

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2013 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 8 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies.** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Carolyn Kindberg, Sarah Potter and Jenny Lane, Keith and Barbara Richardson, Ian and Carin Blunn, Carolyn Greenaway, Jean Blaxland
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 28th February 2013 were agreed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - Jean Daniels expressed her thanks to whoever had refitted the clock in the Clifford Wood Room following her request in the previous meeting.

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Easter appeared to have gone well, though Andy said he would appreciate feedback on how the services could be improved.
- Several members enjoyed the use of animations such as 'Miracle Maker' in recent services.
- The new sermon series studying Romans has just begun.
- Andy attended a conference recently regarding the spirituality of ageing. It was not as useful as he hoped but he gained some useful ideas.
- Andy feels he is a bit behind with pastoral visiting and will try and catch up in the coming month.

Midweeks@WHBC

- The first meeting of the new series took place on 10th April. Andy reminded members that they are always welcome to attend individual meetings even if they cannot commit to attend regularly. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May studying Philemon.

6. **Youth**

Update

- There will be a re:create bowling evening tomorrow. This is one of several outings which will form part of a recruitment drive to try and increase numbers up towards the summer as a large number of the current group of young people will be leaving then.
- Many young people have exams at the moment. Paul has been collating an exam timetable for members to pray for them.

7. Finance

Finance Report

- Ian had prepared the finance report for January-March 2013 and these were handed out at the start of the meeting. In Ian's absence, Andy made a valiant effort at explaining the figures.
- Offerings are very slightly below budget but income from premises is well above budget so overall income is roughly on budget.
- Expenditure does not cause any alarm – while on paper it is above budget, several large items (such) as insurance have already been paid for the whole year.
- The initial plan for buildings expenditure exceeded the amount of money available in the buildings and repairs funds. It was decided to postpone the preparation for the electrical works (consultants fees and asbestos survey) until 2014 and do some 'trimming' of other items to limit buildings expenditure to £12,000. It has also been suggested that half of the Thank Offering goes towards the buildings funds (see later).
- The Fellowship Fund has benefited from some significant income and the balance now stands at over £1,000.

Subscriptions and Donations 2013

- Most subscriptions remain roughly the same as last year, except that Winchmore Hill Community Care Scheme have requested an increase from £600 to £700 due to other income sources drying up.
- It was agreed that the regular donations will remain the same as last year except that the donation to n:flame will be restored after it was removed last year as they were the recipients of the Thank Offering.

Thank Offering

- The deacons have suggested that half of the Thank Offering goes towards buildings projects in the Church and the other half is given to the Barnabas Fund towards helping Christians in North Korea. This was agreed.

8. Membership

- Michael Parmiter has requested to transfer his membership from Hornsey Rise Baptist Church. Coral Burridge and Keith Richardson visited Michael and presented a report to the meeting. Coral and Keith recommended that the meeting approve Michael's transfer and this was agreed.
- Coral is preparing a new version of the Church Handbook. Members were requested to inform her of any changes since the previous version, and encourage others to do the same.

9. World Mission

- Peter and Janet Dallman have just sent out their latest prayer letter. They will shortly be going on holiday having had a very busy time recently.
- Hazel March will be coming to England during June and July. Accommodation, meals and transport need to be provided for the times she is in Winchmore Hill and members

were requested to consider what they could offer – Rachel Forster is co-ordinating arrangements.

- Keith and Barbara Richardson are still planning a prayer trip to Nepal in September.

10. Secretarial

Correspondence

Nothing significant to report.

Captain Pierce Johns Trust

Ian Blunn has been investigating the affairs of the trust following the death of Jim Roberston who was the trustee that carried out most of the management. None of the three remaining trustees, Arthur Shriever and two members of the other recipient Church at Seven Kings, are able to carry out the management so an additional trustee is needed who is willing to take this on. No suitable person has yet been identified. The main management duties are administering the grants made by the trust and completing the accounts and report required by the Charity Commission.

Denning Trust

The trust was set up in 1770 by Philip Denning as means to provide money 'for the poor of the church'. The value of the fund has declined in real terms and now stands at about £465. The interest gained last year was approx £4. The Baptist Union Corporation have requested that the Church pass a resolution to wind the fund up as the cost of administering it exceeds the income. This was agreed by the meeting. The balance of the fund will be transferred to the Fellowship Fund.

Anniversary Invitations

- The invitations to the Church Anniversary will be distributed from 5th May. They will take the normal format, giving members details of the speaker and inviting them to make a donation to the Thank Offering.
- Last year a shorter version of the letter, without reference to the Thank Offering, was written for members of the youth. This year the deacons suggested that the youth should be given the full letter, and this was agreed.

Dates

- Deacons Meeting: 15th May
- Church Meeting: 23rd May

11. Buildings

Dry Rot

- Very little progress has been made on this, mainly due to David being away a lot and being overloaded with other commitments. The deacons do however feel that constructive progress is being made on a firm solution and hope to present a proposal to the Church Meeting shortly.

- In order to facilitate quicker decision making on major buildings issues such as the dry rot, the deacons have invited David to attend part of their meetings several times a year.

12. Pastoral

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

13. Any Other Business

- Andy asked for volunteers who could help move a table and chairs from the Christ Church URC manse where Peter and Janet were staying to the Melbourne's house as the manse needs to be cleared in preparation for the arrival of their new minister.
- Philip Norman expressed concern at the quality of the cleaning in Carey Hall as BB often find it in a poor state. The paid cleaner now attends on a Friday afternoon, and other members commented that it is normally in quite a good state at the weekend. It may be that the state deteriorates quickly after it has been cleaned, or possibly that the Playgroup have not been properly cleaning up after themselves. The situation is to be monitored.
- Philip suggested a partial redecoration of the Lounge – the estimated cost would be £130. The meeting had no objection to this, but the money would need to come from the existing buildings budget. It was noted that the Brigades and Youth had also decided to spend their share of the pantomime money on replacing the chairs in the Lounge.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.32pm.

Signed.....

Date.....