

# MINUTES – CHURCH MEETING

Thursday 25th May 2017 at 8pm in the Clifford Wood Room

## Introduction

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- Paul opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 37 and a short time of prayer.
- The theme of this meeting is **Moving On**.
- There were 13 Church members present. Apologies were received from Carolyn Kindberg, Sandra Burt
- The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January were signed as a correct record.

## Novena

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- Carin led the first daily meditation, *Between Generations*.

## Prayer and Worship

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- Keith led songs of worship and prayers.

## What Next?

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- Andy has now moved out of the Manse and will cease to be an employee on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### Moderator

- The LBA recommend that churches temporarily without a minister appoint a moderator, the minister of a nearby church who can provide guidance and support and help deal with any issues. The deacons considered whether this would be of benefit to us.
- Rev Malcolm Drummond from Palmers Green Baptist Church was put forward as a suitable candidate to be our moderator. The deacons met with Malcolm to discuss the scope of the role and concluded that having him as our moderator would be beneficial.
- The meeting agreed with the deacons' proposal to appoint Rev Malcolm Drummond as our moderator for the duration of the ministerial transition.

### Refocus Day

- The LBA recommend that Churches seeking a new minister hold a 'Refocus Day' for the whole congregation to meet together and think about the Church Profile – what sort of Church we are, what we want to be and what sort of pastor we are looking for. The document is sent to the BU and is used to match us with possible ministry candidates, so it is important that the membership have full involvement in preparing the content.
- It is best to have an outside person to facilitate the Refocus Day – to guide us and help us think through the issues – the deacons are searching for a suitable person.
- The deacons propose to hold this event on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July after the morning service. Logistical matters are still under consideration, but the consensus was that a simple lunch should be provided. At least one member was not in favour of the proposed date as external speakers from Wycliffe Bible Translators will be leading the service and there was concern that the event would distract the focus from them. Further consideration was given to alternative dates, however no other suitable date could be found before the school holidays.

- There was some discussion about the format of the profile. It was acknowledged that we do not want to recycle the profile from the last interregnum – we are a different Church from where we were 11 years ago. Ian has started to put together a framework.
- The date for the Refocus Day will be publicised in the notices, along with an invitation to the congregation to think in advance about the content and submit suggestions to the deacons.

## **Open Prayer for Interregnum**

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- There was a short time of prayer for the life of the Church during the interregnum, and for the successful calling of a new minister.

## **Finance**

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- The finance report for January to March presented a positive picture. However it was bolstered by strong premises income – that will be reduced for the time being as we are not able to let Carey Hall out to as many parties due to there being no caretaker.
- We are not presently paying a minister, which has meant a big drop in expenditure.
- The buildings are a big issue - the exterior work on the front of the church at the end of last year cleared out the building fund and now a lot of work is needed on the Manse to prepare for a new minister. We want to do this work soon so that we have the opportunity to let it out for a few months, however we are still not completely sure how much the work will cost as it has not been fully surveyed as the Potters only moved out this week.
- Donations received for Andy's leaving gift totalled £950 – it was agreed that this will be topped up to £1000 from Church funds.

## **Dates**

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- Deacons Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Church Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> September

## **People and Prayer**

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

## **Other Business**

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- The Churches Together Camino (local walk visiting a number of churches) will take place on the last Saturday in July
- The Valedictory service for Peter and Janet Dallman will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.15pm at St Thomas' Oakwood.
- Andrew invited members to send him suggestions for external speakers who he can invite to lead services.
- Kevin Norman was unhappy that there were very few Church members at the Brigades Award Evening. Next year we will publicise it further in advance and avoid a clash with Church Meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_