

# **SUTTON COLDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Church Members Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Attendance: 108 Quorum: 83**

- 1) Opening devotions. Psalm 127. “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” It’s very easy to do things in our own strength. We need to say unless you do this it can not happen. Would church look any different if God didn’t exist? This is quite a challenge. The very heart of who we are as a community is that unless God is watching over us, we have nothing. Donald Campbell led us in prayer.
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were reviewed and accepted.
- 3) Membership. Aimie Evans and Sharon Newey were successfully accepted into membership.
- 4) Finance Report. 5 years ago John Williams announced a loss of just over £1000 which then increased to £5000 over the next few years. There is still a deficit in the general fund. A snapshot of the early end of year figures are:
  - a. Income £579564. Income fluctuates monthly.
  - b. Expenditure £578401.
  - c. The deficit in the general fund has improved but needs to continue to do so.
- 5) JW confirmed that on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2121 he intends to retire. DC confirmed his thanks for all that JW has and will continue to do. DC prayed for JW.
  - a. We anticipate we will need a new Admin Team Leader.
  - b. Admin Team Leader timetable. Through April and May there will be an advert for internal applications, which will allow interviews throughout the summer. After this we will advertise externally. We hope that in early Autumn, we will see the recommendation of someone to replace JW to the church meeting. From January – March we are hoping for an overlap with JW until the date of his retirement.
- 6) A few months ago, we bought to you a change in Paul Bridge’s role. We are introducing a new group called Skipper’s that will fill the gap between Little Ark and Brigades (3 -4-year olds). It will run between 4.15 – 5.00pm on Tuesdays.
- 7) Praying for the church. Barrenness changed by humble seeking. DC discussed the phrase ‘business meeting’ and confirmed that he has always struggled with this concept within a church. DC then spent some time talking about 2 Chronicles 7 “when I shut up the heavens so there is no rain” or “command the locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people.” It can feel like drips of rain rather than a flood as we long for folks to find faith, changes of lifestyle, a hunger for people to seek Jesus, it can feel as though the heavens are shut. Most of us feel comfortable identifying as Christians, and our choices affect outcomes IF we want something, or IF we do something. IF things are not as fruitful as we want, we may be dissatisfied. Can things be done to change the outcome, or the atmosphere. Take the moment to say “we can’t do this Lord” – humble ourselves, and ask for mercy, for God to change us. Sometimes we skip over this attitude of humility. Prayer can not come in the context of arrogance, or right, but only in humility. We can pray to ask for things, but we should also just seek the presence of God. We long for God to hear our cry. DC then, with Joel Campbell’s help, helped us to pray in different ways using worship. We then called out words and phrases that we would like to see played out within our church. Finally, we were encouraged to call out the name of someone that we want God to impact.
- 8) We were encouraged to read out any scriptures that may be on our hearts. We then closed in prayer after worship and corporate prayers. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm