

MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING
Held on 14th June, 2022 on Zoom

1. Opening Devotions were led by Rev Tony Cavanagh.
2. **Agree Membership of meeting** – Richard Baker attended for the first time as a representative from Poole, Sarah Joy, BMC Church Council secretary, attended as a visitor and Pam Brown as a substitute from Winton.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Deacon Gill, Deacon Suzie, Rev Betto, Terry Fish, Judith Hewins, Ian Underwood, Anne Fellows, Bob Taylor, Sheilah Goddard, Eileen Osgood and Danny Plews

4. Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer

Danny Plews and Eileen Osgood have both been in hospital, cards will be sent to them. David Pollington has died since our last meeting and we thank God for his life. Greetings will be sent to his son Richard. We hold Betto in our prayers as he has gone into hospital today for surgery.

Peggy Hiscock's memorial service will be on 2nd July at Victoria Park at 2.30 pm. The current Bishop of Zambia will be speaking and their Conference Secretary also.

Julian Tawn's recognition service will be on 20th September at 7.30 at Winton. The speaker will be Rev Nick Wood.

5. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 8th March 2022 had already been circulated and were agreed.
6. There were no Matters Arising.
7. **News from Churches**

Ros Murray reported that there had been two baptisms at Victoria Park, both of which had been delayed due to Covid.

Richard Baker reported that there had been a baptism at Poole from their Filipino family which was very well attended.

8. Governance

8.1. Safeguarding Officer's Report

Rev Karen thanked everyone involved in Safeguarding and asked everyone to look after their Officers to ensure that all Churches are operating safely. Those who have still to do the advanced training have been contacted and some have done the on-line training. Not everyone can do that, so Karen hopes to lead some courses after her own training. Local church safeguarding policy will need updating from September, details of the policy are available on-line. Karen reminded everyone

that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Thanks were expressed to Karen for her work on Safeguarding.

9. Life of the Circuit

9.1. Stationing – Another Round?

Another round of stationing is about to begin, and we haven't received anyone in the last round. We have been advised by District that we should be thinking of other options as we are not considered a priority appointment. If we were to go ahead, we would have to submit a profile in September and would not be able to withdraw it until after Conference 2023. The CLT have been exploring other options; we could employ 3 lay workers to work with the ministry team and perhaps train some Chaplains. Other Circuits in our situation have found lay workers so we would probably be able to do the same.

Chris Moreton has been appointed Deputy Mayor of Swanage and he is deciding whether he can also work for the Circuit. Julian Tawn has agreed to continue. We will continue reflecting and the Meeting were happy to concur with CLT discussions so far.

9.2. Appeal for new Circuit Stewards, especially Circuit Property Steward

Tony appealed for some new Circuit Stewards as Brian was giving up on health grounds. We particularly need someone with property experience. Val confirmed that she would be giving up the post of Circuit Meeting Secretary from December so a replacement for her would be required from next March.

10. Worship and Spirituality

10.1. Local Preacher's Report

It had been decided to have a Vocation Sunday on 17th July when people would be encouraged to come along. Bible month is the four Sundays in June, and the focus is Isaiah. There will be themed preaching in Bournemouth in September based on the 4 headings in the Methodist Way of Life document which can be downloaded.

10.2. Circuit Day of Prayer

The day went well and there were opportunities to pray alone or together and even dance as well. The amount of work put in was amazing and it is hoped to move around the circuit. Silent communion was an interesting option. It was a blessing to be able to sit before God and pray. It is hoped to repeat the day at another venue, possibly in the Purbeck section.

11. Mission at the Circuit

11.1. Refugee Endeavour – Broadstone

Using York Road to house refugees is still being explored. The Methodist Church doesn't allow this unless the local church is involved so it is unlikely that St Lukes could be used for this purpose. Legal advice is now required to progress York Road. It is likely that Afghan or Syrian refugees will be housed there as there are no Ukrainians in the area.

