

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 8 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Tim Gillard, Jenny Lane, Sarah Potter
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 29th January 2015 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

- None

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy spent 2 days away last month at the LBA Minister's Conference. One of the themes that emerged is that many members of the congregation do not spend much time in the local area due to work and family being elsewhere and there is a need to cater our ministry for this situation. Andy is exploring some new ideas, one of which has included inviting different members of the congregation to tell the Church about their life outside Church. Another theme was challenging the traditional model of inviting people to come into Church and instead going out and reaching them where they are – an idea that has come out of that is the possibility of delivering cards to all the houses in the local area inviting people to request prayer for issues in their lives, and using the responses to build links with the community – this idea was used successfully by Canterbury Baptist Church while Andy was minister in Margate. Andy is still thinking about the logistics of how this would be done. The members were enthusiastic about this idea and discussed it further. The point was made that it is important to consider beforehand how any follow-up will be conducted.

Lent Course

- The Churches Together Lent Course this year is on Thursday evenings at St Pauls. There are 5 sessions looking at how art portrays the Christian faith. It is unfortunate that the change of day means that two of the meeting clash with Church Meeting.

Easter

- The Good Friday service will be at the URC at 10.15, followed by the Walk of Witness.
- On Easter Sunday there will be a family service at the normal time.
- There will be a Communion Service at 8pm on Maundy Thursday in the Clifford Wood Room.

6. **Youth**

- Nothing to report.

7. **Finance**

- Following the Extra Church Meeting which highlighted the need for more money to be raised for repairs on the buildings, a number of different fundraising ideas were discussed.

8. Membership

- Nothing to Report

9. World Mission

- Peter and Janet Dallman have announced their intention to step down as Language Orientation and Training Co-ordinators at the Japan Language Centre when their next Home Assignment begins in 2016. They have requested prayer as they consider what ministry they should be involved in beyond then, and also for OMF finding suitable replacements for them.

10. Secretarial

AGM 28th March

- No nominations for the election of deacons and treasurer have yet been received by the returning officers. Members were reminded that nominations must be received by Sunday 8th March.
- A draft version of the Positions of Responsibility document had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and extra copies were handed out. Members were asked to notify Andrew of any amendments as soon as possible.
- Members were reminded that the deadline for content for the Annual Report to be received is Sunday 22nd March.

Baptist Assembly

- The conference has been reduced to a single day and will take place in Peterborough on Saturday 16th May 11am-6.30pm - the cost is £30. Unfortunately they do not appear to have produced any publicity material that can easily be handed out or sent round so members are encouraged to visit the website www.baptistassembly.org.uk to see more details, including the promotional video.
- We are entitled to send one voting delegate from the membership. If anyone is interested in going and would like to vote on the Church's behalf, please contact Andrew.

Easter Publicity

- A banner has been ordered from CPO which publicises the Church's Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.
- The deacons have suggested that we do not continue with the card drop to local streets. It is quite expensive, yields very few additional visitors and the number of people able to do the deliveries has declined to the extent that many of the Christmas publicity cards went undelivered. A smaller number of cards will be ordered for members of the congregation to personally hand out to friends and relatives.
- Churches Together have taken out a large advert in local newspapers which will publicise all the local Easter services including ours.
- The members discussed a number of opportunities for further publicising our services on local community websites.

Dates

- Deacons: 11th March, Church Meeting: 22nd April
- This year is the 150th Anniversary of the London Baptist Association – there is a big celebration planned for November.

11. Buildings

- Tim has received some feedback following the Extra Church Meeting and is considering the ideas – he will report back to the next meeting. The members felt that Tim had conducted the meeting very well and had really helped people understand the issues – thanks were expressed to him.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends

13. Any Other Business

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8:55 pm

Signed.....

Date.....