

Minutes of Bentley Baptist Church AGM held on: Tuesday 5th March 2019

Chair: Graham Simpson
Secretary: Andrew Thompsett

Present: Len Smith, John Smith, Annette Morris, Pauline Fuller, Chris Butler, Sue Whitmore, Dave and Moira Miller, Lorraine Jackson, Gill Beams, Mary Simpson, Serena and Phil Stevenson, Steve and Sue Parker, Lena Parker, Anne Gosling, David H-Walker, Christine and John Daniels, Hannah and Michael Cassell, Jenny Stephenson, Sally Plant, Colin and Denise Russell and Steve Rigg

Total Members Present 29

Andrew opened the meeting by seeking permission for Graham to chair the meetings in the absence of a minister.

Approved

Devotions

For any relationship to develop and become strong and meaningful you have to spend time together and talk to each other. You talk about things that mean a lot to you, both good things and difficult things. Communication is both talking and listening.

As people who are friends and lovers of God, where we are sons and daughters of God, part of His family, our desire should be to have and to develop a good relationship with Him.

Jesus modelled this for us.

Mk 6: 46 Jesus went up a mountain to pray, after feeding the 5000.

Lk 5: 16 Jesus often withdrew into lonely places to pray.

Lk 6: 12 Jesus went up the mountainside to pray all night.

Lk 9: 18 Jesus was praying in private, his disciples were with him.

Lk 9: 28 Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray.

Lk 11: 1 One day Jesus was praying, when he finished one of his disciples asked, "teach us to pray".

Perhaps we need to rethink how we approach praying.

A kingdom flip is to turn something over and see it from the perspective of the kingdom of God. Here are seven flips.

1. **From 'pleading' to 'positioning'**. We are sons and daughters of the living God. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (Rom 8:34). We can approach with confidence knowing where we stand. Prayer is never about a blind request but should be an encounter with the living God.
2. **From 'earth' to 'from heaven'**. The Lord's Prayer says, "Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven". We pray as citizens of heaven sending the blessings of heaven on the earth rather than calling them down.
3. **From 'me' to 'our'**. The Lord's Prayer begins, "Our Father". We don't pray alone but are part of the body of Christ. When we are struggling to pray, others are praying for us. But more than that, we get to pray with Jesus as we say, "Our Father".
4. **From 'Bentley' to 'All the Saints'**. In John 17 Jesus prays for us that we would be united. There is one church in Bentley, in the UK and in the world. We are part of it.
5. **From 'an hour' to 'without ceasing'**. Prayer is one of the key things that sustains this place. But if our prayer is measured by our prayer meetings on a Tuesday then we have missed the point. We have been called to pray at all times, without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
6. **From 'experts' to 'everyone'**. Prayer is the call on everyone. Yes, we will have people who lead and dig deep, but we must enable and equip people to pray. There will still be a need for a smaller army of prayers who are on the counter-offensive and taking ground for the Kingdom of God.
7. **From 'cautious' to 'courageous'**. Sometimes our prayers are too small. God does not answer them, because we can sort it ourselves. Let's pray courageous prayers.

I hope these flips are helpful as you think about prayer. I encourage you to pray daily, and join in with the opportunities to pray with others. If we do nothing else **let's pray out of an overflow of a continuous encounter with the living God.**

Graham then ended in prayer

Apologies:

Linda Williamson, Ronnie Bussey, Ruth and David Bellerby, Amy Lanelly, Ian and Dani Simpson, Judith Smith, Lee Jackson, Janet Smith, Alison Whiteley, Tim and

Catherine Wilson Melanie Crewe-Butler, Heather Rigg, Lynn Foltyn, and Jim and Dianne Clifton.

Secretary's Report – Andrew Thompsett

Report attached.

Acceptance of Report Proposed by: Chris Butler

Seconded by: Dave Miller

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Elders Report - Graham Simpson

Report attached

Acceptance of Report Proposed by: Serena Stephenson

Seconded by: Steve Rigg

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Finance Report and Budget Proposal 2018 / 2019 – Graham Simpson

The Finance Report was presented by Graham in David Bellerby's absence and is available on request from the Treasurer or Secretary.

There were discussions over various items and further items of importance which Graham highlighted

Acceptance of Report: Colin Russell

Seconded by: Michael Cassell

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Acceptance of Budget for 2019: Proposed: John Daniels

Seconded: Anne Gosling

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Affirmation of Elder already in position - Graham

Ruth Bellerby - Unanimous

Affirmation of Deacons Elder already in position - Graham

Andrew Thompsett - Secretary - Unanimous

David Bellerby - Treasurer - Unanimous

There then followed a time of prayer for what had been put forward as vision, for the newly elected Deacons and Elder and for what God is wanting to do with us.

Graham then asked Jenny to come forward and spoke about the valuable contribution and the strength that she has been to church over many years and to the Eldership over the past four years. Jenny was presented with a card and a bouquet of flowers.

The AGM closed at 20.32

Signed:
(Graham Simpson - Elder)

Date: May 14th May 2018