

MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING
Held on 8th March, 2022 at Kinson Church

- 1 Rev. Betto Viana welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Opening Devotions were led by Betto.
- 3 Membership of the meeting was agreed as per circulated list.
- 4 **Apologies for absence** were received from Rev Tony Cavanagh, Deacon Suzie Viana, Brian Tucknott, Andrew Goodwin, Keshento Burbidge, Julian Tawn, Terry Fish, Pat Goodhall, Ian Underwood, Sheilah Goddard, Tina Smith, Denise Gibbs, David Pollington John Beasley and Danny Plews.

5 Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer

Prayers were asked for David Pollington and his wife both in hospital, the situation in Ukraine, President Putin, and the Bishop of the United Methodist Church in that area who also covers all the Christian aid groups.

6 Agreement of the Minutes of the meeting held 7th December 2021

These had been circulated previously and were approved by the meeting.

7 Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

8 News from Churches

The Welcome Inn at Victoria Park now has a new cafe manager and catering assistant and will open mid- April. All are welcome to pop in for coffee if in the area.

Swanage has recently had their Gather Grow and Go meeting and as a result of that the first bible study group, Footsteps, took place last week with 20 people attending.

There will be a Prayer Vigil on Saturday morning at 11.0 am at Broadstone. Their Thursday group also started this week led by Deacon Gill.

Deacon Gill reported that she has always been interested in chaplaincy and is now doing a chaplaincy course.

9 Governance

9.1 Safeguarding Officer's Report

Rev. Karen expressed her thanks to all the Safeguarding officers for all that they are doing. There is an advanced module training course on 14th May and Karen will check who needs to go and let them know. She reminded the meeting that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

9.2 Suzie's Sabbatical

Deacon Suzie will be going on sabbatical this year from April to June. She plans to go to Brazil to visit family and spend two weeks in Italy exploring spirituality.

10 Life of the Circuit

10.1 Update on Circuit Invitation Committee

Betto reported that we had not been matched with anyone during the last round, but we will try again in June at the start of the next round. The Circuit is very grateful for Julian Tawn and Chris Moreton who are helping. It was noted that 55% of appointments nationally were not filled last year and we need to think creatively about the future.

10.2 **Local Preacher's Report** had been circulated previously and was accepted by the Meeting.

10.3 God in Love Unites Us – Church Councils

Following approval at the Conference 2021 all Methodist buildings are now authorised for same sex marriage. All Church Councils must now decide whether they will allow same sex marriages to take place in their Church. The cost for change of licence for this is £64. Ministers will also have to decide whether they are willing to conduct same sex marriages or not.

10.4 Staffing

Deacon Gill is now back at work, but Deacon Suzie is still unwell. Rev. Tony is still struggling and remains off sick. Churches should engage with Karen, Betto or Gill for ministerial support.

10.5 Streaming Live Services

The first service had various problems but 104 people watched it. Since then, three further services have taken place with new camera and computer equipment and were much improved. Trinity have tried it for a morning service and it was very successful. A letter will be sent to Paul Thompson at Winton thanking him and his team for all the work they are putting in to make this happen. The Meeting agreed to take it forward.

Broadstone has received support from Paul in setting up their equipment and they hope to go forward with this.

It was noted that Paul is working on subtitles for the service with the possibility of changing the language for viewers in other countries.

10.6 Peggy Hiscock Scholarship

Betto had received an e-mail from the District Chair informing him that the Church of Zambia university had set up a scholarship for students who want to train as Ministers but have no resources. This has been done in memory of the Rev Peggy who died last year.

10.7 Circuit Day of Prayer – 14th May 2022

A day of prayer around the Circuit will start at The Spire on Saturday 14th May. Various styles of prayer will be included. Hopefully other churches in the Circuit will host similar events. We will pray for our situation and ask God how we should move forward. A planning meeting will take place on 31st March at the Spire at 7.0 pm.

10.8 Engaging with District

When several staff were ill, Betto and Tony had a conversation with the Chair of District. Andrew de Ville expressed concern about bringing a new person into the Circuit in the current situation. He felt that the way we were working was not sustainable as it was causing illness. He agreed to work with us to find a way forward.

He will meet with CLT in April to see what changes can be made. It was noted that many other parts of the country were experiencing similar problems. Thanks were expressed to Betto for keeping going and supporting us. Betto thanked everyone for their support and prayers.

11 Finance

11.1 Approval of 2020/21 Report & Accounts including Letter of Representation and Comment

The Report and Accounts had been circulated previously and were approved following an amendment to Page 4, para 5 which refers to the Minister who 'retired.' This in fact was Nick Wood who did not retire but moved on. It was noted that on Page 5, the list of Circuit Stewards had also been amended.

11.2 Approval of Risk Management Policy

The Risk Management Policy had been previously circulated and was approved following the deletion of 'Circuit Manager' on Page 7 as we have not got one at present. It was pointed out that we as Trustees may not have the skills and competence required and we must be aware of the risk situation especially with volunteers. Thanks were expressed to Andrew, Louise, Michelle and Karen for all the work they do on our behalf.

11.3 Approval of Charity Commission Checklist

The Checklist had been circulated previously and was approved following an amendment to the date when it was updated.

11.4 Contribution to Ministers Pension Fund

It was proposed, and seconded, that the Circuit would make a contribution to the Ministers Pension Fund on behalf of the churches. The majority voted in favour of this proposal. The CLT and Circuit Finance Group will decide on a figure from General Funds.

11.5 Annual Property Returns - were received and approved.

12. Property

12.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

The new developer is awaiting Planning permission. If this is given, the sale will go ahead.

12.2 Additional Service from Taylor Made

Karen Price looks after all our rental properties, and it is difficult for her to deal with all the situations that arise in the hours she works. Taylor Made, one of our letting agents, currently charges fees of 6%, but for 8% they could provide a fully managed service to sort out most of the property situations. The Meeting agreed this in principle provided that the CLT liaise regarding the contract, and we can approve by e-mail at a later date.

12.3 Wimborne Road Manse and the Future of empty Manses (St Luke's Road, York Road and Cherry Hill Grove)

The tenants in Wimborne Road manse will be vacating the property in April. This means that out of our six properties only 2 will be occupied. The Charity Commission has put a cap on the income we are allowed to receive from property so we must decide what to do with 4 empty Manses.

Broadstone Churches Together would like to provide a house for refugees and it was suggested that we might use York Road for this. The Broadstone Churches Together scheme would use International Care Network to run it for a contract period of two years. They have a support team ready to move on this should we agree.

The Meeting was in favour of this scheme and agreed to further exploration into using York Road and St Luke's for this.

The possibility of selling Wimborne Road and investing in Cherry Hill Grove was discussed but the meeting felt that we needed more information and a clearer strategy about the manses to be able to take a final decision. It was felt that careful consideration needed to be given to where we might need a Manse in the future. The CLT should liaise with the Circuit Finance team to assess the best strategy going forward and submit a proposal to Circuit Meeting by email if necessary.

13. There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayer at 9.10 pm.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 14th June 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom