

Church Meeting Minutes 27.11.23

Present: A list of names was taken – Pat Cole, Sarah O Neill, Carol Wynn, Sam Millard, Christine Leong, Sandra Jordan, Frances Webster, Andy Monger, Fiona Monger, Adedeyo Benson, Rosie Froud, Steve Froud, Sallyann Hunt, Barry Kirk, Nathan Hunt, Angela Baker, Paul McCreddie

1. Worship and listening to God – Barry and Sallyann

Barry led the devotion, considering Jer. 1:5, when God spoke directly to Jeremiah, saying that he was *appointed* and set *apart*. God has something for us to do too, individually and as a church. As a church we have a leading role to play.

Sallyann led a time of sung worship, then shared on Matt. 28:16-20, the Great Commission. We have our commission too, as individuals and as a church. We thank Jesus for his promise he is with us, with us as we move forward in our commission.

There followed a time of prayer and singing, which led into a time of listening to God for 5-6 minutes. After this people shared on what they heard or sensed:

Christine – Jesus is our shepherd, often think of this in a personal way, but shepherd is of the gathering, the flock.

Barry – Jeremiah was appointed to be a prophet. He said I can't speak, I'm too young. God told him I am with you, I will rescue you. We may feel out of our depth, but if God calls he comes with us.

Steve - read John 17: 22-23, when Jesus prayed for us - "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." He shared the thought that, as this was Jesus praying for us, whatever we decide today, we will be brought into complete unity; so that those outside this room will know that Jesus is Lord and that we are loved by Him.

Frances – Elijah came to a place where he really gave up. But a small voice told him there were still things for him to do, that God was not finished with him yet.

Wendy – recalled a story Rosie had shared from Beech Hill, how a simple 'Good morning!' had led to a conversation about involving the village in carol singing.

2. Approval of the minutes of the General meeting held 3.7.23 and the Special Church Meeting held 15.10.23 – Barry

Both sets of minutes were approved.

3 External Review (2022) – Steve

Steve explained that this review is one undertaken by someone outside SCC, and is of Receipts and Payments Accounts. A minor correction was necessary as a result of the review, meaning that the figures are as presented at the March church meeting apart from a correction of £37.

The reviewer commented that SCC needs to take care of how Restricted Funds are handled, and that these records had been found not to be fully up to date.

Steve explained that Restricted Funds must be used for the purpose for which they given, in contrast to General Funds.

The Charity Commission report of the church's Receipts and Payments Accounts is available to view.

4. Budget 2024 – Angela

Angela described how the current budget was set when many new people were attending services and giving was increasing exponentially. Now we are able to look at the out-turn, and we see giving has levelled off rather than growing. However, we have underspent on some things, so overall things are OK, and we may even end the year with a small surplus.

Angela reminded everyone to please Gift Aid their giving if possible.

For next year, we are budgeting for an increase of 8%.

For the last 2 years, SCBA has given a grant towards Sallyann's salary. We will not apply for this for next year. SCC will therefore need to subsidise the work at Beech Hill.

Looking at payments out, about 70% of this amount is on salary and pension contributions for Nathan and Sallyann.

Payments out are also for utilities, charitable giving, Alder Grove school hall hire.

£5,000 was payment of legal fees for SCC becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO.) It was necessary for SCC to become a CIO due to its size in terms of finances. This means SCC will be a charity in its own right.

Next year a deficit of around £9,000 is likely. However, we have sufficient reserves to cover this and still retain a sensible level of reserves.

Charitable giving – We choose to give about 10% of our income to charitable purposes. A sub-group representative of the diversity within the church proposes recipients of this money. Recipients may be local, overseas, organisations or individuals. A request was made for volunteers to join this group. Steve stressed that in cases where recipients were related to members of this sub-group, those group members were not permitted any influence over decisions regarding their relatives.

Building Fund

For next year, the Building Fund will be entirely separate from other church finances. Going forward it will be reported in more detail in the Church Accounts.

£1400 per month is being given to the Building Fund by regular giving.

Angela reminded us that giving will need to be sacrificial, and that God uses us to bring about his purposes.

A vote was held to approve the budget, noting that this would entail the possibility of overspending around £9,000.

Barry led the voting.

The budget was approved.

Some discussion was held around how we as individuals could help explain why SCC needs money. It has been noticed for example that some people do not understand there is a cost to using Alder Grove school hall, or that we are not funded by a central Baptist Union pot. Angela said that a brochure is being planned about why we hope to have a new building.

