

Special Church Members Meeting

held on Zoom

at 20:00 Tuesday 13th July 2021

MINUTES

Attendance:

Joel Ward (Minister) Andrew Thompsett (Secretary) Graham and Mary Simpson, Steve and Sue Parker, Jenny Stephenson, Anne Gosling, Lee and Lorraine Jackson, Sue Whitmore, Ruth and David Bellerby, Moira and Dave Miller, Tim and Catherine Wilson, Jim and Dianne Clifton, Pauline Fuller, Lena Parker, Philip and Serena Stevenson, Melanie Crewe-Butler, Colin Russell, Gill Beams, Sally and Peter Plant, Hannah and Michael Cassell, Ian Simpson, Lynne Foltyn and Darren Brown (33)

Apologies:

Chris Butler, Denise Russell, Ian Senior, Annette Morris and Judith Smith

Joel Ward started the meeting by seeking permission from everyone present to record the meeting.

All in favour

Devotions / Prayer: JW

Acts 9: 36-43 (NLT)

Some key points from this text:

Tabitha was a disciple.

Tabitha was her Greek name but God had named her Dorcus, an apostle not just to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

Tabitha was always doing good and helping the poor and had a heart for social justice.

It would have taken Peter about three days to get to her after she had died.

Peter follows Jesus's example when he sends everybody out of the room.

Tabitha rising from the dead, brought many people to follow the Lord.

Tabitha says nothing throughout this account, but everything said about her by others is remarkable

What do we take from this scripture tonight? Simply 'Do what Jesus did'

In the book of the same name by Robby Dawkins, he prays for someone to be raised from the dead. It doesn't work, but he just wanted to do what Jesus did. This should be an example for our church. Peter saw what Jesus did and did the same. Great days are ahead of us for the church here in Bentley.

One of the things that Jesus said, in the great commission was 'Go into all the world and make disciples in all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit' What better way of going into all the world than improving our effectiveness by our on-line communication.

Joel then prayed

Hannah Cassell left the meeting.

Joel Ward; "The reason for this meeting is to talk about appointing a 'Web Resources Leader'

The strap line for this year is 'Get Connected', being filled up and moving out. The diagram shows us trying to connect in lots of different ways, which in this last year has been challenging, with Covid. You may think that this last eighteen months have been a barrier, but strangely lots of people are meeting Jesus. We have talked about the discipleship journey. (See attached Power Point which should be viewed in conjunction with these minutes)

We believe, on the leadership, that Hannah Cassell has a calling from God to pursue an on-line ministry among us as part of His vision for this church. Not to do all the work, but to continue and grow the work that she has been doing, and has pioneered throughout Covid-19. Not just in terms of the Sunday Service, but to develop our on-line presence, as an on-going outreach, to reach non-Christians, as well as those in the church. This is a missional role. This is missional thinking"

Joel then went on to answer some questions which might be raised. Why do we need to appoint someone if Covid is coming to an end?

More people are engaging on line than in person

People can connect on-line without being here:

- Disabled
- Those that live further away
- Shift workers
- Those that are older who have trouble connecting
- Those with anxiety

All can connect with church on-line.

Joel then shared some prophetic words.

Joel then explained that God gives us vision which is beyond our resources. We are challenged by God who says He has what we need but He will not release it until we take a step of faith. New things require increased giving. To honour those who serve we have to recognise that new giving is required. Kingdom thinking is about taking that step of faith.

Hannah has done a phenomenal job and my first thoughts on coming to this church was 'Who are you getting to do this?' Hannah is being used powerfully for God, and He has clearly put a call on her life.

When we step out in faith to do what God has said, there is growth. That also means a growth in giving. Every extra bit of money we spend is an investment, but it is money we do not have. Once this vision is covered He will give us another. Kingdom, not comfort.

We are talking about a church who might have 80 people in church, but over 500 on-line.

Andrew then shared the more important bits of the job description.

- To update, monitor and maintain the Bentley Baptist Church (BBC) Website and Social Media content
- Produce the Sunday service on line material for transmission
- The job holder will also be expected to develop a team who are able to deliver content

We propose that Hannah be employed for 8 hours a week to be reviewed annually, probably at the AGM. Holiday and other entitlements were also outlined.

Andrew then answered questions.

He explained that lots of people give of their time freely and that 8 hours was felt appropriate for Hannah at this time.

Andrew explained that only the treasurer knows who tithes and how much is given. Joel said that if you vote for Hannah to be employed, is your giving going to reflect that. People need to seek God about this.

David Bellerby shared Malachi 3. 'Test me in this'. This is a faith step

Andrew then proposed on behalf of the leadership that Hannah Cassell be employed by the church trustees on the terms and conditions outlined during the meeting.

This was an on-line vote.

There were no abstentions

There was a unanimous vote to employ Hannah Cassell



Andrew thanked everyone and told the members that Hannah's employment would start from next Monday (19th July)

The membership then prayed for Hannah in her role

The meeting closed at 20:38

Signed

..... on Tuesday 30th November 2021
Joel Ward (Minister)