

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
12th June 2018
KINSON METHODIST CHURCH

1. **Welcome:** Rev Betto Viana welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Rev Chris Moreton
3. **Agree Membership:** The attendance list was circulated and agreed by the Trustees. Kelly Grinham, Circuit Support Officer who joined in March, came as a visitor.
4. **Apologies for absence** were received from Rev Tony Cavanagh and Rev Mark Kimber, both of whom are on sabbatical, and Clive Allen, Angela Bartlett, Andrew Creamer, Denise Gibbs, David Howe, Ros Murray, Richard Sheppard and Bob Taylor.

5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**

There were no letters of greeting and acknowledgement. Betto led prayers for the meeting of Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un in Singapore and for Mark Kimber as he ends his sabbatical and Tony Cavanagh who had just started his.

6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2018 (already circulated) - Agreed**

7. **Matters Arising**

7.1 Circuit Review

Not all churches had submitted their responses yet and they had been given until 31st August to send their reports in for the Review.

7.2 Springbourne Centre

As agreed at the last meeting, the first year's rent for the Springbourne Centre would be covered 100% by a Circuit grant, the current (2nd) year 50% and the third year 25%. Betto reported that to date no payment had been received despite invoices being sent. The Centre has now asked the Circuit to cover 75% of the rent and we have written to them to say we will cover the first 6 months and they should start paying from April 2018 but still no response has been received from them. Betto will now contact them to discuss the best way forward.

8. **News from Churches**

Ian Underwood from St Georges reported that the Trussel Trust food bank was now renting the top floor. Also pews had been removed and the floor polished. On 7th July at 7.30 pm the St Georges Singers will give a concert in aid of BCHA in the church. Tickets can be purchased for £5.

Pete Smith from The Spire reported that phase 3 of the building work had commenced and he thanked Circuit for their support.

Eileen Osgood reported that Wool church had celebrated its 125th anniversary in April. The event had been reported in the Methodist Recorder together with a photograph.

Sue Gowling reported that Broadstone was involved in a community art project to paint the fence down one side of the church. This would be taking place on 15th July together with a BBQ. Tina Smith from Lytchett was making panels to go on the fence for the children to paint. Next door to Broadstone was a very ugly building occupied by BT and Sue had written to them asking if the art project could paint some of their walls. They refused permission but have since arranged for the painting to be done!

Sheila Goddard reported that Lytchett church will be celebrating their 165th anniversary with a cream tea and table sale on 28th July. All are welcome to share in this event.

It was noted that Di Baggs, Senior Circuit Steward, was celebrating her birthday today. She was thanked for all her work on behalf of the Circuit.

9. Governance

9.1 Circuit Review update and progress

Sue Gowling read an e-mail from Tony Cavanagh, which had been circulated to the Trustees previously, explaining that not everyone had responded to the Circuit Review yet but had been asked to do so by 31 August. Meanwhile, decisions had to be made regarding stationing and it was likely that we would have to accept a Probationer Presbyterian. Danny Plews commented that Probationers had worked very well in the past.

9.2 2019 Stationing and Circuit Invitation Committee

Sue reminded the Trustees that at our last meeting we agreed the Circuit Invitation Committee would comprise the CLT plus the senior stewards of all the churches. Di Baggs, as senior circuit steward, and Sue had attended the Stationing Briefing Meeting led by Andrew Wood and Mike Petter on 8th May in Wimborne where they were told that only 60% of appointments were being filled. However, the Southampton District should be allowed to have 2 probationer presbyters and we might be lucky enough to get one of these.

With that in mind the CIC proposed that this meeting agrees to accept a probationer appointment with effect from September 2019 and authorizes the CIC to put together a draft appointment to be agreed with the District Chair. Betto seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. The profiles have to be at District by 12th September and Connexion by 14th. Stationing timetable is tight and Di has prepared a diary so that no deadlines are missed.

Conversations with those ministers involved in stationing/re-invitation are currently taking place. Rev Mark Kimber is still on sabbatical but we know that Rev Chris Moreton will 'sit down', Rev Betto Viana and Deacon Suzy have yet to decide on the way forward for them. If the ministers decide on re-invitation then the CIC will meet in early July for the consultation process. By 31st July feedback will be shared with the ministers concerned and on 21st August the CIC will prepare statements to be dispatched to the District Chair, Lay Stationing Representative and the Warden of the Diaconate. The Circuit Meeting on 11th September will then make a decision on re-invitation.

10. Finance

10.1 Adoption of 2018/19 Budget

The 2018/19 budget had been circulated to all the Trustees and Jane had received one response from David Spracklen at Broadstone expressing disappointment that the budget had not been reduced. Jane explained that taking into account items beyond our control i.e. a 9% increase in Assessment, increased minimum wage,

the sale of Carbery Gardens manse resulting in a loss of income, it had not been possible to reduce the budget. However, overall cost of staff had reduced and we expect a reduction in ministers in 2019 which will lead to a reduction in costs.

The Circuit Finance Group would be meeting again in July.

Before voting to accept the budget Annie Fellows from Swanage explained that while they understood the need for the budget they do have reservations regarding how it is affecting the church's ability to continue its mission, all of which has been put in their review.

The Trustees voted in favour of accepting the budget with one abstention by David Spracklen.

Betto reminded the Meeting that we are all part of the Circuit and that each church is represented on the Circuit Finance Group by their Treasurer. The current situation is not new but as we come to understand it better we are able to analyse the figures and work out the way forward. The CFG looked closely at the figures but were not able to reduce the budget any further. Betto acknowledged the work of the Treasurers and proposed that the Meeting recognised the CFG members and the work they do. Di Baggs seconded this proposal and all voted in favour.

