

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 25TH JANUARY 2022

Chair: Vivien Sargeant

28 members attending

Venue: Meeting held via Zoom and in the church building due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Apologies: None received.

This meeting followed on from the Special Church Meeting to vote on the new Clare Baptist Church Constitution.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2021 were agreed as a correct record. It should be noted that due to the pandemic, some of the Christmas services noted in the minutes did not take place.

To be signed at a later date when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

PRACTICAL

Secretarial Matters

AGM

- **Election of Officers:** Anyone who no longer wishes to continue in their present role in the Church Appointments list should let VS or the diaconate know so that we can advertise the vacancy.
- Cheryl Trundle and Gillian Johnson are due for re-election as deacons and had expressed they were willing to do this. The Secretary and Treasurer roles are elected yearly. VS had agreed to stand again as secretary.
- Colin Barrable had advised that he wished to stand down as Treasurer. Thanks were expressed for all the hard work with the finances he had performed over the years as well as all the other tasks he willingly took on, ably supported by Anne.
- VS reminded us there was an outstanding Treasurer vacancy as well as vacancies on the diaconate and all were asked to consider prayerfully if God was calling them to any of these roles.
- VS also outlined the process for proposing candidates for any of the roles listed above. Namely agreement of the candidate; proposal by two people; and that this should be completed, signed and handed to her at least three weeks (to include three Sundays) before the date of the AGM (29th March 2022).
- **Safeguarding Policy:** CT advised that this was being reviewed by the diaconate in line with BU and National guidelines, and was now complete. Anyone working with children, young people or vulnerable adults was required to attend training every four years. To that end CBC is hosting a training day for the EBA on 26th February 2022. We have 15 places allocated and anyone who requires updating has been invited to attend.
- For those who have current up to date training, evidence should be presented to CT, GJ or VS for verification
- This will also entail completion of additional forms in order to be compliant with legislation and in line with the new policy. Once the training is completed we will look to doing this as required.

Finance

- CB presented a summary of the finances during 2021 (report attached).
- It should be noted that offerings were down on 2020, but expenditure was also less than predicted. However donations made up 15.5% of total receipts which was noteworthy.
- The General Fund balance for 2020 had been £15,860 compared with the end 2021 figure of £10,425.
- Balance in hand from the Gift Day stood at £14,000 with some small bills still outstanding.
- CB informed the meeting that he had arranged that independent verification would be undertaken by the Treasurer of Sudbury BC, James Potter. He would undertake reciprocal verification of their accounts.
- CB had prepared a sheet outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Treasurer for information, and prayerful consideration, which had been distributed with the agenda

Prayers were offered for the forthcoming times for CBC.

Maintenance

Kitchen:

- The dishwasher problems have been identified and sorted. An additional water softener has been fitted to the dishwasher itself to improve function.
- An 'Insinkerator' has also been fitted to improve drainage of solid food matter from the sink.

Heating:

- The malfunctioning heater at the back of the church has been fixed.
- One heater in the back hall is no longer functioning. All these gas heaters are old and to come in line with greener and more efficient alternatives the diaconate are exploring possibilities for replacing the heaters in both the back hall and LHG room.
- Four quotes have been received (all between approx. £8-9,000) with a choice between oil filled electric heaters or infra-red flat panel heaters.
- The diaconate will be examining the systems in more detail and will come back to the church meeting with firm proposals at a later date.
- It was proposed by Janet Strellis and seconded by Elsa Day, that in order to fund this, some of the remaining money donated towards kitchen/AV improvements could be used. **Vote carried with one person against and one abstention.**

Church Spring Clean:

- A small group of deacons had undertaken a walkabout and identified a number of maintenance/spring cleaning issues which needed addressing. This list would be fine-tuned by the diaconate at their next meeting but volunteers are required. Names to JB, date TBA.

MINISTRY

- **Sabbatical:** PG, Elsa Day and Tim Hayes had met to discuss holiday and sabbatical cover for PG's absence. A further meeting is planned to discuss PG's other roles which need to be covered. Preaching themes, largely based on suggestions from the last meeting have been incorporated in the upcoming rota.
- **Sunday Services:** PG advised that every third Sunday would now be a Family Service.
- **Church Activities:** PG encouraged us to think positively and look forward with expectation, to consider new ideas, restarting of former activities, whilst at the same time considering if all previous activities were still fit for 2022.
- Various ideas were mooted to include a LHG Quiz & Puddings evening at the end of March, date TBC; LHG to lead a service emphasising the theme of Family, to be followed by a shared lunch, games and fellowship.
- Other suggestions included using the updated AV system for an Alpha course or similar; to continue with the breakfasts with an emphasis on community outreach; exploring the possibility of Messy Church; a day to reflect on 'what did you do during the pandemic' to give a chance to share new hobbies, activities etc.
- Starting up the Easter sunrise service in Clare Country Park; revisiting the Psalm 23 idea of Banquet and overcoming challenges, perhaps as an outdoor event was suggested. Anyone interested in the latter to contact Nena Harding.
- We also need to consider the evening service in terms of recommencing, frequency, structure etc.
- **Churches Together:** Continuing this Week of Christian Unity, following a published prayer guide series.
- **Pastoral Care:** All present were invited to remember in silent prayer any individuals on our hearts.

FELLOWSHIP

- **House Groups:** These are continuing in various formats and anyone not part of one was encouraged to join. Elsa Day's group meets in person at the Batemans on Thursday evenings; VS and GJ host a ladies' group at the Barrables 1st Tuesday of the month; Elvena Dew's group are meeting on Zoom, next Thursday; John Sargeant via Zoom Wednesday evenings; and John Baillie's group to recommence soon (Thursday evenings).
- Sarah Sainsbury holds a YP group on Thursday PM at her house and a Friday AM study group.
- **Rotas:** Plea for more volunteers especially the PA desk. Tom Culpin is offering a look see/training on Saturday 19th February at 10.30am which will only go ahead if people show a definite interest & contact VS or TC.

- **Christmas Activities:** Thanks were recorded to Steve Radford and all those involved for their decorations and displays in and around the church, and card deliveries, all of which were much appreciated.
- £255.60 raised from hot dogs etc (3120.06), Primary School carols (£46.58), carol singing (£88.96) for the refugee trips; £600 for Afghanistan appeal via World Vision.
- As noted above some activities were curtailed by the Covid-19 situation.

AOB

- **Masks:** CB asked if there was any new guidance on this as there was a variation amongst the local organisations. PG said that the BU would be publishing updated guidance this week and we should wait for this and agree a way forward.
- **Coffee/Traidcraft:** As above.

The meeting closed with prayer at 20.55 hours.

Addendum

JANUARY 2022 CHURCH MEETING - TREASURER'S REPORT - Notes

Our current position is tenable – but Offerings are substantially down from pre-pandemic levels, and the budget prepared for 2022 indicates a very difficult year, possibly to the point where the General Fund balance will be close to zero.

	2020	2021	Budget 2022
Receipts	63,448	57,313	56,228
Payments	63,361	62,748	64,481
Nett	87	(5,435)	(8,253)

Some points to consider:

OFFERINGS IN CHURCH

Not passing around – the plate is always at the door.

OFFERINGS BY STANDING ORDER

Could you? If you do, when did you last review the amount?

GIFT AID – If you are signed up, make sure the tax you pay covers ALL-donations

If not signed up, are you a taxpayer?

Next Church Meeting is the AGM: 29th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed:

Date: