

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

Present: Andrew Forster (Secretary) in the chair and 13 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Andy Potter, Jenny Lane and Coral Burridge.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 24th September 2015 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - Comments on the change in location of after service refreshments were broadly positive, Arthur and Joy Shriver really appreciated the move.
  - Arrangements need to be made to inform the Sunday Club during the last hymn that the service is ending.

## 5. **Mission and Ministry**

### Update

- Approximately 60 people attended the Boys Brigade enrolment meal. Special thanks were noted to Sarah and Sonia who prepared the food.
- The first CAP money course run by Churches Together was coming to an end. Paul Burt had taken a leading role in presenting the course and it was expected that another course would be run early next year.
- St John's is participating in an initiative providing a homeless shelter for 11 weeks between January and Easter 2016. They are looking for volunteers for a range of tasks from manning the shelter to cooking breakfasts. We have limited details about the initiative at the moment but hope to learn more over the coming weeks.
- The TV Company filming the Khan family have requested that they carry out another session of filming at the church with a greater emphasis on the faith aspect of the Khans. It is expected the best date for this be 29<sup>th</sup> November when Andy is taking the service.

It was agreed the filming would be a good idea and a great opportunity to present our faith with the proviso that there is a clearly defined area where people who do not want to be filmed can enjoy worship. Based on previous filming it is felt the area to the left of the church as you enter from the vestibule would be ideal.

It was suggested the door attendant on the day explain the situation to visitors and direct them to this area if they do not want to be filmed.

## 6. **Youth**

### Girls Brigade

- Caroline Gillard presented a proposal to close the 1st Winchmore Hill Girls Brigade Company and open in its place a Girls Association as part of the 10th Enfield Boys Brigade Company. A document explaining the reasons and advantages of this was handed out.

- In summary a combination of situations had led to the proposed change including the lack of direction and support at local and national level, and the Girls Brigade at a national level losing a faith-based focus. The GB leaders believe the benefits of sharing resources, activities and events with the Boys Brigade will create a stronger more vibrant organisation for both boys and girls.
- The Girls Association will still have their own meetings, and will be led by the same leaders and helpers as presently, but there will be a greater number of joint activities with the boys.
- It was explained the change is scheduled for March 2016 when the Girls Brigade insurances run out.
- To date communication had been made to key people in the Brigades and the Church but no communication had yet been made to parents, it is important this is done in a positive and controlled way.
- The members agree to three key steps:
  1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Winchmore Hill Girls Brigade be replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> Winchmore Hill Girls Association, part of 10<sup>th</sup> Enfield Boys Brigade.
  2. Subject to this change being properly administered and The 1<sup>st</sup> Winchmore Hill Girls Brigade paying back monies to the Church, the Church will pass those monies on to The 1<sup>st</sup> Winchmore Hill Girls Association.
  3. The Boys Brigade complete a 'change of designation' form indicating the change from a Boys-only company to one that has a Girls Association.

## **7. Finance**

### Church Finances

- Ian reported that the Finance Report for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 is on the member's area of the website. In summary the level of total offerings were 8% down on budget with loose offerings significantly down (-20%). Premises income had also fallen over the summer period.

### Minister's Stipend

- See separate confidential minute.

## **8. Membership**

- It was noted with sadness that our longest-serving member, Cliff Burrige, passed away on 27th October. Binnie reported that the committal is to be held at Enfield Crematorium at 1.15pm on 9<sup>th</sup> November, for family and close friends, with a thanksgiving service held at the Church at 2.30pm.

## **9. World Mission**

- Barb reported that the latest news will be in Spotlight, published this coming Sunday.

## **10. Secretarial**

### Church Anniversary 2016

- Andrew reported that the Deacons had accepted Andy's proposal that Dr Ruth Gouldbourne from Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church be invited to speak at the Anniversary Service - this will be on either the 2nd or 4th Sunday in May. Dr Gouldbourne is an expert in Baptist History.

Change to Church Meeting Format - Revised Communication Strategy

- Andrew reported that Andy Potter, Paul Burt and John Melbourne were meeting to propose revised communication strategy as a result in the changes in Church meeting format. In particular they would be reaching out to members who were not internet connected to get their views. If the membership had any suggestions then it was requested they pass these to any on the group.

Dates

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

**11. Buildings**

Update

- Tim reported that he had received two quotes (Supreme and Normans) for the urgent work on the masonry at the front of the church. It was proposed this work be carried out as soon as possible despite the time of year due to safety aspects.

As the proposed works exceeded the amount in the Building Fund if we proceed with the work it would require movement of monies from the General Fund. The precise nature of the work and practicalities are yet to be agreed by Deacons.

- The work on the damp in the manse remains outstanding although there has been feedback from a surveyor indicating the damp is originating from the next door property. In this case costs should be covered by their insurers.
- Phil reported the next “working day” for people to help around the church will be Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**12. Pastoral**

- News was shared about a number of members and friends.

**13. Any Other Business**

- The decline in the level of loose offerings (-20%) was discussed and it was noted that this appears to coincide with the change to the offering arrangement, using the box in the vestibule. For this reason it was agreed that with immediate effect we revert back to the original arrangement of passing the bags around the congregation - this will be reviewed again in the new year.
- Chris reported that the Boys Brigade were planning to hold a Christmas Fayre on 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Church.
- Carin reported that Churches Together are holding a carol service at St Monica’s on Advent Sunday.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:20 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....