

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
17th September 2024
Venue: Swanage 7:30pm

1. Welcome
2. Opening Prayer – Rev Tony Cavanagh
3. Agree Membership of meeting – Agreed, including the addition of Ron Balmer Treasurer Poole, Sheila Slattery and Becca Thompson Circuit Stewards
4. Apologies for absence – Lesley & Tony Fernand, Chris Melhuish, Eileen Osgood, Katrin Harwood, Anita Hazell, Terry Fish.
5. Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer – Geoff Goodman, Gareth Higgs, Margaret Barker, Andrew Goodwin.
6. Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2024 (already circulated) - Agreed
7. Matters Arising – No matters arising
8. News from Churches

Swanage – It has been a very successful summer with many uniform groups coming through the doors. Seventy people took communion at the Summer Service. Toddlers is very popular and a new venture to give parents time and space for themselves with tea and cake is being explored. Rob Foster, the Wave Youth Worker is moving to be nearer to his parents; he has been worshipping at Swanage Methodists for the last year.

Poole – The Spire welcomed Rev Sarah Knebel. The Rev Rachel Bending preached at the welcome service; the service was well attended by people from across the Circuit.

Upton – During the summer four sessions of Daisy Chain were held with 40 children attending. There will be another meeting during half term. The Pre-School is full. Toddlers will re resuming Thursday 19th September.

Bournemouth – The café at Victoria Park the Welcome Inn Café is thriving having sustained various grants. It is well attended during the week.
9. Ratification of online votes for:
 - 9.1 Approval of Risk Management Policy 2024 (21.07.24))
 - 9.2 Approval of Charity Commission Checklist (21.07.24)) Ratified
 - 9.3 Approval of Annual Property Return 2023 (21.07.24))
10. Circuit Invitation Business: (Rev Karen James)
 - 10.1 Circuit Profiles – The Circuit Invitation Group met on the 3rd September to discuss the profiles for one Presbyterian and two Deacons, the profiles were distributed with the agenda. The meeting agreed to the profiles to be submitted to District.
 - 10.2 Visits – If the circuit is successful in Stationing Karen will communicate the outline of the visit, Presbyterian Appointments are known by the first week of November. Deacons are directly stationed and a visit will likely be in February.
 - 10.3 The meeting gave permission for the Circuit Invitation Group to act on behalf of Circuit Meeting.

11. Staffing

11.1 New Finance Role – aim to have person in post by the end of Dec..

11.2 Post September 2025 Rev's Karen and Sarah will share the role of Superintendent, they will work out the logistics between themselves and report back to this meeting. The meeting agreed this change.

11.3 Help with Compliance and Property

Most Circuit Churches are struggling to find people to take on this important role. The CLT believe the way forward is use a properties facilities company; two companies are being approached for costings. The estimated cost for a church who wants to use the service is £10K per year, the circuit will pay 50%.

12. Life of the Circuit

12.1 Mission Updates – Deacons Gill and Suzie

Deacon Suzie: Suzie update the meeting about the two Warm Welcome Spaces at Southbourne and Victoria Park. The one in Southbourne happens every Tuesday 11am to 3pm working with people struggling with life and homelessness. At Victoria Park TOF takes place 1:30 to 4pm on a Friday, intended for people recovering from addiction. The Welcome Inn is in its second year of trading and has grown immensely. Staff numbers have doubled, they are grateful for all the grants given. BMC are now revisiting their Mission strategy and Mission Statement. We need to listen and be aware of the needs of others.

Deacon Gill: Gill has been going into the Burwood Nursing Home in Broadstone on a Wednesday afternoon once a month. Following a short service she enjoys a cup of tea talking to the residents. Gill has also resumed links with Old Town School in Poole. She will be sharing Harvest and Christingle Services with them and in the future maybe assemblies. Gill regularly goes to Maidment Court. On a Thursday afternoon in term time you will find Gill at Thirsty Thursday, Broadstone, an after school activity open to children from the local schools.

12.2 Report from Circuit Youth Group – Kate White

The report was circulated prior to the meeting, thanks were expressed to Kate and Efen. The meeting also agreed to continue financial support to send children to 3Generate.

