

Minutes of a meeting of
BODY TALK for CHURCH MEMBERS
held on Thursday 26th November 2009 at 7.30pm.

The Senior Minister, Ian Phillips, presided over the meeting which was attended by 82 members. Apologies for absence were received from 55 members.

Looking up in Expectation.

1. **Opening Worship** was lead by Ian Phillips who read from Psalm 91.
2. **Welcome to new Members:** The following have requested to be part of the family at Crawley Baptist church. They were joyfully received as members: Ade and Evelyn Anderonmu and Jon Brown
3. **Pastoral Care:** Sandra opened with thanks for all who had shown such love and care and support to her and Ian, after the death of Ian's mum. We broke into huddles to pray over the cards we were given. Sandra then talked about the young team that were helping the older folk in this church, and the need to grow this team; if anyone was interested in being a friend with a servant heart, to please come and see her. Christmas day lunch was going ahead this year, the team was big enough but Sandra asked if anybody knew of anyone who would be alone this year, either in the Church or within the community, to let her know. Sandra finished with prayer.

ANNUAL MEETING

4. **Election of Deacons and church officers**
 - a. Appointment of Scrutineers for the Election of Deacons: David Banks-Broome and Mark Vincent.
 - b. Election of Deacons: Three members were nominated for four positions. Mr Graham Durrant, Mrs Nicky Shearwood, Mr Richard White. The ballot papers were handed out and then given to the scrutineers to count and return.
 - c. Election of Church Officers:
 - i. Independent Examiners (Church main accounts) Baldwin Scofield and Co – these were voted in.
 - ii. Independent Examiners (Auxiliary Organisation accounts) – Mr P Deamer and Mrs T Groves – these were voted in.
 - d. Receive Scrutineers' Report on the Election of Deacons – All three nominees were successful.

Ian Phillips then thanked Maurice Frost, Valerie Fentiman and Alan Michell for their wisdom and integrity. He thanked Graham Durrant for re-standing and for his support over the years and hard work. He finished by thanking both Richard White and Nicky Shearwood for stepping out of the boat and standing for election.

GENERAL MEETING

Looking Forward in Faith

5. **Appointment of Financial Assistants:** Joe will be retiring at the end of January and his administration tasks are being passed onto the new Operations Manager although Joe will continue with the bookkeeping part of his role on a voluntary basis with the title of Financial Assistant. However this still leaves the church treasurer's role. The Deacons had prayed about this and put it to Body Talk in September as there was no way forward without someone to do this role. Gill White has stepped up to the plate and has offered to do this voluntarily. With the election of Richard White as Deacon, however, the church constitution does not allow Gill (as Richard's wife) to hold the title of Church Treasurer. With much thought and prayer the Deacons have agreed to continue with the current arrangement and retain Church Treasurer responsibilities themselves with Gill also taking on the title of Financial Assistant. Gill has been working with Joe for a few weeks already and the

transition is going well. It was also agreed that Gill and Nick Hill be appointed to the Finance team.

Ian Phillips stated that we are all gift lead and that mostly leaders spot gifts and approach and ask, but sometimes leaders don't see the gift so if you are sitting on a gift please take it as your responsibility to come forward. He finished by thanking Gill for coming forward with her gift and Joe for continuing to use his.

