

## Minutes of Trinity Church Meeting

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 at 11.40am

Present: 31 members, 2 adherents, 16 apologies

Chair: Andrew Rixon

Minute secretary: Jill Duncan

Opening prayer was led by Jon Salmon

### **1. Minutes of last church meetings**

With corrections to typing errors, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### **1.2. Actions from minutes**

See action table at the end of the minutes

#### **1.3. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda**

5. Adopt a street – Richard Cocks and Jon Salmon are working on this in the context of our vision priorities and will bring it back to church meeting.

### **2. Elections and Appointments – Catherine Jackson**

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the work of Trinity

Annual reports secretary – Helen Rixon is happy to stand for a further term of 3 years. Elected by a show of hands.

Office equipment supervisor – Alex Robinson is happy to stand for a further term of 3 years. Elected by a show of hands.

Vacant posts – Minutes secretary, 4 church stewards, communion stewards, 2 Deanery Synod representatives.

**Jon Salmon:** Vacancies for a Publicity officer and Human resources officer – these are important roles for Trinity to be a good employer and how we publicise ourselves. Please think and pray about this, there are opportunities for help and support in the roles.

Stewards sit on church council, but there is the opportunity to help with setting up and clearing up at services without being a steward and sitting on church council.

### **3. Vision and Giving – Jon Salmon and Sandy Catchick**

**3.1 Jon** - Whatever our refreshed vision statement, we are called to be as Christ like as possible, we will be thinking about this during Lent (From February 19<sup>th</sup>). How can we be more contemplative, compassionate and courageous, how do we revise our priorities.

The meeting split into groups to look at the following questions:

1. What should Trinity be hoping for?

Responses: Deep relationship with God and each other, being family. Being a relevant, visible presence in the community. God's spirit ignited in us.

2. How satisfied are we with the impact we are having? What do we need to differently to increase our impact?

Responses: We are doing good things eg. Children's work. We do not give enough support in the community. Need advertising to tell people what we do. Not necessarily doing more, but doing what we do better. Building the kingdom, keep momentum going. Make more use of the green boards and social media.

3. What can we do to strengthen ourselves as disciples?

Responses: Do more with small groups, talking, sharing, strengthening each other. Be careful groups are outward looking, not inward focussed. Personal Bible reading. Meet quietly to focus on God. Should not be afraid of change. Need to develop and move forward as a family.

4. How can Trinity share Jesus with the increasing numbers of people not interested and without any background in Christianity?

Responses: Something attractive about Christ to show people. Find ways to invite people in. Share with others already here – groups already in the building. We are not confident in how to share our faith. God gives opportunities, do we take them?

Jon will add these responses to the thoughts on our vision.

### **3.2 Sandy**

Figures for the first 4 months of this financial year

Giving:

Envelopes £3,001.30 Standing orders £26,172.71 Cash £15,709.21 Gift aid £5,157.13

Total giving £40,040.35

Income:

Charity income £1,295.61 Lettings £4,220.30 Manse £96.03 Tea/copying £153.91 Liturgical £1,005.00 (this largely goes to the diocese)

Total income £8,102.80

Expenses:

Anglican £20,689.68 Methodist £1,204.00 URC £1,204.00 Total £23,205.68.

Total income £48,143.15 Total expenditure £44,755.24 Balance £3,387.91

In the current account we have for the

Youth worker £7,501 less expenses £2,519

Children's, Family and Pastoral (CF&P) worker £2,362.50 less expenses £2,597.90

General giving £30,176.85 plus other giving £8,070.76, less expenses £39,997.46 = - £1,749.85

John Medcraft – The cash giving is £15,000 but we only claim gift aid on £8,000, encourage people to pay by envelope or standing order so we can claim on the other £7,000

Q. - Can some envelopes for gift aiding be around? – John they should be in the vestibule

Q. – Is there a gift aid form or information on how to gift aid on the website. Also standing order form or information? – Andrew, we will ensure that it is.

### **Action 20180121-01 John Medcraft and Alex Robinson**

**3.3 Jon** – Thanks to Sandy for a very clear analysis, giving a true and accurate reflection of where we are. We need to explore priorities and increase income to meet our increasing costs. There has been a great response to the youth worker and we have been able to increase the CF&P worker pay.

Effective advertising and communication costs more in a multimedia world and it is vital that we do this because of the competition we face. To properly resource worship, activities, courses and our building is expensive. We need approximately another 20% income.

A high proportion of our general giving is standing orders which have not gone up in the last 3.5 years. Please check when you last increased yours.

Gift day – The end of January may not be ideal timing, but there is never an ideal time. It can roll on to be a gift month and there will be periodic gift days, but increasing regular giving is the most beneficial.

Nigel Holloway – The last audit in October, he thought quite a number of people had increased their standing orders or created a new one for the youth worker.

Jon – ideally all of our giving would come into one pot but that is not the case at the moment.

Andrew – please provide feedback, either to himself or Jon, on the letter sent to the whole church.

#### 4. Youth update – Sam Ruck

Given the verses from Isaiah 54:2- make a larger space for yourselves and God will fill it. Trinity has taken an amazingly courageous step to say we are going to hire a full time youth worker, we are making a bigger space and believing God will fill it.

Sam's job description has three areas –

1. Young people in our church. There are 3 groups, Eagles (5/6 young people), Youth Net (8) which is now back to weekly and Something on Sunday which combines the other two with another 4/5 young people. The church numbers are deceptive because the young people have grown up in junior church and know all of the answers, but they are being pulled in all different directions, where are their hearts? In the last 6 weeks there has been a bit more consistency in attending events. Sam is thinking about doing more residential (as Soul Survivor) to bond the youth together because as teenagers believing starts with belonging.

2. Community. Meetings with Chris Doughty the Youth Worker at Brookside and with other youth workers. Meeting with the Council about the community centre. There are plans for an Earley group of youth workers and there is a lot going on in Reading. Plans to go to The Next Level at the Hexagon in March <http://kerith.church/groups/next-level>

3. Intergenerational. Youth groups can feel quite isolated from church. Possibility of monthly church breakfasts. A large part of why God is such a large part of Sam's life is some amazing role models. Young people are looking for role models, encourage us to be real and raw with God, with a story to impact on people, not seeming perfect.

Vanessa Fairhall – thank Sam for what he has done so far, because some of the youth are starting to come to church more regularly.

#### 5. Data Protection and Safeguarding – Andrew Rixon and Ann Baker

Andrew – Trinity is rolling out the new policy, which will involve everyone in church having to fill in a form and sign it.

Ann – There are around 60 people working with children and/or vulnerable adults, nearly all are now DBS checked. The few still to do so will do this online.

A huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time for the training. It is really important that we ensure children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded.

#### 6. AOB

None

The meeting closed in prayer at 12.40

#### Action Table

Action No.	What	Who	By when	Update
20160717-04	Willing to speak to anyone with further ideas to improve church meetings	Jon Salmon	Ongoing	No feedback at all. Ideas are welcome from anyone <b>20171015</b> Ongoing <b>20180121</b> No response- Ongoing

20161017-05	Messy Church – note that Ann is still recovering and Messy Church may be delayed	Jon Salmon	Ongoing	<p>Messy Christingle was very popular. Messy Easter is being planned. There is a wedding booked into the church in May so will start Messy Church in June if a team of volunteers is in place.</p> <p><b>20170716</b></p> <p>The way forward with Messy Church is still under review</p> <p><b>20180121</b></p> <p>Difficult to get a regular team together, so doing festivals, planning Easter now</p> <p><b>Closed</b></p>
20180121-01	Ensure gift aid and standing order information and forms are on the website	John Medcraft and Alex Robinson		