

**MINUTES OF CIRCUIT MEETING**  
**Held on 6th December, 2022 on Zoom**

1. Opening Devotions were led by Rev. Karen James.
2. **Agree Membership of meeting**  
The Secretary recorded the attendance, and the membership list was agreed.
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Anne Fellows, Terry Fish, Eifron Hopper, Danny Plews and Bob Taylor.
4. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**  
There were no letters of greeting or items for prayer.
5. **Vote of Thanks**  
Val Wells was thanked for all her work as Meeting Secretary and Di Baggs and Chris Snape were welcomed as the new Secretaries.
6. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> September had already been circulated and were agreed.
7. **Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.
8. **News from Churches**

**Broadstone** - Joan Jackson reported that their Toddler and Wendy House groups had restarted. They had enjoyed sharing in the musical markets which had been a success. Thanks were expressed to Andrew Goodwin who had agreed to look after their accounts and thanks to Alison Sclater who had been the Treasurer for several years. It had been a pleasure to welcome a number of new worshippers recently.

**Upton** - Moira Thompson reported that the Toddler group was going well, and they would be holding another Daisy Chain session between Christmas and New Year. They were pleased to have been able to send 68 shoe boxes this year. Coffee and Cake was also going well.

**Lytchett** – Clive Allen reported that the lunch club had started in the summer with 20 people attending. The united Remembrance Sunday service was led by Karen James because the Vicar had been involved in an accident, but he is alright now. There were 500 people at the War Memorial that day. The Village Hall Carol Service is coming up, and the following week there will be a united service in the morning and Clive will be conducting the choir at the evening service. Christmas Day worship will be shared with the Anglicans who are greatly appreciating the Methodist Advent liturgy.

**Poole** – Gerald Beddard thanked the Circuit for their help with feeding children in the school holidays. Some 300 children had received a free meal. Families were spending the day in the café where it was warm. There had even been some visitors from Padstow who had enjoyed the hospitality. Three Christingle events had taken place with two more to come. The God Squad is proving very successful. From 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December there will be a display of Nativity scenes in the café. Decorations put up in the windows match the High Street lights.

**St George's Chapel** - Julian reported that the first service for 2 years had taken place with about 27 people attending. It was a joyous occasion. The Food Bank hasn't been open to the public yet, but it will be soon.

Keshento reported that the Zoom evening services had been going for a year now with around 17 people joining. He thanked Suzie and Gill, and all those who help with the services.

**Bournemouth** - Ros Murray reported that the environmental health inspection at the Welcome café had taken place and they were awarded 5 stars. Lots of families are coming in.

## 9. Life of the Circuit

### 9.1 Report from Circuit Youth Group – Kate White

Kate's report had been circulated previously and was adopted by the Meeting.

### 9.2 Report from Local Preachers – Dr Terry Fish

Terry's report had been circulated previously and was adopted by the Meeting.

### 9.3 Staffing Update

#### Future Finance and Property Roles

Circuit Consultation responses had been received and revealed that there was a greater need for help with finance and property across the Circuit. In view of this, Lay pastoral roles will be put on the back burner for now.

#### Change to Diaconal Letters of Understanding

The CLT has been looking at staffing roles across the Circuit and feels that there needs to be a change to the "Letters of understanding" for both Deacon's Suzie and Gill that will allow our Deacons to work across the Circuit again rather than being allotted to a particular section. Both the District and Diaconal Order have been consulted about this and agree. This will mean going forward that our Deacons will be able to work in any of our churches, and that their work will also be very focussed on being in the community going forward, in a sense reverting back to how these appointments were originally set up.

### **Appointment of Stationing Committee**

Three Ministers will be in stationing next year, Betto, Suzie and Karen. It was agreed that the Stationing Committee would include Ministers, Church Senior stewards, Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting Secretary.

### **Gather Grow and Go**

Up to now Gather, Grow and Go had focussed more on the 'gather' but Suzie and Gill are very keen to go back to the working with all ages, faiths etc. doing more work in the community than before. Gill has made connections through Godly Play in Kinson, Broadstone, Victoria Park, Trinity and Poole Smile. They will be getting out more and empowering local people.

## **10. Governance**

### **10.1 Safeguarding Officers Report**

Several people will need their training updated in the coming year. Karen will be planning for this and will be in touch with those concerned.

### **10.2 Appeal for a New Circuit Steward**

Sarah Joy, new Circuit Steward, was welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that we still need another person in this role.

### **10.3 Appointment of new Circuit Meeting Secretaries**

Di Baggs and Chris Snape were appointed as Circuit Meeting Secretaries.

### **10.4 Lay Rep to District Policy Committee Needed**

We need to appoint a lay representative to the District Policy Committee to replace Karen. Four meetings a year are held, two on Zoom and two at Chandlers Ford. It provides an opportunity to get a view from around the District. The Meeting was asked to think about it and let Tony know if know if anyone comes to mind.

## **11. Finance**

### **11.1 Draft Circuit Accounts Y/E 31/8/22**

The Draft Accounts had been circulated and any questions should be e-mailed to Andrew. The audit process is about to start. Thanks were expressed to Louise who had done most of the work for this. The CFG have met and talked about the 5 year plan and assessments. They will review the calculation of assessments at their next meeting and report back.

### **11.2 Approve Energy Support Proposal**

It was proposed that an energy support grant of £3,000 be given to every church. Clive Allen seconded the proposal, and the vote was carried with 1 abstention.

## 12. Property

### 12.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

The sale is still being hampered by local Government and Government needing to agree a policy on water levels and nutrients in the bay around Poole and how it affects local wildlife. Until this is agreed all planning has stopped.

### 12.2 Ratify Renewal of Tenancy at 1 Chapel Lane, Swanage

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

### 12.3 York Road

There had been a leak in the roof causing the ceiling to bow in. Scaffolding had been erected but in the wrong place. This had now been resolved and following re-decoration it was proposed that we sell the property. This was agreed with 4 abstentions.

**Wimborne Road** – has gone on the market, intruders had got in to the garage but this had been sorted out.

**St Lukes Road** – There is a tenant in there now who would like to alter the rent date from 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to the 12<sup>th</sup>. The rent is £2,000 per month and the tenancy is for 6 months. The Meeting agreed to the date change.

## 13. Any other business

The District had been asked to come and help with the situation at Poole and that process had now begun. A Finance meeting of the Treasurers involved and Andrew had taken place and a plan for the way forward was being worked on.

Approval was given for Brian Tucknott and Janet Baker to celebrate Communion for a third year.

## 14. Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Venue - TBC

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm with the Grace.