

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 29th MARCH 2022

Chair: Vivien Sargeant

28 members attending

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

Apologies: As noted.

This meeting followed directly on from the Annual General Meeting. Attendance as recorded for AGM.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Secretarial Matters

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 20220 were agreed as a correct record. To be signed at a later date when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

PRACTICAL

Maintenance

Church Heaters:

- CB reported that four quotes had been received, of which two were deemed to be unsuitable for our premises. This had been discussed by the diaconate and others, who felt that panels throughout would be the preferred option. It had been agreed to further explore the quotes from ARC and Jigsaw. The latter had previously proposed panels and radiant heaters but had been asked to requote for panels only but no reply had been received.
- ARC had undertaken a site visit and recommended eight heaters for the hall resulting in a quicker warm up time (previously quoted for six) and heating for the LHG room.
- The detailed quote received was for £9,177.10. The price was to be held for four weeks with an installation lead time of 4-5 weeks. This did not include removal and disposal of the old heaters.
- It was proposed by Ellie Radford and seconded by Peter Bateman that we accept the ARC quote which would be financed by part of the remaining donations received from the Kitchen/AV gift day appeal.
Agreed by the meeting with one abstention, and two people not voting.
- To postpone spring cleaning date agreement until next meeting.
- VS reported increasing requests for hall hire. All present were reminded that it was each group's responsibility to leave the premises clean and tidy as they had found them.

General:

- CB had received a report from JB (who was unable to attend the meeting) with a suggested list of minor works required around the church premises. The total to complete these would be approx. £1400. Some of these may require specialist input to complete eg gas pipe capping.
- It was proposed by Gillian Johnson and seconded by Tom Culpin that these works should go ahead using some of the remaining Gift Day donations as above. **Agreed by the meeting with three people not voting.**
- Church Shed: a donation had previously been promised for its replacement but this needed to be confirmed prior to any work being done to replace it.
- Janet Shaw asked that consideration be given to possible replacement of the organ. **To be discussed by the diaconate for report back to the next church meeting.**

Finance

The 2022 budget offering total had been set at a 2.5% decrease on the previous year's estimate but despite this CB reported that this year to date the offerings were 4% below budget.

- Concern was expressed that rising utility bills (could be as much as 60%) would present a severe challenge to the church as this had not been factored into the 2022 budget.
- It was suggested that in view of this we need to review Hall Letting tariffs. **Diaconate to discuss.**

MINISTRY

Update on proposals of church activities to date

- **Restarting of evening services:** To take place on the first and third Sundays of the month with the first service taking the form of a bible study (possibly a more in-depth examination of the AM service) and the third Sunday based around Communion. To recommence on 15th May 2022.
- **Easter Family Fun Day 12th April 2022:** Open to those with children under 11 years of age from 10-1pm to include Open the Book, activities and a shared lunch. Booking now open.
- **LHG Pudding and Quiz Evening:** 2nd April 7pm, 12 teams to date, booking required.
- **Easter Services:** Alban Smith-Adams to take the service on Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday evening service; Good Friday Walk from The Priory to Market Hill where there will be a service, followed by hot cross buns. CBC will be screening 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in the church at 4pm, open to all.
- Easter Sunday early morning service at Clare Country Park followed by breakfast at CBC (coffee and croissants/equivalent) followed by a morning service with decoration of the cross. Volunteers required to assist in decorating the church, names to ED.
- **Audio-Visual Training Day:** Tom Culpin reported that 4 people attended and a written information manual was available if required. Additional volunteers would be welcome, see TC if interested.
- **Sabbatical:** Planning in hand, diaconate will continue to discuss arrangements.

AOB

- Anne Barrable wished to clarify the position of Treasurer as at the last meeting CB had resigned.
- In the absence of anyone to take over the role he had reconsidered his position and was willing to continue for a further year whilst relinquishing his other roles within the church and the diaconate.
- It is duly noted that he will NOT be standing for this position next year.
- Thanks should be recorded to CB for all his work throughout the past year, his willingness to stand again as Treasurer and for all Anne's support as his wife in the many ways he serves CBC.

The meeting closed with prayer at 21.00 hours.

Next Deacons' Meeting: 5th April 2022, CBC at 8pm

Next Church Meeting: 31st May 2022, CBC at 7.30pm

Signed:

Date: