

**Minutes of the Church Members Meeting Held on  
Tuesday 6th November 2018**

**Chair:** Graham Simpson (Elder)

**Secretary:** Andrew Thompsett

**Present:** Lee and Lorraine Jackson, David and Ruth Bellerby, Amy Lanelly, Dave and Moira Miller, Mary Simpson, Annette Morris, Lena Parker, Michael Cassell, John and Christine Daniels, Phil and Serena Stevenson, Colin and Denise Russell, Anne Gosling, Darren Brown, Linda Williamson, Sue Whitmore, Ronnie Bussey, Steve and Sue Parker, Danni Simpson, Janet Stacey, John Smith, Gill Beams, Jenny Stephenson, Steve Rigg, Sally Plant, Farrell Clifford and Chris Butler

**Total Members Present - 35**

Andrew sought permission for Graham Simpson to chair the meeting.

**Devotions**

Graham started by reading from Romans 10:13-16 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Yahweh will be rescued and experience new life." But how can people call on him for help if they've not yet believed? And how can they believe in one they've not yet heard of? And how can they hear the message of life if there is no one there to proclaim it? And how can the message be proclaimed if messengers have yet to be sent? That's why the Scriptures say: How welcome is the arrival of those proclaiming the joyful news of peace and of good things to come! But not everyone welcomes the good news, as Isaiah said: Lord, is there anyone who hears and believes our message?

As church we have been focussing more and more on our calling to outreach, to be witnesses, it is what this coming Saturday is about (Evangelism training) learning how to be effective witnesses. As we go through the agenda tonight we shall be looking and giving opportunity to pray about how we can be involved in more outreach and different way of achieving it. Faith is birthed in the heart that responds to God's anointed utterance of the anointed one and the mission of the church is to tell the good news of Jesus. It is only when people hear this good news that they can make a decision to follow Jesus or to reject Him. Paul states the obvious, that people can only hear if we tell them. We have been commissioned by Jesus to give freely what we have received, and to God to make disciples. We therefore have the responsibility and privilege of sharing this good news of Jesus, the outcome as the passage finishes off "This leads to faith being birthed in the hearts of those who respond"

So as we go through the meeting tonight lets hear what God may be calling us to as church and as individuals as we consider ways of sharing this good news with those that need to hear it.

Some will have already heard this, but I am still going to share it. Words that were given during the prayer time before this meeting.

Ruth said that she was woken up during the night and God spoke to her through Isaiah 66:9 'Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?' says the Lord. 'Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?' says your God.

Jeremiah 31 See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return.

They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father. 'Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it'

At the Friday prayer group there was a picture given of a big dam holding back the water. Then cracks started to appear and water started to trickle out. Finally the dam blew and all the water flooded out.

Also a picture of a bottle of fizzy water being shaken up and the top blowing off.

On this Friday there was a picture of the disciples casting their nets and them overflowing with fish, and there is the thought that we need to prepare our net. That we are one in heart and mind and in purpose and then we will be ready for the dam to burst, for the top to come off the bottle, for God to fulfil His promise that He will bring people from the North and South, from wherever. The blind, the lame, the that need His love. That is what we are about as church.

We must press on and move forward and not stay where we are.

Mount Carmel and Elisha. He gave the challenge that we have to decide who is God. Is it the living God or is it not. Whatever you decide, throw your lot in with them. That is the decision we are taking out to people.

Where there is bright light there is also darkness and we have to be a people who draw people to the light.

The meeting then spent time in prayer

**Apologies:** Alison Whiteley, Judith Smith, Tim and Catherine Wilson, Pauline Fuller, Alistair Crane, Viky Harrison, Len Smith, Bernard Goulding, Ian Simpson, Heather Rigg, Hannah Cassell, Jim and Dianne Clifton

### **Minutes of CMM 24th July 2018**

The minutes of the Church Members Meeting on the 24th July 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record with no changes being required.

**Proposed:** Serena Stevenson

**Seconded:** David Bellerby

All in favour

There were no matters arising

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

It was encouraging for our emerging leaders and families to take responsibility for the Sunday services through August. What a great time we had celebrating and enjoying God's goodness as family together.

Thanks to those who helped to make the harvest supper so successful. To have church family and many not yet part of the church family, eating, talking and laughing together was again encouraging.

We were able to celebrate with Hannah Wattam at her baptism on the Sunday, what a great witness to her family and friends who came along.

How grateful we are to Cass and Lorraine, and their families, for taking six of our young people to the Youth for Christ weekend. What fun they had as they had life changing encounters with God. What encouragements there were as they shared their experiences from the weekend. These young people have shared their vision for church with the elders. We were impressed with the thoughtful ideas put forward. They also appreciate that some things may take a little time to implement. They have specifically asked for better youth Bibles; the Youth for Christ Good News Bible was the one they suggested. We propose that these Bibles are purchased by church and then sponsored by a church member who would write a message/dedication in the front and give it to the young person. The cost of each Bible is just under £15.00.

We are committed to prayer and outreach. Prayer is the engine room of the church. It is in prayer that we get fuelled up and envisioned by God. It is in prayer that we seek God's face and learn His ways for us. It is in prayer where we align our wills with God's and commit to following Him. Let us make meeting together to pray together a priority. When we know God's will and direction for us as church, we can then boldly reach out to the lost and hurting and bring God's love in practical ways and show God's love in action.

Where are we with finding a new minister? The elders met with Adrian, who spoke at the end of May, to explore whether he may be God's person for us here. We did this because of the many positive comments we still get regarding Adrian. We were able to share with him and Amanda about the church and our vision. They were encouraged by what we shared but felt it right to pursue the vision for their church at this moment. Adrian however would be willing to come and preach, which we will arrange for early next year.

