



Church Members Meeting
held at Bentley Baptist Church
on Tuesday 27th June 2023 following the Prayer Meeting

MINUTES

Minister and Chair: Joel Ward

Minute Taker: Andrew Thompsett (Secretary)

Present: Alison Whiteley, Pauline Fuller, Ronnie Bussey, Len Smith, Farrell Clifford, Chris Butler, Annette Morris, Colin and Denise Russell, Peter and Sally Plant, Martin Wright, Phil and Serena Stevenson, Sue Whitmore, Lee and Lorraine Jackson, Graham and Mary Simpson, Moira Miller, Christine Daniels, Anne Gosling, Catherine Wilson, Steve Costin, Karen Wilkinson, Sue Costin, John Costin, Adrian Humphris, Michael and Hannah Cassell, Steve and Sue Parker, Lena Parker, Gill Beams, Burcin LeFerve

Total Members Present 37

Non Members present:

Allen Langham, Lizzi Jaques, Broderick (Brod) Austwick and Ancelater Salmon

Devotions:

If you could help your 10-year-old self, understand one thing about Jesus, what would it be?

Luke 9:46-48

The disciples had been arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to stand at his side. He says 'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf, welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me, also welcomes my father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest'

This shows just how much Jesus loved children and valued them

Deuteronomy 11:19 and Deuteronomy 31:12

Never stop telling your children about the greatness and goodness of God.



Call everyone together, men, women and children, so that they can hear from the book of instruction and learn to fear the Lord your God and prayerfully obey all the terms of these instructions.

Teaching took place within the family and when they gathered (church)

What is the result?

Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;
Toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk, and silence atheist babble.
Psalm 8:2 (Message)

What are we willing to do for today's generation of children to help them know Jesus?

They still have to make a choice, but they would become so passionate for Jesus that nothing can stand against their praise and adoration of Him. That should be our prayer for our children and every child in this church.

His voice should drown out any negative talk which says you are not good enough.

What are we willing to do for today's generation of children to help them to know Jesus, to drown out the enemy and the poison and nonsense which says there is no God?

There was then a time of prayer.

Membership:

We have one notice of resignation and that is from Carole Anderson. For those of you who don't know she has moved down to London to be nearer family

Andrew asked those being proposed for membership to wait in the Rigby Lounge until the proposals had been completed.

Broderick Austwick and Ancelater Salmon: Graham Simpson presented a short report which had been put together by Jim and Dianne Clifton. The proposal from Jim and Dianne was that they both be accepted into church membership

Graham Simpson seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Lizzi Jaques: Lorraine Jackson presented a short report which had been put together by Ruth Bellerby. Ruth proposed that Lizzi be accepted into church membership.

Lorraine Jackson seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Martin and Linda Chadwick: Lorraine Jackson presented a short report following a meeting with Lorraine and Joel. Lorraine proposed that they both be accepted into church membership.



Seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Allen Langham: Farrell Clifford and Martin Wright presented a short report following a meeting with Allen. Farrell proposed that Allen be accepted into church membership.

Martin Wright seconded the proposal and it was passed with a majority.

All the new members were brought back into church and given a warm welcome.

Emma and Dennis Filsell: Serena Stephenson presented a short report following a meeting with Emma and Dennis and proposed that they both be accepted into church membership.

Phil Stevenson seconded the proposal and it was passed unanimously.

Testimonies:

God is continually sending people to Renew and it is just amazing

In Bentley Village School we have just seen a difference in the children's behaviour with Open the Book.

Joel then prayed

Apologies:

David and Ruth Bellerby, Amy Laneley, Paul and Rebecca Kendrew-Jones, Connie Humphris, Jenny Stephenson. Linda Williamson, Jim and Dianne Clifton and Alyesha Wright, Tim Wilson and Melanie Crewe-Butler

Minutes: Minutes from the AGM on 21st March 2023

Proposed by Farrell Clifford

Seconded by Colin Russell

Matters Arising: None

Minutes: Minutes from the previous Church Members Meeting on 21st March 2023

Proposed by Michael Cassell

Seconded by Annette Morris

Matters Arising: None

Finance Report: Lorraine Jackson

The accounts show where we are up to the end of May 23. We have £68.570 as at today. Lorraine explained the situation regarding bank charges and encouraged people that wherever possible to pay by standing order or bank transfer.

The Foodbank accounts are also made up to the end of May.

Joel asked about week to week giving. Graham did a rough calculation which showed that for the first six months we were around £4000.00 down on the giving that was required to break even.

Lorraine then prayed concerning the finances of the church

Ministers Update

Joel started by looking at the stepping stone way of making disciples and that we need our healthy hub which plants spiritual outposts.

Some of the survey results from the last CMM.

There was an overwhelming need to train new leaders and plant more church outposts.

