

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23RD JULY 2015 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 12 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Paul Burt, Carolyn Kindberg, Jenny Lane, Sarah Potter
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 25th June 2015 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

- None

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- The Churches Together Camino (Pilgrimage) will take place this Saturday.
- Andy is on leave from 1st August to 16th August.

Summer Fun Day review

- The members thanked Chris Norman for the large amount of work he had put into organising the event. John and Debbie Melbourne and Sarah Potter were also thanked for their involvement.
- Approx 40 people attended, the weather stayed mostly dry, and those who were there seemed to have a good time.
- It was suggested that to attract more of the older members it would be better to have a venue that was not as far away. Also there was a shortage of activities for those who did not want to participate in the water games.

Summer Tea Party

- This will take place on Thursday 27th August 2.30-4.30pm. Last year nearly 50 people attended. It is aimed towards older people (particularly those who would normally attend Thursday Club) but all ages are invited. Printed invitation cards have been produced for members to invite their friends. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church to gain an idea of the likely numbers attending.

Website and social media updates

- Many people now engage with social media, yet the Church does not yet have a presence. It is proposed to establish a Church Facebook page to increase our profile and allow people to more easily find out about us. It is also a good way of publicising events among members of the congregation and allowing members to further publicise them amongst their contacts. It is planned that the page will start operating later in the summer. The information on Facebook will be the same as that on the website so people who do not want to use Facebook will not miss out on anything.
- In the longer term there is also the intention of establishing a Twitter account with a similar purpose.
- It is worth noting that the situation regarding social media is constantly evolving and so we will need to keep our activities under review.

6. Youth

Update

- The Brigades have held an end of term barbecue which was well attended by both young people and their parents.
- The camp is taking place during the 3rd week of the holidays.

7. Finance

- Nothing to report

8. Membership

Esther Potter

- Esther has requested baptism and membership. The baptism service is planned for 6th September. Rachel Forster was appointed to interview Esther, Charlotte Khan was suggested as the other interviewer.

9. World Mission

Harvest/Op Agri

- The Operation Agri service will be on 13th September. Malcolm Drummond will lead the service on that day and will talk about their projects in Bangladesh. The service will be followed by a 'simple lunch' (which is the new name for the austerity lunch) whereby participants will be invited to donate what they would normally spend on a Sunday lunch to Operation Agri. Tim will lead the service at Palmers Green Baptist Church with Andrew playing the music.
- The Harvest service will take place on 27th September.

10. Secretarial

Invitation Card

- The deacons have been thinking for some time that it would be good to have a general invitation card (not produced for any specific event) that we can give to people to tell them about the Church and invite them to services. Tim has now kindly produced a design, and an example card was made available in the meeting. We are planning to get 100 cards ordered ASAP unless anyone has any suggestions or comments.

Dates

- Deacons: 9th September, Church Meeting: 24th September

11. Buildings

Presentation

- One key finding of the Quinquennial Inspection was that the buildings are in fair condition with no major structural problems anticipated. Nevertheless there are quite a large number of major building items that the surveyors have recommended be carried out over the next few years, some of which are more urgent than others.
- The Quinquennial report recommended around 150 maintenance actions. These are being managed and prioritised by the maintenance committee in a large spreadsheet, which members are welcome to have copies of.

- With regard to **roofing**: there are a number of slipped tiles and some damaged flashing. There are quite a number of small leaks around the building. These are not an immediate problem but will cause damp problems if not resolved.
- With regard to **brickwork**: Some bricks have suffered spalling with the front of the brick becoming damaged and falling away. In some cases whole bricks will need replacing. There is also some damaged stonework and plant growth at high level.
- The **electrical installation** is archaic in some places and further study is to be done on how it needs to be improved.
- A number of other smaller items were mentioned and explained. Many smaller items have been completed by members of the congregation at a much lower cost than what was quoted in the survey report.
- There is a serious **damp problem** in the Manse, probably due to a leaking pipe in the wall. There are also some issues with the roof and electrics.
- A separate video survey of the **drains** was carried out. This identified that the large pipe running underneath the side path was collapsing. This was immediately repaired using a flexible pipe that was fed inside the old one, inflated and hardened – this is a permanent solution. Several less serious issues with the drains need to be dealt with in the longer term.
- So far we have spent £5600 this year on buildings maintenance and have cleared 20-30 items off the Quinquennial recommendations.
- There is £11,800 remaining in the Building Fund.
- We are on track to meet our target of £15,000 income to the Building Fund this year. There is therefore no need to make any difficult funding decisions just yet. Another meeting will be held in 6 months to review the situation.
- Much of the Building Fund income has come from generous one-off gifts rather than from an increase in regular giving so we cannot assume that it will be repeated next year. Also there is concern that income to the General Fund may have declined as a result of gifts being diverted to the Building Fund.

Decisions

- The meeting were happy with the approach taken by the Maintenance Group.
- The meeting agreed to allow the deacons to make decisions over the summer regarding the work to take place on the front elevation.
- The powerpoint slides shown in the meeting will be distributed by email with the Church notices.

12. Pastoral

- News was shared about a number of members and friends
- Members were invited to share a special cake after the service on Sunday celebrating the diamond wedding anniversary of Cliff and Coral Burridge.

13. Any Other Business

- John Melbourne is making arrangements to start having pastoral prayers available after services.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:28 pm

Signed.....

Date.....