

BODY TALK FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Held on Thursday 16th March 2016 at 7.15pm

MINUTES

The Senior Minister, Ian Phillips presided over the meeting which was attended by 71 members. Apologies for absence was received by 59 members.

FAMILY LIFE.....COMMUNITY LIFE.....EVERYDAY LIFE

By 2020 Crawley Baptist Church will be bursting with life!

So much more than Sunday!

1. **Tea and coffee** was served in the Rainbow Lounge.
2. **Vision Showcase** as part of our vision Sandra Warner spoke about connections made with the community through the COPD group who meet here. Ian Phillips spoke about an upcoming baptism.
3. **Worship** was led by Ian Phillips with scripture.
4. **Prayers** were said for those who were ill or struggling and for the meeting to follow. Cards were distributed to be prayed over and signed.
5. **Confirm minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2017.** These were confirmed and signed.
6. **Community Event** We were asked to think and pray about this upcoming event, which may now happen in June rather than the advertised date in July, due to diary commitments.
7. **January 2017 Financial Statement** Gill White presented the following:
 - The figures and paperwork have been submitted to the Independent Examiner. The full report should be available for May 2017, Body Talk.
 - It was confirmed that there was a small surplus at the end of 2016.
 - The end of February figures showed a small deficit of just under £ 5000. This will be cleared with the first Gift Aid Claim for April.
 - Income so far this year is just over £ 42,000, over £ 5000 up on this time last year.
 - We are complying with legislation as an employer and a charity spending time doing Auto-Enrolment for the workplace pension. This becomes

effective on our 'staging date' which is 1st April this year. Everything is in place.

8. **Pastoral Care & support for our church family** Sandra Warner highlighted people in the church community to pray for.

- The historic bi-annual church holiday's will not be taking place this year. Instead a new vision is being launched in the form of a 'Staycation.' The core team members have met and discussed the broad outline of the new holiday. More volunteers will be needed nearer the time. Sandra will be in touch.
- Women's Ministry are hoping to hold an Intergenerational Afternoon Tea in the summer, more details will be available soon.
- The women's September weekend away is nearly full, if you would like to sign up please do so very soon.

9. **Children and Youth Ministry** The Children and Youth Ministry at Crawley Baptist Church exists to reach children and young people for Christ that they may become His true disciples.

- Sue Lindridge and the team went on a wonderful CYM retreat, Sue shared details of this day which centred around CYM encountering Jesus.
- Doughnuts are following a series on encounters with Jesus, it has been Sue's privilege to walk through this with the young people.
- The hope is the young people will know some important things for life:
 - Who God is
 - Who they are
 - A sense of awe and wonder

The following questions were put to the members:

- What would it look like if our children and young people encountered Jesus and chose to follow him?
- How can we as a church help our Children and Young people to encounter Jesus through CYM and with the wider church.

A time to reflect on these questions was given.

- A prayer for vision:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves: when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little: when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery: where losing sight of the land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.

- Denise Beer spoke about the growth of faith in our children, she highlighted various occasions when she was witness to that. She shared her vision of a service with children sharing scripture and prayer.

10. Mission Team David Molden shared the following:

- A letter from Whycliff thanking us for our continued support.
- Money was sent to Malawi for seeds last year, but the crop is being destroyed by the army worm. Faith in Action is sending money for sprays and pesticides.
- Please pray for Jacob White who has finished five years in University and will visit Uganda during April and May this year.
- Sally Jeffrees and colleagues are going to Malawi during June and July, they will be celebrating 30 years of Faith in Action.
- There are letters in reception, from Huneadora in Romania, and from The Aghem Project in the Cameron.

Then Angela, Alan and the Pipers spoke briefly with the thought in place to speak at greater length at a later date.

- Angela Blechynden talked about her time in Nakuru, Kenya. Working with 'New Life Africa International' helping to educate the poor and marginalised children, youth and women. There are leaflets with more details in reception.
- Alan Michell spoke about his time in Sierra Leone, he went with CED, and visited water and sanitation projects. CED provides practical tools, mobility and practical help to the disabled, plus health care.

- Graham and Philippa Piper reported about their time in Uganda. They thanked us for our prayers; they saw God at work through the dedicated people there who face lots of challenges. They visited 20 different schools and day care centres, plus numerous water projects.

11. AOB or matters of information from teams and organisations.

- Ian Phillips spoke about changes within the church that are coming. With regard to these a Future Thinking group has been meeting and putting together some thoughts and ideas. A copy has been attached to these minutes for our perusal and prayer.

12. Next body Talk – Thursday 18th May 2017.

13. Closing Prayer Ian Phillips closed the meeting with prayer.

Signed.....

Dated.....