

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2016 AT 4PM IN CAREY HALL

Present: Revd Andy Potter (Minister) in the Chair, and 18 church members.

The Accounts, Annual Report, Positions of Responsibility documents and Child Protection policy had been distributed by email prior to the meeting and members were given paper copies on arrival.

1. Opening Worship was led by the Chairman

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members present. Apologies for absence were received from John Melbourne, Tim Gillard, Sarah Potter, Esther Potter, John Burridge, Jean Daniels, Jean Blaxland, Sandra Burt

3. Communion was celebrated, led by the Chairman.

4. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th March 2015 were signed as a correct record

5. Matters Arising: None

6. Election of Deacons

- Paul Burt, Carolyn Greenaway and Sonia Gumbs had all reached the end of their terms as deacons - there were therefore three vacancies. All three were nominated to stand for further terms of three years - no other nominations were received.
- Veronica Henly and Keith Richardson were appointed as scrutineers.
- The voting procedure was explained.
- Voting papers were distributed and then collected after the members had made their choices.
- All candidates received sufficient votes in favour and were therefore elected.
- It was agreed that the ballot papers be destroyed.
- It was announced that all deacons would be recommissioned at the service on the 20th March.

7. Confirmation of Office

Andrew Forster presented the 'Positions of Responsibility' document listing the leaders of organisations, members of committees, church representatives, those with special responsibilities, and those who participate in the duties during Sunday worship services. The list has been significantly expanded this year compared to previous years in an attempt to fully capture all of the work that is going on and the large range of different jobs that people are doing to keep the Church running.

7. Finance.

Ian Blunn presented the accounts for 2015 and explained significant features.

- The bank balance at the end of the year was approx. £1000 more than at the beginning.
- There was a small deficit of £430 on the General Fund – the balance was significantly less at the end of the year due to the money from the insurance claim (which was received just before the end of the previous year) being spent during the year.
- There was a significant decrease of approx. £5000 in the total offerings to the General Fund. We were unable to claim the full amount of GASDS as our loose offerings were less than £5000.
- Premises income and income from the Captain Pierce Johns Trust were close to budget.
- Some items of expenditure were significantly less than budgeted. Employment Allowance meant we did not have to pay much in National Insurance contributions. Gas and Electricity expenditure were less due to us having overpaid in previous years and due to reduction in energy prices. The cost of Council Tax was less because there was a mixup by the Council so some of the 2015 Council Tax due was not paid until 2016. There was less expenditure on publicity as we are no longer delivering invitations to local streets so the number of invitations ordered is much less.
- At the end of the year there was £4000 still remaining from the insurance claim payment. As nearly everything that needed to be replaced has already been bought, most of this is left over and will end up going to the General Fund.
- For expenditure on Mission: £3000 went to BMS; £2500 was given to Home Mission directly and in addition there was the money from the Christmas Post Box and subscriptions; £13500 went to OMF; £900 went to Pathway. In total just less than £20000 was spent on mission, representing 34% of total offerings.
- £700 was transferred to the Youth Fund. The only expenditure from the fund was the BB/GB and Urban Saints subscriptions. £670 of Jack Petchey money remains in the fund, which must be spent appropriately.
- There was exceptional giving to the Building Fund: £12,000 was received. £6000 was spent during the year. There was a £16,000 balance at year end. There has been a large amount of building activity going on with not that much money spent – many members have been working hard doing jobs themselves rather than paying builders, and the work has been completed at low cost.
- The Fellowship Fund received £275 from the Captain Pierce Johns Trust and a bit extra in ordinary donations – this remains well funded.
- There was no movement on the Denning Trust Fund or on the Repairs Fund.
- The Thank Offering was given to the Building Fund – this came to £3000 including Gift Aid reclaimed.
- The Harvest Offering to Operation Agri was slightly less than last year. The Christmas Offering went to Christian Aid and was similar to last year.
- The money collected at the Memorial Service to Cliff Burrige was divided between Christian Aid and the Church.
- The amount given to the Home Mission Christmas Postbox decreased but that is very variable from year to year.
- The balance of the Jim Robertson legacy is still available to be spent.

