

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES

11th June 2024

7:30pm on Zoom

1. **Welcome** - Rev Karen James welcomed trustees to the meeting
2. **Opening Devotions** - led by Karen
3. **Agree Membership of meeting:** along with Becca Thompson
4. **Apologies for absence:** Rev Tony Cavanagh, David Downing, Naomi Shrimpton, Dr Terry Fish, John Beasley, Eileen Osgood.
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer:**
Card to be sent to Tony
Birthday card to Mary Worger
Prayers for Karen and Colin Greene
6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 5th March 2024 (already circulated)**
Minutes agreed
7. **Matters Arising** – No matters arose
8. **News from Churches**

Broadstone – The recent Church Council Meeting took up the Circuits challenge to focus on Mission and new directions. Meanwhile the Coffee Lounge and Children’s Work is doing well and serving the community. Thanks were expressed to Andrew Goodwin for his financial help with the church.

Upton – Daisy Chain was held during half term with 30 children attending. The Toddlers Group continues to thrive along with the Saturday Coffee & Cake mornings. The book club continues to meet monthly.

Poole – The God Squad continues to thrive; money is tight so can always do with an injection of cash. The reception desk at the side entrance manned by volunteers provides a good welcome to all coming onto the premises.

Swanage – In March the Salvation Army joined the Swanage congregation and formulated a Covenant of Friendship.

Wool & Lytchett – Ecumenical links are very strong and as such has opened up many avenues.

Bournemouth – Following a recent positive meeting the Mission Centres are at an exciting point to move forward. They are waiting for the architects report on buildings. God is using all the people and worshipping in bigger numbers is fulfilling and encouraging.

9. Circuit Invitation Business

Agree Constitution of the Committee and give Delegated Powers

Constitution: Lead Steward of each Church, Circuits Stewards and remaining Ministers, Circuit Meeting Secretaries – Agreed by the Meeting

Delegate of Powers to the Team: Agreed

9a. Staffing

Rev Gareth Higgs / Cherry Hill Grove Manse

The Rev Gareth Higgs, currently a superintendent minister living in Plymouth, is taking up a new appointment at Moorlands College. As the Cherry Hill manse is currently unoccupied it is suggested Gareth and his family move into the manse at a rent of £900 per calendar month. This rent is below the commercial amount the property could potentially obtain but Gareth has offered to:

- Take 2 -3 appointments on the quarterly plan
- Serve on the new Spire Management Committee
- Cover pastoral emergencies when no other minister available

As this is a new situation, we have to apply to Connexion for permission

In preparation the meeting agreed unanimously to the recommendation to rent the property at £900 PCM. The meeting also agreed the application to an application being made under Model Trust 20 for this arrangement, Karen to email detail of applicant

A vote of thanks was expressed to Rev Betto Viana for his commitment to the Circuit over the last ten years as this will be his last Circuit Meeting.

The 'Welcome Service' for Rev Sarah Knebel is the 11th September at the Spire, Tea from 6pm, Service 7.30pm. The service will be conducted by the Rev Rachael Bending, Chair of the District.

The meeting approved the continued employment for a further Connexional Year of Rev Chris Moreton.

Finance and Property Roles – The circuit is trying to employ or outsource these roles by September. Thanks were expressed to Andrew for his role in these matters. In addition, Broadstone also need a treasurer/property person. It was reiterated all churches have access to circuit resources.

10. Life of the Circuit

10.1 Mission Updates – Deacons Gill and Suzie

Deacon Suzie updated the meeting on BMC's journey – Gather, Grow & Go. Currently they have a Worship Trail – 1 Sunday Traditional Worship, 1 Sunday a Sharing Service, another a SEND Service (A copy of Suzie's presentation attached)

Deacon Gill updated the meeting of the ongoing work she is doing – Gill has links with Broadstone's Christian Nursery and goes in to take assemblies. Once a quarter she writes for the local Link Magazine, along with going into local care homes with Joan Jackson. Thirsty Thursday continues to be popular. Gill also gets together with Suzie for Together on Tuesday. In Swanage along with Karen she is doing a one-off event, Prayer Spaces with the children. Maidment Court is also on Gill's radar.

10.2 Report from Circuit Youth Group – Kate White

The report was circulated prior to the meeting, thanks were expressed to Kate and Eifron. Last year the circuit financially supported sending children to 3Generate, they agreed their continued support to this activity.

10.3 Report from Local Preachers – Dr Terry Fish

No report was available for the meeting but is to be sent out with the minutes.

11. Governance

11.1 Safeguarding Officers Report – Rev Karen

Karen took up through a Safeguarding Presentation (copy attached) highlighting Safe Space, Difference between adults and children, policies and procedures. She emphasised Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

11.2 Appeal for New Circuit Stewards

The meeting agreed the three-month trial period of Becca Thompson.

Thanks were expressed to Keshento for his time as a Circuit Steward, a card to be sent from the meeting.

12. Finance - Andrew Goodwin

12.1 Update on Circuit Finances

Andrew told the meeting the Circuit was in a good financial position and reiterated funds were available for Mission & New Ventures on request. He thanked churches

for their assessment payments; in March the new assessments were agreed. The Spire continues to fail to meet their commitment.

- 12.2 Items Deferred from March to June Meeting to be deferred again to September. (already distributed):

Approval 2023 PBMC Annual Return – Circuit Meeting Report
Approval 2023 PBMC Annual Return – Property Information
Approval of Risk Management Policy
Approval of Charity Commission Checklist
Approval of Annual Property Returns

12.3 Approval of Bank Signatories going forward to replace Andrew, Brian and Betto

Names to approve: Rev Karen James, Sarah Joy and Julian Tawn

The meeting agreed the change of Bank Signatories.

13. Property

- 13.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

Because of all the delays the buyer has pulled out but wants to re-submit new plans. Our surveyor Graham Thorne thinks the property should be re-marketed at a value of £400,000. Any decision will need TMCP approval. A definite proposal correctly set out is needed so Karen/Chris to email trustees for their response (copy attached).

- 13.2 Update on Manses:

12 Cherry Hill Grove - there is minimal work needed.
39 Palmer Road – Gerald is overseeing the necessary work
37 Shaw Drive – We now own it, Karen being involved with additional work that is needed, estimate spend £20,000

- 13.3 Update on Church Closures

Kinson – Work is underway towards the final service on the 30th June. To help with catering please advise if you intend to attend this service. An inventory of fixtures and fittings is under way.

Lytchett Matravers

The last service is 10:30 on the 21st July. Because of logistics this will be live streamed. On the 20th there is a drop in 10:00 – 15:00. The inventory has been done; the Anglicans want the copies of Singing the Faith.

- 13.4 Approval of Boiler Replacements at BMC Trinity

The meeting agreed the drawdown of funds to the value of £40,000.

13.5 Approval of renewal of tenancies:

Fernside Road, this is a 12-month fixed term let, confirm if we wish it to be renewed (£1550 pcm)

The meeting agreed the renewal

Headswell Ave, as above, confirm we wish to renew this tenancy (£1550 pcm)

The meeting agreed the wish to renew

14. Any other business – pre-notified items to Di or Tony by 10th June

The meeting agreed to Julian Tawn to continue as a Voluntary Lay Pastor

Date of next meeting: 17th September 2024, 7.30pm

Circuit Meeting venue: Swanage