

**MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING**  
**Held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom**

1. Rev. Betto welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Opening Devotions were led by Rev. Karen James.
3. Membership of meeting was agreed, and the Secretary recorded the participants.
4. **Apologies for absence** were received from Rev. Tony Cavanagh, Dr. Julian Tawn, Deacon Gill Judge, Deacon Suzie Viana, Bob Taylor, Dr. Terry Fish, Sheilah Goddard and Danny Plews.

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

Prayers were requested for the stationing process and our matched presbyter.

**6. Agreement of the Minutes** of the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Following some amendments, the Minutes were agreed.

**7. Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.

**8. News from Churches**

Joan Jackson reported that Broadstone had been involved in the local Music and Market event. This had increased footfall into the Church, and they had held Messy Church outside with passers by. There was also a book stall to raise funds. Numbers attending worship were building up.

**9. Life of the Circuit**

**9.1 Circuit Invitation Committee**

Brian reported that the CIC would be considering a Presbyter, that we have been matched with for next year, this weekend. Hopefully, as a result of the visit, we will issue an invitation and will have a Presbyter for next year. We should all pray for a positive outcome.

Betto explained that we were not matched in the first round and had been informed that there was no chance for the second round. However, the District Chair said we were in a difficult situation, and he wanted the District to work closely with us to support the process of change. The level of illness across the Circuit was a danger to any new person coming in. We have made a commitment to the District, that we will look at ways to change and which direction we should go in. The District Chair will come and talk to Tony and others in January. Betto thanked everyone for their patience at this time.

**9.2 Worship and the Plan – Proposal from Winton**

Difficulties have been experienced with the plan recently and Winton have been experimenting. Paul Thompson from Winton explained their proposal. They would like to support our ministry team by broadcasting a service from one building to others. Leaders of worship would be in one building and

congregations would be in other churches. He suggested that we try it through January – March, so when the service is held in Winton it can be broadcast to other churches and people at home. Churches would need an internet connection and projector. Paul could advise and recommend help if required. Andrew said that there was money available for any church that needed to purchase equipment for this. Paul will produce a paper explaining how it will work. All agreed to give it a try.

9.3 **Local Preacher's Report** had already been distributed and was agreed following an amendment to the Away Day date. Should be 15<sup>th</sup> January not June.

## 10. Governance

### 10.1 Safeguarding Officer's Report

Nothing to report but local churches should send their policies to Rev. Karen.

## 11. Finance

### 11.1 Approve Draft Circuit Accounts Y/E 31/8/21

Andrew gave a brief outline of the Overview at start of the report. There was a reduction in income of £109,000 due to lower assessments because of less staff. Expenditure was also lower by £67,000. £73,000 was paid to churches for lost income due to Covid. Three changes needed to be made: on page 2, Income Trends, last paragraph should read 'lower charitable income'. On Page 5, The Trustees List needs amending and on Page 30 Rev S. Viana needs amending to 'Deacon'. Andrew proposed that the Accounts go to PFK for auditing on Monday. PFK have increased their fees to £5,525. Funds amount to £1.9 million which is a good financial situation. £1.5 million is unrestricted so can be used for any purpose. We need to be mindful that there are a number of calls on the funds:- Deacons, Pension contribution to the Connection, future Covid restriction grants. Also, we have more manse than we need but can't let them all out due to restrictions and some may not be in the best geographical position. Formal approval of the accounts will be given at the next meeting. Treasurers were asked to send in their End of Year accounts as soon as possible.

### 11.2 Pension Fund Proposal from Kinson

Following the Connexion's request that churches and circuits contribute 15% of their reserves towards the pension fund, Kinson Church Council proposed that we sell a manse to cover this. However, it was felt that this was not quite what was being asked for by Connexion. We need to have a manse policy going forward before we make any decisions.

The pension shortfall needs to be met and we have to step up one way or another as we have a commitment to our Ministers, but we need to be creative in ways to do it. After some discussion David proposed that we look at it at the Circuit Finance Group, Tony seconded the proposal, and all agreed.

## 12. Property

### 12.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

An outline of the current situation had been circulated and we were asked to agree that we are happy to proceed with the offer from David Massingham. All agreed with one abstention.

12.2 **Ratify Renewal of Tenancy Agreement 37 Headswell Avenue**

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

12.3 **Ratify Renewal of Tenancy Agreement 92 Wimborne Road**

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

13. **Any other business**

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.0 pm with prayer.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm** Venue TBC

(Broadstone are unable to host this meeting as all their rooms are booked that evening).