

Minutes of Bentley Baptist Church AGM held on: Tuesday 3rd March 2020

Chair: Graham Simpson
Secretary: Andrew Thompsett

Present: Catherine Wilson, Ian Simpson, Ruth and David Bellerby, Darren Brown, Amy Lanelly, Len Smith, John Smith, Janet Stacey, Annette Morris, Sue Whitmore, Dave and Moira Miller, Lorraine and Lee Jackson, Gill Beams, Mary Simpson, Serena and Phil Stevenson, Sue Parker, Lena Parker, Anne Gosling, Hannah and Michael Cassell, Jenny Stephenson, Sally and Peter Plant, Colin and Denise Russell, Lynn Foltyn and Farrell Clifford

Total Members Present 33

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

Approved

Devotions

Graham brought the devotions to the meeting

Romans 1: 1-7, 16-17 NLT

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. ² God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. ³ The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, ⁴ and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

⁶ And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

This letter to the church in Rome starts with the simplicity of the Gospel message, the Good News. What God promised He fulfilled through Jesus Christ, confirming this by raising Jesus from the dead, He is alive today.

Paul had the privilege of telling everyone everywhere the good news of what God had done for them, so they also can be rescued from darkness and brought into the light of the knowledge of Jesus.

When I have visited John in hospital, I have been thrilled to see the Love and Joy of God shining from his face. I have been challenged by the way he shares his faith in

Jesus with the staff and patients. He knows he has limited time and wants as many as possible to hear the good news that God loves them. He wants each one to have the hope, confidence, in Jesus that he has.

Neither Paul nor John are ashamed of the Good News of Jesus. This Good News is the only power that can save people from the hopelessness of what this world has to offer and bring them into a fulfilling relationship with a God who loves them so much He sent His son to die for them.

Am I ashamed of the power of God's love shown in Jesus?

Let us learn from both Paul and John, to declare to our neighbours, work colleagues and friends, the Good News of Jesus which is the power of God for their salvation.

2 Corinthians 4: 7-10, 16-18

⁷We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.^[b] This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

⁸We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

¹⁶That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are^[e] being renewed every day. ¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Graham then ended in prayer

Apologies:

John and Christine Daniels, Judith Smith, Cyril and Joan Jackson, Jim and Dianne Clifton, Alison Whiteley, Stephen Parker, Chris Butler, Melanie Crewe-Butler, Linda Williamson, Tim Wilson and Danni Simpson

Tellers Appointed

Michael Cassell and Catherine Wilson

Secretary's Report – Andrew Thompsett

Report attached.

Acceptance of Report Proposed by: John Smith

Seconded by: Janet Stacey

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Elders Report - Graham Simpson

Report attached

Acceptance of Report

Proposed by: Michael Cassell

Seconded by: Lee Jackson

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Ruth Bellerby then spoke about the importance of the church vision 'To make disciples who make disciples' and how that was worked out in everyday principles. The Eldership had put together five key points. These had been incorporated into a bookmark to make them easy to remember. They are:

- The Presence of God is essential to breakthrough
- Prayer – Bringing heaven to earth
- The Power and gifts of the Holy Spirit are not an optional extra
- Reaching out to the spiritually lost with the Good News is a command of Jesus
- We have a passion to see everyone move into the purpose God has planned for them

Finance Report and Budget Proposal 2018 / 2019 – David Bellerby

The Finance Report was presented by David Bellerby and is available on request from the Treasurer or Secretary.

There were some discussions over the budget which were resolved,

Acceptance of Report: Michael Cassell

Seconded by: Lee Jackson

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Acceptance of Budget for 2020 and the Current Accounts:

Proposed: Darren Brown

Seconded: Colin Russell

Passed unanimously without any abstentions

Affirmation of new Elder – Dave Miller

Dave spoke about the reasons behind Ian Simpson being put forward by the leadership for affirmation in the position of Elder. He spoke firstly about the role of an Elder and then about Ian and the reasons why the leadership felt that he was the right person and in the right position to take on the role as an Elder. Dave concluded with a quote from Terry Virgo, "Leaders need the freedom to lead as they hear from God but not arrogantly or bulldozing people. We need to trust them. If things go wrong in the Church, they must be humble enough to apologise publicly."

People need to own the vision for the Church. Everyone has a ministry and a vital part to play in seeing the vision come into reality. We are all in it together, both leaders and people”.

Appointment of Deacons – Graham Simpson

Graham said that the nomination made for the Deacon positions were:

Andrew Thompsett - Secretary

David Bellerby - Treasurer

Colin Russell – Fabric Deacon

Voting papers for all four positions were then handed out by the tellers and once voting had been completed they were collected for counting by the tellers.

The meeting concluded at 20:55 with the result of the votes being announced during the CMM – Ian and all three deacons were affirmed or elected into their respective positions with overwhelming majorities.

Signed:
(Graham Simpson - Elder)

Date: May 14th May 2018

Secretary's Report – AGM March 2020

This year I will start with the more boring bits of my role. I have to report to the Baptist Union on our average attendance and membership. Well this year our membership is down by two to sixty-two and we have one associate member. Our average attendance for adults on a Sunday morning was 66.

When number crunching I am encouraged by the numbers in the church who are prepared either to help on a regular basis or to step up when there is a special event and help out. Thank you. Without you all we would not function very well. We have regular teams who are always on the door to meet with everyone who comes through the door and offer them a tea or coffee. Likewise after the service, those who are happy to serve teas and coffee.

During the year we have had two or three bring and share lunches, which are always well attended and give us the chance to fellowship with each other, rather than just rushing away after the morning service.

Our numbers were down at our Easter Morning sunrise service and it was disappointing that we were not joined by many from the other churches in Bentley. That said we continue to meet regularly with our friends, most notable this last year in prayer, which is good to see. We also meet regularly with the other Baptist Ministers in Doncaster.

This last year has seen our social media presence increase along with a re formatting of the weekly bulletin. I think it is right for me to single out Hannah Cassell and express our thanks as a church for all that she does in this area. We have also seen the church decorated to reflect not only the highlighted Christian festivals but also different themes, such as the recent 'Love' theme around Valentine's Day. Thanks go to Alison and her willing team who put in the hours of work to pull all this together.

For the second year running we had a 'Christmas Cracker' event on the first Saturday in December. More people came this year and the day kicked off our run in to Christmas, which saw input from CBBC at one of our morning services. There were two evening carol services, our own and a united service at St Peters. We are already planning another 'Christmas Cracker' event for this year.

I would encourage all who attend this church, not just the members here tonight, to examine themselves to see if they can offer more. Tasks shared mean that the burdens overall are easier to shoulder for everyone.

Our beliefs and standing together in unity are what makes this church what it is. We come together, yes even at a business meeting to love our God and give praise and

worship to Him. I conclude my report with words from Romans and Psalms. “Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. Don’t live with a lofty mind-set, thinking you are too important to serve others, but be willing to do menial tasks and identify with those who are humble minded. How truly wonderful and delightful it is to see brothers and sisters living together in unity.”

Thank you and Bless you all.

Andrew
Church Secretary

Elders Annual Report for 2020 AGM

2019 started with the Baptisms of Mike and Nikki.

We were prepared for outreach and had one Saturday morning 'treasure hunting' After Easter, we had teaching on Generosity.

Spirit Café was tried for three Saturdays May to July held in renew 127. Those who volunteered to be involved were blessed. There was little interest shown from the community.

We were able to celebrate with Mike and Nikki when they were married in the Autumn.

Dave is continuing to encourage the Emerging Leaders Group, which meets every couple of weeks. The aim is to prepare these for greater service in the Kingdom of God and His church.

Where are we going during 2020? What is God saying? How are we being led to move forward in the church vision 'To make disciples who make disciples'?

At the Leader's Away Day in November, we sensed God was asking us to Keep It Simple – to prioritise His presence. His presence feeds our desire for worship, prayer and the word. Worship, prayer and the word feed our desire for his presence. We need to hunger and thirst for the presence of God.

We were encouraged to help each person to put down deep roots into Him so that we would be strong and healthy Christians with a vibrant witness to His love.

The focus of our corporate prayer should be for spiritual breakthrough - seeing lives and the community transformed by the presence of God through us and in spite of us.

Each one of us has the privilege of loving God and loving one another. As we do this, we will be made strong in our walk with God and this will impact and embolden our witness to the love of God through Jesus. The Holy Spirit will take our laid-down lives and reveal Jesus to those we meet each day. When they respond to His love, we individually have the opportunity to disciple each one and bring through to maturity in Christ.

For this to happen we each need to keep our relationship with Jesus close and vibrant. No one will be attracted to a boring life.

Over four weeks in Lent we will be holding two Bible studies per week looking at Colossians, Paul's letter to the church at Colossae. Each study will last about an hour and will replace the evening Life Groups. Both studies in the week will be the same, with the Wednesday evening being run by Dave and the Thursday by Graham. Jenny will be leading her daytime group using the same study material.

If this is well received, we will consider running another Bible Study in the Autumn.

We have contacted a number of theological colleges to see whether there is anyone completing their studies this year who may feel God's calling to explore a full-time role here. Last year, we had Bayo and family visit in December, but we did not feel he was God's person for this church.

We are still receiving names of possible ministers through Clive Burnard, our regional minister. This year we have had three names, none of whom were a good fit for us. During the last week we received a further two names. One, Joel Ward, from Torquay we felt was right to talk with. As a result of our conversation with him he and his family will be coming to Bentley over the weekend 27-29th March, during which time we will have the opportunity to hear Joel bring God's word to us..

Jesus is the head of His body, the Church. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him, our ears attuned to His voice, our hearts expectant for Him to reveal Himself, and our lives thirsting for more of His presence.

“We pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.” Eph 3: 16-21 NLT

Dave

Ruth

Graham