

Church Members' Annual General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 22nd November 2017, 7.30pm

Chair: Rev. Peter Timothy

WORSHIP

1. Opening devotion and sung worship

PASTORAL

2. News of the fellowship for prayer

ADMINISTRATION

3. Apologies for absence

4. Signing of minutes from last meeting (27.9.17)

5. Finance Update

MINISTRY

6. **Safeguarding** Annual adoption of our safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults

7. **Membership matters** Annual review of the membership role, including applications for membership. *Please familiarise yourself with attachment 1 in advance of the meeting.*

8. **Election of charity trustees**

- Nigel Parrott completes his first term of office as deacon. He has been nominated to stand for a second term.

- The role of Treasurer remains unfilled and there have been no nominations for this position.

9. **Deacons Roles** *Please see attachment 2.*

10. **Minister's Report** Peter to share a review of 2017. Please see Annual Report booklet for full reports on all areas of church life.

CLOSING PRAYER



ATTACHMENT 1

A Liturgy of Forgiveness

Please familiarise yourself with this document ahead of the meeting. Read and re-read it and pray into its contents, inviting God to speak to you and prepare your heart before attending the meeting.

Good disagreement is a fine art. But skilled artists are few and far between.

Throughout Scripture we see men and women of God disagreeing with each other. The apostle Paul in particular compiled an impressive list, featuring the likes of Barnabas, Mark and Peter.

But Paul's disagreements with his fellow believers did not concern doctrinal issues; that is to say the core elements of our faith. Neither did he let it get in the way of his efforts in spreading the Gospel.

There will always be differences of opinion in church life, and at Park we have encountered our fair share through the years. Fortunately, like Paul, this has very rarely concerned matters of doctrine.

It's *how* we deal with differences when they occur that really matters.

Brian and Pat have graciously accepted an invitation to join us for this meeting as we recognise that together, as the church of Christ, we have failed in the art of good disagreement.

For some this will be a time of intense emotion, bringing up painful memories. For others, you may have little or no understanding of past events in church life. Together we gather and in doing so are gathered by a faithful God whose mercies are offered anew every day.

We're going to pray together to ask for God and each other's forgiveness for where we have failed in word or action; be that as individuals or recognising our responsibility as a part of Christ's body here at Park. And we will ask God to grant us His lasting peace.

In the days leading up to this I urge you to pray into this important moment in our church life together. Ask God to relieve you of any burdens of hurt or anger; confusion or disappointment. Invite the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and mind so that we might allow the past to rest and be united under the banner of Christ, whose body was broken and blood was shed out of love for us all.

Peter



We will pray together:

Leader: Heavenly Father, we confess that all too often we do not help or care for one another in the way Jesus showed us. For this we pray:

All: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: Sometimes we are angry and frustrated and so we say and do things that hurt each other. For this we pray:

All: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: As a church family you have set us apart and called us to be different. For where we have failed one another and you, we pray:

All: Forgive us, Lord.

All: Relieve us of the burdens, hurts and sorrow that we have carried, and lead us into your way of peace, made possible through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you
May the Lord shine his light upon you and give you his peace
Amen

The Peace to be shared with one another

Presentation of new lectern bible in memory of John & Millie Bishop

Peter will close this time with a prayer of thanksgiving

If you have any question about this please speak to Peter in advance of the meeting.



ATTACHMENT 2

Deacons Roles

INTRODUCTION

In order to improve the organisation of church life and to maximise the different gifts among the diaconate, the leadership team have agreed to assign 'portfolios' or 'roles' to each deacon. It will involve each deacon having an area of church life that they have specific oversight for, and who church members know they can go to if they have questions or concerns. The deacon is not responsible for *doing* everything in that area, but to simply have oversight for it. In practice this will look slightly different for each role. The ministers will remain ultimately responsible and accountable for overseeing church life.

WHY?

There is a growing need for some simple structures to be put in place in key areas of church life to improve communication and organisation. This need has arisen following concerns from Peter that there is often confusion among church members and regular attendees over who to go to if they have a question about something; that the question of 'what do the deacons do' is often asked; and on a personal level, Peter believes he could work more effectively with this slight shift in set-up.

Park has previously worked fairly well with an 'organic' structure; that is, lots of things just happen without needing formal groups, committees or meetings. Adding structures for the sake of structures is never helpful. However, there are a couple of reasons which has led us to agree to this change after discussing and praying over it for the past few months.

1. Better communication and clarity A growing number of our church lead what could cautiously be described as 'chaotic' lifestyles. It is not uncommon for church members to only attend a couple of services a month, with the various pulls of family life, work commitments and other engagements reducing 'contact time' with their church family. Life has undoubtedly become more complex in the 21st Century, and pressures on time are greater than ever. This requires the church to be flexible in its approach, but also be more effective at communicating and holding together the church family.

Having some clear lines of responsibility and knowing 'who does what' should help in this.

2. Refining the role of deacon We currently have an excellent group of deacons, and each person has naturally gravitated to offering leadership in different areas of church life. A natural progression would be to formalise this by assigning deacons as the 'go to' person for various areas. They would then be responsible for reporting back to leadership meetings and liaising regularly with the ministers.

3. The Issue of Treasurer With our Acting Treasurer stepping down at the end of the year, the position of Treasurer will go unfilled, with no member agreeing to be nominated for the role. We believe that we could rethink how this is done by having a deacon responsible for Finance - whose role it will be to oversee a finance team. We have a deacon who already produces the accounts for her business and has agreed to perform this role for the remainder of her term in office.



HOW?

After discussion and prayer, the leadership team agreed upon the following five roles and their key responsibilities:

FAMILIES, YOUTH & CHILDREN

- Oversee safeguarding and ensure church follows current best practice in all areas of safeguarding.
- Oversee Junior Church and liaise regularly with leaders.
- Work with Peter and Jorge to develop new ways of connecting with families and young people.

FINANCE

- Oversee newly created Finance Team (Counting, Banking, Bookkeeping, Pensions, Payroll).
- Produce budgets.
- Deliver regular reports and updates to Leadership and Church Meetings.

MISSION & OUTREACH

- To increase awareness and encourage involvement in mission activities in church i.e.: CAP, The Living Room, Foodbank etc.
- To keep informed and encourage church members to engage with outreach opportunities.
- To keep informed about BMS missionary partners and ensure information is shared with the church.

PASTORAL CARE

- Oversee Pastoral Care Team.
- Lead bi-monthly PCT meetings.
- Arrange visits/cards/flowers etc to members in need i.e. house-bound, ill, bereaved etc.

PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

- Encourage and develop corporate prayer times in church.
- Encourage and develop prayer ministry and intercessor teams in church.
- Work with Peter to develop the house group network across church

We have also outlined the roles of stewards as follows:

CHURCH SECRETARY

- To provide practical support to the ministers
- To deal with incoming mail etc from other parts of the Baptist family (EBA, BUGB. etc) and requests for premises hire in liaison with the ministers.
- Liaison link with Playgroup

PROPERTY STEWARD

- Point of contact for any problem concerning the church building
- To arrange/provide assistance/support on maintenance issues as required
- To arrange and carry out yearly inspections of church building and manse, reporting any current/potential issues that need addressing to Leadership Team.

