

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 25TH MAY 2021

Chair: Vivien Sargeant

28 members attending

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

Apologies: were advised and recorded

The meeting opened with a reading from Ephesians 3, Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus. He prayed that they would be filled with strength and the power of the holy spirit and go out in love to preach the gospel. We were reminded that Jesus is in all things and gives all things, abundant in grace and love to all people.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th March 2021 and the Extraordinary Church Meeting held on 10th May 2021 were agreed as a correct record. To be signed at a later date when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Elvena Dew was welcomed as a co-opted member of the diaconate.

PRACTICAL

Secretary

Various updated and amended policies were presented for information. These were in line with national, BU and church insurance requirements.

Safeguarding Policy: This was read out loud to the meeting in line with the constitution requirements. A copy is attached and will be displayed on the notice board in the back foyer.

Cheryl Trundle was proposed by Vicky Graham and seconded by Susan King as the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) and Gillian Johnson was proposed by Viv Sargeant and seconded by Tom Shaw as the Safeguarding Trustee on behalf of the diaconate. **Both these appointments were agreed by the meeting.**

The position of Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS) is currently vacant and all present were asked to prayerfully consider whether God was calling them to fulfil this role.

The safeguarding policy is currently under review.

Hall Hiring Policy: The updated policy was presented for information and an increase of £5/session was agreed by the meeting.

Church Cleaner: David Hastings had agreed a job description and roles and responsibilities and had signed a contract of employment.

Key Holder Policy: On review it was found that six keys were missing and unaccounted for. It was advised that we purchase new locks and VS will liaise with the original locksmiths to arrange this. **Agreed by the meeting.**

Health & Safety Policy: Various aspects of this policy were under review. A new fire and safety policy had been compiled but the Fire Safety Risk Assessment was still to be fully completed. (New policy attached for information) The position of Health and Safety Officer was currently vacant. The diaconate will continue to update the policy.

Finance

CB reported that the General Fund balance was looking healthy despite the constraints of the past year.

Although offerings were 10% less than for the same period in 2019, overall costs were also less.

Gift Day: CB was delighted to report that following the gift day on 23rd May 2021 the total monies collected and promised, plus Gift Aid on the donations amounted to £36,900 in addition to the £10,000 already brought forward for the two church projects. This is over and above the £30,000 hoped for, God is good.

Prayers of grateful thanks were offered by Jacqui Taylor and Gillian Johnson as we move forward together as careful stewards of these gifts to share the good news of his kingdom in this place.

Church Life

Feedback on 'If my People' was very positive. Nena Harding shared that those who participated either in the church building or at home had found it a privilege to be part of the journey of CBC as a church, and as individuals. Over 50 packs were distributed and there were approx. 28 people who attended in the building and 10 at home. There was a feeling of a 'powerhouse of prayer' as we sought God's will and an assurance that he was leading us down the path together. A suggestion was made that this type of event should be repeated regularly.

Forthcoming services would continue to explore God's will and path using a variety of other scriptures over the coming weeks.

Jenny Catton offered a prayer of thanks to those who organised the event and for all God has in store for his church in the future.

Life after 21st June 2021: All present acknowledged that our work of witness will be ongoing albeit not necessarily in the same way as before and that it was necessary to continue with Zoom and ensure those who still felt vulnerable should be safeguarded whilst still being involved in the life of the church.

Maintenance

Church Heaters: Jigsaw have agreed to replace these, time scale awaited

Church Kitchen: Steve Radford reported that the agreed plan was on track. The units had been removed, cleaned and stored, the stainless steel tops had been removed by the company and the repainting of walls was in progress. There had been a delay with the flooring but it was hoped this would be fitted on 7th June. Water heaters and plumbing was planned for the coming week, to be followed by tiling and reconstruction of the units.

Manse redecorating: to be done in July whilst the family are away on holiday.

AV Screens: Novum site visit planned for Thursday 27th May to meet with PG, Tom Culpin and Les Day to agree requirements. Hopefully work will be completed by the end of July.

There is a need to run in mains electrics and the meeting agreed to let the committee negotiate the price and when and how this should be done.

MINISTRY

Evangelical Alliance report: Given by Elvena Dew. The EA was formed in 1846 and continues to be the largest unity movement in the UK, well respected as an organisation. CBC has been a member for a number of years. Its aim is to 'make Jesus known' by sharing news and views on societal issues; representing a Christian viewpoint to the government and the media; developing resources to assist in church ministry to all ages; and to help churches to explore who and what they wish to be.

There is a comprehensive website with available resources, giving groups and individuals the tools to have an active voice in speaking to our government. It was suggested that we could invite a representative to speak at the church. Any further information could be obtained from Elvena Dew.

FELLOWSHIP

Pastoral Care: We continue to pray for Helen and the rest of the Stanbury family as they prepare for Wilf's funeral which will take place on 14th June 2021. Christine Steel had suffered a stroke and we pray for her and the family. PG offered a prayer for those named and any others known to us at this time.

Sunday Club: This had recommenced with approx. 5 children, on 5th April 2021, held every two weeks and will continue until 18th July. It is currently delivering stand-alone sessions which can be adapted if required without losing continuity. It will close over the summer holiday period until September. There are currently only four teachers/helpers and more are needed. All present were asked to prayerfully consider whether they could assist.

The meeting closed with prayer at 20.55 hours.

Next Church Meeting: 27th July 2021.

Signed:

Date: