

Minutes of a meeting of
BODY TALK for CHURCH MEMBERS
held on Tuesday 29th November 2011 at 7.15 pm.

The Senior Minister, Ian Phillips, presided over the meeting which was attended by 102 members. Apologies for absence were received from 66 members.

Enjoying each other

1. **Tea and Coffee** were taken in the Rainbow Lounge.
2. **Vision Showcase:** Sandra Warner spoke about her work here at CBC which enables her to get closer to the people of the community who use these premises week by week.

Caught up in Him ...

3. **Worship:** Ian Phillips led us in a time of worship with songs and a reading from Psalm 89.

Transforming Communities ...

4. **Confirm Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th September 2011.** These were confirmed and signed by Ian Phillips.
5. **Any other business or matters from teams and organisations.**
 - i) Ian Phillips advised that the Baptist Times was ceasing paper publication from the end of the year but would be available on-line thereafter. A commemorative issue will be published to mark the end of the paper version; anyone requiring a copy should advise Ian accordingly.
 - ii) Joe Lansdell asked all those who had received a Network questionnaire to complete and return this as soon as possible, even if 'Don't know' is the answer to some of the questions as this in itself would be useful. The next Network course will run in January/February next year; full details are in the News and on the Church website.
 - iii) Ian Masters reported that the PA team had a significant need for new members as they had reached the point whereby they were unable to guarantee that they had sufficient resources to provide PA support on a Sunday. Full training is available to any interested who should let Ian Masters know as soon as possible.

ANNUAL MEETING

6. **Election of Deacons and church officers**
 - a. Appointment of Scrutineers for the Election of Deacons: David Banks-Broome and Tracy D Groves were proposed, seconded and elected unanimously to act as Scrutineers.
 - b. Election of Deacons: Two members were nominated for two positions: Mr Graham Poole and Mrs Lesley Stroud. The ballot papers were distributed and votes counted.
 - c. Election of Church Officers:
 - i. Independent Examiners (Church main accounts) Baldwin Scofield and Co – proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously.
 - ii. Independent Examiners (Auxiliary Organisation accounts) – Mr P Deamer and Mrs T D Groves – proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously
 - d. Receive Scrutineers' Report on the Election of Deacons: Both nominees were elected successfully. Ian Phillips thanked Graham Poole and Leslie Stroud for their willingness to serve in this vital role for the Church.

GENERAL MEETING

Looking Forward in Faith

7. **Financial Vision for 2012 – Budget Approval and Adoption:** on behalf of the Trustees, Graham Poole presented the Budget for 2012, taking members through the 'Headline Changes' distributed with the Agenda. Graham reminded members that the budget being presented tonight represented many months of input from the Trustees, Team and Ministry Leaders and the Finance Team. All those involved have sought to translate the various Visions that we hold as a Church into a budget that will support these Visions financially. Graham drew attention to the effective use of Gift Aid and also the services of easyfundraising which can help mitigate the need to raise additional income to the General Account although this remains a responsibility of all Church Members. There were no questions and, on behalf of the Trustees, the budget was proposed by Graham Poole, seconded by Graham Durrant and passed unanimously by Church Members (noting that the paid members of staff had not voted in view of their personal interest under the 'Releasing People into Ministry' heading).
8. **October 2011 Financial Statement:** Gill White referred members to the Statement distributed with the Agenda and confirmed that, if the current trend continues, a small deficit is envisaged for the current year and that this is manageable from the General Fund. There were no questions.
9. **New Members:** There were no people applying for Membership. Ian Phillips advised members of the following:
 - i) Sheddingdean Baptist Church have appointed a new Minister with effect from April 2012.
 - ii) The Crawley Observer had recently included an article about the use of the church premises and the friendliness shown by members of the Church.
 - iii) the Alzheimer's Society (who use the premises regularly) had expressed their thanks for the way that members of the Church had gone out of their way to make them feel welcome.
10. **Children & Youth Ministry:** Sue Lindridge reported her 'helicopter view' as follows: *"The Children's and Youth Ministry of CBC has continued to grow since I last flew over the church. Through the week there are a number of clubs to suit different ages of Children and Young people all of which are well attended and growing in number as children and young people invite their friends and spread the word through their school. On a Sunday morning leaders have to think through their response to a large influx of children and young people as more families join the church. There is an ongoing programme which reaches children and young people at all stages on their spiritual journey but also a strong emphasis on pastoral care that goes beyond that of activity. Small groups are a major part of church life for children and young people and lifelong friendships are being built as they meet week by week. The children and young people not only want to come but there is a growing spiritual maturity among them which is infectious to their peers and adults alike. Many of the young people are in positions of leadership in our ministry and the wider church where they are respected for their gifts and willingness to serve others in the church and community. Another aspect that has changed significantly is a new focus on worship by young people who have a natural desire to worship through all of their lives and also as they meet together. They lead one another in new and diverse ways that is drawing more and more young people to Christ.*

