

Minutes of a meeting of
BODY TALK for CHURCH MEMBERS
held on TUESDAY 22nd July 2008

The Senior Minister, Ian Phillips, presided over the meeting which was attended by 68 members. Apologies for absence were received from 47 members.

Looking up in Expectation.

- 1. Opening Worship** was lead by Ian Phillips who read from Colossians 1, followed by worship and prayer.
- 2/3. Pastoral Care, Membership and Support** – Sue Lindridge recommended to membership James Baker who had been baptised recently. Sue spoke about his journey and that he was involved with Why-Be?, Reloaded and the Music Group and that he had also been part of the CYM team helping out in Green Team. Ian Phillips nominated Nick Hill for membership; he talked about his journey, his small group ‘Barnabas’ and his regular attendance, and he had no hesitation in putting him forward for membership. Both were accepted.

Ian said that Sandra was with Alexandra Thornton who had had surgery in London, and that he would offer Alexandra and other people for prayer later in the meeting.

Looking back in Gratitude

4. June 2008 Financial Statement.

Joe presented an up-to-date statement on the Church finances, and highlighted areas of concern and encouragement. Total Revenue Income to date is £105,599.55 which is £12,631.95 below target. This time last year the income was £103,142.72 and only £4,087.28 below target. In the last 12 months income has risen by just 2% and whilst this is not very encouraging it needs to be seen alongside the significant amount received thus far through the 2008 Gift Day Fund. Total Revenue Expenditure to date is £98,292.69 which is £30,658.81 below budget. Whilst first half expenditure is generally lower than that in the second half of the year, the position at the end of June is the most wayward seen and is over £10,000 more adrift than at the same time last year. Consequently the Finance Team are asking all budget holders, when submitting their requests shortly for a budget in 2009, to comment on the adequacy of their existing budget for 2008. This budget review will provide three main benefits; it will tell us how accurate are the existing budgets for the year, it will provide guidance on whether or not the current level of income is adequate to meet our perceived needs, and it will enable the church to reconsider the overall budget for the year. It may thus be possible to adjust the existing budgets without compromising overall spending plans.

Turning to the Financial Summary Joe drew attention to the following: firstly, Gift Day 2008 income amounts to £116,893.11, thanks to continuing fulfilment of existing pledges, spontaneous giving through Gift Day and other *ad hoc* donations, and receipt of substantial pledges ahead of schedule. The residual amount we now have to raise, in addition to outstanding pledges and associated Gift Aid of £163,670, amounts to £54,237. There are two more Gift Days this year; in September at the Church Anniversary and in December at the Gift Service, at which to receive gifts and pledges to clear the shortfall. As a consequence of the cash received thus far this year, the BU borrowing has been repaid some five years ahead of schedule. The debts to the Baptist Building Fund, the Evangelism, Outreach and Nurture Fund and the External Tithe Fund, however, all remain to be cleared. Whilst we are now in the finishing straight of the Redevelopment Project there is still have some way to go before we reach the finishing line. Secondly, the Church finances are technically solvent as the total figure of £38,812.44 is positive whereas for the past five years it has been negative.

- 5. The Minutes** of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Looking forward in Faith

6. **Church Anniversary – Weekend arrangements.** Ian said that the church anniversary weekend will be on 20th/21st September 2008. To celebrate this on Saturday evening there would be a scratch Orchestra, String Quartet perhaps and some singing, shared with everyone over a simple buffet supper. There are sign up sheets, one for those attending (so that numbers for catering can be finalised) and two for help and support to set up and take down.
7. **The New Church Constitution** – Graham Durrant said that, as he explained at the last Body Talk, the Church will need to register separately with the Charity Commission from October 2008, which will require us to generate a new constitution. The Deacons and leaders have used a template from the BU which follows closely the existing constitution. A formal document will be prepared by the Deacons for approval and on 10th September there will be a meeting for anyone who has any questions; there will be draft copies available for perusal before the meeting and a sign up sheet for those wishing to attend. It is the intention that the new constitution will be submitted for approval at the September Body Talk.

8. **Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham – appointment of Moderator** – Ian spoke about Brighton Road Baptist Church. He opened by giving us a brief history stating that the last six months had been very tough for them, starting with the sad loss of a much beloved Minister David Richardson who had been the minister there for 26 years. He had had to have a repeat operation on his heart and died on the operating table; at his funeral there were over 600 people which gives an idea of how much he was loved. They also have been in the middle of a building redevelopment project but completion was delayed from the planned finishing date of February to July. Then Chris Bird who was going to be their administrator had a fall and as a consequence it was discovered he had an inoperable brain tumour; his funeral was the first service held in the new building. The church are left with only one paid member of staff who is the Youth worker. As a consequence the church are struggling and have approached Ian to be their Moderator to help them through this and to help them appoint a new Minister. Ian has been asked to their Deacons' meetings, their Church meetings and to preach on a couple of Sundays.

Ian asked for prayer, specifically to pray for this big challenge ahead of them; replacing a hugely popular minister will be very difficult, it will require significant change which is always difficult. Please pray that the person who is appointed will be able to fill David's shoes. Ian finished with prayer.

9. **Children and Youth Ministry** – Sue Lindridge opened with prayer for all the CYM people that they have a good and restful summer holiday; she thanked everyone for their hard work and said that she had sent letters out to everyone and to please look in the pigeon holes.

She invited Marion from POD to speak: Marion had a paper chain with green and red links representing POD leaders and children and said that it was wonderful the response she had had from the last meeting and that they were now able to keep the older children who will be at the Youth Centre. She said that they had had 10 new children and she had had to order more POD bibles; an offering was taken to cover the cost. She said relationships between leaders and children were good and that at the traditional POD BBQ every child had brought a member of their family. She said that God was truly good and praised the Lord for all his blessing. She asked each person to take one segment of the paper chain and pray for that person. She finished with prayer.