5. Beech Hill Update – Rosie

Rosie spoke about the mission in Beech Hill – reaching a village with God's love, and planting a church there.

Some team changes – one village resident has joined the team. She volunteered to do this, which is good news. Nathan has stepped back from leading the team, and Rosie has taken on the mantle.

Exciting, scary. She asked if any of SCC were called to part of this mission – the team would like to do more. She says she is always asking 'What's next?'

Current events are the monthly joint service (congregation from the team, from SCC, from the CE church – but no unchurched villagers yet come) and the weekly coffee morning. There was a Harvest cream tea, which had a great atmosphere.

Ideas – could there be a Baptist-focused service in the week? But we do not want to draw people away from the Anglican church there. Idea from a villager of a joint regular coffee morning and baby and toddler group; already trying this, some problems to overcome on this though, on how to make an intergenerational space and please everyone.

Rosie continues involvement in Grazeley School, doing assemblies and, on December 7th, is taking part in a panel with several other local church leaders answering faith questions from the children. Prayer was requested for this. She has a very good relationship with the school. Some year 3's are planned to come and help with the coffee morning twice a month, along with parents and a staff member.

Need wisdom on doing 'church' things in the Memorial Hall, a secular space, when they are not overtly described as such.

Overall Rosie is getting to know quite a few people in the village.

The old Baptist chapel in Beech Hill is not easily accessible with the slope to the entrance being slippery. The building and grounds need a general clean up. SCC can have another year of looking after the chapel and seeking to make it viable. We would like to use it for an Easter quiet space and for Easter-based messy church, and maybe an after-school club. The village would like a youth club. But human resources are needed, including musicians.

Rosie asked the meeting to prayerfully consider (and talk to others too) 'Is this for you?' Barry prayed for Beech Hill.

6. Elders – Sallyann

More Elders are needed. There are currently four, so we are one short. Steve will finish his second term of three years at the end of March so must step down then, by which point we will therefore need to appoint two new Elders.

Angela has reached the end of her first term, and can continue for another three years if she is willing and is reappointed. Sallyann thanked Angela for what she has brought to the role already, serving through the pandemic, leading on the Building Project, and bringing her many gifts and talents.

The meeting held a vote on reappointing Angela, but before that Angela spoke about her experiences as Elder, and how this past year had been especially hard, and if re-affirmed in her appointment in Elder wanted to be confident that people were fully behind her. She asked that if people vote for her, they would please pray for and support her.

She had thought and prayed about standing again, and said she was willing to stand but only if the vote showed a clear majority.

Barry led the affirmation process. Slips of paper were handed round and members were to mark these with a tick or cross. Fiona Monger left the room to count these.

Later in the meeting – Nathan reminded the meeting how words count so much, and we should take care how we speak. He affirmed our love and thanks to Angela and a bouquet of flowers was presented to her for her excellent work in her first period as appointment as Elder. The outcome of the affirmation process was announced: with a unanimous affirmation of Angela's appointment to serve a second three-year term. Sallyann prayed for Angela.

7. Members – Sallyann

Jenny Lovell has resigned from membership, for a mix of reasons. Jenny has been a member for around three years. She is still involved in Share and so we still have regular contact with her. Sallyann acknowledged all that Jenny had brought to the Church, playing the piano and leading a DG group and doing the Barclaycard for which the Church was very grateful.

Aria (correct – have left surname off for confidentiality) has requested to come into membership. Aria has been coming to SCC since the summer. He came to faith around 8 years ago, in Iran. His father was the first in the family to become a Christian. Aria saw how his father changed on coming to faith. Eventually the family had to leave Iran. The geographical journey and Aria's journey of faith saw Aria, and his father, being baptised in Glasgow. More recently Aria has been living in Banbury and been part of a Baptist church there. He has led a Farsi language Alpha course. He is now working locally for a subcontractor for Thames Water. He has started serving at SCC in practical ways, and has taken on the role of looking after church Barclaycard statements. Nathan and Sallyann interviewed him and wholeheartedly recommend him for membership.

The meeting approved Aria's application for membership.

8. Close in prayer

All said the Grace together

9. Apologies : Derek and Marilyn Legg, Mike and Maggie Hibbitt.

Appendix Budget as Agreed at Church Meeting

SHINFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024

Description	2023 Budget		2023 Outturn		2024 Budget	
RECEIPTS SHINFIELD						
Giving						
Gift aided	95,000		63,685		80,000	
Non-gift aided	7,000		4,428		5,000	
Gift Aid tax rebate (from previous year)	21,200	123,200	16,522	84,635	16,000	101,000
Other income						
Income from Groups e.g. Toddlers	1,200		1,080		1,300	
Receipts for Pastor Services	150		230		200	
Donations General Fund	0		0		200	
Donations from SHARE	200	1,550	0	1310	200	1,900
Income for specific purposes (Restricted Funds)						
Charitable donations	0	0	5,539	5539	5,500	5,500
Receipts Shinfield		124,750		91,484		108,400

RECEIPTS BEECH HILL						
Giving						
Gift Aided giving		0		0		1200
Non gift aided giving	200	600	0	1,441		
HM Grant		8,281		8,281		0
Gift Aid tax rebate (from previous year)		0		0		0
Other income						
Coffee Morning Donations	775	775		227		800
Receipts Beech Hill		9,656		9,949		2,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS		134,406		101,433		110,400

PAYMENTS SHINFIELD						
Ministry						
Evangelism	4,500		773		2,000	
Worship	2,960		1,240		1,600	
Discipleship	2,850		906		2,000	
Family and Fellowship	4,995		3,016		5,000	
Service	9,355	24,660	9,096	15,031	4,100	14,700
Donations for specific purposes (Restricted Funds)						
Charitable donations	0	0	2,722	2,722	5500	5,500
Running Costs						
Ministerial						
Ministers' stipend	54,488		53,413		60,209	
Pension	13,352	67,840	9,588	63,001	10,757	70,966
Other						
Cleaning	2,080		242		300	
Utilities	10,000		5,197		7,000	
Insurance	1,412		1,223		1,200	
Alder Grove School Rental	6,435		5,139		6,000	
Repairs and maintenance (buildings)	1,000		745		1,000	
Office equip, stat, printing, post, software	1,750		1,002		1,200	
Repairs and maintenance (equipment)	500		58		250	
Legal fees	4,000	27,177	46	13,652	5,000	21,950
Payments Shinfield		119,677		94,406		113,116

**SHINFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH
GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024**

PAYMENTS BEECH HILL

Ministry						
Evang, worship, training	2,000	2,000	199	199	1,000	1,000
Running Costs						
Ministerial						
Minister's stipend	6,054		5,934		3,648	
Pension	1,484	7,538	1,016	6,950	652	4,300
Other						
Utilities	1,000		69		150	
Hire of Memorial Hall	0		180		180	
Insurance	269		286		355	
Printing etc	200		0		100	
Building Maintenance	500	1,969	54	589	450	1,235
Payments Beech Hill		9,507		7,738		6,535
TOTAL PAYMENTS		131,184		102,144		119,651

BANK BALANCE AT START OF YEAR		70,726		70,726		70,015
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		3,222		711		9,251

BANK BALANCE AT YEAR END		73,948		70,015		60,764
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TITHING OF RECEIPTS

Total giving to others		?		7,500		11,040
% tithe				10		10

Notes on budget

Evangelism includes – Rainbow Tots, Alpha, BU Home Mission, SCBA Church of the Year

Worship includes – Materials for services, instruments, copyright licence,

Discipleship includes – DG groups, Youth and Children's Work resources, Light and Lunch, Training

Family and Fellowship includes – Hospitality and catering, Fellowship fund, Baptist Union

Service includes – charitable donations, hardship support for those outside the church, Tithe gifts,

SHINFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH - BUILDING FUND BUD

	2023 OUTTURN	Budget 2024 £
Receipts		
Gift aided giving building fund		50,000
Non-gift aided giving building fund		5,000
Gift Aid tax refund (from previous year)		12,500
Grants/donations		10,000
Fundraising events/projects		2,000
Bank interest building Fund		100
TOTAL RECEIPTS	53,000	79,600

Payments		
Fees		
JBKS Architects fees	13,386	29,344
Structural Engineer		7,920
Planning Consultant		6,720
Other consultants		12,000
Pre-panning applic fee		2,149
Planing applic fee		3,881
		62,014
Repayment of loans		
BU		0
Individuals		0
Other		0
TOTAL PAYMENTS		62,014

BANK BALANCE AT BEG OF YEAR		39,614
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	39,614	17,586

BANK BALANCE AT YEAR END		57,200
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