

**CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES**

**16th September 2025**

**Venue: Swanage 7:30pm**

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A meeting of Poole Bay Methodist Circuit was held at Swanage Methodist Church on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September beginning at 7.30pm. Rev'd Karen and Rev'd Sarah were in the chair.

- 1 Rev'd Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Rev'd Gill who has only recently joined the Circuit.
- 2 The meeting opened with a prayer.
- 3 The membership of the meeting was agreed.
- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Julian T, Sarah J, Becca T, Sheila S, Tony F, Alan Mc, Paul T, Edwina G, Katrin H and Chris M.
- 5 Letters of Greeting to be sent to Mr M Brooke on the death of his wife Annette and the head at Lytchett Minster School, Mr A Mead, on the sudden death of a SEND teacher.
- 6 The Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were agreed as a true and correct record.
- 7 There were no matters arising.
- 8 News from Churches:
  - 8.1 Broadstone: an excellent Messy Church was held during the summer holiday and the Toddler Group has started back well. The members have been mourning the loss of Annette Brooke. The Harvest Festival and Festival Lunch is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> September and a Fair Trade stall will be held outside the church during 20<sup>th</sup> September.
  - 8.2 Swanage: excellent 'Summer by the Sea' services were held including a visit by the Salvation Army. No campers in the hall this year because of renovation work. Permission has been granted for a lift to enhance access for all. Lots of new Toddlers.
  - 8.3 Bournemouth: The Café at Victoria Park has had their most successful day. The organ that has been out of use for some years is now being repaired at the cost of £12,000; it should be working soon.
  - 8.4 Upton: Successful Daisy Chain sessions during the summer holidays and Toddlers start this week. The monthly Coffee and Cake Saturday mornings are becoming increasingly popular. The numbers on a Sunday have increased and the church was pleased to welcome the confirmation of two young people and a new member.
  - 8.5 Poole: The members of the God Squad are looking forward to 3 Generate. The Mission Group has carried out a survey of the Spire Users asking what they appreciate. A Café Service is to be held with students from Moorlands College on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026. There is to be a Live Nativity and an Awayday. The Story Café has started again, much appreciated by the local school.

Gerald B explained about his work with the Karibuni Trust and asked if he could have a fundraising stall at Broadstone, Upton and Victoria Park.

- 9 The online vote agreeing to the price reduction of Wareham Church was ratified.
- 10 A Circuit Invitation Committee consisting of Circuit Stewards, Church Senior Stewards and Ministers are prepared to meet if necessary.
- 11 Staffing: Rev'd Karen is due for her Sabbatical which will be during the Summer of 2026; Rev'd Sarah will delay her Sabbatical, which is also due next year, to 2027.

It has been decided to delay appointing a lay worker to be based Bournemouth until Rev'd Gill has settled in.

Michelle has been covering property work. Building Compliance forms need to be completed by the end of September.

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- 12.1 As the Circuit no longer has any Deacons their work is either in abeyance or being carried out by volunteers. Deacon Gill will pick up some of this work when she begins her new role. There is lots happening in all the churches and that is to be celebrated.
- 12.2 Report from Circuit Youth Group – please see attached.
- 12.3 Report from Local Preachers – please see attached.  
There is a need for more Local Preachers as a number have recently stepped down. The Plan may need to be more creative in the future. There is also a vacancy for a Local Preacher/Worship Leader Committee Secretary.
- 12.4 Poole and Bournemouth Cafes are now registered at Companies House.
- 12.5 The District Synod is taking place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Spire; everyone is welcome to attend – not just delegates. Volunteers are still needed on the Saturday plus 5 cakes from each church. The God Squad will be hosting a stall at the Synod. There are 50 to 60 youngsters from the District going to 3 Generate.
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- 13.1 Governance: Safeguarding Report – Rev'd Karen reported that a new Safeguarding Officer is needed not only to cover her Sabbatical but the Superintendent should not hold that role. Any names to take on the role of Circuit Safeguarding to be brought to the December meeting. It was suggested that Safeguarding Administration could be a lay paid position. Rev'd Karen thanked all the Church Safeguarding Officers for their work.
- 13.2 The Safeguarding Policy was approved.
- 13.3 Rev'd Karen welcomed Anne Bently as a new Circuit Steward.

Another two Synod Reps. are needed. There are two meetings a year in April and September. Any church member can be a Synod Rep; this could just be for a year.

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14.1 Finance: the draft accounts will be presented in December. A message of thanks to be sent to Louise Tidd thanking her for all her work with the Cafes at Victoria Park and the Spire.

14.2 New Auditors to be appointed in July 2026.

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15.1 Wareham Church may now go to auction; we are talking with Salisbury Circuit who have had some experience of this.

Kinson: waiting for a valuation.

Lytchett Matravers: no movement on sale at the present time.

15.2 Browning Avenue is in progress. Tenancies at Cherry Hill Grove, Headswell Avenue and Fernside Road have been renewed. Thanks to Julian T and Michelle for all their work on property.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm with the Grace.

Next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.