- Assets at the end of the year: £635 in the HSBC account; £60,000 in the CAF account; £32,700 in the LBPB account; freehold of the Church and the Manse and the contents of Church buildings. The 3.5% War Stock was redeemed so will no longer appear on the balance sheet.
- It remains concerning that offerings are decreasing. An ongoing decline is predicted in this year's budget. The majority of expenditure is on operating the Church and employing the minister so there is little flexibility. There is also the prospect of major expenditure on buildings. We have a plan to live within our means, and our hopeful we can meet challenges. At present we have healthy reserves, but the closer we get to the minimum balance, the less choice we will have on what we can afford.
- Thanks were expressed to Andy McGee and Martin Wells for inspecting accounts.

8. Annual Report

Andrew presented the report for 2015, which contains 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. The first version of this was written after the Church first became a registered charity - it was carefully prepared following the guidance from the Charity Commission on what information is required and how it should be presented. The Church's objectives and structure rarely change and so the information is mainly the same from year to year. The main changes to this part from last year were:
 - The 'Appointment of Trustees' section was rewritten to document the outcome of the AGM in 2015.
 - The Finance Review was written from scratch to document the Church's financial position in 2015.
 - Other small amendments were made to take account of the way the Church organisation is evolving, for example by the change to the Church Meeting format.
- Part 2 is an account of the activities that have been happening in the Church during the year. Contributions were received from leaders of many of the groups within the Church. This year, in addition to the reports that are usually received, Carin Blunn prepared a report about the activities of Churches Together in Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill. Andrew prepared a Secretary's report which attempted to summarise the activities and events that had taken place during the year which had not been covered by the group reports.
- The members thanked Andrew for compiling and publishing the Annual Report, as well as all the additional work that was required in preparation for this meeting.

9. Pastor's Comments

The death of Cliff BurrIDGE was a very significant event in the life of the Church – he was a link to the history and so often we feel that if he were here he would be doing things. Andy is grateful for the baptism of Esther – this is like handing on the baton to the next generation. It takes a church community to nurture a child – Andy is grateful to our Church for nurturing Esther. Andy hears stories of minister's kids having a bad experience of church, and he is grateful that his children have been well cared for.

Andy often spends time visiting people who are struggling in order to encourage them, but he himself often goes away feeling blessed. There is good community and much happens that doesn't appear in a report. Encouragement and nurturing are hard to measure. Andy is

grateful for the work that everyone does during the year, as exemplified by the long list of jobs in the Positions of Responsibility document. The fellowship is loving and supporting each other, and loving and blessing him.

On behalf of the membership, Coral thanked Andy for how much he cares for us, and how he has been a great help and comfort to everyone.

10. Church Meeting Business

Maintenance

Thanks were expressed to the Maintenance Group for the large amount of work done that had been done on refurbishing the Clifford Wood Room at relatively low cost – particular thanks were expressed to Phil Norman for the enormous number of hours he put in.

Child Protection Policy

- The Child Protection Procedures are 20 pages long – these will be issued to all who work with children and the content will be covered by a training day.
- At the front there is a Policy statement, which is to be reviewed and the members to be reminded of every year. It is important that we get the policy right for the protection of children, the protection of workers and the protection of our reputation. The members were given the opportunity to read the policy.
- In future, all regular hall hirers will need to have a Child Protection Policy.
- Paul Burt is the Safeguarding Trustee, Carolyn Greenaway is the Designated Person for Safeguarding (these roles are defined in the policy).

Other Business

- Members were reminded that the Playgroup meets in Carey Hall 8am-4pm every weekday – we should avoid disturbing them during these hours.
- The Good Friday service will be at 10.15 at the Church.

11. Dates

- Deacons Meeting: 13th April
- Church Meeting: 26th May

10. Any Other Business

On Tuesday 12th April the Girls Brigade will make the transition to become Girls Association. 22nd March will be the last GB meeting.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 5.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....