12. **Gather, Grow, Go** – Report back from each church on how discussions have gone and where things are at now.

Trinity – The Wednesday evening meal is still happening and they hope to have a meeting in September to discuss further.

Broadstone – Café is doing well and some new people have joined the service. Some people coming to the café need prayer so that is something to follow up. They have met with Faithworks and are going to communicate with them.

BMC – Are looking at a less formal way to meet with people in the café. A Cream tea for the Jubilee took place at Victoria Park and raised £400 for Macmillan.

Lytchett – are restarting things after the pandemic. The people attending the coffee morning don't come on Sundays, so the Gro is a bit negative at the moment. They will be restarting the lunch club ecumenically at end of July. The premises are being used to run some Anglican courses and on Vocation Sunday they hope to introduce the Anglicans to the Methodist vocations. They have joined a service for the Jubilee with the Anglicans which was very successful.

Swanage – have held two meetings to explore their strengths and weaknesses. A new mid-week bible study group has started which is very well attended. Also restarted Messy Church. Their buildings are used extensively by the local community and they are exploring links with these. Also sharing worship with the URC and Salvation Army.

Upton - have a small and elderly congregation and they are trying to persuade people to come back to church after the pandemic. The Daisy Chain Jubilee picnic was well attended. The Toddler group is going well, and the children are joining the pre-school. The Book club, Brownies and Scottish dancing have all started again. They hold Coffee and cake once a month and this has encouraged people to come back. Keshento reported that Upton is very good at local arrangement services which are done really well.

Poole - haven't had any formal discussions but are getting back on track after the pandemic. The Youth group is going well and they are looking to re-establish a Toddler group. The Kids Eat Free initiative in the cafeteria during the school holidays was very well received but they might not have funding for the summer holidays. It was suggested that if other Churches know about it, they might help with donations.

Broadstone - continue to do well with the coffee lounge and can now have coffee outside as well as inside. Messy church and Stepping Stones and Knit and Natter are all going well. They hope to grow more bible study groups. Earned an Eco bronze award and are now looking at how they can progress that. Tomorrow they will be hosting a music and market event with coffee, stalls etc. where they will be a presence and talk about church.

13. **Finance**

13.1. Agree Budget and Assessments for 2022/23

The CFG have met and managed to reduce the budget by £22,450. The Budget is now £329,864. The Assessment has increased by £12,928 over the last two years. £30,000 from TMCP to support the Assessment has been maintained. The Budget assumes that we would have a further minister, but this will go now to lay workers. We are maintaining enough in reserves to fund Deacons and possibly purchase another manse. The meeting agreed the Budget and Assessments.

13.2. Appointment of Auditors

The reappointment of PK Francis auditors was agreed.

13.3. Approve payment to Minister's Pension Fund

It was proposed that £26,100 be sent to the Pension Fund from Circuit funds.
This was agreed.

13.4. Extension of Loan to Poole Methodists

Poole need to put off their repayment for this year. John expressed long term concern about the future viability of the Spire financial situation. He suggested a discussion with Andrew, Richard and Seachange to report back in September.
This was agreed.

14. **Property**

14.1. Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

Various delays keep cropping up and it is now the planners holding up the progress. Once that is resolved the sale should then go through quite quickly.

14.2. Agree Sale of Wimborne Road Manse

The Manse is in poor condition and not in the right place for the future so it was proposed that it be sold - the Meeting agreed.

14.3. Agree letting of St. Lukes Road

We can let this under HMRC guide lines, and this was agreed by the Meeting.

15. **Any other business -**

The next meeting will be a 'Face to Face' one and Denise Gibbs will investigate the possibility of holding it at the Spire. She will inform the secretary in due course.

It was noted that Cherry Hill Grove will be kept in case it is needed for a lay worker.

Thanks were expressed to the group who organize the live stream services.

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

Date of next meeting: 13th September 2022 at 7.30pm Venue TBC