

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 29TH JANUARY 2015 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 7 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, Coral and Cliff Burridge
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 27th November 2014 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy has received a very positive letter from Highfield School thanking us for making them so welcome at the Toy Service and for Andy's involvement in the life of the school. At least 35 children have been attending the Big Lunch club each week.
- Pathway are doing very well at the moment, with increasing involvement in more schools. Their financial situation has also improved.
- Andy received good feedback about the New Year Tea Party last Saturday. Approx 40-50 people attended.
- Andy has been discussing with Tim and Caroline Gillard the possibility of running a Church Quiz, mainly as a social event including a meal, but with the added objective of raising money, possibly for the Building Fund.
- An informal discussion took place on the subject of opportunities for outreach amongst friends. This is a subject that Andy has been thinking a lot about recently.

6. **Youth**

Update

- Numbers attending Sunday Club have grown significantly - on some Sundays there are 9 children.
- Chris Norman, Phil Norman, Tim Gillard, Keith Richardson, John Melbourne and Matthew Burridge have been meeting together to discuss opportunities for outreach to young adults. They presented some of the outcomes of their meetings, which prompted significant further discussion in the meeting. Some of the conclusions were:
 - At present there is a gap in provision of activities aimed at young adults and young families. Chris and Matt are planning to start a group for young adults known as 'Connect', of similar format to Midweek@WHBC, but particularly aimed at younger adults who are not normally members of the Sunday congregation and on the fringe of the Church.
 - It would be beneficial for the activity leaders to have closer links with the diaconate.
 - It would be beneficial for there to be more Church-wide activities to which all the groups would be invited and would build links between them. The members

agreed for Chris to go ahead and arrange a date for a Church Away Day at some point during the summer.

- The BB 90th Anniversary Lunch was felt to be a big success in building relationships and it was proposed that a similar event happen every year – it was agreed that this be scheduled for the Sunday of the Enrolment service. It was agreed that this meal should be ‘catered for’ rather than simply being a bring-and-share.
- BB and GB are looking at more ways to engage with the parents of the young people, possibly during the time they are waiting to collect the children in the Carey Hall lobby – it is difficult for BB and GB leaders to make use of this opportunity and it was suggested that Church members could be on hand to talk to the parents and perhaps provide refreshments.
- The current timing of Church Meeting is not convenient for everyone and it may be better to have a more flexible pattern with the possibility of using different evenings (as some members can’t make a particular evening) and also holding some meetings after the Sunday service. There was discussion about whether there should be separate meetings covering either ministry and outreach or administration and finance, or whether individual meetings should have a specific focus on a particular subject, so that people know what to expect.
- There was also affirmation that we need to continue to remember outreach to older people as there is significant need and the older people involved in our current ministries really benefit from it.

7. Finance

Inspectors of 2014 Accounts

- It was agreed that Zubair Khan and John Melbourne would be independent inspectors of the accounts.

Winchmore Hill Community Care Meeting

- A meeting to review the operation of the scheme will be held on Thursday 5th February at 14.30. Ministers and treasurers of the supporting churches have been asked to attend, however neither Ian nor any of the deacons is able to be there - the opportunity was opened up to the members but nobody volunteered.
- There was some discussion about whether we should continue to support Winchmore Hill Community Care, given that it now benefits relatively few people, is not really a form of outreach and is expensive for the churches involved. The outcome will depend on what is decided at the meeting.

8. Membership

- Nothing to Report

9. World Mission

- There will be an OMF conference about their work in Japan in the Church this Saturday 11am-4pm.

10. Secretarial

AGM 28th March

- According to the constitution, nominations for election to the diaconate must close 3 Sundays before the meeting, which is 8th March. Nominations must open and be announced in the Church service 2 Sundays before that, which is 22nd February.

Andrew will aim to distribute the invitation letter from the 15th February onwards. The content deadline for the Annual Report will be 22nd March.

- Andrew plans to present the 2015 Positions of Responsibility document to the Deacons and Church meetings in February in the hope that any changes will be identified then so a final version can be approved at the AGM.
- The deacons whose terms of service come to an end this year are Ian Blunn, Carolyn Greenaway and Veronica Henly.
- Andrew Forster and Paul Burt have been nominated as returning officers for the election.
- Ian is away for 4 weeks and may not be able to complete the accounts for 2014 in time for them to be approved at the AGM. While it is traditional, there is no formal requirement for them to be approved at the AGM, as such it was agreed that if necessary they will be approved at the April Church Meeting.

Website update

- The weekly notices and MP3 recording of the previous week's sermon are now published on the front page.
- All the content is accessible from smart phones and tablets.
- An archive of previous sermon recordings will be created in the 'Worship' section.
- An archive of Church Meeting Minutes and Spotlights is being built up in the Members area.
- Members were encouraged to suggest any further items which it would be beneficial to include. There was some discussion about whether the handbook should be published in the Members area as many members would find it convenient to be able to access an electronic version, however concern was discussed about personal data being stored online and whether this data would be open to abuse. In the end it was agreed that the next version of the handbook would be emailed in PDF format to all members but not posted online.

Dates

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

11. Buildings

Future funding of buildings items

- Tim had prepared a 1-page summary on the outcome of the Quinquennial Inspection which was circulated by email prior to the meeting and paper copies were handed out. Members are welcome to view the full report if they wish.
- There are a significant number of outstanding items of work on the building that are needed. The deacons have suggested that in order to keep on top of these items to return the building to good condition we will need to be spending approx £15,000 per year on buildings for the next few years. As we have no provision in the current budget for buildings this will all need to be additional income or other expenditure reassigned.
- It was agreed that we will hold an extra Church Meeting after the service on Sunday 22nd February to make the issues known to a wider audience and encourage increased participation.

Work Day - 7th February

- Members were encouraged to come along for an hour or two between 11am and 4pm to help with practical jobs to keep the Church looking in good condition. The biggest job will be to return the old Minister's vestry to a serviceable state.

Burglary

- All repairs to the building have now been completed except for some redecoration. All locks have been returned to service with their original keys.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends

13. Any Other Business

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....