

**Minutes of the Church Members Meeting Held on  
Tuesday 24th July 2018**

**Chair:** Graham Simpson (Elder)

**Secretary:** Andrew Thompsett

**Present:** Lee and Lorraine Jackson, Pauline Fuller, Tim Wilson, David and Ruth Bellerby, Amy Lanelly, Val McMahon, Dave and Moira Miller, Mary Simpson, Annette Morris, Lena Parker, Hannah and Michael Cassell, John and Christine Daniels, Phil and Serena Stevenson, Colin and Denise Russell, Anne Gosling, Darren Brown, Linda Williamson, Alistair Crane, Sue Whitmore, Bernard Golding, Lynn Foltyn, Ronnie Bussey, Steve and Sue Parker, David H-Walker and Steve Rigg

**Total Members Present - 35**

Andrew sought permission for Graham Simpson to chair the meeting.

Graham welcomed Hannah Cassell to her first members meeting

**Devotions**

Graham brought devotions from 1 Thessalonians 14-18 (NIV)

We urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

August is almost upon us, thoughts focus on a well-earned rest, a holiday, relaxing. Why not it has been a busy and exciting seven months as we have seen God at work in our midst. Reading the 1 Thessalonians passage in The Passion Translation has given me a different approach to rest.

We appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not in their place of battle. *Be skilled at* gently encouraging those who feel themselves inadequate. *Be faithful* to stand your ground. Help the weak to stand again. *Be quick to* demonstrate patience with everyone. Resist revenge, and make sure that no one pays back evil in place of evil but always pursue doing what is beautiful to one another and to all *the unbelievers*.

Let joy be your continual feast. <sup>17</sup> Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

I love perfect plans, but that is not the reality of everyday life, but God does have a perfect plan for us, and that is what I have just read to you.

The Greek word *ataktos* is often used for troops that are not in battle formation (unarranged). (NIV) Idle and disruptive. (TPT) not in their place of battle.

The enemy the devil prowls round like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5: 8 The devil never takes a holiday. We must be battle ready, always. Put your armour on each day. Then live each day in this way. "*Be skilled at* gently encouraging those who feel themselves inadequate. *Be faithful* to stand your ground. Help the weak to stand again. *Be quick to* demonstrate patience with everyone. Resist revenge, and make sure that no one pays back evil in place of evil but always pursue doing what is beautiful to one another and to all *the unbelievers*.

Let joy be your continual feast. <sup>17</sup> Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus." Let us be ready for battle with the enemy. Let's seek to put God's perfect plan into place, because we want to put the enemy, Satan, who is prowling around, in his place. We don't want to give him any opportunity. So as God's people lets allow His perfect plan to rest in our hearts and in our lives so that we can give Him glory. Amen

There then followed a time of prayer

**Apologies:** Sally Plant, Len Smith, Judith Smith, Cyril and Joan Jackson, Jim and Dianne Clifton, Alison Whiteley, Jessie Spencer, Heather Rigg, Catherine Wilson, Gill Beams, Jenny Stephenson and Viki Harrison

### **Minutes of CMM 15th May 2018**

The minutes of the Church Members Meeting on the 15th May 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record with no changes being required.

**Proposed: Anne Gosling**

**Seconded: Serena Stevenson**

All in favour

There were no matters arising

### **Elders Report and New Minister Update: Graham**

It has been great encouragement to hear testimonies of God's healing and ongoing blessing in our church family life, may this continue in greater measure as we move forward into all God has for us in the coming months.

There were eighteen people who went to the Well Church Sheffield for the Naturally Supernatural course. As we seek to live out what we have learned and experienced as we step out in faith there will be many challenges and we pray opportunities to see God touch lives with his love and power and many come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July we again prayer walked, this time around the church and the park. We spent some time in the park praying for the Bonanza, the church's presence and witness and for New Visions and their music presentation of faith and hope in Jesus.

What a great encouragement for the church when the God inspired outreach of buns and questionnaire was put forward by Catherine and Lorraine. With Lorraine's Life Group prepared to develop the idea, prepare the questionnaire and publicity. With the support of the church, 69 questionnaires were completed, good conversations had and most of the buns given away. Thank you to everyone who got involved to help make this happen. Please pray for ongoing wisdom and inspiration as the needs and desires of the people talked to are analysed and how to follow up. We now have some of the feedback and one of the interesting remarks, was perhaps unsurprising.

*How many had little interest in church. We need to pray about how we introduce these people to Jesus.*

As we look forward through August we must not lose sight that we are always witnesses to God's love and mercy. Let us pray and encourage those who will be leading the services.

In September we will be prayer walking again and have the opportunity to learn about personal evangelism. Please make a note of the dates so you can keep them free.

Regarding a new full time leader/minister we have had a conference call with someone in Scotland but this was not God's person for us. Other people have been submitted from the YBA, again none were felt to be God's appointment for us. Further contact with Adrian, who preached at the end of May, has been made with regard to the elders meeting him and getting to know him better.

Please keep praying that we will know the way forward in all matters to do with the Kingdom of God. Let us continue to take steps of faith as we reach out to the lost we meet every day and to the community around the church. Showing God's love is rewarding and can be tiring but insignificant when we see what God did out of love for us.

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Hebrews 12: 1b-3

Looking forward we must keep our focus on being witnesses to God's love, winning people for Christ. The most effective way to do this is to move in the supernatural power of God, he is the one who can transform lives and situations which makes sharing God's love so much easier.

