

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 24TH JULY 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 Charlotte Khan, Carolyn Kindberg, Phil Norman, Jenny Lane, Sarah Potter
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 26th June 2014 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

- None

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy is going away on holiday immediately after the meeting until next Wednesday. He will then have another fortnight off a week later.
- The plan for the Enfield Homeless Night Shelter is progressing and it now appears certain it will happen this year, though there do seem to be some difficulties with the organisation at present. Accommodation will be provided on each night of the week in one of seven different church buildings, not including WHBC.
- The August Tea Party has been rescheduled for the beginning of September.

Faith in Foodbanks

- Andy has taken a 4th load of food to the food bank – he estimated that the value of the load was approx £300 and was encouraged by how generously the congregation have given. The food bank continue to be short of meat, so it was good that there was a significant amount of meat in our delivery.
- The Joint Public Issues Team (collaboration between the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches) has produced a study guide looking at the issues around food banks and food poverty - members are encouraged to have a look should they be interested. [Note: the material can be found at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/faithinfoodbanks>]

Churches Together Open Church

- The Churches Together Group have put forward an idea for the Churches in the area to hold open days in October to allow members of other churches and the public to see inside and find out more about our activities and our mission. This is a good opportunity to make ourselves better known in the community. The dates have not yet been decided, but it is suggested that we will be open on two Saturdays for a few hours each.

6. **Youth**

Boys Brigade

- BB camp is scheduled to take place over the last weekend in August.
- This year is the 90th anniversary of the 10th Enfield Boys Brigade. To celebrate they would like to hold a lunch after the enrolment service on 12th October. BB have

offered to provide all of the food and invite the whole congregation to participate. The members are very happy with this idea.

Re:Create/Jack Petchey

- Attendance at re:create has been very low this term, sometimes only 2 or 3 young people. The leaders had a meeting and decided to try a publicity drive in September, particularly amongst brigade members. They will also try adjusting the format to see if this makes it more accessible to a wider range of young people. If this proves unsuccessful it may prove necessary to consider the club's future.
- All of the current re:create members have already received a Jack Petchey award and so we are no longer eligible to receive any money. We will be placed on 'hold' so that if we are successful in recruiting new members to re:create we will be eligible for further grants in the future.

7. Finance

Finance Report

- The report covering January-May was distributed by email beforehand and Ian explained the significant features.
- Total income for the General Fund is well ahead of budget but regular offerings are 5% below budget. Some generous special donations have been received and income from premises is better than expected – this is likely to improve further as the playgroup will be operating every afternoon from September.
- The expenditure from the General Fund has been as expected.
- As of 31st May there was £1200 in the Repairs Fund and £2500 in Buildings Fund - this is after making the final payments for the dry rot, Japanese knotweed and the gas inspection. The survey and CWR boiler replacement had not yet been paid for but a further £5000 from the General Fund has been previously authorised to be used for these. Ian is planning to do the paperwork to merge the Repairs and Buildings Funds (as previously agreed) during the Summer.
- A modest surplus is now expected at the end of the year.

Thank Offering

- A further £50 was received for the Thank Offering bringing it to £1700. Lewis refused to accept a preaching fee so that has been added to the portion of the offering going to The Christian Kitchen. A cheque has been sent to them for £900 and we have received a very grateful response.

8. Membership

- Nothing to report

9. World Mission

- Hazel believes she has found a suitable bungalow in Peterborough - she is having it surveyed.
- Jenny has asked to step down as Mission Committee secretary. Rachel will fill in on a temporary basis. Jenny was thanked for her many years of loyal service in this role.
- The Operation Agri service will be on 14th September. The focuses this year are on improving farming productivity in Tanzania and renewable energy in Afghanistan. The Austerity Lunch will take place after the service.

- For various reasons we have not had a BMS link missionary for several years. BMS have a new scheme whereby Churches can link up with an area or a programme instead of an individual. The missionary committee are considering this as a sensible way forward as it will provide better continuity.

10. Secretarial

Publicity Outside the Church

- There is concern that the various posters outside the Church for activities that take place in Carey Hall (mainly the playgroup and the fitness classes) are starting to look untidy - members were particularly unhappy with the 'Carey Hall Welcome You' banner which had been placed underneath the main noticeboard apparently without the permission of the Church. It has been decided that an additional A1-sized noticeboard will be added to the corner of the building between the cloakroom door and the side passage specifically for the users of Carey Hall to display publicity - they will then be prohibited from putting up other posters at the front of the Church.

Printouts of songs not in hymn books

- Several members of the congregation prefer to read the words of songs from the hymn books rather than the projector screen, however some songs are not in the hymn books. It has been decided that printouts will be provided in the vestibule for songs which are not in the hymn books.
- One of the reasons some people prefer to use the hymn books is that the projector screen is mounted slightly too high for those sitting near the front of the Church to be able to look at it comfortably. It is still intended that at some point the screen will be moved down a small amount.

Church Information Leaflets and Welcome Packs

- The deacons have discussed the possibility of providing Church information leaflets that members can hand to friends who are interested in finding out more about the Church, and also welcome packs for people attending the Church for the first time. Andy and Andrew are planning to look into this over the summer and members are encouraged to submit their ideas for the content.

Dates

- Deacons: 10th September, Church Meeting: 25th September

11. Buildings

Maintenance

- It was announced at the last meeting that David is stepping down from his role maintaining the buildings. Phil Norman is happy to carry on working to maintain the building but does not have enough time and expertise to pick up all the work that David used to do. It has been agreed that a maintenance committee be formed consisting of Phil, a deacon and at least one other member, to oversee maintenance activities and support Phil. Tim has agreed to be the deacon. We still need to identify one or two more people for this role.
- Several of items of equipment in the Church belong to David and he is indicated that he is planning to retrieve them at some point:
 - The foldback speaker next to the piano (required so that the keyboard player can hear themselves because the ordinary speakers on the piano are defective). Andrew is looking at getting a replacement.

- The monitor on the stage that allows the minister to see the contents of the projector screen without turning round. Two members have spare monitors that they are not using and offered these to the Church.
- One of the hand-held radio microphones - apparently the Church do have our own but it is less reliable than David's own one. We will do some testing of the old one and find out whether we can live with it, otherwise we will look at obtaining a new one.
- Andrew will test the fire alarm monthly on a Saturday afternoon - members were asked to bear this in mind if they are in the building then.
- David has kindly written a comprehensive document describing all the other outstanding maintenance requirements and defects in the building - these will be considered by the maintenance committee.

Quinquennial Inspection

- It was agreed at the previous meeting that the survey will go ahead even though the cost has turned out to be more expensive than was originally foreseen. The deacons have now updated the survey specification, removing several items that appear unnecessary but adding a few more that have come to light recently - these changes will have no significant impact on the scale or cost of the survey. Unfortunately the surveyor is now fully booked for the whole of July and August - it is hoped that he will be able to come during the first week of September (the Playgroup do not return until the 2nd week) - we are waiting for him to confirm this.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

- Phil Norman sent two comments to the meeting by email: The first was following up from the last meeting that the Carey Hall Accident Book is now full and has still not been replaced - Andy confirmed that he already has a new book. The second concerns a large crate which has been stored near the Carey Hall kitchen - Andy is aware of this and will speak to Phil personally.
- Andy and Nathanael have been working on the new website over the summer and hope to have it up and running before the start of term.
- Carolyn Greenaway suggested it would be very positive to have a stall at the St Nicholas Fair in December in order to promote the Church's activities. This was agreed in principle and the details will be discussed in September.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.05 pm

Signed.....

Date.....