



Church Members Meeting
held at Bentley Baptist Church
on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 19:45

MINUTES

Present:

Joel Ward (Minister)

Andrew Thompsett (Minute taker and Secretary)

Adrian Humphries, Michael and Hannah Cassell, David Bellerby, Barbara O'Dwyer, Serena Stevenson, Jim and Dianne Clifton, Len Smith, Burcin LeFerve, Farrell Clifford, Ronnie Bussey, Dave and Moira Miller, Lorraine Jackson, Sue Whitmore, John Smith, Carole Anderson, Christine Daniels, Sue Costin, Karen Wilkinson, Steve Costin, Darren Brown, Catherine Wilson, Jenny Stephenson, Peter and Sally Plant, Melanie Crewe-Butler, Denise and Colin Russell, Lynn Foltyn and Paul Kendrew-Jones Graham and Mary Simpson, Pauline Fuller, Ian and anni Simpson

Total Members Present 35

Non Members present: Rob Vickress, Alyesha Wright

Andrew asked that even though there was an important football match on tonight (England v Wales) in the World Cup, that if people are checking the scores that they keep it to themselves.

Devotions:

Joel brought the devotions from Acts 8:1.

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria... ³ But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Philip Preaches in Samaria

⁴ But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. ⁵ Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. ⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. ⁷ Many evil^[a] spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

The church started in Jerusalem, but once the persecution hits the only believers left in Jerusalem were the Apostles. It was just them. All of the other believers, and we know that there were thousands of them were scattered into the surrounding area, but listen to what they did. Everywhere they were scattered too, they shared about Jesus. Miraculous things started to happen and churches started growing everywhere. It wasn't easy, it was hard. It was really challenging, but when the persecution hit some of us might have hidden away, but in those times, when it hit, as they were scattered, they took every opportunity. Its very different to the way we think of the church growing today. Yes, we have missionaries, but what we normally do is that most of us stay and we send missionaries out, but what happened back then was that thousands of them went out and twelve of them stayed in the home church. That is scary. The point, and the principle to pull out of this is that the church has always grown when we have gone. The church doesn't grow when we try and gather people in, all in one place. It grows when we go.

Joel then prayed.

Membership:

Andrew asked for those that were being proposed for membership to leave and wait in the Rigby lounge.

Sue Costin: Lorraine Jackson presented a short report and proposed to the membership that Sue be accepted into full membership.

Serena Stevenson seconded this proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Janice Hearne: Lorraine Jackson presented a short report and proposed to the membership that Janice be accepted into full membership.

Karen Wilkinson seconded this proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Alyesha and Martin Wright: Jim Clifton presented a short report and proposed to the membership that both Alyesha and Martin be accepted into full membership.

Alyesha's membership was seconded by Dianne Clifton and it was passed unanimously.

Martin's membership was seconded by Carole Anderson and it was passed unanimously

John Costin: Dave Miller presented a short report and proposed to the membership that John be accepted into full membership.

David Bellerby seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Termination of membership:

Following a review of membership, we are asking for the following to be removed from the membership list. It is always sad to lose members, in whatever circumstances, but it is also important that our membership list reflects those who want to be involved and take an active interest in our church life here at BBC. So, we are recommending that the following people be removed from membership. They will all receive a letter informing them of what has taken place and leaving the door open for them to re-join the fellowship here and apply for membership in the future, should that be appropriate.

They are: Judith Smith (who has verbally resigned her membership), Wendy Edwards and Ian Senior.

Approved Unanimously

Testimonies:

Sharing about what God has done

Dave Miller (a reminder that there are opportunities everywhere)

Serena Stevenson (prayer for healing answered, the gift of tongues))

Prayer of thanks.

Apologies:

Anne Gosling, Alison Whiteley, Gill Beams, Tim Wilson (watching England), Phil Stevenson (watching England), Janet Stacey, Katherine Wilson, Steven Parker, Lee Jackson, Darren Brown, Jenny Stephenson, Farrell Clifford and Connie Humphries.

