

**CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Venue: Zoom 7:30pm**

1. Rev Tony welcomed trustees to the meeting
2. **Opening Prayer** - led by Rev Betto
3. **Agree Membership of meeting** - Agreed
4. **Apologies for absence**  
Di Baggs, Chris Melhuish and Bob Taylor.
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer** - Annette Brooke and Terry Hughes.
6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (already circulated)**  
**Agreed**
7. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising
8. **News from Churches:**  
**Broadstone:** report of 20th Anniversary Celebrations already circulated.  
**Poole:** will be joining in with Poole Churches Together on the 9th and 16th December with Christmas activities in Poole High Street including a crib. An Art Display - What Does Christmas Mean to You? will be taking place on 9th December. The God Squad Christmas Quiz was a great success with fifty attending including some visitors from Eastleigh. Money raised will go towards Kids Eat Free,  
**Wool:** were delighted to welcome two new under-fives who have been recently baptised.  
**Swanage:** are **looking** forward to a 'Noisy Nativity' Rev Karen explained that all members of the congregation dress up as characters from the nativity, organised chaos but great fun.  
**Upton:** a busy weekend (3rd-4th December) with Christmas Crafts, coffee and cake, decorating the church and tree, carols on the Saturday and Christingle on the Sunday.
9. **Circuit Invitation Committee:** The Letter of Understanding has now been received confirming that Rev Sarah Kneble will be joining the Circuit in September 2024 based in Poole. There are still ongoing discussions regarding Superintendency in 2025.
10. **Life of the Circuit**
  - 10.1 **Mission Updates – Deacons Gill and Suzie:** Deacon Suzie reported that Bournemouth Food Bank (St Georges) has a Christmas Hamper Appeal both for money and drivers. Deacon Suzie reported she is able to nominate families for help which can also be done via their website. Victoria Park Cafe is going from strength to strength but could do with more volunteers. The Cafe is encouraging folk to come to church on a Sunday. Toddlers are able to access Godley Play once a month which is

proving popular. Deacon Gill reported that visits from classes at Old Town School for Harvest had proved successful and were now welcoming children for Christingles. Thirsty Thursdays is going well in Broadstone. Zoom services will be available each week during Advent. Deacon Gill explained there had been a good deal of upheaval at Maidment Court with a change in management but things were settling down despite problems with heating. All We Can are suggesting that when making a Christingle one cocktail stick could be left empty to indicate that not everyone has plenty.

- 10.2 Report from Circuit Youth Group – Kate White:** the report was circulated prior to the meeting and was adopted. Rev Tony found Georgina Copsey-White's description of 3Generate particularly inspiring.
- 10.3 Report from Local Preachers – Dr Terry Fish:** the report was circulated prior to the meeting and was adopted.
- 10.4 Kinson Closure in June 2024:** Rev Tony reported that having made the decision to close practical preparations were having to be made such as use of the premises by uniformed groups. Plans to celebrate the life of the church going forward. The meeting agreed unanimously that the building should be disposed of rather than retained. The required forms would need to be completed and sent to the District.

## 11. Governance

**11.1 Safeguarding Officers Report – Rev Karen** reminded the meeting to check the Circuit Website for details of online Safeguarding Foundation stage training and urged anyone who had not completed it to take part. Anyone with Advanced Safeguarding does not need to do the foundation stage. Reminder that churches should send Rev Karen a copy of their signed Safeguarding Policy. Rev Karen reminded the meeting that everyone is responsible for safeguarding.

**11.2 Appeal for a Financial Circuit Steward:** Rev Tony welcomed Liz Graham and David Downing who have agreed to be Circuit Stewards for an initial 6 months, this was agreed by the meeting. Rev Tony pointed out that more Circuit Stewards needed to come from non-Bournemouth churches. In particular, a new Financial Circuit Steward is needed to work alongside Andrew Goodwin.

**11.3 Unconscious Bias / Compulsory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training:** anyone who has not yet completed this training needs to do so.

## 12. Finance - Andrew Goodwin:

**12.1 Update on Circuit Finance:** two documents had already been circulated to Trustees. The Annual Report and Key Points. Andrew reported that overall there is a healthy financial position. With Kinson closing, the assessment may need to up for the other churches. Each church had been given a £3000 grant towards heating costs. A decision would need to be made next year as to whether funding would be provided for continuing to employ Deacons. A Finance Meeting would take place in the New Year.

**12.2 Update on Poole Finance:** Poole have managed to play part of their assessment and more is expected. There is the possibility of a District Grant to help support Poole. Poole are currently looking at contracts to see if they are getting good value for money. Seachange are now paying for cleaning of the cafe and Toilets. The Cafe turnover is now over £230,00 so VAT at 20% has to be paid. John Beasley, however, reported that he was more confident now than two years ago. The District review will pick up again in January with Rev Sarah's profile being factored in.

13. **Property**

**13.1 Swanage Church Access – David Tucker:** details had been previously circulated. This was approved.

**13.2 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church:** still no sale, nothing can proceed until the Nutrient Policy is sorted out.

13.3 **Update on Manses:**

Purchase of Manse in Gore Hill, Sandford - this fell through.

Purchase of Manse in Shaw Road, Sandford - Going ahead, survey in January.

York Road - near completion.

15. Any other business – there was no any other business.

Dates of next meetings:	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Upton
	11 <sup>th</sup> June	Zoom
	17 <sup>th</sup> September	Swanage
	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Zoom

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.