

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
4TH March 2025
Victoria Park Methodist Church

1. Rev's Tony Cavanagh welcomed Trustees to the meeting.
2. The meeting opened with a prayer.
3. The membership of the meeting was agreed.
4. Apologies for absence were received from Deacon Suzie, Dr Terry F, Paul T, Edwin G, Judith H, Gerald B and Katrin H.
5. Letter of Greeting and Acknowledgment – Mrs Maureen McCabe and Mrs Shirley Edwards on the deaths of their husbands.
6. The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2024 were signed as a true and correct record.
7. Matters arising: there was a query regarding VAT at the Cafes: this is in hand but sensible to check with Louise Tidd.
8. **News from Churches**
 - **Victoria Park** – the Café is thriving with cheap prices. At Christmas there was a nativity scene and costumes, enabling children to dress up and have their photos taken.
 - **Upton** – congregations have returned to between 30 and 40; the charity Coffee and Cake mornings on a Saturday are popular and Daisy Chains continues to do well with 36 children at the last session in February.
 - **Poole** – the God Squad were pleased to welcome 3 young people from Upton, the congregation are currently discussing Mission.
 - **Broadstone** – they now have their Silver Eco church award (a letter of congratulation to go from the Circuit), a monthly 'bacon buttie' get together and Café Church continue to be popular. A Messy Church session is planned for the Easter holidays.
9. **Life of the Circuit and Staffing**
 - 9.1. Mission Updates: Deacon Gill shared with the meeting details of the work with Broadstone Middle School as a group of Year 7 and Year 8 are coming for a visit to the church. The sale of Maidment Court is proving stressful to the residents as they are not always sure what is happening.
 - 9.2. Report from **God Squad** had already been circulated and was adopted. Thanks to Kate and her helpers.
 - 9.3. **Areas of responsibility in the Superintendency** from September: please see attached. Rev'd Sarah and Rev'd Karen are partaking in training for their new roles.
 - 9.4. **Possible shape and structure of Staff Team going forward** – Rev'd Tony introduced the report that had already been circulated. Although it will not be confirmed until after the Methodist Conference the Circuit will not be able to replace our two Deacons.

It has been proposed that a Lay Worker be employed to be based in Bournemouth and a job share between Deacon Gill (who will have retired and is staying in the area) and Rev'd Chris M who will be working in the west of the Circuit and Purbeck. New property admin posts were also proposed. The search continues for a Circuit Steward from the west of the Circuit and a Finance Steward. A Circuit Finance officer has been appointed to offer support to churches. A review of Church and Circuit mission to be carried out. There was a discussion about the difficulty of finding volunteers to take up Circuit posts; it was suggested that gentle encouragement and 'looking outside the box' might help.

The Report was adopted and be reviewed at the next meeting in June.

10. **Safeguarding** – Rev'd Karen introduced her Report that had already been circulated. She presented the Trustees with a scenario with which a Pastoral visitor might be confronted. It generated much discussion.

11. Finance

- 11.1. **The Circuit Accounts** 2023/24, Report and letter of Representation had already been circulated and were approved. There were no questions.
- 11.2. The Budget and Assessments for 25/26 had already been circulated. This was approved.
- 11.3. The final Accounts for Kinson (now closed) had been prepared and checked. The money has gone to Bournemouth Methodist Church. Rev'd Tony signed on behalf of the Circuit.

12. Property

- 12.1. Cessation of Tenancy at St Lukes Road – this needs to be done in order to provide housing for a paid adult worker rather than a Deacon. The rent from St Luke's currently subsidises Assessments.
- 12.2. The new Renter's Rights Bill may impact on our lettings policy.
- 12.3. TCMP have given permission to proceed with the selling of the church building at Kinson.
- 12.4. Since the change of Agent more interest has been shown in the purchase of Wareham Church but there has not yet been an offer.
- 12.5. Lytchett Matravers church is still being emptied; the sale of church will be probably for the site rather than the building.

13. There was no other business

14. Trustees decided to have the next Circuit Meeting in person – venue to be arranged.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9pm.

Dates of 2025 Circuit Meetings

4th March: Victoria Park
10th June: Venue to be advised

16th September: Venue Needed
2nd December: Zoom