

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2013 AT 4PM IN CAREY HALL

Present: Revd Andy Potter (Minister) in the Chair, and 20 church members.

## 1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman welcomed members present. Apologies for absence were received from Jean Blaxland, Jenny Lane, Ray and Nelly Ong, Chris, Phil, Jackie and Audrey Norman, Tim and Caroline Gillard, Sarah Potter, John Burridge and Barbara Richardson.

## 2. Communion

Communion was celebrated, led by the Chairman.

3. **The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 31st March 2012 were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising:** None

## 5. Election of Deacons

Sonia Gumbs had reached the end of her three-year term as deacon. Derek Hann had resigned part way through the year when he moved away. There were also two long-standing vacancies for deacons, leaving four vacant positions in total. Sonia Gumbs and Paul Burt were nominated for election.

- Carolyn Greenaway and Keith Richardson were appointed as scrutineers.
- The voting procedure was explained.
- Voting papers were distributed and the chairman led in prayer.
- Both candidates received 100% of votes in favour and were therefore elected for terms of three years.
- It was agreed that the ballot papers be destroyed.
- It was announced that all deacons would be recommissioned at the service the next morning.

## 6. Confirmation of Office.

The Secretary presented the 'Positions of Responsibility' document listing the leaders of organisations, members of committees, church representatives, those with special responsibilities, and fellowship group leaders. The draft list had been previously distributed by email and at the Church Meeting and a number of amendments had been advised. There was one more amendment noted in the meeting, but apart from that the list was agreed as presented. The revised list was to be distributed with the minutes.

It had been decided to add the chequebook signatories to the Positions of Responsibility document and ensure any changes to these were agreed by the meeting. The existing signatories were Ian Blunn, Carolyn Greenaway, Paul Burt and Janet Hann. Given that Janet had moved away, it was agreed Tim Gillard would replace her as a signatory.

## 7. Finance.

Ian Blunn presented the accounts for 2012 and explained significant features. He started by thanking the team of cashiers for their regular work in counting and paying in the offerings, and Tim Gillard and Zubair Khan for inspecting the accounts.

There was a surplus of £4000 in the General Fund, this being £8000 ahead of budget. There had been a small increase in regular offerings, significant increases in loose offerings and income from premises and a significant decrease in expenses. Income for HMRC is down

slightly due to the end of transitional relief from an earlier change in the tax rate. Expenditure on Ministry is down due to the Church no longer employing a youth worker. Expenditure on overseas mission is broadly unchanged. The gas bill was well below budget due to a previous overpayment.

Ian explained some of the history of the Captain Pierce Johns Trust, and noted in 2012 the Church received £1100, of which £795 was allocated to the General Fund and the rest to the Fellowship Fund.

A Youth Fund had been recently set up as some grants and payments are received which can only be spent on youth activities. The main income for the fund was a £1200 transfer from the General Fund, a £600 grant from the Jack Petchey Foundation and £125 in donations. Smaller sources of income included reclaimed tax on the donations, subscriptions for the re:create youth club and contributions to the Weekend Away. The main expenditure is the Weekend Away and other youth projects. There is currently a healthy balance in the fund.

There are two funds that are used for work on the premises - the Building Fund is for new works to improve the buildings and the Repairs Fund is for maintenance. £2600 was transferred into the Repairs Fund from the General Fund, plus there have been some donations. The balance of the Repairs Fund has increased due to the Buildings Team not having sufficient time to carry out all the budgeted work before the end of the year. The balance of the Buildings Fund has significantly decreased due to the installation of the fire alarm.

The Fellowship Fund is used to encourage members in financial need and grants can be made at the discretion of the minister. It is also used for occasional gifts to the missionaries and Christmas gifts to elderly people. The size of individual grants that can be made is modest due to tighter regulations.

Several special collections were made for specific causes. £3775 was received for the Thank Offering which was a major increase on the previous year - this was split between the n:flame Trust and the Building Fund. The Harvest Offering to Operation Agri was slightly down on the previous year. The Christmas Day collection for Tear Fund remained consistent with previous years. There was an increase in donations to Home Mission through the Christmas Post Box.

Finally, no legacies were received during the year, and the values of the properties declared in the accounts is the insured values. Ian suggested that there is likely to be another modest surplus in the coming year.

It was agreed unanimously that the accounts be adopted, and Ian was thanked for his work in preparing them.

## **8. Annual Report**

Andrew Forster presented the trustees' annual report for 2012. The report comes in two parts. Part 1 contains the statutory information required by the Charity Commission, including the objectives of the Church and how the Church is governed - this information is mainly the same from year to year. Part 2 is an account of the activities that have been happening in the Church during the year and as well as the summary written by the Secretary, contributions are accepted from leaders of groups within the Church. The report was in a different format this year to reduce the cost and difficulty of printing and the feedback on this was positive. The report was adopted by the meeting.

**9. Pastor's Comments**

Andy thanked the membership for allowing him to have a Sabbatical, and for helping him celebrate his Silver Wedding Anniversary. He is grateful for the Church's support and for their prayers for his family.

Andy commented that it has been a year of transition, due to the lack of a youth worker, due to the departures of Derek and Janet Hann and Sammy Bosworth and the sad death of Brian Owers. Lots of people have taken on extra responsibility and he is pleased that the Church has risen to the challenge.

Andy enjoys Church meals and celebrations, and was particularly pleased that there was both a wedding and a dedication during the year.

The number of members has been hovering at just below 70 for quite some time and Andy would be very pleased if the 70 barrier could finally be broken.

Andy has talked to one person who attends Church services occasionally and is not a believer but talks enthusiastically about the welcome he receives when he comes. Andy urged the Church to carry on celebrating and carry on welcoming. Finally he thanked the membership for their blessing to him and to his family.

**10. Dates**

- Deacons Meeting: 17th April
- Church Meeting: 25th April

**10. Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting with the Grace at 5.30 pm and refreshments were served by Josie Lynn.

Signed.....

Date.....