



**Church Members Meeting**  
**held at Bentley Baptist Church**  
**on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 following the AGM**

**MINUTES**

**Minister and Chair:** Joel Ward

**Minute Taker:** Andrew Thompsett (Secretary)

**Present:** David and Ruth Bellerby, Pauline Fuller, Ronnie Bussey, Len Smith, Farrell Clifford, Chris Butler, Annette Morris, Colin and Denise Russell, Jenny Stephenson, Peter and Sally Plant, Martin and Alysha Wright, Phil and Serena Stevenson, Dianne Clifton, Sue Whitmore, Lorraine Jackson, Graham and Mary Simpson, Janet Stacey, John Smith, David and Moira Miller, Janice Hearne, Christine Daniels, Ian and Danni Simpson, Ann Gosling, Carole Anderson, Catherine Wilson, Steve Costin, Karen Wilkinson, Sue Costin, John Costin, Adrian Humphries, Michael and Hannah Cassell.

**Total Members Present 42**

**Non Members present:** Dennis Filsell

**Apologies:**

Melanie Crewe-Butler, Alison Whiteley, Lee Jackson, Jim Clifton, Steve and Sue Parker, Lena Parker, Connie Humphries, Linda Williamson, Lynn Foltyn, Darren Brown and Tim Wilson.

**Testimonies:**

Stepping Stones Church has been a blessing with new people coming in, and a team which has gelled together.

Foodbank. Eight months ago, we were short of volunteers. We now have 16 volunteers which is brilliant.



The worship in church and new people coming on a Sunday.

Open the Book in partnership with the Methodist Church delivering the Easter message to New Village School.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the previous Church Members Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Andrew confessed to having got the attendances wrong and these will be corrected. With those amendments to be made the minutes were:

Proposed by Serena Stevenson and Seconded by Michael Cassell

**Matters Arising:** None

**Finance Report:** David Bellerby

The budget from 2022 against the actual figures was pretty accurate.

You can also see the 2023 budget and how we stand against that at this time.

There have been some sound absorbers bought for the worship team (with more to come) and this has been offset by the sale of speakers which we no longer need.

The good thing is that there is not too much unusual in the report. It is good to note that giving is increasing.

You can also see the Foodbank figures. We started with around 20k and we get around £200 a month from regular givers and the rest comes from grants.

Ring fenced funds refer to a specific gift that has been received which can only be used specific areas.

Prayer for the church finances that God will provide what we need.

**Buildings:** Colin Russell

The team had been following up on the structural report for the extension on the conservatory. There have also been prices to look at for the roof repair. For the time being the Church Leadership team have put this on hold. This may result in a re application for planning permission in the future. The roof repair however must go ahead as it cannot be put off any longer. The roof will be done to a standard, that the join between the roofs will allow for further work to be completed at a later date. There will be some redecoration and plastering to do in the Rigby lounge and conservatory. We need a service check on the church roof to ensure it will stand up through the next winter.

A question was asked concerning the hold on the Rigby Lounge work

JW – To clarify the situation we feel that we need to carry out a needs assessment on the use of the entire building. When we look at overall growth and the uses to which the building is put throughout the week, so in the coming months we will look at use across the life of the church, possibly with some community consultation as well to ascertain what are the best things we need to include in a spec for the work that needs to be done. Work does need to be done, but we need to future proof the building for what God's going to do next.

There was then prayer in relation to the building and the stewarding of the resource that we are blessed with.

### **Ministers Update**

Renew 127 – The lease runs out in September and a group are meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March to discern the way forward.

Joel then went through a presentation (See accompanying Power Point)

Our vision is to make disciples who make disciples. The stepping stones show us how we do this.

The hub has different outposts in the community. Our job is not to make Bentley Baptist Church a success. Our job is to make disciples and as we do that Bentley Baptist Church will grow. If we are obsessed with this church then we have lost sight of the vision.

Stepping Stones Church – There are non-Christians and Christians from BBC and other churches. It's a real mixed bag and it's beautiful. Anyone can do church. Jesus never said in the New Testament, make sure that we only have certain special people who get to do things in church. If that's ever the deal, church will grow very slowly.

There were then some survey forms (1) passed out to help the leadership understand how members understand the vision of the church.

There were then further survey forms (2) passed out to assist the leadership understand when people pray and where and when people want to pray. Mathew 18: 19-20

### **Forthcoming Events**

Good Friday 10:40

Easter Sunday Breakfast (need to sign up) followed by service at 10:40

Easter Evening Praise at 19:30



May 7<sup>th</sup> Chrissy Remsberg, from Beacon Church in Stafford. They describe themselves as one church with many beacons growing disciples. She will preach and then later in the day share principles that are important about planting micro churches. More details soon.

There was then a time of prayer, in groups, particularly focussing on things discussed during the evening.

Graham then closed the meeting in prayer at 21:20

Signed

..... on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Joel Ward (Minister)