

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
17th September 2019
UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

1. Rev. Tony welcomed everyone and introduced Rev. Karen James the new Probationer.
2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Di Baggs.
3. **Agree Membership:** The attendance list was circulated and agreed by the Trustees.
4. **Apologies for absence** were received and noted from the attendance list.
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer:** It was requested that a letter be sent to Eileen Osgood whose husband was unwell and Sue McCormick whose husband had died recently. A 'Thank You' card was read out from Mark Kimber and it was agreed that a card be sent to him.
6. **Agreement of the Minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2019:** The Minutes had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed.
7. **Matters Arising**
 - i) **Marriage and Human Relationships:**

The two documents mentioned at the last meeting were ordered and had been sent out to all churches to aid discussions. These can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website. Further material is on its way for discussion in each local church in December. David Howe reiterated that the three sections mentioned in the last Minutes were highly recommended reading for more information.
 - ii) **Pete Smith's Note**

There were no further comments regarding Pete's e-mail sent out with the Minutes of the last meeting.
8. **News from Churches**

Swanage had held a series of summer services aimed at visiting families and young people on holiday. All were lively and very well attended

Upton – Summer Messy Church and Daisy Chain sessions had been very successful. Sadly, three members of the wider church had died so it had been a summer of highs and lows.

Winton are holding a Quiz night with fish and chips on 5th October at 7.0 pm. Tickets are available from Jane or Marion King at a cost of £9. Prayer was requested for their Guidance of Faith group which is supported by Churches Together.

Broadstone are holding an Autumn Craft Fair on 26th October from 10.0 am – 2.0pm.

Rev. Sue Gowling reported that the joint Messy Church with the URC had been very successful.

Deacon Suzie reported that the holiday lunch bags scheme was a huge success with teams from St Georges and Winton covering two schools. Families came to St Georges on a Sunday after the service to collect their bags which worked well and the Food Bank at Bournemouth also came onside and gave each family a food box. They have now run out of food so an appeal to churches for help was made.

9. Governance

9.1 Circuit Review update – Governance & Leadership and Pastoral

There will be an annual meeting with pastoral secretaries and the ministers to share stories and explore ways of working going forward. A pilot scheme will be set up at St. Georges, based on a model adopted at Lytchett Matravers which could help churches in the future if successful.

On Governance similar meetings would be held between Churches to share ideas of what currently works, what churches are struggling with and help streamline things going forward where necessary.

9.2 Review and re-adopt Safeguarding Policy

The Safeguarding Policy had been circulated previously and it was reported that there have been changes to the model policy which churches need to use and approve at their church council meetings. The new circuit policy was agreed and signed by Rev. Tony on behalf of the Trustees.

9.3 Re-election of Circuit Stewards

Di Baggs and Steve Shipton Ashwell were re-elected. More Circuit Stewards are needed.

9.4 Safeguarding Officers Report

Jane reported on the changes to the model policy which is available to download from the Methodist Church website. Churches should download a copy, enter their details and agree it at their Church Councils then send a copy to the Circuit Office. Jane will meet with all Safeguarding Officers in the near future.

More foundation training is coming up on 25th November at Victoria Park (venue to be confirmed). Churches need to make sure that everyone who needs it has had the training. Leadership training by Jane Fisher, District Safeguarding Officer will take place on 16th November at Upton. Letters will be going out to those who should attend.

Trustees were informed that one safeguarding issue had been reported since the last meeting.

9.5 2020 Stationing and Circuit Invitation Committee

Stationing and Circuit Invitation will be required for Deacon Sarah and Rev. Nick. The Committee will comprise Circuit Stewards, Senior Church Stewards and Ministers. This was agreed by the Trustees.

10. Finance

10.1 Agree 2019/20 Assessments

Assessments as set out in the Circuit Finance Group Minutes circulated previously were agreed.

10.2 Agree auditors for 2018/2019 audit

Our existing auditor, PKF, now have a new director whom Jane has met recently. They now seem much more sympathetic to our situation and would like to keep our business and propose a charge of £5,060 to audit the 2018/19 accounts. In view of this change of heart, Jane recommended that we stay with them for this year and the Trustees agreed.

10.3 Agree Related Parties Document

10.4 Agree CC8 Checklist

10.5 Agree Risk Management Policy

All the above documents will be sent out with the Minutes of this meeting to be agreed at the December meeting. This will give Trustees more time to read the information.

11. Life of the Circuit

11.1 Local Preacher's Report

The Local Preachers report had already been circulated and was adopted.

11.2 Mission Folder Update

Deacons Sarah and Suzie reported that many entries had been received and thanked everyone for their efforts. They had read them all and found it amazing that so many mission activities were taking place.

The entries could be categorised into two groups, namely, serving the local community and sharing good news through explicit Christian content and were often run by inter-generational teams.

This connexional year we are challenged to share our Stories in the year of Testimony. There is material on the Methodist Church website.

It would be excellent therefore to get peoples responses/stories to demonstrate our gospel sharing and churches were asked to share some good news stories about their projects. Suzie and Sarah are prepared to visit to video stories. These will be put on the Circuit website and a celebration will take place in the Spring.

12. Property

12.1 Update regarding sale of Walpole Road

We are ready to exchange but there have been some glitches relating to an access route across the land by a neighbouring property. Since this meeting the buyers have withdrawn and the Agent is now actively seeking another buyer.

12.2 Update regarding rental of Marlborough Road

Not much progress had been made because Mark's family had only just moved out. The property will need some redecoration before it can be rented out.

12.3 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

The church has been vacated and as a result Methodist Insurance wished to raise the premium and reduce the cover. However, if we are able to hold a meeting there once a month this could be avoided, so we are looking at whether this would be possible. Two estate agents have been approached and one of them, Corbens, will not charge any fees. They have suggested making enquiries with the Council regarding change of use. This would make the property easier to sell. A Quantity Surveyor's report has been completed.

12.4 Approval required for Wimborne Road and Headswell Avenue

The leases on both properties are coming up for renewal. The rental for Wimborne Road is £1,395 per month with £600 agents fees per year. The

rental for Headswell Avenue is £1,550 per month with the agent charging 6% of the rent annually. Trustees agreed to the renewal of both leases.

12.6 Gannetts Park - Badgers

Following some costly work some time ago, the badgers have returned. Funding will be required to deal with them and quotes will be obtained for approval by the meeting. There may be a guarantee in place from the previous work and that will be checked out. It was suggested we might also need an ecologists report and the meeting gave permission to have this done if necessary.

Chris Moreton is still living in the property awaiting the completion of refurbishment to his new property which will be ready in November. Tony will ask if he can contribute towards the cost to the Circuit. This was agreed by the Trustees.

13. Any other business

Letters are in the post for Synod members regarding the proposed new District Chair Andrew De Ville who will take up the post in March for 30 months. Andrew Wood is moving to London to become Head of Ministries.

Pete Smith from the Spire reported that although they had accepted the 2019/20 Assessment it didn't mean their problems had gone away and they still expect to run out of money in this financial year. Their situation will be reviewed at the next Circuit Finance Group meeting.

If anyone has documents relating to church buildings in their homes could they be returned to the relevant churches as soon as possible.

Date of next meeting

3rd December Circuit Meeting 7.30pm BMC @ St George's