

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

July 12th 2017

Present: Peter Timothy (chair), Maxine Corrigan (minutes), Jorge Damasceno, Mel Damasceno, Claire Timothy, June Day, Robin Day, Kevin Ward, Val Bayliss, Martin Bayliss, Grace Dale, Elizabeth Saunders, Gary Saunders, Nigel Parrott, Chris Yallup, Denise Jackson, Lester Jackson, Kim Symeou, Nik Symeou, Sandra Grey, Megan Mynhardt, Louise Lyle, Peter Lyle, Pat Hillier, Andy Hillier, Ione Nixon, Chris Hillier, Michelle Paige (arrived during Jorge's report) as did Dale Bullock.

Apologies: Myrtle Catchpole, Pat King, Brian King, Claire Hamilton-Deane, Su Robinson, Judith Edmonds, Malcolm Edmonds, Lessie Keenan, Richard Keenan, Cheryl Dixon, John Dixon, Judith Gilbertson, Gorete, Lilly Anne Eagle, Bradley Corteen, Fione Waters, Tony Waters, David Waters.

Worship: Peter read from Acts Ch16 v11-15

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting held on May 24th were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

Matters Arising: None

Social Committee Request: Peter mentioned that at present we do not really have a Social Committee therefore looking for people who are good at organise events such as the picnic in the Park. This would be aside from Pat's group linked to CAP.

Church Membership: As all members aware Millie Bishop, a long standing member, sadly passed over and therefore her name needs to be formally removed from the church membership list.

Financial Updte: Martin gave a report to members of the financial situation at the 2nd quarter (6 months) period of this year.

Sheet 1

- Just about balanced – the Out slightly over the In due to CAP
- Slightly lower giving – some giving less some have stopped as moved away
- £9,757 come in for the Gift Aid tax return without which we would be that much lower. We received £1,000 more due to changes in Gift Aid rules
- Some CAP income to off set expense

If anyone wants a personal copy of the Income/Expenditure details please speak to Martin.

Sheet 2

Martin informed everyone that with a 6 month income of £24,146 we need the second 6 months to bring in £28K. Giving needs to improve if we are to cover all outgoings planned. Earlier in the year we raised £502 for the benevolent fund which now stands at £399. The heaters in the church have been looked at by the engineer and are 'magnificent' however, the boiler at the manse is almost condemned and may need replacing earlier than planned. This would cost approx.. £3,700

Portuguese Congregation Update: Jorge started by saying how blessed he and Mel feel to be here not knowing what lay ahead he knows God has put them in the right place. However, there are challenges.

Church is ready for leadership training but still need more discipleship, this being due to culture not ministry. People are hungry for God and to find out more about Him. At present Jorge, Mel and Gorete are the only leaders and he is hopeful that beginning next year 2 more will join them.

There is a new men's group The Cave – 12 men meeting away from the wife Mel has ran a ladies group with 13 ladies. Planning a couple conference in Happisburgh.

Creating a community friendly congregation is important and a movie night planned for July 29th advertising this and The film is 'God is not Dead'. Other activities planned eg a choir and to go outside.

Louise Lyle asked how Flavio and Christiana getting on. Jorge explained that they going through a journey, they are confused but did not lose their faith, however, have questions they need answers to and only God can do that. They need a year out and now all we can do is pray.

Jorge mentioned he is still finding out who is who in the congregation and thinking too how to bring English and Portuguese congregations together.

They do now have a refreshment team, a welcome team and an AV team. Children's work is done by a team and not just an entertainer.

When he came there was about 25 adults now there are 40 adults and 50 children.

Sandra Grey said what a good job has been done in such a short time and is truly inspirational.

Baptism and Church Membership: Peter explained that the first document from the last meeting has been tidied up and the second document reflects this (Addendum 2). Peter read out the section headed 'What Next' which contains a recommendation from the leadership team of an amendment to Clause 7.2 of the constitution to read -

“Closed membership so that the persons seeking membership must have been baptised in the manner described in the Union’s Declaration of Principle, with the Church Members Meeting exercising discretion in exceptional cases.”

Peter Lyle asked what happens if an infant baptism is requested. We would not undertake infant baptism

Gary said we have accepted that it doesn’t matter then how much water is used.

Claire Timothy said we have all worked together well on this as a whole church.

Peter pleased there was no further discussion. It was recommended therefore that the declaration read be adopted into church documentation. Voted all in favour. As the constitution being changed there will need to be an Additional Church Meeting which will be directly ahead of the next church meeting.

Peter closed the meeting in prayer.

Next members meeting will be on September 27th