

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY 2013 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 9 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies.** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Jenny Lane, Carolyn Kindberg, Jean Daniels, Binnie Weston and Sarah Potter
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 29th November 2012 were agreed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Members had positive feedback regarding the events that had happened in the church over Christmas, particularly the Highfield School Choir at the Toy Service and the Pantomime – thanks were noted especially to Tim Gillard, Caroline Gillard and David Hann for their many hours of hard work.
- The number of publicity cards being delivered was slightly reduced, but it still seemed to be the case that a number of people had come as a result of receiving a card. It was suggested that in future the cards could be improved by adding a blank space where members could write a personal invitation to people they are giving them to.
- The Churches Together Pulpit Exchange seems to have gone well, with positive feedback from Rev Dr Will Adam, who was particularly interested with our way of doing communion which is different from normal practice in the Anglican Church. Andy had also enjoyed going to St John the Evangelist.
- The Lent Course will take place at 8pm on five Tuesday evenings between 19th February and 19th March at Winchmore Hill Methodist Church – this year Luke's Gospel will be studied. The middle three sessions are being led by a well-known Catholic scholar.
- Andy was thinking during his Sabbatical about how to build relationships in the community, and is particularly thinking about how to reach the group of friends that Sarah has made through Highfield School.
- Sarah is thinking about starting an informal craft group at the church on weekday afternoons. Members will be encouraged to invite their friends.
- Keith Richardson is exploring the possibility of starting lessons in English as a foreign language in the Church. The aim is to serve the community and win the

respect of immigrant communities. Keith encouraged the church to offer support in prayer. Further discussion is to be held with the deacons regarding the logistics.

Midweeks@WHBC

- These midweek meetings came to an end before the Sabbatical and Andy would like to restart them again shortly. The main reason midweek meetings have struggled in recent years is that members have struggled to make a regular commitment due to other time pressures. These meetings aim to work well individually so that members can feel able to attend when they can, even if this is only occasionally. There will be a mixture of meeting types, including social activities as well as Bible study. It is hoped that the meetings will be held in members' homes but venues are still needed.

Prayer Meetings

- Prayer Breakfast has been retimed to 09.00 on the first Saturday of every month. This appears to be successful as there was a good turnout at the January meeting.
- Wednesday Morning prayer meeting now takes place at 10.00 fortnightly just before the Fellowship Group meetings.
- Andy reminded members of the existence of the prayer chain which is co-ordinated by Jenny Lane. It has now got quite small and members were encouraged to consider joining. The possibility of expanding this to work by email or SMS message was discussed, though concerns were expressed about confidentiality.
- Andy encouraged members to consider other ways they could meet and pray together in an informal setting.
- Keith Richardson had started a weekly Monday evening prayer meeting. This has been sporadic as Keith has been away so much, but he is keen for it to continue. Keith expressed his concern that the Church does not have enough corporate prayer going on and he encouraged us to reinvigorate our prayer life.

6. Youth

Youth

- Tim is organizing a weekend away to Poole.
- The Ignite group is looking at events in Jesus' life.
- There is a core group of 5-6 children regularly attending Sunday Club.

7. Finance

Update – Special Collections

- Christmas Day Offering: £316.15 for Tear Fund.
- Home Mission Post Box: £192.02

Update – Trust Fund Income

- Captain Pierce Johns Trust: £1060.00 received, split between the Fellowship Fund and the General Fund.
- Denning Trust: The interest gained comes to £4.03 – as this is so small it will be added to the capital so the Church will not receive anything this year.

Independent Inspectors of Accounts

- Tim Gillard and Jill Burrige have inspected the Church's accounts for the last 3 years. Jill would prefer not to do this any more, so two other members of the congregation were suggested who were deemed competent to carry out this task - they will be asked, but if neither are willing, Jill will be prepared to continue.

Playgroup Fees

- Playgroup have been trialling an afternoon session several times a week to increase their revenue. The Church had initially agreed to give them a special hall hire rate of 50% for their additional hours until the end of 2012. It was proposed to continue this arrangement until the annual review of the fees which takes place in the Spring. This was agreed.

Calculation of Minister's Salary (Andy was asked to briefly leave the room)

- At the October meeting the minister's salary for 2013 was agreed. Having studied the minutes of this meeting, Ian Blunn (Church Treasurer) felt that the description therein of how the salary is calculated did not accurately reflect the true situation. This is believed to have arisen partly from the way the calculation was explained in the meeting and partly because the person taking the minutes did not describe it clearly enough. Ian requested that the true situation be clarified in this meeting and a correct minute taken - this is contained within the separate *Confidential Minute*. This does not affect the actual calculation and so the minister's salary itself is unaffected.

General

- One member asked Carolyn for an update on how the Church's finances are at the moment. The full figures for 2012 are not yet available but at the last estimate a surplus of approx £5000 was predicted.

- Members were reminded to fill in a Gift Aid form to allow tax to be reclaimed on their giving to the Church.

8. Membership

- Hannah Potter has requested baptism.

9. World Mission

- Rachel Forster gave an update on how Hazel March is progressing following her accident. Hazel has expressed her thanks to members for their prayers, emails and phonecalls. If she is well, Hazel is hoping to visit the Church around May on the way to Hazelzena's wedding.

10. Secretarial

LBA Resource Database

- The LBA have already assembled a database of available preachers who can be called upon to cover minister absence. They are now widening this to include musicians and those with financial knowledge. Ian Blunn has volunteered to be entered onto the database for the latter - this will involve offering training to treasurers of other churches and inspecting their accounts. It was agreed that the Church would recommend Ian for this.

AGM 23rd March

- According to the timescales defined by the constitution, the deadline for nominations for election to the diaconate will be 3rd March (3 Sundays before). Nominations must therefore be invited by 17th February (2 Sundays before that). Andrew will aim to have the letters ready for distribution in the service on 10th February. The deadline for submissions for the Annual Report will be 10th March.
- Sonia Gumbs is the only deacon whose term of service ends this year. There are also three additional vacancies.
- Andrew Forster and Carolyn Greenaway will be the returning officers for the election.

Dates

- Deacons Meeting: 20th February
- Church Meeting: 28th February

11. Buildings

Dry Rot

- Andrew explained that the process to award a contract to carry out the dry rot eradication work had run into complications. In particular the deacons have determined that the successful contractor must offer an insurance-backed extended warranty which protects the Church from having to pay again in case the dry rot re-emerges in the same location in a few years time. At present the two companies tendering the lowest prices do not offer extended warranties. Further negotiations are taking place with these companies to establish whether they can in fact offer a suitable warranty, rather than resorting to the third tender which does include a suitable warranty but is significantly more expensive. The deacons hope to be able to recommend a final proposal to the next meeting.

Projector Screen

- Since the pantomime, the projector screen in the sanctuary has been in an experimental configuration, mounted on top of the balcony rather than hanging from it. David has been trying to gather opinion on which arrangement is preferred. The new arrangement reduces clutter on the platform by removing the need to have the projector there, but some people have found that the screen is uncomfortably high and it obscures the cross from view from a large section of the sanctuary. While both arrangements have their merits, it was agreed that the original option is preferred.

Work Day - 9th February

- Members were encouraged to come to the Church during the day and help with a number of special DIY and cleaning jobs that had been planned. Carin Blunn requested that helpers do not allow their children to run loose in the middle vestry as last year Sarah had to spend a whole day tidying it afterwards.

12. Pastoral

- News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.32pm.

Signed.....

Date.....