

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 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 Tim Gillard, Ian Blunn, Charlotte Khan, Sarah Potter, Jenny Lane.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

- None

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- A page on hall hire has been added to the Church website. A Facebook account is also now up and running.
- Esther's baptism went well, with a large number of visitors in the Church – many of them commented how welcome they were made to feel. The members commented that it was beneficial to have the live video feed on the big screen.
- The London Baptist Association are seeking a new Team Leader following the departure of Geoff Andrews. They are currently working through the issues around how they want the role to work and what sort of character would suit it best.
- The LBA's 150th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday 15th November 7-9pm at Westminster Central Hall. This is a ticketed event – anyone wishing to go should speak to Andy or Andrew. [Post meeting note: the start time has been changed to 6.30]
- Last year there was a plan to open a night shelter in local churches in Enfield but this never worked out. The plan has been resurrected with the hope that it will operate from December to February this year.
- Churches Together are running a CAP Money Management Course starting in October. Andy and Paul are involved in this. Members were encouraged to consider whether anyone they know may benefit from this and invite them along. Flyers are available in the vestibule.
- There have been several new members of the congregation in recent weeks.

Summer Tea Party

- The party went really well, with about 40 people attending, and feedback was good. Two of the guests who do not normally attend Church subsequently came to Esther's baptism.

Christmas

- According to the calendar, Toy Service will be on 13th December and Carol Service on 20th December. No changes were proposed to this arrangement.
- The sermon series in advent will be entitled 'The Man who is God', exploring the meaning and significance of the incarnation.

- There was little enthusiasm to continue delivering publicity cards to lots of local homes, given that there are fewer people able to do this and there is a very low success rate. 250 cards will be printed to give out to Brigades, playgroup and Thursday Club and for members of the congregation to take some to invite their friends and relatives. Efforts will also be focussed on online and social media options for publicising the Christmas services.

6. Youth

Update

- Brigades have started back after the summer. BB currently have 10 boys in the younger age group and 13 in the older age group. They are doing a recruitment drive to try and increase numbers to 20 in each group. Outings to Portsmouth, Hunstanton and the Peak District are planned.
- GB also have some new girls - some heard about it through the Playgroup and others found it through the website.
- Members were encouraged to follow the BB Facebook account.

7. Finance

- Nothing to report

8. Membership

Esther Potter

- Rachel Forster and Charlotte Khan interviewed Esther about her membership application and Rachel presented a report to the meeting. Esther has many gifts which she would like to use to serve the Church including art and drama and children's work, and she has a heart for evangelism and caring for the vulnerable. Esther gave a testimony at her baptism describing her gradual journey to faith, which is very real and personal to her.
- The members were happy to accept Esther into membership.

9. World Mission

Harvest/Op Agri

- This Sunday is Harvest Festival. There will be a display of produce in the Church. The title of the service will be 'Living in the Light of God's Abundance'. There will be a collection of non-perishable food items for the food bank. The Harvest Offering for Operation Agri will also be taken up.

BMS Link Missionaries

- BMS have changed the way they do their Link Missionary scheme so that churches are partnered with an area of mission and are given 3 missionary families. Andy plans to present details about them one at a time in services over the coming months.
- Peter and Janet Dallman have returned to Japan to begin their new roles. They will come back next year for Home Assignment.

10. Secretarial

Church Meeting Format

- The deacons have had some discussion about how member engagement with Church Meeting can be improved. Attendance at Church Meetings is generally poor, often below 10.
- Andy presented a proposal that had been sent out by email prior to the meeting - further copies were distributed in the meeting. The proposal involves reducing the number of Church Meetings to 5 per year, including the AGM. There would be planning meetings in September and November, planning for the following calendar year including agreeing the budget, and meetings in January and June for fellowship, worship and prayer and to conduct other business.
- One of the main activities that happens in Church Meetings at present is communication of information from the minister and deacons to the members. The members who do not attend Church Meeting often miss out on information and feel they are out of the loop. This change to the Church Meeting format brings the opportunity to introduce improved means of communication that are better at reaching the whole of the membership.
- If the number of meetings is reduced, different processes may be needed to allow decisions that would normally be made by Church Meeting to be made in a more timely manner, perhaps by the deacons. Extra meetings could be arranged in the event of an urgent matter needing to be discussed.
- It was agreed to implement these proposals with the deacons giving further consideration to the implications (e.g. communications).

Review of Offering Arrangement

- Feedback on the new offering arrangement, using the box in the vestibule instead of handing the bags round in the service, has been mixed - some members are in favour of it, others are against.
- There was some discussion about how the arrangement could be improved, perhaps by changing the location of the box, or having more than one.
- It was agreed that the arrangement will be reviewed over a longer period of time and discussed again at a future meeting.
- There was also some discussion about the proportion of people that give regularly and the methods of giving that are used. It was commented that there needs to be more sharing in services about the need for giving, the ways of giving and how the money is used.

Invitation Card

- A number of A5 cards giving a summary of the Church and its activities have been produced. It is intended these can be given to visitors and that members of the congregation can give them to their friends and relatives who are interested in finding out more about the Church. A pile of these is on the table in the vestibule.

Refreshments After Services

- Several of those who regularly serve refreshments after services have commented that they would prefer doing this in Clifford Wood Room rather than in Carey Hall - this already happens on Sundays where there is a lunch after the service. There are several advantages, including it being easier to set up and put away tables and chairs, and reducing the amount of effort required to set up and put away the catering supplies. There was also an idea that it might improve access for less mobile members of the congregation as it is less far to walk, though others commented that it can be more difficult to access because the stairs are steeper, there is no hand rail and one of the doors cannot be wedged open.
- It was noted that Clifford Wood Room is in quite a shabby condition and would not present a good first impression to visitors, though the tables and chairs are in better condition and more comfortable than in Carey Hall. It was suggested that if CWR is to be used for this purpose in the long term then some refurbishment is needed.
- It was agreed that the idea would be trialled for a six-week period later this year.

Dates

- Deacons: 14th October, Church Meeting: 29th October

11. Buildings

- Nothing to report

12. Pastoral

- News was shared about a number of members and friends

13. Any Other Business

- There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Nurses at Travis Perkins on Friday 25th October all day.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....