

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 26TH JANUARY 2021

Chair: Vivien Sargeant

37 members attending (+ 2 non-members)

Venue: Meeting held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Apologies: were advised and recorded

The meeting opened speaking about the theme of God working in people's lives in the midst of uncertainty. PG asked us about who are our biblical heroes and why, as often God worked through them in ways which were sometimes unexpected, with outcomes also uncertain, at least in human terms.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Minutes of the last Church Meeting of the 24th November 2020 were agreed as a correct record. To be signed at a later date when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

PRACTICAL

Secretary: Peter Meyer was welcomed to his first Church meeting

The updated Church Appointments list (Appendix 1) had been circulated prior to the meeting for consideration. VS highlighted new additions and posts which were vacant. Thanks were recorded to Wilf & Helen Stanbury for their service as church cleaners.

Additional position to be added is the Prayer Ministry Team, headed up by Dan Kidd with Les & Elsa Day, Jenny Catton, Suzanne Peck and Rita Bateman.

It was agreed that Evangelism/Outreach should be listed under Outreach. It was noted that the Legal Advisor post was currently vacant.

Vivien Sargeant or Cheryl Trundle should be advised of any volunteers or resignations so that the list may be updated in readiness for the AGM which would be held when circumstances permit.

Finance: Report attached up to end December 2020 (Appendix 2)

CB reported that the General Fund balance at the beginning of the year was £17,700 and at year end stood at £15,859. However, this small decrease despite considerable outlay, was in part due to changes to the Contingency Fund balance and the setting aside of £6,000 for future works/development.

CB noted that offerings would be down by approx. £250/month due to deaths and straightened circumstances amongst the membership.

CB proposed, seconded by Geoff Snowling, that in view of mounting costs and various necessary repairs/improvements, the amount to be put aside should be increased to £10,000.

This was agreed by the meeting.

Church Life:

What Next? Due to changes in the national position some of the ideas discussed at the last meeting were no longer possible at this time. However, Nena Harding suggested that we explore the Messy Church after School App based on the National Curriculum to link with local schools and also Messy Church Vintage (for seniors). Future expansion could include some joint working between the two groups.

Christmas Activities: Feedback had been positive on the displays, the packs which were distributed in the town and on the carol singing. It was noted that the latter was an opportunity for those from other churches, and indeed those with no church affiliations to join in. The Facebook Christmas Story and poem had fluctuating viewings for each section. The Open the Book Nativity at Cavendish Primary School had been enjoyed by all.

Easter Activities: All ideas gratefully received, and all present thought that window decorations on the Easter theme would be worth pursuing. It was hoped that Open the Book could be performed at Easter.

PG to arrange a date for a meeting of any interested parties.

Maintenance:

Church Heaters: These are not in use at present and we await remedial action by the installers.

Church Guttering: The work carried out was not of a satisfactory standard. Les day has tried unsuccessfully to get a response from the original fitter. This requires further action. Another contractor is to be contacted to complete the necessary work.

Church Kitchen (Appendix 3): A statement from the deacons had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining in broad terms the need for the kitchen update. There were various options under consideration which could cost between £15,000 and £25,000 depending on the scale of the works. Les Day requested feedback from kitchen users as to whether the cooker should be changed. The diaconate requested that the church meeting agree to support them as they examine and assess various proposals and quotes to move the project forward. Any concrete proposals would of course be brought back to the membership for consideration prior to any action taking place. This was proposed by Elsa Day and seconded by Jacqui Jennings and agreed by the meeting with one abstention.

The Manse: Various issues had been identified in the Whitworth report on the Manse. The diaconate had discussed this with PG and the family and agreed that this was a priority for immediate action. A quote for £1,470 had been received from a local contractor known to John Baillie (attached) who was able to start the work almost immediately. It was proposed by Les Day and seconded by Rita Bateman, that due to the urgent nature of the problem that one quote was sufficient and that work should commence ASAP. **This was agreed by the meeting.**

If additional works were required/identified in addition to the quote then it was proposed by Elvena Dew and seconded by Susan King that the diaconate could proceed to further quotes/remedial actions as necessary. This was agreed by the meeting. Redecoration would only take place once problems had been remedied.

AV Screen: negotiations were ongoing and a second quote was being considered.

MINISTRY

Bumps and Babies: this was going well and in line with current government guidance.

FELLOWSHIP

House Groups: The Shaws, the Days and the Ladies Fellowship were not meeting currently. Elvena Dew is leading Wilf Stanbury's group on Zoom and will be deciding on future topics; John Baillie's group has not yet met this year but will be considering a new topic; John Sargeant's group of approx. nine were meeting fortnightly and hope to study either Mark's gospel or the Prodigal Son. The youth bible study group led by Sarah Sainsbury (assisted by Alban) continue to meet and are studying evangelism. It is hoped to start a new group on Friday mornings for mums with the first meeting this week, led by Sarah Sainsbury.

Pastoral Care: We continue to pray for John Regan, Steve and Ellie Radford and John Sargeant as they remember loved ones. Suzanne Peck is still in hospital with David's funeral booked for next week. We also remember Peggy Tattersall; Eve Wood at Melford Court and Wilf Stanbury as he continues treatment.

All these and any others known to us were remembered in prayer. The meeting closed at 21.40 hours.

Diary dates as advised.

Next Church Prayer Meeting: 23rd February 2021 8pm

Next Church Meeting: 30th March 2021 NOTE NEW START TIME OF 7.30PM

Signed:

Date: