

# MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2014 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 19 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
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - John Melbourne reported that he has a spare PC that can be used for the PA desk.

## 5. Mission and Ministry

### Update

- Nothing more has been heard regarding the Enfield Churches Night Shelter.
- It has been confirmed that there will be a Churches Together stall at the St Nicholas Fair. There will also be carol singing on the main stage.

### 2015 Church Anniversary

- The deacons have suggested 10<sup>th</sup> May as a suitable date and have suggested Rev Reuben Martin, minister of West Croydon Baptist Church, as a suitable speaker. He has spent time church planting with BMS World Mission in both Croatia and France and is the son of the late Rev Roger Martin. This was agreed.

### New Year Tea

- This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm. The previous tea was particularly aimed at older people, but being on a Saturday afternoon, it is likely that more people from other age groups may be interested in this one.

## 6. Youth

### Update

- Tim, Paul and Andy met to discuss re:create. Numbers have gone down a lot and there are now only two regular members. It has been proposed to stop the youth club in its current format and seek opportunities to further youth ministry in other ways. It was suggested, however, that an event take place approximately monthly for young people to meet together and play games and other activities.
- John Melbourne, from his experience with his daughter, suggested that it is difficult to attract young people to events where there is not already a large group of other young people – his opinion was that re:create had fallen below critical mass and it is right to consider other options.

## Discussion on Future Ministry for Young People

- Keith Richardson introduced the topic and asked the members to state their views. Youth work in the Church is suffering with low numbers at the moment, yet there is great potential amongst us, both in terms of young leaders and experienced voices. He put a number of ideas and challenges forward, including whether we need more leadership in the youth and whether there is any provision for young people coming back from university.
- Tim Gillard stated that we need to be clear what we are trying to achieve, as the situation is different to when we used to have a paid youth worker – there are now more young children but fewer teenagers in the congregation. The youth club was set up alongside other youth ministry that was taking place at the time, and it may not work in isolation. The BB and GB are already a good link between local youth and the Church and there is a question whether a youth club may be redundant.
- Chris Norman is particularly concerned about slightly older young people, those in their 20s and 30s – he suggested there are quite a large number of people in this age group on the fringe of the Church who might be attracted into Church life if there was better provision for them. He suggested it would be good to further strengthen brigade links with the Church. He thought it would be good to have a deacon with special responsibility for youth with good brigade connections, and possibly a youth committee to ensure good liaison. He also emphasized the importance of good pastoral support for people of all ages, suggesting the possibility of a ‘mentoring’ arrangement – some members recalled that this had been done in the past and had been beneficial, it has also been done in GB.
- John BurrIDGE stated the main objective must be the growth and stability of our Church. He commented that in the past there have been significant youth activities which have stopped abruptly at age 18 and there needs to be ministry that spreads into young adulthood to encourage those returning from college/university to continue coming.
- Rachel Forster suggested special events for the 20s and 30s age group would be beneficial to help this age group feel involved.
- John Melbourne feels that it is important to have a clear strategy with clear goals that ensures there is effective ministry for all age groups. He is very supportive of the brigades but is concerned that there is not a clear flow of young people between them and the Church. He suggested it would be good to gain intelligence from other churches on how they go about this. He was concerned that there has been more discussion about the buildings in recent Church Meetings than about ministry.
- Tim Gillard suggested that many of the activities that the Brigades do are the types of things that many other members of the congregation would enjoy participating in.
- Matthew BurrIDGE said he benefited a lot from the work of Lewis and Sammy. He stated that the youth work went down hill significantly while he was away at university. He feels sorry that it was not possible to keep a youth worker as there were a number of people on the fringe of the Church who were becoming involved but are no longer in contact because nobody is maintaining the ties. He suggested that it is important to maintain contact with those who have not been to Church activities for a while and hold events to try and welcome them back in.
- Coral BurrIDGE says that she feels in the Church we are very good at relationships across the age ranges, but that she really misses not having so many young adults around.

- Andy said that in his experience the most effective ministries have come from groups of people with a similar interest who have got together and given something a go. A significant outcome from this discussion is the concern for ministry to young adults.
- It was agreed that a group of those who are most interested will meet together to discuss the matter further and develop some ideas. Chris will co-ordinate an initial meeting.

## **7. Buildings**

### Break-In

- The Church was broken into on Monday night. Several burglars broke open the side gate, broke through a window in the Carey Hall kitchen and broke through a number of internal doors causing significant damage. The two safes, 3 games consoles, a television, the LCD projectors and various other items were stolen.
- Playgroup had to be cancelled on Tuesday.
- Thanks were expressed to the Norman family who responded very quickly to secure the Church and carry out an initial clean up.
- The police attended and collected forensic evidence.
- Baptist Insurance have been contacted and a loss adjuster is attending tomorrow.
- One of the biggest loss is the historical documents that were in the safe.

### Drains

- Two weeks ago one of the Carey Hall toilets became blocked. Tim and Phil investigated the sewer and found that there appears to be a break in the sewer pipe near Carey Hall – rubble was found in one of the man holes and not all of the waste water is getting through the sewer. A video drains survey is to be carried out to establish the extent of the problem – this is likely to cost approx £500. Depending on what is found, rectification work is likely to cost one or two thousand pounds.

### Preliminary Survey Feedback

- The survey report has not yet been received but the surveyors have given preliminary feedback on what urgent works they are recommending. There are no major surprises on the list – the most significant items are an inspection of the electrical installation and a drains survey. There are also a number of smaller items, some of which will require the services of external contractors.

## **8. Finance**

### Finance Report

- The report for January to August had been sent round by email and further copies were distributed in the meeting. Ian explained significant features.
- There is £2200 remaining in the buildings/repairs funds. It was additionally agreed previously to transfer £5000 to cover the boiler replacement and survey. Given the number of urgent work items needed on the buildings, it was proposed that a further amount of up to £5000 be transferred from the General Fund to Buildings – this was agreed.
- Total income is well ahead of budget. Some generous special donations have been received and income from premises is more than expected. Regular offerings are below budget. Expenditure is on budget so there is a net surplus

Harvest Donations

- £1530 was received in donations to the Harvest Offering and a further £120 was raised from the Austerity Lunch.

2015 Stipend - Andy left the room for this discussion

- See separate confidential minute

**9. Membership**

- Nothing to Report

**10. World Mission**

Home Mission Post Box

- The Missionary Committee has suggested that a large Christmas Card is produced which is a greeting to the whole fellowship and members can sign it and give some of the money they would have spent on Christmas cards to Home Mission. There is concern that some of the older people who value receiving individual Christmas cards do not miss out.

**11. Secretarial**

Correspondence

- Carolyn Kindberg is playing in two concerts at St Thomas' Oakwood and Palmers Green URC on Saturday evening
- The annual lecture of the Protestant Dissenting Ministers is next Thursday evening in Tavistock Square.
- Details of both events have been sent out by email and are on the noticeboard.

Christmas Publicity

- The publicity needs to be ordered before the next meeting. It is planned that we will follow the usual pattern with 1600 invitation cards to be delivered to local roads and a large banner on the main noticeboard.
- Andrew had printed off a selection of suitable publicity themes available from CPO and invited members to indicate their preference after the meeting.

Service Rota November-April

- The new rota which covers all of the Sunday morning duties has now been published. It runs from the beginning of November until the end of April. It has been distributed by email and a laminated copy is on the noticeboard in the vestibule. Andrew also has spare paper copies for anyone who wants them.

Dates

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

**12. Pastoral**

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

**13. Any Other Business**

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.53 pm

Signed.....

Date.....