

# MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23RD APRIL 2015 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 Charlotte Khan, Binnie Weston, Sarah Potter, John Melbourne, Tim Gillard, Jenny Lane, Cliff Burridge

### 3. **Matters Arising**

- None

### 4. **Mission and Ministry**

#### Update

- Andy led a lesson with year 4 at Highfield School looking at 'Church in the Community'. It is the second time he has been asked to do so this year. The children were very interested in what he had to say and asked lots of questions. Andy hopes for more opportunities to work with the school. He enjoyed attending the Easter production recently.
- Easter was very busy. Feedback has been good. The Maundy Thursday Communion was particularly nice and the Easter Sunday breakfast went very well.
- Sarah invited a number of her friends to the Easter breakfast – several were interested but unable to attend due to other commitments. In light of this Sarah suggests that a regular food/craft outreach event may be of interest to them. Saturday was originally considered as a good time but following discussion at Deacons Sunday afternoon is now considered to be the best time.
- Andy is planning a repeat of the Summer Tea Party that was held last year – the proposed date is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- At the last meeting Andy discussed the possibility of producing cards offering prayer to be distributed in the community. Andy has created a first draft of the proposed cards and handed copies out in the meeting. Andy spoke to the former minister of Canterbury Baptist Church who pioneered the idea – he was positive about our plan, and commented that it is beneficial to do a fairly large number of cards in a short space of time so it builds momentum rather than a steady trickle. He also said that there are likely to be some spurious requests and few people leave contact details. The plan is to get 1000 cards printed and start in September.
- Both Geoff Andrews, Team Leader of LBA, and Paul Martin, one of the Regional Ministers, have resigned – Paul is becoming the minister of Trinity Baptist Church in North Finchley.
- The Treasurer of the Winchmore Hill Community Care Scheme has resigned. This has caused some chaos as he was the only chequebook signatory so they are currently unable to pay any bills. A meeting to review the operation of the scheme is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- Chris Norman is in the process of organising the summer whole-church social outing at Felden Lodge. Everyone who has a connection to the Church will be invited, including BB and GB families, and there will be a variety of different games and activities suitable for all ages. Some discussion was held as to the best date. The

consensus was that a Sunday afternoon would be the best time – 5<sup>th</sup> July was decided upon. Chris would welcome help in organising the day, potential volunteers are asked to speak to him.

#### Anniversary - 10th May

- Members were reminded to sign up if they are planning to attend the lunch.

### **5. Youth**

#### Update

- The BB and GB display will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm.
- The number of boys in BB is increasing – currently 35.
- Anchor Boys have created two plant pot arrangements for St George's Day and they are on display outside the entrance to Carey Hall.

#### 18-30s Meetings

- The 18-30s group are trying to engage people who were previously in BB and GB. They recently held a social at the Salisbury Arms and are planning a trip to 'Go Ape' at Trent Park. They are also planning to hold Bible studies in the Lounge.

### **6. Finance**

#### Offering Arrangements

- The deacons had a discussion about the arrangements for collecting offerings in services. Most people who give regularly to the Church either give using standing order or by the envelopes. There is a growing feeling that handing round the offering bags is no longer the most appropriate means of collecting the offering and other arrangements should be considered – possibly by means of a box at the back of the Church. The offering would still be brought forward for dedication during the service. There were some concerns around the practicalities of how this would be organised and further thought will be needed. An issue was raised about how we educate children about the importance of giving which will also need to be considered. Otherwise, the members were generally supportive of the idea.
- Charities Aid Foundation offer a facility for online giving via the website. There is a fee of 2.6% of each donation but there is no fixed or setup cost. This is not intended for regular members of the congregation to give their regular gifts but provides an easy means for people who do not attend services to make a one-off gift. CAF will also administer the Gift Aid. The members were fully in favour of this idea.

### **7. Membership**

- Nothing to Report

### **8. World Mission**

- A couple have been identified to take over the role of co-ordinators of the JLCC from Peter and Janet Dallman. They will start from June, there will be a 3-month handover period and then Peter and Janet will come back on home assignment in September. It is not clear what assignment they will take on next, but it appears most likely they will return to Japan.

## 9. Secretarial

### Correspondence

- We have been notified of a planning application to build 3 houses on the yard behind Carey Hall. A link to the online planning application was sent out with the agenda and paper copies were handed out in the meeting. The main concern was ensuring that our access to the back gate is not obstructed - Andrew will make a comment on the application accordingly. The overall impression is that the scheme could be of benefit to us by providing a properly paved access road with good lighting. We will need to ensure that the back fence is maintained in good condition. We need to take photos before work starts and monitor the effect of the works on our boundaries.
- A letter of thanks has been received from the North Enfield Foodbank for our ongoing regular contributions. The amount of food we have donated now stands at 541kg (over half a tonne).

### Captain Pierce Johns Trust

- John Melbourne has become a trustee, replacing Ian Blunn who has stepped down.

### Spring Quiz - 25th April

- Members were reminded that the quiz takes place this Saturday and anyone wanting to attend should contact Tim Gillard for catering purposes.

### Garden Party - 23rd May

- Frank and Beryl Kendall have offered to host a garden party at their home to raise money for the Church Building Fund. GB will be making cakes for this.

### Dates

- Deacons: 13th May, Church Meeting: 28th May

## 10. Buildings

- The Maintenance Committee will meet early in May to discuss the program for forthcoming building works.
- New timer/thermostats have been installed in Clifford Wood Room and the Lounge, replacing the defective timer at the top of the ladder in the tunnel.
- A number of issues need to be taken up with the neighbours (next house on Compton Road). The particular matters of concern are a leaking drain pipe, broken and missing fence panels and defective retaining wall. Chris Norman feels that a formal letter needs to be written to the owner of the house. A further issue needs to be raised with 1 Orpington Road regarding the missing fence panel.
- Every effort needs to be made to lock the bin away as soon as it has been emptied on Friday morning as persons unknown are filling it up with their rubbish if it is left out. The Playgroup will be asked to bring it in on Fridays.

## 11. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends

## 12. Any Other Business

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:42 pm

Signed.....

Date.....