

MINUTES – CHURCH MEETING

Thursday 29th September 2016 at 8pm in the Clifford Wood Room

Introduction

- Refreshments were served before the meeting
- The theme of this meeting is **Planning for 2017**. We will consider what activities and events for outreach and fellowship we would like to run in 2017, thinking particularly about:
 - What have we done in the last year?
 - What things have gone well, do we want to carry on doing them or do more?
 - What things have not gone so well, do we want to do them differently or do less of them?
 - What resources are needed to support our plans?
- There were 9 Church members present. Apologies were received from Jenny Lane, Binnie Weston, John Melbourne and Sarah Potter.
- The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26th May, were signed as a correct record.

Worship

- A time of worship was led by Andy, which included a time to reflect and give thanks for the day that has passed, and a time to focus on God and to ask for his presence and guidance in the meeting.

Events

Outreach

- The tea party celebrating the Queen's Birthday had gone very well with lots of visitors present. 2 extra members have joined the BB as a result. The event was organised at short notice, but those present felt it could not have gone any better even if organised further in advance.
- It is good that we have the freedom and flexibility to respond to ideas and circumstances and organise events at short notices. However it is beneficial to have space planned into the calendar where such events can be slotted in.
- Some of the less well known Christian festivals, such as Pentecost, could be used as a reason for an outreach event.
- The Church Building could be opened up as part of the *Open House London* scheme, welcoming people who might be curious to look inside. This would require relatively little effort to organise, though it would be beneficial to publicise it well.
- Whatever events we do, it is beneficial to have plenty of photographs taken and have them posted on the website.

Fellowship

- There is a feeling that there is too big a gap during July and August when no Church events happen. It was agreed that from next year the Fellowship Group will run continuously through the summer. It is also be a good time to organise other individual events, with a tea party being the most preferred option.
- Picnics in the park are good fellowship events, at no cost and requiring little organisation.
- This year's Easter day programme, with the sunrise meeting, then breakfast, then Morning Worship, worked very well. The big gap between the sunrise service and the breakfast had been a problem - this will be worse next year as sunrise is earlier. We will consider holding Morning Worship (and therefore breakfast) earlier than normal.
- *Praying the Novena* was very worthwhile, with a wide range of different groups of people meeting together at different times, but also the whole Church meeting together.
- An extra event in Holy Week will be considered.

Prayer

- There was a time of prayer for our witness and ministry.

Regular Activities

- Childrens' work (Ignite and Sunday Club) continue on Sunday mornings
- The Girls Association is still settling in to their new arrangement. They are a bit short of leaders and helpers.
- The Boys Brigade have changed their meeting pattern, moving Company Section from Monday to Thursday - this is intended to reduce the number of boys dropping out when they move up due to the change of day. There are about 30 boys in BB at the moment.
- The Wednesday morning Fellowship Group is flourishing at the moment, with attendance regularly reaching a dozen - this has been very encouraging.
- The Midweek@WHBC Wednesday evening group is smaller with a core group of 6-7 people who benefit from studying the Bible together.
- Keith spoke at length about the new English language classes which are running in the Church on Monday mornings. These are intended to be an outreach activity and the main aim is to make friends and bless our community. 11 people have so far come, with average attendance of 5-6 per week - all these have found it by word of mouth, there has been no publicity. There has been a wide range of abilities and nationalities. Some of those attending have asked for the opportunity to study the Bible in simple English.
- Thursday Afternoon Club has been low on numbers, but it makes a big difference to those who do come.
- The Churches Together group have been increasing their activity - events organised during the year include the Camino (pilgrimage), lent meetings, winter night shelter, CAP money course and the fortnightly prayer meetings.

Membership - Matthew Burridge

- Matthew Burridge has requested to transfer his membership to Southcourt Baptist Church in Aylesbury, where he has been attending since February.
- This was agreed by the members, who also expressed their appreciation for Matthew's involvement in Church life and sorrow that he is no longer here. Andrew will write a letter to Southcourt warmly commending Matthew to them.

Events in 2016

- The Brigades Enrolment service will be held on Sunday 10th October - this will include presentation of awards. There will be no lunch following the service, but there will be cakes and treats.
- A childrens' Holiday Club will be held in Half Term - the mornings of Thursday 27th and Friday 28th October, 9.30am-12noon. There will be craft, mini-sports and Bible stories, based on the *Champion's Challenge* Scripture Union resources. There is no charge but pre-booking is essential - contact Barb.
- The usual pattern of Christmas services will be followed, with Carols by Candlelight on 18th December and the Toy Service on 11th December. The Highfield Choir will be performing at the Toy Service, and in view of this (in the hope of attracting some of the Highfield parents) it will be included on the publicity, branded the *Family Carol Service*.

People, Prayer and Worship

- 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 _____