6. **Operations Manager:** Ian Warner started his role as Operations Manager at the beginning of November; he has been working alongside Alan and he will work alongside Joe in due course. This period of transition seems to be working well. At the end of the month we will loose Alan who has been doing the role on a voluntary basis for 5 years. Ian called Alan and June to the front to thank them and present them with tokens of our appreciation, thanking him for being a gentle and faithful servant. He then prayed for Alan. Joe added his thanks to Alan saying he honestly did not know where he would have been without him.
7. **Budget for 2010 – for approval and adoption:** On behalf of the Deacons Joe presented the proposed budget for 2010 (details of which had already been circulated to Church Members), reminding members that the budget represents the financial needs that underpins the Church's vision. Following discussion it was proposed by Graham Durrant and seconded by David Molden that the budget be approved; this was carried unanimously with no abstentions.
8. **CYM:** Sue opened by stating that it had been a really good start to this term with Baptisms of Young People. POD continues to grow with children on the waiting list. There has been a request for two sisters with disabilities to be able to come to POD; if anyone could see themselves in that role please see Marian. Child Protection update: the new application process seems to be working well, all the new leaders have gone through the process, currently we have 8 people going through Criminal Records Bureau checks. The new ISA, the body that will look after the vetting of those working with young people, came into being in October. There will be changes which will affect us next year. Sue will update us as appropriate. There are new Guidelines (Safe to Grow) which will include best practice guidelines surrounding the use of mobile phones/ computers. We will need to update our policy. Sue finished by thanking everyone for the opportunity to take her sabbatical, she sees it as a time to seek God for her life and future ministry. She said thank you to the CYM team who are continuing to do a fantastic job and to Marian for overseeing. Also a huge thank you for all the support for her trip to Thailand. She will put an itinery out for information.
9. **Go Teams:** Ian Phillips updated us on the work of the Go Teams stating that we now have more money in the budget, but that he had also had a conversation with James Benning who is the Housing Officer in West Green who expressed his gratitude for all the help given. He is going to see if he can get a grant for us from the council to help with our expenses; it is wonderful to be working in partnership with others. Ian said that there was now a great need to have someone to manage this team as he expects an inundation of requests in the summer, he would also like to have some people to follow up and talk to the people with whom they have made contact to keep the contact going and perhaps have a cup of tea with them. If anyone has any of these gifts to come forward please. David Molden then added that he had been to a Care for the Family conference which talked about engaging with the community; the speaker Steve Chalk threw out a challenge to us all " If we don't go – there will be others who will!"
10. **Community Money Advice Service:** Joe Lansdell shared with us how he and Jenny Harber had joined with a debt advice help group called MMAT – Money Management and Training – which has been spearheaded by Crawley Community Church; it is to help people who need help in managing their debt. It is a great way to grow relationships with other churches, and build Kingdom. At the moment there is Joe, Jenny Harber and two other people on the team. They have proper training and are in turn training people on how to handle personal budgets; their dream is to have a Community Bank.
11. **Mission Team:** Philippa shared 1 Corinthians 16 picking out verses that would be helpful in prayer; she asked us to pray for Crawley Mission – Street Pastors, Easter Team, Go Team, POD, the Erwin's with OM, Karen back

from the Philippians, Rachel in Swaziland and Sue and Josh off to Thailand.

- 12. **Arrangements for Christmas:** The Carol Service will be on 20th December at 6.30pm. There will be no Children's service on the 19th; however, Marian has created a kids choir for all children in years 2 – 9 and they will be taken out to the community to sing. Midnight communion will begin at 11.30pm Christmas Eve, Christmas Day service will be at 10.30am followed by the Christmas day lunch. On the following Sunday 27th December, again there will be one service, which will be Carols and Communion. Ian asked us all to think on the Christian meaning of Christmas.

Looking Back in Gratitude

- 13. **Confirm Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th September 2009:** these were confirmed and signed.
- 14. **October 2009 Financial Statement:** the Financial Statement as at the end of October was presented and attention drawn to the written notes accompanying the report. Joe expressed thanks to all those who update regularly their financial contribution to the Church and challenged those who perhaps have not reviewed their giving recently to do so now.
- 15. **Other Matters:** Ian read a letter from 'Thank the Forces' charity signed by Sue Smith who thanked us all for our generous giving. On Sunday 29th October Kingdom Faith will be using our Baptismal Pool. Also on Sunday evening there will be no service here but a SEBA Celebration at Redhill Baptist Church; Nigel Wright will be preaching and members were encouraged to attend. Ian told us that he had now finished being a moderator for Brighton road Baptist Church. He said that they had had a very rough time the last few years, but he went to the last Deacons meeting in October and has done numerous services; the induction of their new minister, Tim Carter, is on 5th December. Ian has now been asked to be a Moderator for Shedingdean Baptist Church in Burgess Hill and he has accepted.
- 16. **Next Body Talk:** 28th January 2010.

Signed.....

Dated.....