10.2 Reserves Policy

It had not been possible to prepare a Reserves Policy in time for the meeting but Jane proposed that enough money to support two deacons, one Bournemouth appointment for 5 years from 2019 and one Poole appointment for 5 years from 2022 be ring fenced. We needed to ring fence approximately £500,000 to cover both appointments for a total of 14 years running concurrently. Jane explained that the District were short of funds so they were looking at circuits and churches for money. If we don't ring fence the money then it looks as though it is available funds. David Pollington queried whether there was enough money to take out £500,000 and how much would be left if we did. Jane confirmed that at the beginning of the financial year there was £1.3 million in TMCP and £800,000 in CFB. The proposal was seconded by Denis Dean and the Trustees voted in favour with one abstention.

10.3 Adoption of Auditors for 2017/18 Accounts

PKF Francis Clark have been our auditors for several years and are familiar with the workings of the Methodist Church and Jane proposed that we appoint them again for the 2017/18 accounts. Sue Gowling seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

11 Life of the Circuit

11.1 Local Preacher's Report

Denis Dean reported that there are currently 32 Local Preachers, 16 of which are not taking appointments. Two Local Preachers are 'on note' and there are 17 Worship Leaders. At the recent meeting on 6th June chaired by Rev. Nick Wood the following new Local Preachers were welcomed:-

Julian Tawn, a member of St George's was given a note to preach and is currently studying the new W.LP course.

Abigail Vormawor, a member of Winton, joined us as an Accredited Local Preacher from Accra, Ghana.

Janet Baker, an Accredited Local Preacher from East Solent and Downs Circuit will be joining us in September and is already planned for appointments.

The meeting was informed of the death of Joan Dobell, a Local Preacher since 1949. Anthea Burns, a Local Preacher and member at Winton had asked that she be removed from the Preaching Plan due to illness. The next meeting would be held in September.

12 Property

12.1 Update of Carbery Gardens Manse

Jane reported that she had met with local estate agents in January and it had been decided to appoint Tailor Made who were familiar with the Carbery Gardens property and assured us it would sell quickly. We have had two offers, one for £520,000, an opening offer we declined and another one of £510,000. To date nothing further has happened and Jane asked the Meeting to authorise a change of agent. This was agreed.

13 Bournemouth Mission Projects

13.1 Trinity Project

Deacon Suzy Viana gave an update on this project which incorporates the church, a café and soft play area. Trustees had received copies of the updated set up cost of £100,000 which would come from the Alice Cox legacy.

The income from the Soft Play area when it reaches full capacity is expected to be £68,475 and from the Café £31,500, giving a total income of £99,975. The café will pay £12,000 per year in rent to Bournemouth Methodist Church. Total expenditure was expected to be £92,103 leaving a surplus of £7,872.

Pete Smith at Poole commented that the café equipment and building alteration costs seemed small and added a note of caution about run away costs.

It is hoped to open in January but might be possible by November.

Discussions are in progress as to whether it would be possible to use one contractor for the three projects.

Worship will take place in the hall. The church has a membership of 102 with around 40 attending church.

Everyone was in favour of supporting the project as it goes forward and it was noted that it would have to be entered on the Property Consents website.

David Pollington at Kinson expressed his concerns about the income projections.

He thought it unlikely that there would be a surplus in the first year and if not, where would the money to cover any losses come from. Pete Smith commented that the Spire café made a loss in the first year but they had allocated some reserves to cover that. The Spire café is run by Seachange Management Company. It is a limited company which means that if it goes bust the church is protected.

Betto explained that the project would be run by a management company and the Legal Department of the Methodist Church was involved in the discussions on how the company would run. Bournemouth Methodist Church Council had been involved at every stage of the planning.

13.2 Victoria Park Project

This is an intentionally intergenerational project which aims to work with project partners, especially PramaCare. The current secondary kitchen in the vestibule will be expanded to include a commercially operated café.

£86,000 from the Alice Cox legacy will fund the set up. PramaCare is already helping and want to base themselves at the building. They would like to move in in September so Church Council and Circuit Meeting approval is required. It was agreed that the Trustees will be consulted by e-mail regarding the lease etc. and any decisions will be ratified at the next meeting. Chris Moreton pointed out that

when Methodist property is let out the going commercial rate must be charged.
The Meeting agreed to the continuation of exploration.

13.3 Winton Project

The creation of a nursery school at Winton will be funded by £100,000 from the Alice Cox legacy. A new entrance and café area will use the £10,000 John Mills legacy leaving £4,000 to be fund raised. The Meeting agreed to the use of both amounts.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Letting of Fernside Manse

The current tenancy runs out in August 2018 and a new lease has to be entered on the Property Consents website every two years. The meeting agreed that this could be done.

14.2 GDPR Update

Jane and Kelly had been to Methodist Church House for the training on GDPR. Jane assured the Meeting that there was no need to panic. Because we are a membership church we are allowed to hold information about members and we are not breaching any legality. The things causing most concern were Prayer Chains and Cradle Rolls. There is a lot of information to absorb and the office will provide the necessary details in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 with prayers led by Deacon Suzy.

Date of next meetings

11th September	Circuit Meeting	7.30pm	Victoria Park
5th December	Circuit Meeting	7.30 pm	Upton

Minutes prepared by

Approved by: Date