Minutes: of the last meeting on 27th September 2022

Any changes need to be made: Correct spelling of Folyton. Take Sue Costin out of members attending

Proposed: Colin Russell

Seconded: Michael Cassell

Approved unanimously

Matters Arising:

None

Finance and 2023 Budget: David Bellerby

We have £76319.45, as at the end of Oct. Increased giving results in increased gift aid which all helps. Looking back at the same time last year we had £74000.00, so we are in fact holding our own. The BU pension deficit has now been cancelled and that frees up around £300 a month. The heating budget is obviously more than we



anticipated. We have now received our Gift Aid which was £12000.00. Offerings are going up.

Foodbank: Is increasing in demand and in the last 12 months it has spent £11,000.00 on food. Thankfully most of that has come from grants (nearly £18,000) and a few cash donations. Foodbank would struggle without grants.

Renew still runs at a deficit.

David asked for questions regarding both the finances and the 2023 budget.

The 2023 budget was proposed for adoption by Dave Miller and Seconded by Graham Simpson

Fabric: Colin Russell

Colin said that the trustees had agreed that he should start to get quotations for the lounge extension which we have spoken about before. We have the planning permission, but that will run out in the middle of 2023 and we will have to apply again if we have not started any work. The roof in the Rigby is leaking and there are other leaks where the roof is not holding up. There is a recommendation that the roof, and extension are done at the same time. The plans will be put up for people to look at.

Joel: Ministers Update

Joel started with a recap of where we are and the Discipleship journey. Different members of the church have different gifts and so no one person will take a new Christian all the way through the journey.

The healthy hub is the church and some of our spiritual outposts include our life groups, our partnership with Youth for Christ, renew, foodbank and open the book. Its basically where the vision of our church comes to life, somewhere that is not in our main gathering. The same vision and goal.

Where do we grow from here: We have 95 adults and 25 children who regularly attend our church. Not everyone comes every week or we wouldn't have very many seats left. The main thing to realise is that there are people in this area who need to know Jesus

A team of leaders (not just the trustees) met with Alex Harris (YBA Regional Minister) to explore different models of church which would fit with our values. What could our church look like? We don't need to be something that we are not. Alex is responsible for overseeing church planting and church growth.

Our values are encompassed in 'Love People, Love God, Love Life'

We then talked about the vehicle for church growth.

- An ever expanding model

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- Stay and send
- Multi services (two maybe three)
- Micro Churches (not necessarily on a Sunday)
- Pepper Pot (Lots of little churches that meet in houses)

Joel then recapped on some prophetic words (18 satellite churches) (a central hub with many spokes) (BBC as a great old oak tree dropping seeds for more churches to grow).

Our vision is not about getting people into a church, but getting them into Jesus.

The leadership have thought about this, and sought discernment.

We would like to give it a go, but if it doesn't work we still journey together in the hub.

Working through this practically, the most sensible place to plant a micro church would be at renew. A midweek service, and a team would meet and train with a view to launching it next year.

There was then a Q and A where Joel answered the questions from the membership.

Joel asked, 'Is there is a sense in people's spirit that this was something that we should explore'? (the show of hands was virtually unanimous).

(Joel's presentation can be found on the pdf relevant to this meeting)

There was then a time of prayer.

Strategic Opportunities:

Bentley New Village School is looking for people from the community to go into school to help with reading.

Ancelator, part of our church family, runs a small group called Sew-in- Company at Kirkstone Close on a Monday morning. A group who meet to sew, chat, knit and all sorts together. You might fancy getting involved in what is a good piece of ministry going on there.

We want to continue to explore the opportunity to have a mid-week kids club in the coming year.

Future Events

Christmas Events and Services:

Saturday 10th December there would be a Christingle Family Event (time tbc)

Sunday 18th December Carol Service (No morning service)

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Sunday 25th December Morning Family Service
Sunday 1st January, there will be a morning service.

Alpha:

On 19th January we will look to running a new Alpha course.
We will also be running a Youth Alpha at the same time, eating together before going into separate groups

Next Church Members Meeting and AGM:

The next Church Members Meeting will be on Tuesday 21st March 19:45 following the prayer meeting and AGM

The meeting concluded at 21:03 following a time of prayer with a time of prayer

Signed

..... on Tuesday 21st March 2023
Joel Ward (Minister)