As I leave CBC and look over Crawley, I realise that the influence of CBCs CYM does not stop at the church door but is reaching out beyond the walls. Schools are being impacted not only by leaders willing to be involved in the life of the school but by the children and young people involved in CBC. They are known for being authentic and for acting towards others that we would see as showing God's love and are drawing others to Christ through their actions. Partnerships would be a key word I would use as I fly across town and see people from CBC involved with groups of children and young people. Partnerships with other churches, the youth service and other agencies whose aim is to meet the growing and changing needs of those in our society and beyond who have the greatest need practically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The CYM at CBC has built up good relationships across the town as those who are passionate about children and young people and who have a strong and noticeable spiritual dimension to all that they do. This has opened up the opportunity for dialogue on all sorts of community issues and issues of faith.

As I look down there is a noticeable pathway some of which leads to destinations where there are new ventures

and work is going on, others where work has been in the past and others which seem to have come to a dead end. This path gives some idea of the journey that has been travelled in order to get to this point and also some indication of the journey to come as some parts of the path in Crawley and beyond have only just begun. This has not always been an easy journey and there are some false starts on this path but the picture from up here is one of faith and perseverance which has resulted in God's love being shown to children, young people and families throughout many communities with much more still to come."

Sue then welcomed Laura Lark who has now joined the Church as Children's and Family Worker. Laura has thus far been meeting the teams, leaders and helpers and has been impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of all those involved.

Sue provided information on the following events:

- 24 December at 3.00 pm – Nativity event for younger children
- 6 December – final POD evening to which all members are invited to share with the children and their parents. Nine POD Bibles are required for those leaving this year and a spontaneous offering was taken to contribute to the costs
- 14 January 2012 – concert event by the young people
- February 2012 – Sue Lindridge, Ian Phillips and Jacob White are going to Thailand to work with refugee children
- Summer 2012 – return trip to Bulgaria by 16 leaders and young people.

- 11. Embracing Community (Flags, Continents and Colours):** Ian Phillips reported that '*Enjoying each other*' from the Church's Vision is the theme behind displaying the country flags in the sanctuary. These relate to the 196 countries recognised by the United Nations. In groups, Members considered how we might celebrate the different countries, cultures and nationalities from which the Church congregation comprised. Written feedback was provided by each group for consideration at the forthcoming Deacons' Meeting to be held on Thursday 1st December.

Caught up in Him ...

- 12. Prayer:** Sandra Warner reminded Members of the importance of keeping in touch (through the use of cards signed by the fellowship) with those unable to come to Church through illness or incapacity. In particular Sandra brought to Members' attention the following:
- Nathan, in Royal Brompton hospital
 - Evelyn, also in Royal Brompton hospital
 - Barbara Tupper
 - Phyllis Weeks, in a care home in Burgess Hill
 - Win Sampson, in Burleys Wood Care Home
 - Laura and Alex, for the many changes in their lives
 - Liz Newman
 - Pradeep and Bhavna
- ... that all those prayed for would know the Love, Hope and Peace that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 13. Next Body Talk:** Thursday 26th January 2012.
- 14. Closing Prayer:** Ian Phillips closed the meeting with a time reflection and prayer.
- 15. Additional Item - Mission Team:** Philippa Piper brought the following prayer points from the Mission Support Group:
- thanks for the Erwin visit and their ministry with OM
 - prayer items requested by the Erwin family
 - Aghem prayer points from Bianca, the project coordinator at CABTAL (Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy)
 - Aghem and CABTAL news

- Karen Michell prayer requests for guidance for the future
- Rachel Piper as she prepares to leave the project in Swaziland and return to the UK
- Jessica Piper as she continues working in Bolivia
- Sunita Singal as she considers a call to work in India

Signed.....

Dated.....