

# SUTTON COLDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

## Church Members Meeting

### MINUTES

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Attendance: 126 Quorum: 81

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer.**

Donald read a passage from Ezra 6 where the house of God was dedicated by the people of Israel with Joy. 'Church' mattered. There was a dedication of this house of God, and a costly sin offering for all of Israel.

Donald prayed.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Mark presented the minutes of the last meeting, which were agreed and accepted.

#### **3. Membership.**

In

Kate Sturgess

Cherry Ricketts

Enzo + Mary Palumo

Out

-

#### **4. Finance Update**

Mark presented this finance update.

To the end of October 2021, the General Fund is showing an in-year balance of £8,616.74. Combining this with the General Fund opening balance of -£8,341.39 we have an overall General Fund balance of £275.35.

Income continues to be below budget and is being offset by careful management of expenditure. At this point in the year income is below budget by £15,037.65.

Work that has been carried out within the office has been funded from specific gifts and has not come from the General Fund.

£38,388.69 has also been given to funds other than the General Fund.

We set aside 25% of all giving to be given to Mission and external giving.

As we look back over the past couple of years there is much to be thankful to God for. Recent years have been unlike any others and our initial year end projections indicate we're likely to have a small surplus in 2021.

Question: Is the budget straight lined?

Answer: Yes, but we are looking to try and refine this so that it more accurately reflects actual payments peaks and troughs.

Question: What is the salary transfer showing?

Answer: It is the Pastoral Worker Reserve Fund.

#### **5. 2022 Budget**

Donald asked why does the church need so much money?

We want to bring the message of hope, life and salvation to a lost world six days a week. This does cost for premises, tech and resources, volunteer support, professional support in the way of paid staff.

In the new year we will be considering the appointment of a Mission Worker. We do need to add an evangelist to the team.

We also need to give food to the vulnerable by way of Food Bank and Luncheon Club. We really do value every contribution and give around 2000 food items away each week. Donations of food items, or financial contributions would be gratefully accepted.

We want to bring company to the lonely, and a listening ear to the anxious by way of phone calls, visits, activities, and online offerings such as devotionals and talks. We want to be able to offer prayer for the searching, children and with the teachings of the love of Jesus and help for teenagers to navigate the confusions of life.

We also want to be able to support other churches and bless other mission.

Mark then went through the challenges that we face.

Changes in National Insurance rates, and the National Living Wage. This affects areas such as the cleaning company that we use.

Mark showed us some figures that reflected that our budget is around £69,000 more than last year. This suggests a 10% increase in our overall giving to the General Fund.

We have been in similar situations before, and Donald considered the question 'Can we afford it?' It does not appear that all givers are tithing as the current giving reflects a full time National living wage of £17,054.40 per giver.

We will not put the church at risk, and difficult decisions could be made. An increase in giving of around £152.50 per attender per year would ease this shortfall. Otherwise, we need another 31 new average givers.

Donald has received a few emails of encouragement recently. One such reading quoted Lectio 365 Jill Weber who was reflecting on the story of the feeding of the 5000, considering what miracles we miss because we set our hand only to those things we can accomplish with our own strength and resources.

Questions were requested, and a comment was made that people may want or need time to reflect on what has been said.

A further comment was made about what a privilege it is to be able to give, with reference to Malachi 3, offering words of encouragement.

There was an overwhelming raising of hands in support of the suggested budget for 2022.

## **6. Commendation of Deb Lyden**

Donald offered an explanation about what this means.

It does not make any difference to ourselves as a church, but it will allow Deb to approach the Baptist Union of Great Britain for accreditation as a Baptist Minister. This would give Deb accountability, and an availability of support. It would also allow her to become a Baptist Minister. Deb needs our support to be able to approach the Baptist Union.

Question: Clarification as to the help we as a church would receive if she was accredited. Eg, would it enable Deb to lead at weddings and funerals?

Answer: Not really, except that it would allow Deb to hold the church meeting if Donald was incapacitated.

We held a confidential vote using ballot papers, as Donald prayed for our decisions.

We overwhelmingly voted for Deb to move forwards towards becoming a Baptist Minister accreditation.

## **7. Christmas**

Leaflets are available for your collection if you could deliver them to your friends and neighbours.

This year Christmas is a 'hybrid', and we want to do well what we do offer, details of which are on the leaflets available in the foyer.

## **8. Prayer**

We closed with a time of prayer at 9.20pm.