

# MINUTES – CHURCH MEETING

Thursday 26th May 2016 at 8pm in the Clifford Wood Room

## Introduction

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- Refreshments were served before the meeting
- The theme of this meeting is **Prayer**. Andy introduced the theme, noting that 'pray continually' features in the motto text for this year, and highlighting the importance of us growing as a praying people.
- There were 12 Church members present.
- The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 28th January, were signed as a correct record.

## Worship

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- A time of worship was led by John Burridge, looking particularly at the words of the hymn *I cannot tell*.

## Praying Together

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The meeting spent some time considering some of the opportunities that exist for members to pray together:

- Andrew talked about the regular **prayer breakfast** which takes place on Saturday mornings at 9am. Previously this was always on the first Saturday of the month, though more recently it has proven better to arrange it according to the availability of the regular attenders. There is a continental breakfast and time to chat for 45 minutes followed by 45 minutes of prayer for the Church and the world.
- Jenny Lane explained the **prayer chain**. Those with urgent prayer needs can contact her with their request and she will arrange for that to be passed on immediately, by phone and email, to all those who have volunteered, meaning there is a wave of simultaneous prayer for the person in need.
- Carin talked about the **ecumenical prayer meeting**, which now takes place every other Tuesday morning in the Clifford Wood Room. Participants are invited from all the local churches, and there is prayer for the churches, ministers and needs of the area.
- Jenny and Merdelyn meet together on Wednesday mornings (when there is no Fellowship Group) to pray for the Church - others are welcome to join them.
- John Melbourne spoke about how a group of members is planning to start offering to pray with people immediately after Sunday services, in a similar arrangement to what exists in other Churches - members of the congregation wanting prayer should come to the front at the end of the service and one of the volunteers will be waiting to pray with them.

## Prayer

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- John Burridge led a time of prayer, focussing on the Lord's Prayer.

## **Ideas for Prayer**

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A discussion was held about ideas that different people find helpful in prayer. Some of these included:

- Book of prayers
- Continuous prayer - talking all the time to God
- Prayer when doing other things
- 'Parking your thoughts' - if when you are praying, an unrelated thought comes into your mind, write it down to sort out later so that it does not cause a distraction
- Light a candle, as a point of focus
- Members were encouraged to think about how their lives would be different if they took the time to bring more of their hopes and concerns to God in prayer.

## **Looking Ahead**

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Some ideas were discussed for encouraging a greater prayer life within the Church:

- Prayer box - drop prayer requests in and have them prayed for by a team of volunteers
- Website - introduce an online form to request prayer
- Prayer walk, praying for different aspects of our community.

## **Arrangements**

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- There will be a tea party celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday on Saturday 11th June 10.30-12.30. Members are encouraged to invite their friends and family.
- There will be a Church Barbecue at Felden Lodge after the morning service on Sunday 3rd July.

## **People, Prayer and Worship**

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- News was shared about a number of members of friends.
- There was a time of prayer for the work of the Church and for the people and issues raised during the meeting.
- The meeting closed with a time of worship.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_