains monies donated expressly for use by the Foodbank that operates out of Bournemouth Methodist Church @ St George's.

There are various funds containing small amounts for things like Removals, Education and Youth etc.

The 2016/17 accounts were adopted with a majority vote and two abstentions.

Jane requested that as the Bournemouth Church has now amalgamated its monies that the meeting agree to transfer the Alice Cox Trust from the Circuit to the Bournemouth Church. The meeting agreed.

11.2 Budget Comparison

The meeting had been provided with a budget comparison document for the first six months of the 17/18 year. Jane asked whether this report was helpful and it was agreed that, it does show the cash flow situation as the financial year progresses. It was requested that future comparison reports be set out in a way that makes it clear when cells have been merged.

11.3 Springbourne Family Centre Grant Application

An application for a Circuit Grant of £9,195 had been received from the Springbourne Family Centre and details of the history relating to this property had been circulated prior to the meeting. Betto outlined the situation to date and a lengthy discussion took place after which he proposed that a legacy of £10,000 which had been given to the Circuit for the purpose of supporting the Centre be used to cover the first year's rent, then we give them 50% of the rent the second year, 25% in the third year, then nothing in the fourth and fifth year of the lease. The cost of this would be just over £6,000 in excess of the legacy, which would be taken from TMCP funds and would give the Centre immediate security and time to apply elsewhere for grants.

Before this proposal was voted on, Andrew Creamer proposed that the Circuit grant 100% of the rent for the first and second years, 50% for the third year, 25% for the fourth year and nothing in the fifth year. This proposal was seconded by David Howe. This would cost £16,000 from TMCP funds. Only 6 people voted in favour of this proposal, so it was not carried.

Betto then repeated his original proposal of providing a grant of 100% of the rental payment for 2016/17, 50% for 2017/18, 25% for 18/19 and nothing for 19/20 and 20/21. This proposal was seconded by Denis Dean and 25 members voted in favour, 2 against and 4 abstained. This proposal was therefore carried.

12. Life of the Circuit

12.1 Deacon Sarah's Testimony and Ordination Services

Deacon Sarah reported that her Ordination Service would take place on 1st July at Nottingham University in the morning and Southwell Minster in the afternoon. These events were admission by ticket only but Deacon Sarah had 30 tickets for the afternoon service.

Her Testimony service will take place on 2nd May at 7.30 pm at Broadstone.

13. Property

13.1 Reminder to churches regarding Property Schedules

Churches were reminded to complete their property schedules if they had not already done so.

14. Any other Business

14.1 The Meeting agreed that the new Admin Support Officer, Kelly Grinham, should become an authorised signatory of the Circuit's CAF account.

14.2 **On behalf of** Swanage, Val Wells asked for Circuit Meeting approval to arrange a new 3 year lease for the Wave to rent 103 High Street, Swanage effective from 1 September 2018. This was agreed.

Date of next meetings

12 th June	Circuit Meeting	7.30pm	Kinson
11 th September	Circuit Meeting	7.30pm	Wareham
4 th December	Circuit Meeting	7.30 pm	Winton

The meeting concluded by sharing the Grace at 9:30pm