Minutes of the Church Members Meeting held at

8.00 pm on 25 September 2019

Numbers attending: 53

Apologies for absence. Derek Page, Barry and Chrissie Dore, Phil and Hilary Ross Smith, Angela Davies, Tina Woodard, Sue Allen, Dave and Gillian Rose, Tom and Ros Monteath, Mick and Julie Ledden, the Soba family, Jim Green, Sheila Wills and Lynn Strutt.

Duncan Tuft opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Worship. Roy Treadaway led a time of worship.
2. Treasurers Report.

Craig presented the finances to the end of August. He reported that income had continued to remain strong and, cumulatively to the end of August, offerings are now 9% (£18,330) up on budget and 13.5% (£25,989) up on last year. The 12 month rolling average for total offerings has further increased to £26,214, again exceeding our £25,000 target total revenue for the first eight months of the year is £299,414, which is £36,052 better than budget.  

As regards expenditure, total expenditure to date is shown as £257,842 which is £16,149 adverse to budget. In reality, however, our total spend to date is actually £10,999 favourable against budget as the cost of the main hall partition wall (£19,586)  and the air conditioning units (£7,563) have been paid out of the legacy fund, rather than this year's income.

 Craig informed the members that there will be a surplus of income this year. Because of our strong financial position, Craig explained that the money that had come from the legacy fund to pay for the partition wall in the hall and the air conditioning on the first floor of the new building, should be reimbursed to the legacy fund from the general fund.  This was agreed. Craig also stated that the Finance committee plan to use the remainder of the Booth Fund to pay for the full mission cost of Matt & Farah, Shiv & Ryan and Sharon Rose. This would be a proper use of the funds and the deacons had agreed to the proposal.

 Craig reported that the finance Committee is considering paying down the remaining £42,000 of the building loan balance by the end of this year, if funds are available.

Finally, Craig took the meeting through the budget for 2020, which was well received.

Craig invited questions and John McCormick commented that he was unable to find the member’s area of the web site so had not been able to view Craig’s reports or the draft budget for next year.

1. Membership matters.

Alison Dennis reported that there were no applications for membership to report but she did need to formally record the death of Christine McGreeghan and that Jenny Jennings (nea Crowley) has resigned as a member following her move to Norfolk.

1. November Deacons Election.

Duncan Tuft advised the meeting that the annual deacons election will be held during the Church Members Meeting to be held on Wednesday 27 November 2019.

The three year terms of office of 3 deacons will come to an end in November and currently Rob Osborne is taking a break from duties. Even if all stand for re-election and are elected we will still be two deacons short. The deacons have been approaching various people, some of whom are considering whether to stand. Duncan asked the members to pray and ask God for guidance as to whether God will show them if He wants them to nominate anyone to stand to stand for election.

Duncan reminded the members that Deacons should be:

* Baptised as adults by immersion
* At least 21 years old
* Have been a church member for at least one year.

Candidates must have the qualities for leadership that Paul spells out. Duncan wondered if there is a feeling that deacons are somehow more spiritual and better than others and people feel they are not good enough to stand. None of us could be deacons in own strength and we grow as we step out of our comfort zone. Duties are not as onerous as members may think.

Duncan commented that most of the deacons are getting on in years and that members should be praying that God would raise up gifted and godly people from the next generation.

Duncan concluded his comments by saying that if any member wishes to know more about what being a deacon entails they should contact him or ask any one of the Deacons. Nomination forms will be available from the church office or from Duncan and should be signed by three church members who wish to put the candidate forward for election. Completed nomination forms to be with the church office or Duncan by Wednesday 6 November 2019.

1. Time of Prayer.

Prayer was offered for Derek’s recovery, those recently bereaved, Nigel McGreeghan, Graham Green, Geoff Easton and those unwell. Hannah Dendy as she starts her internship in October, Sharon Rose as she goes to Moldova soon. For the deacons election and our country at this time of uncertainty.

1. Update on RBC Intern and mission opportunity.

Helen Yarrow reported that Hannah will be starting her DNA (Discover Nurture Action) internship at the church on 14 October 2019. She will be involved in all aspects of church life and the staff team are currently working out a programme of work for her for the year. Helen Yarrow will be her line manager and manage her programme of work. Chrissie Dore has agreed to be Hannah’s mentor for the year. Helen asked members to give Hannah their support and encouragement through the year. She will be involved in as many aspects of the church’s work as possible.

Sharon Rose will be going to Moldova on 26 October and would appreciate our prayers as she has much to organise before she leaves and will need to apply for a visa when she arrives. Sharon will be working with CMS and Breadline.

Duncan reported on how the Myers family are settling into their new life in Addis Ababa.

1. Community Outreach Report.

Helen Yarrow reported as follows:

**Holiday Club**: went very well, despite numbers being slightly lower than normal. It was a great week. A real sense of team work, a number of children (about 14) responded on Thursday, great opportunity to engage with parents and carers in our community and another amazing chance for folks within the fellowship who were volunteering to get to know one another better. Again thanks to the team who worked really hard to make this another safe, fun and Jesus centred week.

