

MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 7p.m. (via Zoom Videolink)

1. Members present: Rev. Andy & Kay McManus, Peter Wright, John Wass, Garry Clewlow, Tom & Julie Hamilton, Barry & Gloria Taylor, Chris & Rita Wilson, Arthur Bates, Stan & Barbara Roberts, Mike & Annette Gregory, Ellis & Rachel Parker, Nessa Johnson, Daphne Cox, Janet Morton, Nick & Vicky Elsom, Ann Peters and John & Maureen Edenbrow.

2. Apologies: Dawn, Shannon & Steve Clewlow, Mandy Green, Angela & Peter Jenkinson.

Andy opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. The minutes of the last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 had been circulated and were agreed.

4. Matters arising: **A.12. Sale of Orchard. Andy has been touch with EMBA Trust but they have been unable to locate the Deeds of the Orchard. They are continuing their search, (possibly connected to the Deeds for 31 High St?).** Les Hammond is aware of the situation.

A.14. **Garry Clewlow has completed majority of the P.A.T. Testing of electrical appliances in the Church (2 appliances still to be checked). Garry will liaise with Tom to arrange to have the Shop appliances checked.** All items are numbered, and records kept in the RED H&S Folder. The shop will now be able to sell electrical items when individual donations have been tested. Garry was thanked for his work and expertise.

A.15. Risk Assessment for YYC set up and held in RED H&S folder.

A.16. Kay is keeping in contact with Tots mums.

**A.17. White Heather leaders are keen to resume meetings. Andy is in regular contact with the leaders.**

A.18. Chris has bought a 'Sum up' Card reader. Donations to the Church can be made contactless using a dongle and without the need for Wi-fi. There are no fixed charges but there is a 2% charge on all donations.

5. Pastors report. **See attached report.**

6. Health & Safety. Risk Assessments for all Church activities have been completed and are kept in the RED H&S folder. **A.19 Andy to arrange a meeting with Nessa (and me??) to overview records reviews etc..**

A Spray gun for antiseptic use in combatting Covid 19 has been donated to the Church (normal cost £200).

7. Finance. Chris presented the Annual Accounts for y.e. 31-12-2019. Donations from Standing orders and Sunday offerings were static. There were no questions regarding these figures. Chris went on to talk about the current year and the effects of Covid on Church finances. This year, 3 more people had started to give by Direct Debit and 1 had stopped. Collections on a Sunday morning did average £380 per month; Extra donations given in lieu of Sunday collections total approx. £2,400 to date, so overall we are looking at a net shortfall of approx **£2,000**. Income from the shop to date is £1,520, so this will leave us with a shortfall in the region of **£2,250**. Nick Elson advised that the Government has extended its help to small businesses and that

the shop may be eligible to claim further recompense (in addition to the £10,000 already received).

**A.20. Nick will talk to Chris to follow this up.** Expenditure this year includes £3,200 for new boiler; £2,250 for New storage and shelving; £1,045 for Manse garage doors; £920 for Manse garden fence; and £300 for Church roof repairs.

Our current cash balances stand at £1,573 in C/A and £45,244 (which includes the £10,000 allocated to the Shop mentioned above) in the Gold A/C.

**A.21. Stan Roberts recommended that the Leaders ought to plan ahead and allocate some of the £45,000 in the Gold A/C for future Church projects.**

Andy thanked Chris & Rita for their continuing hard work in looking after the Church finances.

8. Buildings. Andy thanked Maureen and the small team of helpers for their time and hard work in re-ordering and decorating the toilets and lobby areas.

9. Covid 19 update. BUGB have issued updated guidelines following the Governments new rulings on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. The Church will be closed for all meetings and gatherings until Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> except for Alpha and Private prayer.

10. Pastor's contract. Andy & Kay left the meeting at this point.

The leader's recommendation of a new contract for Andy had been distributed to all members, along with a ballot paper, during w/e 7-9<sup>th</sup> Nov. The Leaders recommendation report and reasoning is attached. The proposal is: 'WE ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH ANDY TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM 1-1-21, BASED ON THE BAPTIST UNIONS TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE STIPEND (£19,000) AND ANNUAL LEAVE ALLOWANCES (35DAYS) SET OUT IN THE SUMMARY ABOVE'.

Ballot papers had been returned in sealed envelopes to Andy and John E. The envelopes had been opened and counted by Tom Hamilton and John Edenbrow at 4p.m. this afternoon. 23 ballot papers were returned and the members were unanimous in supporting the proposal.

There was further discussion acknowledging Andy's enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to his ministry and calling. Non- members, who had not been involved with the voting, were able to express their support for Andy and Kay. There were 2 queries regarding the 9 Sundays leave entitlement. This is a recommendation from the Baptist Union that is written into all its Minister's contracts and it was agreed that it should remain part of Andy's contract. Also question asking whether we can afford to commit to the increase in the stipend. Chris replied that next year will obviously be difficult financially and we will need to use up some of the reserves in the Gold A/C. Andy & Kay then returned to the meeting and we were able to reassure them that they had the full support of the Church behind them.

11. A.O.B. John E asked about the continuation of the B.M.S. birthday scheme. This year has obviously been difficult, but the fact is that 30 cards have been sent out this year but only 7 members have responded with a donation. (In addition, 3 members tend to give direct to B.M.S. via Direct Debit). In the 6 months before Covid struck, we started to have B.M.S. collection boxes out on Sunday and Thursday coffee mornings and these raised £222 for B.M.S. John said that he would continue running the scheme to the end of this year, and asked **A.22. How do we move forward in supporting B.M.S.**

Date of next meeting was arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021 at 7 p.m.

