

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 9 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, Carolyn Kindberg, Jenny Lane
- 3. The minutes** of the meeting held on 24th July 2014 were signed as a correct record.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - None
- 5. Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy thanked the members who helped with the Late Summer Tea Party. There were approx 40-50 guests, many of whom do not normally attend Church activities, and some who said they will come to Thursday Club in the future. Special thanks were expressed to Carolyn Kindberg for organising the music and Sarah Potter who prepared a large amount of food.
- Andy is planning to repeat the event in the form of a Mid-Winter Tea Party in January.
- The details of the Enfield Night Shelter scheme which should be starting this winter appear to be no clearer and it seems likely that the start will be delayed.
- Grange Park Methodist Church has a new minister and the local Anglican and Catholic churches all have new curates.
- Palmers Green URC are celebrating the centenary of their building and will hold a celebratory event on Peace and Reconciliation along with a lunch on 5th October to which Andy has been invited.
- The Funeral Directors across the road have offered to lead a question and answer session on End of Life Planning to help people explore the practical issues around death including funeral arrangements etc. The members were fairly positive about this idea.

Christmas Arrangements

- The dates of the Toy Service and Carols by Candlelight have already been fixed in the calendar. Andy intends to invite the Highfield School Choir to sing at the Toy Service.
- It was suggested at the last meeting that the Church should consider taking a stall at the St Nicholas Fair. This promises to be a sizeable event on Winchmore Hill Green including entertainment, retail and community stalls. It has since emerged that Churches Together have been given a stall and it was agreed that we will participate in this rather than having our own. There is also planned to be community carol singing.

Website

- The new website has now been virtually completed and Andy is making preparations for it to replace the old one. There are still a few tweaks that need to be made. The website has various useful features for members but it is also intended to be welcoming for people who are interested in finding out more about the Church,

including those not familiar with Church at all . Thanks were expressed to Chris and Phil Norman for running the old website for the last 10 years.

6. Youth

Update

- 10th Enfield Boys Brigade are celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year. There will be a focus on this at the enrolment service on 12th October, with many who have been involved with BB in the past expected to attend. There will be a celebration lunch after the service to which everyone is invited. There will also be an evening party.
- Both BB and GB have had several senior members go off to university this year but have also had successful recruitment events this term.

7. Finance

Budget 2015

- Ian will be preparing the budget for 2015 during October with the intention of having it approved at the November Church Meeting. Members with responsibilities that involve spending money were asked to let Ian have an estimate of likely expenditure.

8. Membership

Derek and Janet Hann

- Having retired to Norfolk in the summer of 2012, Derek and Janet have now requested to transfer their membership to Cromer Baptist Church. Coral has already written a letter of recommendation and it is believed they have already been accepted into membership there. It was agreed to remove them from the membership role and Andy will write a letter on behalf of the Church thanking them for their involvement over the years.

9. World Mission

- Peter and Janet have had to deal with a lot of pastoral issues recently, as well as grieving for Janet's father. Their Teachers Meal and JLC Barbeque seem to have gone well.
- A Missionary Committee meeting is planned for the near future. Among the items to be discussed is our relationship with BMS. We have not had a BMS Link Missionary for some time and the Committee are exploring whether we can be linked with a particular region or aspect of their work rather than a specific missionary.
- We will host an OMF event on 31st January raising awareness of their work in Japan.

10. Secretarial

External Noticeboards

- The new 'Carey Hall' noticeboard has now been fitted to the front of the Church between the cloakroom door and the side gate. The regular users of Carey Hall have been given the opportunity to display posters in there but asked not to put them up anywhere else on the front of the building. The posters that were on the fence have been transferred into this noticeboard, along with a new poster from the Organic Gardeners who are grateful to be given this advertising space. The keys for the noticeboard are kept on the key rail in the main cupboard – both keys need to be used at once.

- Despite being requested to remove the 'Carey Hall Welcomes You' banner within the first two weeks of term, the Playgroup still have not done so. The meeting agreed that Andrew would cut it down immediately.
- Chris Norman has kindly agreed to update the middle noticeboard with correct times of meetings and events.

PA Desk

- Several new people have volunteered to operate the PA desk and have been added to the rota. They are currently being trained up and are operating the desk for the first time – members were advised that there may be a few more errors and glitches with the PA and projector over the coming weeks while the new operators gain experience.
- The computer that was previously used to operate the projector belonged to David Hann and is no longer available. Some PA operators are able to bring their own computers but others are not and there have been a couple of weeks when the projector was not able to be used because of this. It has been decided that a Church computer will be located permanently on the PA desk – Andy has an old computer which is now redundant and can probably be used for this – it will be set up during the coming weeks.
- The discussion drifted onto the subject of David Hann, who decided to take a break from the Church. It was brought to the attention of the meeting that David was never formally thanked for all the work he did maintaining the buildings over the years. This has not been done because David had originally indicated that he wished to have a break from church life and may or may not return.
- The discussion further drifted onto other unrelated subjects that members were concerned about such as whether there are sufficient activities for people in the 20s and 30s age group and whether there is enough outreach going on. In the end it was agreed that a proper discussion on these subjects will be had at the next meeting - suitable items will be included on the agenda.

Dates

- Deacons: 8th October, Church Meeting: 23rd October

11. Buildings

Quinquennial Inspection

- The survey of the buildings took place on 2nd and 3rd September. The full report, which will include a maintenance plan of jobs needing to be carried out in the coming few years, is expected at the beginning of October. The preliminary verbal feedback was fairly positive – the buildings are in relatively good condition compared to other churches and there are no major issues that were not previously known about. The electrics and the drains in the Church are of significant concern, as we already knew, and further specialist advice will be needed on what to do. There are also some smaller pressing issues with the Manse.
- The report will be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed that a summary of the findings will be sent out beforehand.

Maintenance Committee

- A committee has been established to manage the work on the buildings. It is not intended that they will do all the work themselves but they will keep track of all the issues, commission tradesmen where necessary and bring important items to the attention of the deacons. The committee currently consists of Phil Norman, Tim Gillard

and John Burridge - other members with an interest are encouraged to consider joining.

Heating Controls

- Previously David used to manage the Church heating controls with the assistance of Nathanael. It is too much of a burden for Nathanael to manage by himself so volunteers are sought to help with this.
- Chris Norman suggested that the size of the job could be significantly reduced if controls were made more accessible, particularly the controls for Clifford Wood Room and Lounge which require climbing a ladder. It would be particularly useful if a 'boost' button could be made available that would allow the heating to be switched on for 1, 2 or 3 hours (similar to the controls for the electric heater in Elsie Silsby Room). Leaders of groups would then switch the heating on themselves prior to the start of the meeting and switch it off at the end (or leave it to time out). As well as reducing the workload of those setting the heating in advance it will also save energy by not heating rooms for meetings that end up not happening. It was agreed that the possibility of installing such controls will be investigated further.

Side Fence

- It was pointed out that the missing section of fence by along the pathway leading to Carey Hall has still has not been replaced by the neighbours. Andy will speak to them. Another section of the fence is also in poor condition.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

- John Melbourne has acquired some Bags of Hope for Halloween from UCB and requested an opportunity to make these available for members of the congregation. Some will be placed in the vestibule and their presence will be publicised.
- The recycling bin in Carey Hall kitchen has been overflowing as it appears nobody is emptying it. The Church does not have any official recycling facility and in the past some members have taken recyclable materials home and placed them in their domestic recycling, which is not encouraged by the deacons. The possibility of having a proper recycling facility will be looked into - in the meantime the recyclable materials will have to be disposed off with normal rubbish.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.40 pm

Signed.....

Date.....