

# MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 29TH MAY 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 Jenny Lane, Sarah Potter, Paul Burt, Charlotte Khan, Binnie Weston
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 24th April 2014 were signed as a correct record.

## 4. **Matters Arising**

- None

## 5. **Mission and Ministry**

### Update

- Andy had a good break over the early May bank holiday weekend.
- The meeting voted their thanks to Sonia Gumbs and Serena and Derek Amoako for their work preparing the anniversary lunch, which had gone well. Everyone enjoyed the service, particularly hearing from Lewis again, and there was a good number in attendance.
- Jo Studman is happy to lead a cultural guided walk around Winchmore Hill for a church party for a cost of £30. Members were invited to submit their preferred dates for around late June/early July. It was suggested it could replace the Midweek@WHBC social.
- Andy is encouraged that there have been a number of social activities that have happened recently, though these have mainly been organised on an ad hoc basis. He is looking for a way of having socials co-ordinated more formally so that there can be better publicity and wider participation – socials are a good way of getting people who are not regular members of the congregation more involved in Church life. Ideally a volunteer is needed who could be the 'socials co-ordinator'. Members were asked to consider who might be suitable.

### Website

- It had previously been agreed that the Church website would be overhauled to make it more modern and easier to keep up to date and to provide additional functionality. Previously it had been thought that we would use a specialist Church website provider but it has come to light that many secular website providers provide a similar facility that can be easily customised to suit a church for a lower cost, as little as £10 a month. Nathanael has been doing some experimenting with one of these and has produced some good results. As it will be easier to upload information, the philosophy will be that owners of information will update the website directly rather than having a website co-ordinator who does everything. There will be a members only area where church documents can be stored and accessed. The plan is that Nathanael will work on setting up the site during July. The members were happy with this proposal.

## 6. **Youth**

- The Brigades Display Evening, which had a World Cup theme, had gone well.

- Commissioning of Charlotte Gillard and Esther Potter as GB leaders will take place in a forthcoming morning service.
- The Brigades' summer program has now begun.
- Numbers at re:create are very low this term. Many of the young people are focussing on exams.

## 7. Finance

### Finance Report

- The finance report covering January-March was distributed.
- £700 has been transferred from the General Fund to the Youth Fund as agreed in the budget.
- So far we have spent £5500 more than we received, but that is normal in this part of the year as there are several big annual bills.
- Future expenditure on buildings is dependent on the outcome of the forthcoming survey.
- Total income is significantly higher than budget, however regular offerings are below budget – the income has been supplemented by generous special donations.
- Income from premises is well above budget as the playgroup has not run into difficulties as was feared might happen when the budget was prepared.

### Special Collections

- Good Friday offering = £183.46 – this has gone to Christian Aid
- Thank Offering = £1655 so far, though this will remain open for several more weeks.

### Subscriptions and Donations

- A proposed list had been circulated with the agenda and copies were handed out. The amount shown for subscriptions is the amount requested by the organisations. The donations have been kept the same as last year. A letter had been received stating that the future of BUild is uncertain, however it still appears to be functioning so it will remain on the list at present. The total expenditure comes to £2036 – the 2014 budget for donations and subscriptions is £2100. The members agreed with the proposal.

### Premises Fees

- Party bookings are currently charged at £70 for 3 hours. It was agreed to increase this to £75. The Organic Gardeners will be charged £20 for evening meetings and £60 for the plant sale. The hourly rate for the playgroup will be kept the same but greater attention will be paid to the number of hours they use in the afternoon – initially these will be charged at half rate but full rate will be charged if the afternoon sessions prove successful. The rate for the fitness classes will not be increased.

### Building Fund/Repairs Fund

- It has proven difficult to work out which premises expenditure should come from the Repairs Fund and which should come from the Building Fund and many people are unsure of the distinction between them. It was suggested that the funds are merged, with the combined fund being called the Building Fund. This will require approval from the Charity Commission. The members agreed with this proposal.

## **8. Membership**

### John Melbourne

- Tim Gillard and Carolyn Kindberg interviewed John Melbourne regarding his membership application. They have prepared a written report which members are welcome to read, and they presented the main points to the meeting. Neither Tim nor Carolyn had any hesitation in recommending John's application be approved. He is already baptised. The members agreed to welcome John into membership.
- Tim made the comment that there was not previously any guidance on interviewing candidates for membership. In consultation with Coral he has now produced a document which provides this.

## **9. World Mission**

### Hazel March

- Andy attended a debrief with Hazel at Bulstrode. She felt she had left her work in South Africa in good order though WEC South Africa appears to be struggling at the moment and she is sad to be leaving them at this time. Hazel is grateful for how the Church has supported her for a very long time. She is now living in Peterborough with her son and is looking for sheltered accommodation in the area.

### Janet and Peter Dallman

- Andy attended Janet's father's funeral. Janet is on compassionate leave until 7<sup>th</sup> June, at which point Pete will fly over and they will spend some time having a holiday together. They are planning to attend WHBC on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### Christian Aid Quiz Night

- This will be on 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 in Carey Hall. The cost is £8 including Chilli dinner.

## **10. Secretarial**

### LBA London Event – 7<sup>th</sup> June

- Andrew presented an invitation which had been received from the LBA to their 'London Event', comprising their AGM along with praise and worship and the chance to hear about work going on in churches across London.
- We are entitled to send two delegates who will be entitled to vote in the AGM resolutions - Andrew invited any members who were planning to attend to see him in order to register to vote.

### Positions of Responsibility

- An error had been noted in the version of the Positions of Responsibility document that had been presented at the AGM regarding the identities of the cashiers. A final version with the amendment made was presented to the meeting and approved.

### Dates

- Deacons: 11th June, Church Meeting: 26th June

## 11. Buildings

### Playgroup Ownership

- Jan is planning to hand over ownership of the Playgroup to Lisa Walford, a member of her extended family, after the summer holiday. While in the short term will be few changes, her long term plan is likely to be to extend the hours to all day to cater for changing demand. The agreement between the Church and the playgroup will need to be updated and re-signed.

### Clifford Wood Room boiler

- The deacons are now able to present a plan to replace the Clifford Wood Room boiler with a new one. Ian has been working with gas engineer Ed Sirrett who installed the heating system in the rear of the sanctuary and has undertaken repairs of other boilers on the premises. Ed has made an offer to fit a new boiler, remove the old one and do all the necessary additional work for a grand total of around £2000. This compares favourably to the original estimate which was around £4000. W.J. Norman & Sons had also presented an offer which was of very similar scope to that presented by Ed but was more expensive, mainly because they are VAT registered while Ed is not.
- Ed has included several options in his offer, some of which would add additional cost but may offer worthwhile advantages - one of these is whether the heating system should be kept as 'open vented' or converted to 'sealed' - the deacons are still considering these options. The general view of the meeting is that it is worth paying a bit extra for options that will provide significant long term reliability advantages.
- David Hann has some concerns regarding what Ed is proposing, believing that it will bring additional risk compared to his own plan that was presented several months ago. The deacons acknowledge that David's plan offers a very robust and reliable solution but that the significant additional cost does not justify the improvement, given that the rooms being heated are only used for a few hours a week and are not critical to the Church's activities.
- The meeting agreed with the proposal for Ed Sirrett to install the new boiler.

## 12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

## 13. Any Other Business

David notified us that the Accident Book in Carey Hall is now full. Andrew will safely store the old one, while Andy will try and procure a new one.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.25pm

Signed.....

Date.....