12.3 Report from Local Preachers – Dr Terry Fish

There was no report from the September meeting; instead of a meeting the annual Rededication Service was held. Long Service Certificates were presented during the evening. Due to ill health Geoff Goodman has resigned as Local Preacher Tutor.

12.4 Update on Poole

a. The Spire Centre Management Group:
TSMG an interim group established when the directors of Sea Change gave their notice of resignation. The group is a mix of people with various experiences including members of Poole Methodist and Church Council members, the Community, Circuit, and District. Louise Tidd, the finance administrator has been a great help in keeping us aware of the financial implications of decisions. TSMG took on the oversight from the end of June this year. Thanks were expressed to Louise.

b. Wesley's:

Thanks were expressed to all the paid staff at the Spire and Wesley's and the volunteers in the cafe who have also worked so hard in this changeover period; they have been the main public face and it is in no small measure; a credit to them that the cafe has such a welcoming and thriving atmosphere.

c. Funding – Request for Financial Help

Tony's report was circulated prior to the meeting, listing how the circuit might support Poole Methodists financially going forward. The three year plan/support would cost the circuit around £183K. After much discussion the meeting agreed the recommendation: 21 Agreed, 4 Abstentions.

The meeting also agreed the following:

Agreement to write off Poole Methodists outstanding loan of £64K and unpaid balance of 23-24 assessment Of £41,194.

Sarah thanked the meeting on behalf of Poole Methodists for the meetings support, and said it will be remembered.

12. Governance

12.1 Safeguarding Officers Report – Rev Karen

At the last Circuit Meeting Karen took us through a Safeguarding Presentation. This meeting she took up through the Safeguarding Policy 2024/25. The policy, which is reviewed once a year, was circulated prior to the meeting. It is everyone's responsibility regarding Safeguarding. Thanks were expressed to the local churches Safeguarding Officers and to Karen.

12.2 Approval of Safeguarding Policy – The meeting agreed the Policy.

13. Finance -

13.1 Update on Circuit Finances

The PBMC Yr. 2023/24 Financial Overview prepared by Louise Tidd was distributed at the meeting and discussed.

Breakdown of Cash and Bank Balances:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| CAF Current Account | £30266.00 |
| CFB Ops & Reserves | £1140706.00 |
| TMCP Model Trust | £553348.00 |
| TMCP Reserves | £59827.00 |
| TMCP Trusts | £7515.00 |
| Cash Held (Foodbank) | £72.00 |
| Total | £1791733.00 |

13.2 Appointment of Auditors

The meeting agreed to stay with our current auditors PKF.

13.3 Bank Signatories – no change

13.4 Grant to Circuit Members for travel to "Faith Rooted Community Organising" training at Cliff College (Connexion are paying for the actual training and accommodation.)
The meeting agreed to pay mileage costs.

14. Property

14.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

The buyer has pulled out. The current estate agent suggests we drop the price from £400K to £300K but our surveyor suggests reducing to £350K committing to doing some remedial repairs. The meeting agreed with this reduction and would seek to

change estate agents and put the property on the market at £350K. It was also agreed to explore the possibility of auction.

14.2 Update on Manses

Palmer Road: Rev Sarah and family have moved in, a few minor jobs still outstanding. Thanks to Gerald for his efforts.

Shaw Drive: Karen is installed, a few minor jobs to be done.

Cherry Hill Grove: Rev Gareth Higgs is in residence with his family at the agreed rent. He is on the Circuit Preaching Plan and a member of TSMC.

St Lukes Road: Will come back for circuit use and will be used for new Deacon.

14.3 Approval of Signatories for Property Transactions – The meeting agreed to Becca Thompson replacing Naomi Shrimpton.

14.4 Vote of thanks from the Office Staff Team
The office staff offered their thanks to the Circuit Trustees and CLT for the support towards them.

15. Any other business – pre-notified items to Di or Tony by 16th September.

Ron Balmer advised Poole Methodists are now registered for VAT.

The meeting finished at 9:05 with the Grace.

Date of next meeting: 3rd December 2024, 7.30pm

Circuit Meeting venue: Zoom