

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2014 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 Paul Burt, Tina Stanley, Sarah Potter, Jenny Lane, Jean Blaxland
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 28th November 2013 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy asked the members for feedback on how the services over Christmas had gone. Members had been encouraged by the large number of visitors at the Toy Service and enjoyed the singing of the Highfield School Choir. Andy is trying to build further connections with the school. One member particularly liked the video 'Let all mortal flesh be silent' played in the carol service.
- Last week Andy attended an LBA day retreat. He had not found it that useful but enjoyed the chance to get away.
- Midweek@WHBC is up and running again – on the 1st Wednesday of each month there is a Bible Study while on the 3rd Wednesday there is a social evening, often a pizza night. This term the group will be studying the encounters of Jesus. Current attendance is 8-9 people and Andy encouraged more members to consider coming. The Wednesday morning Fellowship Group has begun looking at Philippians.
- For the first part of the year in Sunday Morning services we will be looking at Jesus' parables.
- Thursday Club has been struggling for helpers in the last few months as several of those who regularly help have been suffering health problems. However Andy is aware how much those who attend the Club benefit from it and Andy would really like to expand ministry in this area. There are approx 18 people who regularly attend and the average attendance at each meeting is 10-15.
- Andy received a letter from Barnet Social Services thanking the Church for the toys given at the Toy Service.

Churches Together in Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill

- Andy along with Carin Blunn attended the Churches Together meeting this week.
- Approx 15-20 people have been attending the daily prayer meetings during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with representation from all denominations.
- A 'Nativity Trail' took place 2 weeks ago, attended by 50-60 people, comprising retelling of the Christmas story at several locations.

- In Lent there will be the usual 5-week study series, this year covering 'Parables and Prosperity', held at St Pauls Church – there will be 30 minutes Bible study led from the front followed by 30 minutes discussion.
- Father Richard Bolton has suggested that next year during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity it would be good for all of the churches in the area to have something like an 'open day' as he has found that many local people are curious to see inside and this can be used as an outreach opportunity.
- Andy encouraged members to pray for local Methodists - the denomination is short of ministers at present and there has been some reorganization which has left the local ministers quite stretched.

Website

- Little progress has been made on the idea to develop the website since the last meeting.

Enfield Food Bank

- It was decided a while ago that it would be good to introduce a regular ongoing collection for the food bank. As from next Sunday a box will be placed permanently in the cloakroom for members of the congregation to leave their donations. The box will have on it a list of the items that can be accepted.

6. Youth

Boys Brigade

- 2 new boys have joined the Junior Section recently.
- The Company and Senior sections are struggling for numbers and a recruitment drive is planned.
- There was an Anchor Boys party last Saturday and there will be a hockey competition this Saturday.

7. Finance

Christmas Day Collection Total

- £416.17 compared to £316.15 last year – this has gone to Tear Fund.

Home Mission Fund Post Box Interim Total

- £290.35 compared to £238.52 last year.

Accounts Inspectors

- Tim Gillard and Zubair Khan were proposed as independent inspectors of the accounts. This was agreed.

8. Membership

- Nothing to report

9. World Mission

- Hazel March is making preparations to retire to Peterborough, hopefully in the late Spring, though she is finding the logistics of moving her possessions quite challenging. She also needs to sell her flat.
- A positive letter has been received from Betty Caplin thanking the members for all their cards. She has asked members to print their names on cards as well as signing as she sometimes has trouble working out who is who.

10. Secretarial

AGM 29th March

- Deacons' terms of office:
 - Andrew is the only member of the diaconate whose term of office ends in 2014. He is happy to stand for re-election for another term as secretary. He is, however, trying to reduce his workload by reducing his involvement in the music which he finds very demanding, especially as there are only two people regularly playing the keyboard. Andrew is building a library of hymn recordings which can sometimes be used instead of live musicians.
 - In addition to the vacancy for the secretary, there are 3 outstanding vacancies for deacons (note: in the meeting it was incorrectly stated that there are 2).
- The timeline for preparation for the AGM will be as follows:
 - The deadline for nominations for election of trustees is 9th March (3 Sundays before the meeting, as defined by the constitution).
 - Andrew will aim to have the letter inviting members to the AGM ready in mid February.
 - The *Positions of Responsibility* document will be presented for review at the deacons and Church meetings in February with the aim of highlighting any changes at that stage so that the version presented at the AGM is final.
 - The final deadline for submissions for the Annual Report will be 23rd March.
- Two returning officers are needed to receive nominations and oversee the election. The rules require that they are deacons whose term of office is not expiring this year. Paul and Sonia have agreed to do this.

Baptist Assembly, 10-11 May, West Bromwich

- The format of Baptist Assembly has changed significantly this year to reduce costs, as previous Baptist Assemblies have been seen as too expensive, both for the delegates and for the Baptist Union. It will take place over 2 days, starting on Saturday morning and finishing on Sunday afternoon. The cost will be £56, compared to more than £90 in previous years. The format of the assembly will be much more dense - all of the formal business of the BU and BMS will still be carried out as before, including the commissioning of new ministers and missionaries, but there will be fewer informal meetings, fringe meetings and gaps in the programme.
- The Church is entitled to send one voting delegate. If any member is planning to attend and would be interested in voting on behalf of the Church, they should see Andrew who will ensure that the correct paperwork is submitted.

Dates

- Deacons: 12th February, Church Meeting: 27th February

11. Buildings

Update

- The dry rot work has now been completed, except for cosmetic items such as decoration and carpets, which will be discussed at a later date. The final cost of the work done came to £8142.

Survey

- The deacons are concerned that in the last couple of years there have been several large problems requiring significant expenditure that have arisen out of the blue. Dealing with these problems has meant that the Building Fund is almost totally depleted. The deacons want to gain as much warning as possible of other potential problems and their likely urgency and cost and as such are planning to have a survey done of the Church building and the Manse. The output of the survey will be a report which will detail the necessary work that needs to be carried out over the next 5-10 years to maintain the building in good condition, and the likely costs per year - this will help inform the budget planning and will give us a better idea, of all the jobs that we think ought to be done (and potentially some that we don't know about), which are the highest priority and which can be deferred a while longer. It is planned that the survey will take place within the next few weeks.

Work Day

- The annual Church Work Day is planned for Saturday 1st February 10am-4.30pm. Members are encouraged to attend for as much time as they can spare and assist with practical jobs to help keep the building in good condition. Jobs include cleaning, decorating and basic maintenance - suitable jobs are available for all skill levels.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.21pm

Signed.....

Date.....