- We are going to run a new monthly leadership development course
- We are going to explore two new church outposts

The CMM also flagged up our care for the sick and elderly and our Youth and Children's ministry as focus areas

- We are going to explore employing a Youth and Childrens worker
- We are going to review our pastoral care strategy over the coming months

▪ Youth and Childrens Work

The number of children we see on a Sunday morning is disproportionate to what you would expect to see in many churches. We have talented and servant hearted volunteers that are amazing.

CBBC enables parents to attend Sunday services and we have a strong relationship with local schools through Open the Book.

We will say thank you to Annette properly. But God is calling her to new and exciting adventures and she will be stepping down from leading CBBC in July. We formally give out thanks to Annette.

That leaves a gap and Isobel who has been our YFC intern also finishes in July.

Our current volunteers have no capacity to lead any midweek activity and that limits growth.

Maybe this is God's way of saying that we need to buck our ideas up.

The Church Leadership Team, following discussions with the CBBC leaders, would like to bring a proposal to the meeting. That is that we employ a Childrens and Youth Worker for 20 hours a week. They would work with the current team, oversee current ministries and develop new ministry, but not off their own back. We have a strategy as a church which covers people of all ages. We think it could cost around £15000.00 a year. This has financial implication for our church. The money for the position will need to come from increased giving.

If agreed, we would advertise, interview and then bring a recommendation to a Special Church Members Meeting.

There were a number of questions which were all answered satisfactorily.

Joel prayed and then there was a vote on the proposal to look for a Childrens and Youth Worker. The vote was passed unanimously.

▪ **127 Update**

An update on the situation with the Renew building. Mark Jarvis have come back to us and are prepared to go forward with a rolling lease. Andrew is still awaiting all the details. Interestingly there was a line in the correspondence which said that they may be open to considering a sale in the future.

▪ **Next Outposts**

Looking at outposts, Stepping Stones serves three different groups of people. One group are those that don't attend church anywhere else. The second group will occasionally visit both Stepping Stones and Church and then the third who are at both Church and Stepping Stones on Sundays and Thursdays.

We do believe that God is putting new opportunities in front of us and we need to put together teams to explore further, before next steps are taken. We don't just want to say 'This is a good idea', we need to know it is a God idea. We don't want to do good things, we want to do God things. We work by bringing groups, people with different gifting, coming together, to discern what God is saying, in prayer. We investigate, and if God is in it, we step out in faith.

There are two opportunities which we think are in front of us.

- 1) Is with Brod and Ancelator at Kirkstone Close Community Centre on a Monday afternoon. If anyone wants to explore this as an expression of church for people that are interested, then speak to me or Brod and Ancelator. We would love to put a team together to pray and discern whether this would be a place for a church outpost.

- 2) Exploring ministry in the area of supported living. At the moment there is not a lot of team on this, and we don't know where and we don't know what and we don't know how. There are people who have expressed a sense of calling to do this. If you think that this could be you, please come and talk to me. Also, if you are aware of opportunities for this, then let us know.

Joel prayed into these matters.

Fabric – Colin Russell

Over the past couple of years I have been involved in putting together a Fire Safety Risk Assessment plan. Anyone who is a keyholder needs to read it and put their name to it. I will be in contact with you over the next month.

We are now in a position to get the roof on the Rigby Suite sorted. The cost, which is from our usual roofer is £16500. This was put to the meeting as a proposal which was passed unanimously.

Gas safety checks will be done at church and on both manses in the next few weeks.

Due to some movement in the windows on the Shakespeare Road manse, it will require some remedial work next year.

The agents have recommended that the rent for the manse, rises by £20.00 per month. We will implement this.

Due to the work on the Rigby Suite roof, we will be doing some redecoration. It will be in the July / August period when church is quieter.

Colin reminded everyone that he would be stepping down from his position at the end of the year and asked for prayer in identifying a replacement after 26 years in the position.

Secretarial Update – Andrew Thompsett

Nothing to add following memberships earlier

Safeguarding – Joel Ward

Joel said that the Safeguarding Policy has been updated and that the Trustees were happy with it. If anyone wanted to read it, it was available. There was a unanimous vote that it be accepted.

Church Suite – Lorraine Jackson

Church Suite is a new programme which enables us to keep all the information which at the moment is held in a number of different locations, all in one place. When it is ready, and we roll it out, everyone will be able to edit their own information and will



have access to the rotas etc that relate to them. The whole system is GPDR compliant. This will replace the Church Directory that we have had in the past.

Those present were asked to complete a form with their up-to-date details.

Forthcoming Events

In August we will have Summer Sunday's, multi generational services and on 20th August there will be no service and we will have a social in Bentley Park. This will enable our teams, especially our children's and youth workers to have a well earned break.

The members then split into groups to pray into matters that had been raised during the meeting

The meeting closed at 21:21

Signed

..... on Tuesday 26th September 2023
Joel Ward (Minister)