**Holiday @ Home**: Huge thanks to Alan Rose, Tom and Ros Monteath for the work put into the three days. There were approximately 40 -50 guests who really enjoyed the event. It's not often a mini cooper is parked inside our church!

**Cafe Connect**: Met twice over the holidays, and as ever met the needs of many folks within our local community. Over the last few weeks there have been opportunities to share some really meaningful conversations. We are thinking about ways we can develop these opportunities. We will be holding a special Harvest Cafe Connect on Monday 14th October. It would be good to find a leader to take on overall responsibility for Cafe Connect.  
**Care Home Ministry and Safe House Ministry**: Now regularly going into the Boyne, Brackenbridge, Peter Lyle Court, High Meadows and Wilsmere House. These growing Ministries are a real blessing to so many, and so much work goes on behind the scenes. Please remember to keep these in your prayers and particularly those who lead.

The **Ignite Conference** was a great success (aimed at 20-30 year olds but open to all over 16) with over 100 folks attending over the four sessions. A number of us look forward to meeting with Filipe and some of his team to get some feedback and generally review it. Again huge thanks to Filipe and his great team in 'making this happen'.

**CAP course**: A new course is planned to start in October for five weeks, publicity will be going out shortly.

**Daytime Alpha**: Hilary Ross - Smith is leading on this, and she has a great team to support her. As ever we hope that more folks will sign up nearer the date, and this year we will be using a number of the Alpha DVD's to 'give' the talks.  Please pray for this outreach opportunity, particularly that those who attend Cafe Connect, Holiday @ Home and Tuesday Fellowship might feel prompted to come along.

**Christmas Craft Pampering evening:** Will be held on November 20th, led by Zoe Wilkinson. This is 'instead' of our normal two day pampering evenings, but proved to be very popular when last run.

**Ability Sunday:** To be held on Sunday 29th September when Springboard will be very involved and Pete Winmill, who used to be with Prospects and then Livability and who now runs a charity called Count Everyone In (<https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/>) will be our guest speaker. Chris Barry has kindly agreed to prepare a meal for everyone involved including Pete and his wife Christine.

**Senior Citizens Christmas party**. Planning for this will begin shortly.

**New group for children with disabilities:**Hope to start this new group on the first Sunday in January, running in the small hall on the first and third Sundays in the month at the same time as our normal services. Please pray for this new opportunity to reach out into our community. Lucy Newton and Zoe Wilkinson are going on a course to prepare for this run by the London City Mission.

The work to improve our sound and vision in the main hall is complete and it really is wonderful. There might be some additional tweaking needed (for example do we need black out blinds or curtains at the windows), and some training on how to use the equipment. Mark, Steve and Dan have been incredible, and over the last few weeks Steve and Dan have spent many evenings at church ensuring the work was completed in time for the Ignite Conference.  Between them all they have saved the church a fortune, not only because they have used their expertise and gifts doing all the labour but also because they have been very good in reusing/recycling already owned equipment and been very good stewards of our finances.

The air conditioning was completed in time for Holiday club in Sapphire, Emerald and Ruby. It has made a huge difference and will be appreciated by others using those rooms.

Likewise, the movable wall is now in regular use, on Sunday mornings, if you run a group please consider whether you might want to take advantage of this.

Throughout the year lots goes on, but we are very aware that we spend most of our time in the workplace or with family and friends and so next year we want to focus on how we can reach out and share our faith in our everyday lives. If you've had an opportunity to do that, or have some ideas on how we can please do share them with the Community Outreach Team.

We have been approached by Local Councillors asking whether we could make use of Pembroke Gardens.

1. Secretary’s report.

Duncan reported that the London Baptist Association AGM will be held on **Saturday, 9th November 2019 at 2.00 pm at Westbourne Park Baptist Church, Porchester Road, London W2 5DX. (nearest Tube Station Royal Oak). Duncan commented that, as with many large churches RBC is not very good at engaging with its local area Association and he would like to see the church engaging more in the future. He and Faith will be attending the AGM and he invited any members who would like to go to ask him for further details.**

Duncanindicated that he willbe emailing every member during October about the proposed changes to Church Member’s meetings and also how to navigate to the Members Area of the church web site.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of last meeting.

With two corrections the minutes of the last meeting and the AGM were approved.

1. AOB

Denis Golden advised members that Sunday 20th October will be Freedom Sunday focussing on anti- trafficking.

Marion Williams reported that Accord Choir will be holding its annual concert at 6.00 pm on 16th November. She urged members to support this as very few people from the church are part of the choir and the annual concert is the one opportunity in the year for church members to interact with the choir members.

Pippa Durn raised the issue of the password for members to gain access to the member’s area of the church web site. This is not secure and has never been changed and there will plenty of past members who will still have access to it. Helen Yarrow confirmed that this is an issue that the staff have been thinking about and that they will endeavour to find a way of regularly changing the password.

Duncan closed the meeting in prayer.