

MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING
Held on 13th September, 2022 at The Spire

The meeting began with a minute's silence to remember the Queen following her recent death.

1. Opening Devotions were led by Deacon Suzie Viana.
 2. **Agree Membership of meeting as per circulated list**
The membership list was agreed with the addition of Gerald Beddard and Eifron Hopper.
 3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Brian Tucknott, Andrew Goodwin, Keshento Burbidge, Naomi Shrimpton, Terry Fish, Lesley and Tony Fernand, Clive Allen, Sheilah Goddard, Chris Melhuish, Eileen Osgood, Danny Plews and Anita Hazell
 4. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**
5. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 14th June 2022 had already been circulated and were agreed following an amendment to Item 12, page 3. It was Lytchett church that had joined a service for the jubilee with the Anglicans, not Upton.
 6. There were no Matters Arising.
 7. **News from Churches**

Broadstone had welcomed Rev. Karen to their ministry team. They were pleased to receive an Eco Church bronze award. They had been able to host music and market events on Saturdays during the summer with stalls, refreshments and Messy Church craft activities. Four Baptisms had taken place recently and they were now making plans to celebrate twenty years since the opening of their new building.

Swanage reported on the success of their summer services attended by various uniformed groups staying in the hall and lots of visitors. Their Toddler group had re-opened after the summer break with 30 children attending.

Upton had held four Daisy Chain sessions in the summer for families and children with special needs. These had been attended by 25 – 30 children each session and lots of volunteers had stepped up to help.

Bournemouth reported that the Welcome Inn Café, a BMC outreach initiative, had been open for 3 months with lots of families coming along. Toddler groups at Winton and Victoria Park had reopened with average attendances of 18 and 23 children. All three mission centres had enjoyed celebrating worship together.

Poole reported that the Kids Eat for Free initiative, for children who receive free school meals, was a great success during the holidays. Thanks were expressed to those churches who helped with this. The Circuit Youth Group now meeting at the Spire was proving very successful.

Rev Betto spoke about the Methodist Way of Life – Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism. Bournemouth and Poole are working on this. New membership classes will take place and some fellowship groups will be introduced. Betto has material and links if any church wants to take this forward.

Kinson's Toddler group which had begun last November had now grown to eleven families and was going well.

Rev. Tony reminded everyone to use the Circuit website if they want to advertise any events.

8. Life of the Circuit

8.1 Visit of Deacon Eunice Atwood – “Church at the Margins”

As part of the Gather Grow Go initiative Deacon Eunice Atwood has been invited to come to the Spire on Saturday, 5th November from 12.0 midday. Lunch will be followed by reflection on our mission. All churches were invited to attend and were asked to make a special effort to commit to this. Betto will send out more details as they become available.

8.2 Use of Lay Pastors in the Circuit

Discussions will begin at Autumn Church Councils to help decide how a Lay Pastor could help each church.

8.3 Report from Circuit Youth Group – Kate White

Kate's report had been circulated previously and was accepted.

8.4 Report from Local Preachers – Dr Terry Fish

Terry's report had been previously circulated and was accepted. It was noted that next Tuesday Julian's commissioning service would take place at Winton. Everyone was invited to come if possible.

9. Governance

9.1 Review and re-adopt Safeguarding Policy

The Safeguarding Policy had been circulated to everyone and Rev. Karen reminded us that we are all responsible for safeguarding. The 20th November is Safeguarding Sunday and Karen will send out details. The Policy was duly signed by the Chairman.

9.2 Related Parties Transaction Forms

Val reminded everyone who had not yet returned their forms that it was important to complete and return them as soon as possible.

9.3 Registration of Churches for Same Sex Marriages

Tony reminded Churches that the necessary forms need to be completed. The Circuit will pay the fee and Churches were asked to pay up front and then claim the amount back. Ministers are completing the forms, but they should be signed by two Trustees.

9.4 New Circuit Stewards needed and a Circuit Meeting Secretary

Sarah Joy from Bournemouth had agreed to be a Circuit Steward. We still need a meeting secretary. More information on the positions would be useful. Some practical information will be sent out. Brian Tucknott will continue as a Circuit Steward for the moment.

10. Property

10.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

The sale has still not been completed but the buyer is still committed and the delay is being caused by the Council.

10.2 Ratify Agreement for work at Stokewood Road

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

10.3 Ratify Renewal of Tenancy at Fernside Road

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

10.4 Agree next steps for the use of York Road Manse by Refugees

We now need to appoint a solicitor and surveyor to complete the process. This is because TMCP want Trustees to be aware that the rent received will be less than the current market rate. Sintons, the Circuit solicitor will charge about £1,500 and Graham Thorne, the surveyor, £300 – 500 for the survey. There is still work outstanding from the last Quinquennial which will have to be completed. All was agreed by the meeting.

10.5 EPC Ratings for the Manses and subsequent works

Conference has decreed that all manses must now have EPC ratings which needs to be part of the stationing process. All should be rated C or above, but most manses are D and one is E. Karen will get quotes for the surveys to be done in order to get the Certificates, then we will need to follow through with any work that needs to be done.

10.6 Renewal of tenancy 37 Headswell Avenue

The tenancy agreement at Headswell Avenue expired on 12th September and the tenants would like to renew. The rent is increasing to £1,550 pcm. The meeting agreed to the renewal.

10. Any other business

10.1 It was confirmed that Julian would continue as a Lay Pastor for another year, and the Rev Chris Moreton will continue to offer ministry on a part time basis for another year.

10.2 After some discussion regarding on-line meetings, it was decided to stick with the current arrangement of two face to face and two on-line meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 6th December, 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom