

MEANWOOD VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: 21 members

APOLOGIES: 6 members

1. WELCOME

The meeting opened with Andy mentioning that many people at church were struggling emotionally and physically.

Andy pointed out that Shirley Pounder had decided to step down from position as Deacon and Church Secretary due to family commitments.

2. LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting on 8th July 2008 had not been circulated, therefore they would be signed off at the next church meeting.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Please see full report.

PALS – It was proposed that PALS finances should be incorporated in the church accounts which was approved by the church, thus not only putting better systems in place but PALS being recognised uniquely as a church activity.

DIGGLES – The church would continue to give an allowance to the Diggles which would then be reviewed in the new year once their long term plans were clearer.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

a) Follow up and progress report.

Chris Baker (CB) talked through the situation. The suggestions which came out of the church meeting about ‘the way forward’ had been condensed and were being discussed amongst the eldership team. They had met with Kieran, giving him the role of note-taker, listener and feeding back to the team.

One of the main points that had come out of the discussions so far was that the leadership needed to address the amount of activities that run at the moment and the number of roles these created. The church needed to start looking more closely at people’s gifting and start getting a real grasp of what they were. Perhaps the situation of where people were placed at the moment could be seen as ‘those doing too much vs. those overlooked’ and this needed to be addressed so that there was not a sense of frustration amongst the congregation.

CB pointed out that the leadership team did not want to rush things and go for the ‘obvious option’ of employing someone until these matters had been carefully considered. The plan was to meet once or twice again with Kieran.

Charles Laxton wanted his appreciation noted that his views on halting employing someone else had been listened to seriously and acted upon. His hope was that Godly decisions would be made.

Bill Pitchford praised Kieran's contributions and his servant heart. Vicky Laxton also thanked the leadership team for keeping the membership informed.

Andy mentioned that it was important to equip and disciple to others, and that there would be some leadership training (possibly led by the Flowers) in January.

b) Giftings

Vicky Laxton asked what the leadership's approach was regarding identifying people's gifting. CB said that they felt it was important to spend more time talking to people and that they had been looking at another church model. He said that someone on the leadership team may well have the role of specifically looking at people's gifting.

Bill Pitchford mentioned that if a person was put forward, then they would be carefully considered by the leadership team. He also said that it was important to build up housegroup leaders.

Sally Baker pointed out that discernment was a gifting in itself and that maybe a group of people would be needed to look at giftings in the church.

Ben Sadler (BS) raised the point of discerning those who had gifting who did not speak up. CB asked why they may not do this and BS suggested it may be that they felt someone was already doing this role and they were not needed or their gifting had not been recognised.

Jen Sadler felt that it was about people allowing themselves to be vulnerable and maybe there was a need for support/mentoring from others in the church to bring gifting out in people.

c) Building

Andy was waiting to hear back from the Council despite numerous letters. CB thought that this was not necessarily negative and it was important not to rush in.

5. ELECTION OF DEACON

Paul Harrison had been nominated as Deacon. A vote was cast and checked by Paul Smith and Sue Woolmore. Paul H was voted in with 100% in favour.

6. BAPTISMS

Louise Brooker and Jordan had asked to be baptised, and 7th December 2008 was being considered.

7. CAROLS IN THE PARK

This was proposed to take place in Meanwood Park on Sunday 14th December 2008 and would comprise of carols and the Christmas message followed by mince pies. The event would be simple and appropriate to Meanwood. If the weather was bad then there was the possibility of using the nearby primary school.

CB would be the main organiser with different people involved. The church was awaiting permission from the Council. Sue Woolmore mentioned that it was important to be sure what the church's objectives were for this event and to think about how we would engage with people. It would be a good opportunity to promote our Manna Ministry. SW also suggested a prayer tent which several people approved of. Melanie Hufton suggested a joint Christmas card from the churches in the area which Andy thought could be organised in time for 2008.

8. 5th SUNDAYS

A church member had suggested that the church do something alternative on the 5th Sunday of the month, which occurred 4 or 5 times a year. The church would be open but it would mean that people could engage in different activities depending on their personal preference. Those present were in favour of this but there were different views on how people should approach it, with some feeling it would be helpful to have various activities suggested, whilst others felt they could decide for themselves. Further consideration was needed before the next 5th Sunday in March 2009.

9. FURTHER TRAINING IN BAPTIST MINISTRY

Richard Duckworth, Elder, had started a course to become an accredited lay preacher. He was seeking the approval of the church to continue with this. Those present felt that they needed to talk to Richard and find out some more detail before they could give their backing. It was proposed that Richard speak one Sunday and people could have the opportunity to ask questions. This could then be raised again if necessary at the next church meeting in January 2009.

The meeting closed in prayer.