

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

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 7 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from John Melbourne, Jenny Lane, Binnie Weston, Sarah Potter, Esther Potter, Barbara Richardson
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 29th October 2015 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - None
5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy has recently been feeling grateful for the older people in the Church, who provide a wealth of experience and links to the past. He was particularly reminded of this at the recent Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Cliff Burridge.

Advent and Christmas

- The Toy Service will be on Sunday 13th December – it is almost certain that the Highfield School Choir will be performing. Andy will also be leading a Christmas Assembly at the school. It was agreed that the toys be distributed by North Enfield Foodbank rather than Barnet Social Services given that Carolyn Greenaway no longer works there.
- There will be a Churches Together Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday at St Monica's. Andy has been asked to find someone to read a passage.
- St Pauls are organising Carol Singing on the Green at 5.30pm on 17th December.
- St Monica's are organising a Nativity Trail in January – this will start at St Monica's, move on to Winchmore Hill Methodist Church and finishing at Holy Trinity.

Night Shelter

- A winter night shelter is being organised in the borough to provide accommodation for homeless people 6 nights a week for 11 weeks from Christmas to Easter, rotating around various churches. St John the Evangelist, Palmers Green, will be hosting it on Monday nights. They are now looking for volunteers to assist with the running of it. They are also looking for financial contributions to pay for bedding and toiletries etc. Those interested in volunteering should attend a meeting on 8th December – a poster has been put up in the vestibule and distributed with the email notices.

6. **Youth**

Update

- The Brigades are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December.
- The GB Badge Evening is on Tuesday 15th December.

7. Finance

Budget and Reserves Policy

- It was agreed that the version of the Reserves Policy issued in November 2012 will be retained for another year as circumstances have not changed.
- The proposed budget for 2016 had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and further copies were handed out. Ian presented it and explained significant points.
- The Youth Fund was set up while we employed a Youth Worker because we were receiving grant money and other income that could only be spent on youth. Current expenditure on youth is very limited, and we no longer receive such grants. Ian proposes running down the Youth Fund and funding youthwork from the General Fund in the future.
- The balances of the Denning Trust and the Jim Robertson legacy remain static as no purpose has yet been allocated for these.
- Income to the General Fund has been declining for a while and this is predicted to continue. Income from premises, which was rising steadily for several years, has now levelled off.
- In total, a deficit of just under £2000 is predicted.
- In order to minimise this deficit, expenditure on World Mission is to be reduced – donations to Home Mission and BMS will be reduced by 20% - support for Peter and Janet Dallman will be maintained at the same rate. In total, expenditure on World Mission is reduced by 6%.
- Subscriptions and Donations are to be left the same.
- The Minister's Stipend is to increase by 2% in line with the BU recommendations.
- No assumption has been made in the budget figures regarding the Thank Offering [but see later].
- Approx £2000-3000 of the burglary insurance claim has been left over after everything that we wanted to replace has been purchased, and this is being paid into the General Fund.
- It has previously been decided that expenditure on buildings will be £15000 per year for the time being. While there will be approx. £5000 left in the Building Fund at the end of 2015, the brick repair works which will take place early in 2016 will use a large sum so expenditure is still likely to be £30000 over the course of 2015-2016.
- Ian has predicted £4000 of donations to the building fund during 2016, meaning that to reach £15000 the Building Fund will need to be topped up with £6000 from the General Fund.
- A General Fund balance of £56,000 is predicted at the end of 2016.
- The budget was approved as presented, and Ian was thanked for his hard work in preparing it.

Allocation of Interest

- It was agreed that as in previous years, the interest accumulated on the balances of all of the funds will be paid into the General Fund.

Inspection of Accounts

- The rules state that the accounts must be inspected by person(s) independent from the trustees. Tim Gillard and John Melbourne, who have previously inspected the accounts, are now trustees, so can no longer do it. Ian has some names who he proposes to ask to do this but has not had the opportunity to do so – it was agreed that they will be appointed by the deacons.

Donations and Subscriptions

- A list of the donations and subscriptions made in 2015 was handed out. It was agreed that the deacons decide the figures for 2016 based on what was done previously.

Christmas Day Collection

- While traditionally in recent years this has been given to Tear Fund, it was suggested that this year it is given instead to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal as donations to this appeal are being matched by the government so our contribution will be worth double. This was agreed.
- The possibility of holding a collection at the Carol Service was discussed. In the end it was decided not to do this as it would be unlikely to raise significant money, it would require people staying behind to count it and it is nice to invite people to a special service without expecting them to give money.

Thank Offering

- It was agreed that, as last year, the whole Thank Offering will be retained by the Church to fund the ongoing building works.

Future Decisions: Premises Fees, Good Friday Collection

- Decisions regarding premises fees and the Good Friday collection need to be made during the course of the year. However, with the change in Church Meeting structure, there may not be a meeting at the appropriate time. It was agreed that these decisions can be delegated to deacons if the need arises.

8. Membership

- Nothing to report

9. World Mission

- Nothing to report

10. Secretarial

Calendar 2016

- A draft calendar for 2016 had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and further copies were given out during the meeting. Members were asked to check the dates that are on there and highlight any problems, and also to suggest any additional dates that it would be beneficial to add on.

Christmas Publicity

- A banner advertising the Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day services has already been placed on the main noticeboard. 250 A6 postcards on the same theme have been ordered and should arrive by Sunday - these are for members of the congregation to use to invite their friends and relatives. It is also planned that we will have some posters made to be put in Carey Hall and other locations around the Church.

Refreshment After Services

- For the last 5 Sundays we have been running a trial of having the refreshments after the service in Clifford Wood Room instead of Carey Hall. Members were asked for their feedback on how they thought this had gone.
- There has not been a clear consensus but the few people that have expressed an opinion have generally been in favour – in particular Joy and Arthur Shriever find it much easier to access, and those making refreshments find the practicalities easier.
- It was agreed that the refreshments will remain in Clifford Wood Room for the time being.

Dates

- Deacons: 9th December, Church Meeting: 28th January

11. Buildings

Brickwork on Front of Church

- The Maintenance Committee have been attempting to obtain several quotes for the work to repair the brickwork to the front elevation of the church but they have found very few builders willing to undertake it. Two quotes have now been obtained, from Supreme and from WJ Norman & Sons - the Normans are cheaper for a similar scope.
- Some of the detail on exactly what the scope of work is to be are still being worked out. The builders have suggested that it would be cost effective to carry out repairs to brickwork around the sides of CWR/Lounge and the disabled toilet/BB loft, and to replace the roof over the BB loft at the same time while the scaffolding is up - these options are being considered.

Manse Kitchen

- The kitchen has been suffering from a serious damp problem which is believed to be due to a leaking pipe within the wall. It is not clear whether the pipe is within the Manse or within the neighbouring house. Further investigations are continuing.

12. Pastoral

- News was shared about a number of members and friends

13. Any Other Business

- None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:13 pm

Signed.....

Date.....