

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

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 10 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Rachel Forster, Sarah Potter, Jenny Lane, Jean Blaxland
3. **The minutes** of the meetings held on 26th September 2013 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy was very grateful for the ministry refresher course he attended recently. He especially enjoyed meeting friends he had attended college with and having time to think and pray.
- Andy has begun to think about planning the Sundays in Advent – he will particularly focusing on the personalities who feature in the Bible immediately after Jesus' birth but often get overlooked, such as the wise men and Herod. He will continue preaching through Romans until then, reaching the end of Romans 11, and then continuing from Romans 12 in 2014.
- Andy is on leave from tomorrow and most of next week. The service next Sunday will be led by Rev Kumar Rajagopalan and the following Sunday by Martin Wells.
- The Fellowship Groups have been studying Habbakuk which Andy has been finding interesting given that it is a book which is rarely studied. Andy encouraged members to pray for and consider attending these groups.
- Andy and John Melbourne took the food that had been donated at the Harvest Service to the Enfield Food Bank. He discovered that demand for food bank services has increased by 15% in the last year. The deacons have considered options for how we can provide more support for the Food Bank and have suggested that a box be made available in the Church whereby members can drop off food at any time and the donations are taken to the food bank at regular intervals. It was suggested that this should be publicized in Spotlight along with the list of what items the Food Bank are most in need of.

Churches Together Representative

- Andy would like an additional member who can accompany him to *Churches Together* meetings 4 or 5 times a year.

Ecumenical Epiphany Party

- The Priest of St Monica's has suggested an event that would take place in several churches. The idea is that there are too many Christmas parties before Christmas so this would take place afterwards. It would involve the re-telling of the Christmas story during a tour of the local churches, culminating with refreshments at the end. It is likely this year it

will take place between St Monica's, St John the Evangelist and Winchmore Hill Methodist Church but in future years it could involve us. Andy is keen on this idea as it will be a fun way for members of the local churches to meet and celebrate together.

6. Youth

Update

- The Boys Brigade went on a trip to Colchester Zoo last weekend.
- Numbers at Boys Brigade are holding up at the moment though they are planning a push to recruit some younger boys.
- Numbers at Girls Brigade were down at the beginning of term but there were 6 new girls at the last meeting.
- Numbers at re:create are fluctuating significantly, varying between 4 and 10.

7. Finance

Finance Report

- Ian distributed the report covering January to August 2013.
- Average weekly offerings are well below budget. Significant special donations have been received, income from premises has been strong and a large Council Tax rebate has been received so total income is only £1500 below budget.
- The donations and subscriptions are over budget due to increase in amounts requested by external organizations. Gas consumption has increased significantly – no definitive explanation has been discovered for this. Spotlight production is over budget as it is now being professionally printed, but it is still seen as good value.
- The Legacy Fund now has £10,000 following the receipt from the estate of Jim Robertson. This will remain there until a suitable purpose has been identified for it.
- There has been little activity on the Buildings, Repairs and Youth Funds. A few additional donations have been received to the Fellowship Fund.
- Further donations have been received to the Thank Offering – the total now stands at £3470.

Harvest Appeal Total

- The total received is £1407.80, compared to £1374 last year. It was unclear whether the money received at the Austerity Lunch, which amounted to approx £200, has been included.

Minister's Stipend 2014

- Andy left the room for this discussion. See separate confidential minute.

8. Membership

- Barbara Richardson was welcomed to her first Church Meeting as a member.

9. World Mission

- Keith Richardson thanked the members for their prayers for them while they were in Nepal. The 100 days of prayer is continuing there.

- Peter Dallman has been running a 'Pre-Home Assignment' conference in Tokyo. Janet was left running JLC by herself.
- Hazel March has joined a small Fellowship Group at the Church she attends in South Africa. She now works one day a week at WEC.

10. Secretarial

Correspondence

- Andy has received a letter from David Burrowes MP. He has offered Church groups the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament.

Christmas Publicity

- It is planned that invitation cards to the Christmas services will be distributed to 1600 homes as usual, and a large banner in the same style will be put up on the main noticeboard. Andrew had printed off the possible styles for the cards from the CPO online catalogue and invited members to browse them and express a preference at the end of the meeting.

New Service Rota

- The new rota covering duties in services from November 2013 to April 2014 has been published. Andrew is grateful that Merdelyn Banton has joined the rota doing Opening/Door and Communion Table duties. An extra column has been added to the rota covering Communion Preparation though names had not yet been added as Andrew was still investigating what previous arrangements were in place to cover this duty.

BU Census

- The Baptist Union census form has been received and is required to be returned by 22nd November. Andrew is planning to count the congregation at the following Sunday's service as, despite being in half term, it is likely to be the service with congregation numbers nearest to normal given that some of the other Sundays in the period are special events.

Dates

- Deacons: 14th November (Thursday),
- Church Meeting: 28th November (last meeting of 2013)
- A request was made that future Church Meetings be better publicized during Sunday services. It was also suggested that mention be made of the items to be discussed to encouraged more members to engage with the decision-making.

11. Buildings

Dry Rot

- The work to treat the dry rot will be starting next week. David and Phil have been working very hard on the preparation work, including diverting the electrical feed for the outside lighting and for Andy's office.

Japanese Knotweed

- The treatment has now been completed. We have a 10 year warranty with the treatment company so that they will have to provide further treatment for free if it returns.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

- Barbara Richardson promoted Tibetan Advent Calendars which she is selling for £5 in aid of the Xiangbala Project, a scheme to provide skills to illiterate and unemployed Tibetan women.
- In response to the increase in the gas consumption, Phil Norman commented as to whether there could be tighter control as to use of the heating, to ensure heating is not provided when rooms are not in use. Nathanael does programme the heating every weekend in response to anticipated usage, but there is sometimes some uncertainty as to what meetings will be happening. Gas usage will be monitored over the winter and this will be investigated further.
- Phil also commented that the section of missing fence on the side passage has still not been replaced. Andy will look into this again.
- Numbers are low at the Carey Hall playgroup and there is concern that it may have to close. Jan Collins believes that the playgroups that are most successful in the current climate are those that open all day, not just in the morning. Jan is considering keeping the playgroup open until 4pm to try and increase demand. The members were happy with this idea (especially as it would involve additional income for the Church) provided that it did not interfere with evening activities.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.41pm

Signed.....

Date.....