

# MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 8.15PM IN CAREY HALL

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 13 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, Sarah Potter, Jean Blaxland
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 23rd January 2014 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

## Update

- The funeral of Ann Bruce went well – Andy found it encouraging to meet some of her family and that there was a good turnout.
- Andy and John Melbourne recently took a large box of donations from the Church to the Enfield Food Bank. The managers there told them that the items that are top of the list of needs at the moment are tinned meat, long life milk and tinned fruit. The previous week had been the busiest they had ever had. The Food Bank now distribute food one day per week from Palmers Green United Reformed Church.

## Easter Arrangements

- Easter is very late this year – Easter Sunday is 20<sup>th</sup> April – the School Holidays take place the 2 weeks before Easter and term restarts on the Tuesday after Easter.
- The usual pattern of services will be followed. The Good Friday service will take place here and the service will start at 10.15 to allow people to join the Walk of Witness which starts at 11.30.
- Andy is planning to preach through the passion narrative on the Sundays leading up to Easter.

## Lent Groups

- The Lent meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings through Lent (from 11<sup>th</sup> March) beginning at 8pm and finishing by 9.20. The new venue is the hall of St Paul's Church. The course to be studied has been provided by Churches Together in England and is entitled 'Parables and Possessions'. Each session will have a Bible Study, led by one of the local ministers, for 30 minutes then 30 minutes in groups.

## Pastoral Care Arrangements

- In the past there have been 2-3 named people responsible for pastoral care. As Inez Collins is now stepping back from her Church commitments there are now no named people doing this. A lot of informal pastoral care takes place in a variety of contexts throughout Church life. However Andy feels it is important to have a couple of named people who have put themselves forward for this responsibility. Andy encouraged members to consider who may be suitable for this role.

## **6. Youth**

### Update

- BB Juniors have started their new programme – the meetings now run 6.30-8.00pm. Changing the timings seems to have had a positive impact.
- Numbers have grown at Ignite recently, though attendance is unpredictable. Faith Shaw has encouraged several teenage girls who live near her to attend, and they have been to several services. Nathanael is currently the only male member.

## **7. Finance**

- Nothing to report

## **8. Membership**

- Nothing to report

## **9. World Mission**

- Andy received a letter from Peter and Janet Dallman updating him on how they are. Janet's father is currently suffering from terminal cancer, which is causing them to be somewhat unsettled, as well as very busy. Peter is currently away at an OMF Council meeting so Janet is running the JLC.

## **10. Secretarial**

### AGM 29th March

- Andrew reminded the members that the deadline for nominations for the election of deacons and secretary is Sunday 9th March. Nomination forms are in the vestibule and completed forms, signed by three members, need to be returned to the returning officers, Paul and Sonia.
- A second draft of the 'Positions of Responsibility' document had been circulated prior to the meeting and additional paper copies were handed out. Andrew invited members to notify him of any necessary changes before the AGM so that the version presented and approved there can be the final and correct one. No changes were notified in the meeting.
- Andrew reminded the members that the deadline for submission of contributions to the Annual Report is the end of Sunday 23rd March.

### Playgroup ownership

- Jan Collins is looking at the possibility of 'retiring' and has been approached with an offer to take over the playgroup. The new potential owner is a private individual who is appropriately qualified, plans to keep on the existing staff, and would likely extend the opening hours into the afternoon. The members had no objection to this proposal, and were positive at the possibility of increasing the Church's income through the longer hours.

### Dates

- Deacons: 12th March, Church Meeting: 24th April

## **11. Buildings**

### Clifford Wood Room boiler

- Andrew reported that servicing of all the gas appliances on the premises had taken place the previous week and the boiler which provides heating to the Clifford Wood Room and Lounge had been condemned - it was beyond economic repair due to severe internal corrosion. Andrew explained that the replacement will not be straightforward as the boiler is an unusual type, being floor-mounted on a raised platform, and the control wiring and valves are also believed to be in need of attention. The deacons are working on a solution, meanwhile most meetings will be moved to other rooms where possible.
- Several members commented that the boiler was known to have been in a dubious condition and likely to fail the inspection, and perhaps it would have been better to have had it inspected at a time when it was not needed. Andrew acknowledged that with hindsight the timing of the inspection could have been better and future inspections will be scheduled for the summer months.
- Chris Norman suggested a revised control arrangement whereby there is a control panel in each room and, rather than the heating being set up in advance, the first person to arrive switches it on. He believed that a modern boiler would be able to heat the rooms relatively quickly, and this would save waste due to rooms being heated when they are not needed. This will be considered at a later stage.

### Allocation of Funds

- Building and repairs works are normally funded from the Buildings and Repairs funds. The balances of both these funds is running low. The replacement of the boiler was not budgeted for this year and so there is no provision for the expenditure in these funds. The deacons have also decided that, given the number of large problems that have arisen with the buildings recently, it is important to carry out a survey to identify what other issues may be lurking unnoticed, what level of priority needs to be given to the issues that are known about and how much money needs to be budgeted for buildings maintenance in future years. This survey was also not budgeted for but is also seen as urgent given the high cost of recent problems. It was proposed authority is given by the meeting for the deacons to spend up to £5000 from the General Fund on the replacement of the boiler and the survey. There are sufficient reserves in the General Fund for this.
- Some discussion was held as to the state of the buildings and the likely outcome of the survey. Some members commented that there are known to be a large number of defects with the building, some of which were identified in a survey 20 years ago and have never been rectified. The survey is likely to bring up a long list of expensive problems which we cannot afford to fix. The view of the deacons is that the survey will prioritise which defects

are the most urgent so that we can direct our limited resource at the problems that will cause us the biggest risks and give us an idea of the timescales the problems need to be rectified within.

- One member queried whether there are any other statutory inspections which might lead to additional unexpected costs – the requirement for the Fire Alarm came about as the result of an inspection by the Fire Brigade while the boiler was condemned as the result of a gas inspection. The deacons do not believe that the Church is subject to any further such inspections. The survey is being carried out on a voluntary basis and there will be no mandatory requirement to act upon his recommendations.
- It was agreed that up to £5000 can be spent from the General Fund for the purposes of replacing the Clifford Wood Room boiler and carrying out the survey.

## **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.....