

**MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING
HELD AT BROADSTONE ON
14TH SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm**

1. Rev Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting including Rev. Andrew De Ville, District Chair and Julian Tawn in his new role as lay pastor. Rev Chris Moreton had also joined the team but would not be attending evening meetings.
2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Rev Andrew de Ville.
3. **Membership of the meeting** was agreed as per the circulated list
4. **Apologies for absence** were received from Keshento Burbidge, Terry Fish, Alan McCoy, Ian Underwood, Clive Allen, Pete Smith, John Beasley, Chris Melhuish, Eileen Osgood and Danny Plews.
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**
Tony had written to Chris and Joy Blake following Chris's recent retirement and move to the area.
6. The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2021 were agreed and signed.
7. There were no matters arising.
8. **News from Churches**
Christine Snape from Upton reported that the congregation was not quite back to normal, but meetings, toddlers and pre-school were all happening again. A Gather, Grow, Go meeting had taken place recently.

Joan Jackson said it was lovely to welcome us to Broadstone and reported that their cafe was serving coffee 3 days a week. The Knit and Natter group had re-started and things were slowly getting back to normal. Their AGM had taken place on Sunday, and Gather, Grow, Go was on the agenda. A Music/Market event in Broadstone was taking place on Saturday.

Annie Fellows reported on Swanage summer services which were very successful with uniformed groups, camping in the hall, joining in. The first ever Folk Festival service took place last Sunday and was well attended. The First Steps Toddler group had started last week, and numbers were increasing.

Denise Gibbs reported that things were growing at Poole. Children's services were taking off and the Spire and cafe were opening slowly.

Ros Murray from Bournemouth reported that the Intergen cafe was advertising for a new manager and hoped to reopen soon.

Deacon Suzie reported that Gather, Grow, Go was working well at BMC and they were looking at the mission centre's future.

Rev Tony said that it was good to hear that things were beginning again and Gather, Grow, Go was getting underway in churches. He then passed the Chairman's position over to Andrew de Ville.

9. Life of the Circuit

9.1 Circuit Invitation Committee

9.1.1 Tony's Re-invitation

Rev Andrew de Ville took the Chair of the Circuit Meeting and stated that the papers sent to everyone for this Circuit Meeting included a reasoned statement giving the recommendation of the Circuit Invitation Committee for the extension of the appointment of Rev Tony Cavanagh for a further 3 years from September 2022

There had been no notification to him as Chair of this part of the Meeting of any opposition or requested amendment to the Recommendation and so, in accordance with Standing Order 545 (3F), it was recorded that the re-invitation was therefore offered by this Circuit Meeting.

The meeting then recognised the re-invitation with a round of applause and thanks were offered to all those involved in the stationing process and prayers offered for Tony, his family and the Circuit leaders, lay and ordained. Tony added his thanks to everyone on the CIC.

9.1.2 Presbyteral Profile

Further amendments to the profile reflecting the changes to the leadership team and changes regarding the manse had been made. The meeting agreed the amendments.

9.2 **Local Preacher's Report** had already been circulated and was accepted.

9.3 Gather, Grow, and Go Presentation

Deacons Gill and Suzie and Rev Karen gave a presentation on the new initiative Gather, Grow, Go. The full presentation is available on the Circuit website

Tony thanked them for all the work they had done on this and said that we need to pray and work together actively engaging in churches. We all need to change our perception of church and reach out to those in our communities.

9.4 Intergenerational Working/Godly Play Centre and Focus

Deacons Suzie and Gill introduced intergenerational working explaining that services had been going out on Zoom but would now be going out on the road. In the past, Children's ministry had got separated from the main church but now we must try not to box people into separate spaces and reclaim our intergenerational aims in the church.

Victoria Park had offered space for Godly Play and two story telling groups had started, one at Broadstone and one at Poole. Twenty-one children attended the last session. The families learn about Jesus and hear a story then feast and go. One of the Mums had asked to be trained to help so it is a very exciting time.

10. Governance

10.1 Review and adopt Safeguarding Policy

The Safeguarding Policy had been circulated previously and the meeting approved it. Individual Church Councils were reminded that they need to review their policies also.

10.2 GDPR Data Collection & Fit & Proper Person Forms

Val reminded Trustees that there were several people who had not yet returned their completed GDPR Data Collection, Related Parties and Fit and Proper Person Forms. Trustees were asked to give these their urgent attention.

10.3 Future Meetings Format – Circuit and Church Level

It had been commented that face to face meetings were time consuming and bad for the environment, so it was recommended that two face to face meetings were held in September and March and two Zoom meetings in June and December. The Local Preachers meeting had already chosen to follow this plan and Tony recommended that local churches adopt a similar pattern.

11. Finance

11.1 Agree Budget & 2021/22 Assessment

Andrew reported on the CFG meeting where the Circuit budget was agreed. Up to £30,000 from TMCP funds would be drawn down to support the budget and assessments would remain the same as last year. Another CFG meeting would be held in November to look at the finance strategy going forward as we would not always be able to use TMCP funds. The meeting agreed.

11.2 Request for Contribution to Pension Fund

A request had gone out to each circuit asking them to make a voluntary contribution of 15% of their reserves towards a short fall in the pension fund. This had happened because the investment market had fallen recently. The Circuit will look at all church reserves and consider whether this can be done. It will be a one-off contribution at the moment but could become an annual levy in the future. Thanks were expressed to Andrew and Louise for all their work.

12 Property

12.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

Nothing new to report yet but hopefully things would progress now that we were in the autumn.

12.2 Ratify Renewal of tenancy agreement, Fernside Road

This had been agreed previously by e-mail and was ratified by the meeting.

12.3 Planning Objection Raised – Marlborough Road

Julian Tawn reported that we had raised a planning objection to the proposed new building scheme in Marlborough Road. The plan was to demolish properties at the end of the road and erect flats without enough parking space. The development seemed unworkable, so Julian wrote to the Council expressing our objections. Thanks were expressed to Julian for doing this on our behalf.

13. Any other business

It was noted that the Local Preachers meeting was having a quiet day at the Greenhouse which would be financed from the training budget.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm with prayer.

Date of next meeting: 7th December 2021 at 7.30pm