Words from prayer meeting which took place before the CMM

Happiness is to Love and Be Loved

Be Ready at all times. Love is to be given away. School Report - Done well but could do better. .... There is a Harvest on the street. Small faith to move mountains.

#### **Affirmation of Lorraine Jackson as Women's Net Leader: Ruth**

Ruth explained that over the past few months a lot of prayer had taken place over both the Men's and Women's Net positions and who were the right people to call into those roles. Whilst prayer was still ongoing in relations to the men's position the leaders wished to bring forward for the meetings affirmation, Lorraine. (applause)

Lorraine was affirmed unanimously.

There then followed a time of blessing and prayer for Lorraine.

#### **August Service Update and Autumn Term Vision: Dave Miller**

Throughout August the members of the Leadership Development Group will be leading the services. They will be shorter than usual and afterwards we will go into the park for time together.

During the Autumn term our vision is to move forward, reaching out to those that don't know Jesus, through the supernatural power and love of the Holy Spirit. We will be reaching out beyond the walls of the church, to our friends, neighbours and work colleagues as well as to our mission outreach to the Bentley Community. To help us with this we will be having a training session in September. In early September the Evangelistic Events Group will meet to plan our first outreach taking into account the results of the survey in the park. The Evangelistic Outreach Group will also meet to look at moving in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit to see others impacted by God's presence working in their lives. This is an exciting time and we need to pray that God will use us. Its time for action.

## **Reports**

Verbal update on Fabric from Colin Russell

The major piece of work that we are undertaking is to put in a level disabled access which can be used by everyone moving from church through to the Rigby and Ridgeway areas. This will take place starting August 9th and dependant on what we find and how the work goes it may be necessary on on of the Sundays for people to use the office as a thoroughfare.

Verbal update on Open the Book from Andrew via Jenny Stephenson

1. Falling numbers of children entering Arksey this Sept has meant redundancy for a long serving valuable member of staff which is a very big disappointment to herself, headteacher, staff and parents
2. If entrance numbers do not improve the school is under threat of closure
3. Improving situation at New village - head v positive recently and they are hoping that targets set for them to achieve in 2years will be reached after only 1 year
4. A card assuring them of our prayers during SATS week was sent to each school and was really appreciated
5. It's your move booklets provided by the church to each year 6 pupil
6. The children who we get to help us are getting more actively involved sometimes speaking spontaneously and all of them amaze us at how much they remember from the previous story
7. We continue to be thankful to God for the opportunity and privilege of being able to share his word with so many children
8. Weds team could use additional members

## **Financial Report: David Bellerby**

The financial report is available on request from the treasurer or the secretary. Whilst at this time the church is in a reasonably healthy position we do not have to pay a minster. We are a growing church and we all need to examine our giving. The committed

giving specific to renew 127, just covers the rental of the property, but not the other expenditure involved

David encouraged anybody who wanted to review their giving.

**Membership:** Andrew

You may well remember that the leadership carried out a review of members at the start of the year. As a result of that we agreed with some members to delay the review. That has now taken place and Glen Harrop, Colin Harrop, Graham Harris and Debbie Osbourne. are no longer members at Bentley Baptist Church. That is not to say that are not welcome to worship with us and if appropriate in the future re apply for church membership.

**Safeguarding:** Jill Beams

Nothing to report

**renew 127:** Anne Gosling

The Centre has been open six months and what a fantastic journey we have been on in those six months. From day one we have had people through our doors and several of them are now regulars. God has been amazing, sending people in and giving them the confidence to speak to us about what is troubling them, and giving us the wisdom to know when to speak and when to shut up. It's a place where our new friends feel safe, where it is okay not to be okay and knowing that they are not judged, a place where what is said is in confidence (depending on what's said).

The prayer/quiet room has evoked many comments from both professionals and visitors, "what a peaceful place", "a beautiful room", "the peace in this room is tangible", "what a lovely place to spend time in" to name but a few. When we have our Rhythms of Prayer, the kingdom of heaven descends to earth and God is powerfully in evidence - an amazing experience not to be missed!!

BBC Radio Sheffield came to the centre last Wednesday and interviewed Heather (her album had been released on that day) and some of our visitors as well as myself about our 127 experience, it will be aired on the Sunday God slot programme at 7am, at a date to be decided. It was a good experience to talk about my favourite subject - Renew 127 - though I suspect they will cut a lot out as I did rather go on.

Over the summer holidays we are having afternoon child friendly sessions, not entirely sure how we will get on, and I completely relying on other members of staff to provide material as I haven't got an artistic bone in my body!!

On Sunday 19th August Jenny and her Team are arranging an afternoon tea - now that is more my cup of tea!

Finally we are planning a official opening in September and have invited Mayor Ros Jones to 'cut the ribbon' at a date to be decided in September.

If you haven't been to see us, do come along for a coffee and a chat.  
Todays we had five new people through the door and eight well behaved children.

Be excited about 127 and pray for it.

Grahams then gave further encouragement concerning renew

### **Forthcoming Festivals and Events**

#### **Sunday 8th September**

Prayer Walking

#### **Tuesday 18th September**

Day of Prayer and Fasting

#### **Saturday 22nd September**

Evangelism Training

#### **Sunday 30th September**

Harvest Festival

#### **Tuesday 6th November**

Church Members Meeting

Graham in closing gave thanks for the life of Kathleen whose funeral is this coming Thursday and brought the meeting to a close in prayer at 20:48

Signed ..... Date: 6th November 2018  
Graham Simpson (Elder)