We have received minister's names from the YBA but none have been right to follow up.

An advert has been placed on the Fresh Streams web site with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, this will give opportunity for any interested minister to talk with us at the Fresh Streams conference in January.

Looking forward we have the opportunity to get involved with the Christmas outreach events. We are exploring the possibility of a Spirit Café. There is also the challenge of how we get involved with the Higher Tour. We will look at these in more detail later in the agenda.

Let us keep our focus on God and continue to press in to all He is doing. We want to see the Kingdom of God expand here on earth as it is in heaven

## **Reports and Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised

**Financial Report:** David Bellerby

The financial report is a confidential document. A copy can be provided on request to the treasurer.

David went on to talk about giving and its scriptural basis.

Graham thanked David and his team. He went on to say that tithing was more than just about money, but that you can't have the heating on if you don't have enough money to pay for it, but it is also tithing, time gifts, talents and abilities. He continued, saying that consideration was being given to bringing teaching in the New Year about generosity, particularly in the light of how Jesus has blessed us.

**The Higher Tour:** Graham

Graham thanked everyone who went to the Higher Tour launch at Legacy. Graham outlined the current position:

It will be coming into Doncaster Secondary Schools between the 4th - 8th March next year.

Our high school for which we are the main catchment area is Don Valley

We would be looking for volunteer to go into school on the day that the Higher Tour goes in.

We are working with St Peters and the Higher Tour to get into Don Valley, but at this time there has been no response from them

Volunteers would also go to the Friday night concert (possibly at Legacy), which all the different schools would be invited to.

Any young people who respond, if they are from Don Valley would be introduced to volunteers from Bentley

They would then be befriended and discipled using the Message Trust material to establish them in their faith and walk with Jesus, followed by introducing them to the church family.

We need to pray:

Is this something we and you are prepared to be involved in?

For volunteers

For access to Don Valley School

For developing relationships with St Peters

That young people will respond to the good news of Jesus

**Spirit Cafe:** Dave Miller

Dave highlighted that we live in an area where people are involved in Spiritualism. He then gave a history of the advent of Spirit Cafe's.

People would come in, have a drink and relax and there would be Christians there to help them.

Dave and Graham had been to experience a Spirit Cafe working at the Well in Sheffield.

Dave then explained how it worked there, where people, some of which came in after an encounter on the streets. They saw a menu offering, spiritual direction, with people from the church working with gifts of the Spirit. Physical healing. Spiritual cleansing, particularly when

people are experiencing some sort of guilt. Peace treatment, where people are offered an experience of tangible peace.

We would need people to serve and to also offer the treatment available. This would probably be on a Saturday morning, maybe once a month at renew127. This is still in the development stages and we would get help from the Well and they would provide some training for us.

The meeting then broke into small groups to discern God's word concerning the Higher Tour and Spirit Cafe.

Following the prayer the different group fed back to the meeting what God had been saying to them. There were two positive comments in relation to the Higher Tour.

Graham put out a sign up sheet for both events to see who would be interested in following up in either of the specific areas.

Graham shared that Open the Book had been cancelled for the second time at New Village. We need to be praying once again that doors and walls will be broken down so that Jesus will be seen in the school.

There followed prayer specific to Bentley New Village School

#### **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO): Andrew**

'As some of you may recall from the AGM this year, for some time now the leadership have been looking at the processes required to transition from our current constitution into being a CIO. We want to keep you up to date with our progress. There are various reasons for looking at the transition. One is, despite what you have already heard about our income, our assets mean that although not a lawful requirement at the moment, it will become one for us to become a charity in our own right. Another is that at present we are fully liable for any debts that the church may incur, and whilst we are not envisaging that that become an issue in the future, becoming a CIO limits our liability as individuals. Another advantage is that in the future, should we be in a position to purchase the freehold of renew, then that would be owned by the church and not the YBA, as it would if we were in a position to purchase it now.

Having said all of that, what does this mean for us as members now. Right now nothing. We as a leadership are finalising the new constitution which follows BU guidelines. Once that has been done we will, in 2019 send it out to all members with a view to having a special church members meeting later in the year to hopefully make the transition. We are not under any deadlines for this process and as a church it is important that we take the time to get things right.

Becoming a Charity will mean that anyone elected onto the leadership will also become a trustee and we will have certain functions that we will have to fulfil to satisfy the Charity Commissioners'

**Safeguarding:** Jill Beams

Nothing to report

**Christmas 2018**

Ruth said that she would be sending round a Christmas Activity Day signup sheet and gave further details concerning what was required, who it was for and the purpose behind it.

There is a Christmas Card being delivered to the whole area and in that will be a list of all our activities and services over the Christmas period.

As a result of a show of hands it was decided not to have a film evening in December.

There was a reminder given that we will not be having a morning service on Sunday 23rd of December, that the United Carol Service will be at St Peters on the 16th and our own Carol Service here on the evening of the 23rd.

On the morning of the 16th there will be a Christingle Service which Annette and the CBBC team are overseeing.

It was suggested that the Christmas offering should go to the Children’s Society, particularly as they are the supporters of the Christingle and provide all the materials that are used, free of charge.

Following a proposal it was carried unanimously.

**Forthcoming Meetings**

**Tuesday 8th January**

Church Day of Prayer and Fasting

**Tuesday 5th March**

Church Members Meeting and AGM (tbc)

Graham brought the meeting to a close in prayer at 20:48

Signed ..... Date: 5th March 2019  
Graham Simpson (Elder)