**Minutes of Church Members Meeting**

**held at 8.00 pm on 18 July 2018**

49 members present.

Welcome: Duncan Tuft

Apologies for absence had been received from: Lynn and Tony Strutt, Chrissie Dore, Chris and Maggie Gardner, Chris and Christine Follet, Derek and Carrie Page, David and Jill Durn, Diane Foster, Mick and Julie Ledden, Tony and Jan Rose, Pippa and Graham Durn, Roy and Liz Treadaway, John Bawden, Janice Lowsby and Tina Woodard.

1. **Worship**

There was a time of worship led by Barry Dore.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Craig Rowland presented the report, a copy of which had been placed in the Members’ area on the church website. The picture was an encouraging one. Since the last meeting there had been an increase in offerings during the first six months of the year. The 12 month rolling average was now showing an increase of 3.4% year on year.

Maisie Bertha Grant, a former church member and a friend of Margaret Hoare, has left the church a legacy of £10,000.

1. **Membership Matters**

Alison Dennis reported that Marie Hill has applied for membership and has been interviewed by Sheila Wills and Nicky Brown. Sheila gave a report of the meeting and Marie’s application for membership was unanimously approved.

Resignations from church membership had been received from Andy and Mary Willis and Arwen Bailey. There are currently 302 members.

1. **Time of Prayer**

Duncan Tuft led a time of prayer for Marie Hill, Neesha Soba, and holiday club and holiday at home.

1. **Community Outreach report**

David Rose presented a report from the Community Outreach group.

The church had been asked, at short notice, to have a stall at The Shenley Park event held last weekend. David thanked those who helped at the stall. The event was a disappointment in that there were very few visitors to it and it would not be worth putting in the effort of having a stall at it in future. Helen Yarrow has suggested that perhaps the church could organise a future event and would be discussing this with the council.

The Community Outreach Team had led the Sunday morning service on 3rd June. The focus of the service was a re-launching of the team, sharing what the team does and a celebration of the activities and events that the church fellowship is involved in including involvement in outreach events organised by RBC and the sharing of faith with others in the workplace, in schools, with neighbours and in other areas.

David reported:

1. that approximately 150 children were so far signed up for holiday club and asked us to pray for safety for the children and helpers and that many of the children would gain an understanding of who Jesus was and respond to his call on their lives.
2. that preparations for Holiday at Home are well underway. The theme is “Paths to Freedom” celebrating 100 years since the end of World War 1 and the suffragette movement.
3. that the organisation for the day time Alpha was progressing well and we are grateful for Hilary Ross- smith and Bridget Osei-Adjei for being responsible for the event.
4. That Cafe Connect was continuing to be really well attended with 60 -70 people each week. Our thanks go to all who help to run this.
5. **Church Secretary’s Report**

Duncan Tuft explained why we give substantial gifts each year to Baptist Missionary Society and Home Mission fund and explained how the funds were expended. He then explained the Baptist denomination structure and that new London Baptist Association Regional Ministers were being appointed to look after churches and minsters in the London Area. Each of these will be responsible for an area of London and the new Regional Minister responsible for North West London will be Rev. Winston Bygrave.

1. **Cross at front of Sanctuary.**

Duncan Tuft reminded members that at the last church meeting they had passed resolutions to:

1. “to replace the present pulpit in the sanctuary with a modern lectern”.
2. “to have a cross incorporated into the design of the lectern”,
3. “to allow the ministers to choose the design of the lectern”,

Voting on a fourth resolution “not to have a separate cross on the wall of the sanctuary above the screen” was postponed until this church members meeting because an agreed resolution was already in place to have a separate cross and that therefore proper notice needed to be given of any change.

Duncan reported that we were still waiting to see the design of the new lectern and separate cross and costings for the cross and therefore we are not in a position to vote this meeting. He is hoping to have these before the September Church meeting and if so will email the designs and costings to members in advance of the meeting and giving notice that we will be voting on the postponed resolution.

1. **Approval of/correction of Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2018 were approved subject to correcting the spelling of the surname Gardner.

1. **Any Other Business**

Faith Tuft enquired where the drum screen was since it has not been used for a number of weeks and she felt the volume of the music had increased noticeably. Hilary Ross-Smith commented that there is divided opinion amongst the musicians and drummers about the drum screen.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm with a prayer from Duncan Tuft.