

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
9th March 2021, 7.30pm on Zoom

1. Rev Tony Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Deacon Gill Judge.

3. **Agree Membership of meeting as per circulated list**

As the list could not be circulated, the secretary recorded attendees from the Zoom Participants list.

4. **Apologies for absence** were received from John Beasley, Sheilah Goddard and Tina Smith

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

A card was requested for Rev Betto Viana to assure him of our thoughts and prayers.

6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 1st December 2020**

These had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed.

7. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

8. **News from Churches**

Clive Allen reported that Lytchett's extension, built in 1911, now has render falling off and will need to be repaired. He is waiting for a quote.

Kate Greaves reported that Stay Safe at Trinity was going well getting people into secure tenancies and accommodation. There is also a new expression of church where up to 10 people gather together to share a meal.

Deacon Suzie reported on the As One Initiative, a group who want to explore community spirit during lockdown. They will be putting up banners first with messages of love then holding memorial services which all churches are invited to help with. Then a third phase to ask 10 local people to come for a tea and finally form a street association to support each other. The local coordinator has asked the Methodist church to be involved. The cost for each church is £200 to cover banners, teas etc. All details are on the Circuit website.

9. **Confirm new Circuit Stewards in post**

Julian Tawn, Kate Greaves, Naomi Shrimpton, Andrew Goodwin and Keshento Burbidge were confirmed in post.

10. **News from CLT**

Rev Karen reported that the Circuit Leadership Team have been meeting weekly to pray and discern how best to guide the circuit going forward. They were very aware that the circuit (and local churches) are in a very different place to how things were last year and

that going forward we will have to make some impactful and difficult decisions. However, they also wanted to determine what our mission as a circuit should be at this time, and how to best use our resources so that local churches are enabled to form mission in their community alongside the Circuit.

There are many exciting possibilities and ideas but there is the danger that we are trying to leap ahead and solve/do things too quickly. We still need to pray and to apply our resources in a careful prayerful manner.

Appointment of Synod Reps

Di Baggs, Keshento Burbidge and Julian Tawn were appointed as Synod reps. Gerald Beddard, Geoff Goodman and Janet Baker continue as District elected Synod reps.

11. Governance

11.1 Deferred Resolution Vote

The Deferred Resolution means that other Christian denominations leasing Methodist buildings will be able to do so for a longer period of time than the one year allowed at present. All church councils had voted in favour and the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the Resolution.

11.2 Fit and Proper Person Declaration

All Trustees must now complete and sign one of these on an annual basis. Everyone had received a form and should return it to the Secretary either by post or e-mail.

11.3 Safeguarding Officer's Report – Nothing to report this time.

12. Life of the Circuit

12.1 Circuit Invitation Committee

Rev Karen has passed her probationers committee and will be away much of June and July preparing for her ordination.

Several rounds of stationing had not borne fruit, so we had no minister to replace Nick Wood in September. We remain in stationing but will start to look at a lay pastor and increasing hours of pastoral staff.

12.2 Worship Going forward – To include Dispensation for Communion

It may only be possible for each church to have one led service per month. This is because Rev Sue Gowling has not been replaced, Rev Karen will be out for a while and others have chosen not to offer for services. Because we did not get anyone in stationing, provision for Communion services will be difficult. There are 11 settings and only 4 people available so Communion services will only be possible twice a quarter. Dispensation for Deacon Gill and perhaps a local preacher to take Communion has been proposed but we can only get one. The meeting was keen to accept Deacon Gill's offer and it was unanimously agreed.

12.3 Local Preacher's Report

This had been circulated previously and Terry Fish stressed that Naomi and Nicola's training was going well, and he expressed thanks to Geoff Goodman for his support.

13. Finance

13.1 Approval of 2019/20 Report & Accounts including Letter of Representation and Comment

Revaluation of manse to reflect the current property market had given us a gain of £3 million.

There were no issues arising from the unqualified audit opinion. There was one comment submitted in the letter of Representation and Comment regarding procedure notes. These are now being updated so this is not a material issue.

It was noted that the donation to Sea Change did not arrive until November 2020 but we had provided for that commitment in the 2019/20 accounts.

The Report and Accounts were approved by all and it was agreed that Tony would sign the Letter of Representation.

13.2 Approval of Risk Management Policy - Approved

13.3 Approval of Charity Commission Checklist - Approved

13.4 Approval to update the bank mandate signatories on CAF Bank account

Di Baggs had stepped down, so it was proposed that Brian Tucknott and Andrew Goodwin be added to existing signatories Rev Betto Viana and Louise Tidd. Approved.

13.5 Approval to update the bank mandate signatories on Central Finance Board account

It was proposed that Brian Tucknott and Andrew Goodwin be added to existing signatory Rev Betto Viana. Approved.

13.6 Approval for the Circuit to investigate and progress an application for a debit card for the CAF Bank account

Circuit office staff need to make purchases for the Circuit from time to time so it was proposed that an application for a Debit Card, to be held by a Minister and Brian Tucknott, be made. Approved.

13.7 Confirmation of the budget and church assessments for this current year

It was proposed that Circuit Assessments are not changed, and the Budget remains the same. Agreed

13.8 Confirmation of the continued payment of grants to churches to cover loss of income as per the Circuit Meeting approval on 1st July 2020

This was approved and it was noted that loss of collections will be considered at the end of the financial year.

13.9 Approval of the continued payment of grants to churches to cover loss of Income September – December 2020 and January to March 2021

Approved.

13.10 Update on budget and assessment for 2021/22

We must provide a budget for the next financial year to satisfy the auditors that we are a going concern so a summary budget had been prepared and the CFG will meet after Easter to review.

14. Property

14.1 Agree Tenancy Renewal 37 Headswell Avenue

The new Tenants will be moving in on Saturday. The updated tenancy agreement has been received and will be signed. Agreed.

14.2 Agree Lease of St. Georges to Bournemouth Foodbank

This has been agreed and Rev Tony has been liaising with solicitor.

14.3 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church/Letter Received

Two letters had been received from the family next door to the church which Tony read to the meeting. These expressed concern about the sale of the church to Mr Littlefair, the property developer. Our Solicitor says we need to acknowledge that we have heard the content of the letter. We are currently chasing the developer for a completion date. The meeting agreed that we should continue with the sale.

14.4 Agree Signatures for Property Transactions

Di Baggs and Brian Tucknott are signatories at present. Di has stepped down, so we need a replacement. Naomi Shrimpton and Julian Tawn offered. Transactions could be signed by any two of these three. This was unanimously agreed.

The Circuit Property Return will be sent round and we will then indicate our agreement.

15. Any other business

The Plan for the next quarter should be out by the end of next week.

Rev Karen and Deacon Gill will be doing Zoom services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Details to follow.

It was confirmed that when Churches reopen, with Trustee approval, numbers should remain at a maximum of 30.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.0 pm.

Date of next meeting

15th June 2021

Circuit Meeting

7.30pm