Gill White then spoke about Re-loaded; she also had had a positive response from the last meeting and stated that they were now able to run the older group who have decided to call themselves 'bottle tops'. They have already got excited about the group and are starting to take ownership of it. She asked for prayer for both the older and younger children; she also asked for prayer for the team to gel as it had got a lot bigger, and that rotas and practical things would fall into place.

Richard White talked about football; he said that the football had been going now for five years, he showed us lots of photos; they get between 20- 30 kids coming every week and a lot of them have no association with the

church. He said it was an opportunity to have fun with kids of all ages and all abilities and that everyone could join in. He said he felt that it was a conduit to the church and asked for prayer for opportunities to arise so that he could come alongside some of the families that come regularly. He also asked for prayer for protection - only one child has had to be taken to casualty in the whole time they have been meeting! He asked for help as they need a female on site to come alongside the girls that come to football, and also someone who will take the register and subs, so that he and the team could just get on with playing.

Sue Lindridge finished by saying thank you to the families who were helping with the summer programme. The dates that the children will go out for Byte size are the 3rd, 17th and 31st August, and whilst she had leaders in place the amount of children who come are an unknown quantity so if on the day you could pop in and ask if any help was needed it would be greatly appreciated.

To finish she asked if there was anyone who could help this Sunday in Blue team, and stated that she would put out a sheet with items for prayer on it and areas where help is most needed.

- 10. Mission Strategy Team** – Philippa Piper asked for prayer for the Aghem people, stating that we were the only church supporting them, and that they had had a particularly bad year, with lots of political issues, violence and unrest. For Alfred who was unwell with typhoid and for the new translation team. She asked that we pray for spiritual refreshment and to continue to remember them in the small groups and at other times of prayer. Karen Michell is coming home this week from South Africa; please pray that she has a safe journey home. To pray for Chris in Austria that he settles in well, and to pray for Angela and Catherine when they travel to Romania at the beginning of August to help run a camp in the summer for up to 800 children!
- 11. Strictly Fun Dancing 2008.** Ian spoke on behalf of Steve Pidgeon who was unable to attend. On July 5th the second event in the series of 'strictly fun dancing' was the summer ball. Over a hundred people came along and nearly one fifth were non-Christians. We are continuing to build bridges with other churches and folk from at least 2 other churches took part; we raised £1,331 and when added to the first evening we have raised £2,500. The next event is on Saturday 13th September; we will be learning the Lindy Hop and the Lambeth Walk. Thanks to all who supported this and please continue to support it by inviting your non-Christian friends.
- 12. Reception** – Ian Phillips talked about Clare Sage working as a volunteer in the role as Reception Manager; he stated he wanted to move that forward, and that the Leadership team were looking to make this a paid role. He was letting everyone know that that was in their thinking and that it would be in the budget proposal. If anyone had any questions to please write to him. A member asked that, if this was the right thing to do, why wait? Ian stated that it had not been included in this year's budget because with the proposed reduction in gift aid and the need to pay off the redevelopment project debt it was one step too far to ask for more money as there is only a certain amount of money in the pot. Another member asked about the knock-on effect on the cleaning (Clare would resign as cleaner if/when appointed to the Reception role) and how that was progressing. Ian replied that this was being considered but had not been resolved. Another member said that we should step out in faith - God has helped us thus far - and pay this role now. Ian felt it would be the correct thing to do for the Deacons and leaders to discuss these developments and return in September with further proposals.
- 13. Street Pastors.** Ian Phillips spoke about this, saying that it would happen on a Friday and Saturday night; it was primarily to walk among the people, have conversations with them and perhaps help them. We as a church have signed an agreement to say that we are in. There are 11 training sessions; you can go out in the street once you have had 4 sessions but only on the premise that you agree to complete the course. This is all being done in conjunction with the police and council; John Bryden of the police has asked us as churches to engage with this. The impact this has had in areas where it is already happening is huge; knife crime is down (as a street pastor you carry a knife amnesty). They are hoping to start the first training session on 6th September. If anyone would like to be involved please let Ian know. There are various areas in which members could get involved i.e. praying, being in the centre praying and serving the street pastors as they come in during the night.

- 14. Prayer.** Ian asked us to pray for Christa who is in Brambles at the moment, Alan Worth recovering from surgery, Agnes' granddaughter – Jade, Alexandra Thornton, Isabel, Tak and Brenda, Win, Ted & Olive, Greta who is very frail; Bill and Ethel and Kath Wallis. The church members then prayed for these people and all the items talked about during the evening.

Other Matters

- 15. A.O.B** – Sharon Golightly talked about the Craft Fair happening in October, and possibly November. She said there had been two workshops doing painting, jewellery making etc. Valerie Hill and Celeste Walker were going around the groups such as Pilgrims, Friendship and T-Set showing people there the kind of things we need them to make. She asked for prayer that there would be enough to sell. There is a donations box behind the reception desk for wool, materials, buttons etc.; there will be more updates in the August and September News.

Ian said that the Pilgrims were going on a Mystery tour and if anyone is interested in going to speak to Leslie and Mavis Poole. He also said that decorating was happening in the church during August, and cleaning week in September. If anyone can offer to help with general cleaning during August or a bit of gardening please contact Brian, Clare or Alan.

Finally the car wash to raise money for Tim Hayden to go to Sierra Leone raised £ 160.00

- 16. Any other relevant business:** no other items were raised.

- 17. Next Body Talk:** Tuesday 23rd September 2008.

- 18. Closing Prayer:** Ian closed the meeting in prayer.

Signed.....

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