

Thornbury Baptist Church

Minutes of Family Forum meeting 24th April 2018

Paul Ferguson gave a word of welcome and led a time of worship.

54 Members were present and 20 had sent apologies.

Follow up from the last Family Forum on 6th February 2018

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

Good News – Mary Groves

Claire Chippett and Liz Rigby have been baptised and have become new members since the last Family Forum and Alison Dukes has become a Trustee.

Prayer Week – Mary said that it was a successful week and a renewed vision in praying for our church, town and those we partner with in mission. People spoke of reaching out to friends and neighbours who don't consider themselves Christians. Dave Tubb shared the news that after asking for prayer for the school that he is involved with, those prayers were answered.

Alpha – Mary said that it has been a successful course and that people have enjoyed it.

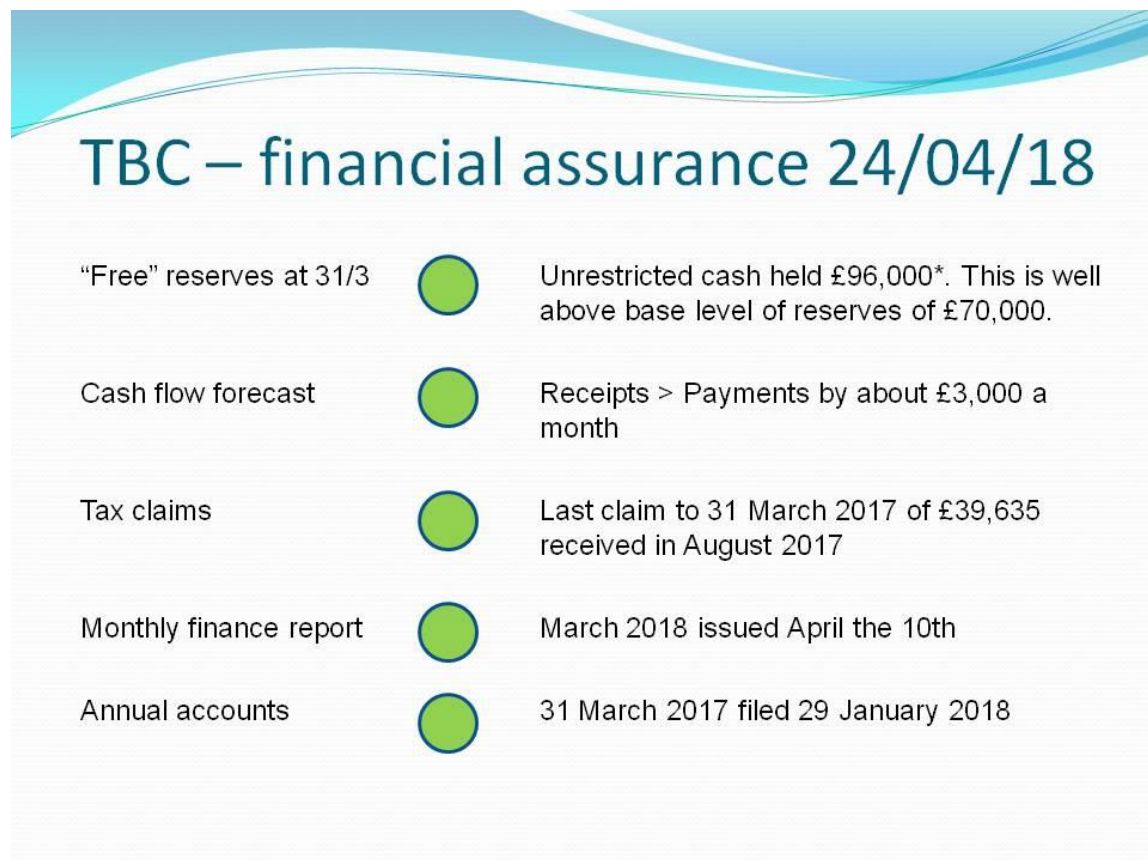
Oasis Thornbury – Thrilled with the progress that has been achieved so far and that the Home Groups have been helping out. There is still help needed and prayer too.

Affirmation of Dave Ling

Paul explained the process of affirmation and why Dave has been suggested. Members were given affirmation slips and the slips were counted and the members chose to affirm Dave as an Elder.

Finance – Mark Stuart

Mark spoke about the status of the church accounts in a traffic light report. He shared with the members that the church is in a healthy position, that all areas are green and that God has been faithful. He said that the income is slightly greater than the expenditure. Mark also asked those members who give regularly to consider signing a Gift Aid form if they haven't already done so.



Paul’s Sabbatical

Paul shared his reasoning behind his sabbatical and explained that he wants to learn more about prayer and how to pray and listen to God.

Oasis – Chris Beddoes

Chris thanked Rob Heath for all his hours of work and thanked Brenda Hucker for all the hours of time she has put in organising referral agencies. Chris said that they are expecting the project to be ready for residents by June. Chris also thanked Derek Glew and the prayer team and Kevin Fox for all the processes he’s put in place. He asked for prayer that the right ladies would be selected for the house. Chris shared with us that local companies and individuals have been so generous and that God has provided.

Prayer

Paul asked us to think about Prayer Week and asked for feedback.

- Timing – School Holidays and close to Easter meant people were away and most Home Groups were on a break. Easter is an appropriate time to think about prayer but New Year is good for a fresh start or the right start to the year. Perhaps we could look at attendance to see which is best for people.
- Positive Feedback – Inspirational, Good to hear about all the things TBC is involved in, Good for quiet prayer, encouraging having a prayer diary, The Cross and leaving things there was really helpful. Members expressed that they felt a real sense of God's presence and people found a new sense of direction with it. It was easy to pray and time went by quickly!
- Creative ideas – Prayer Diary, Somewhere to pray loudly or creatively as well as somewhere for "Prayer, Meditation and Reflection" , Introducing the children and young people to Prayer Week perhaps with a graffiti wall for children with chalk, praying for specific members of the lunch club like the way we prayed for two by two children, linking prayer week to other prayer groups.
- Going to a place within the community to pray/inviting the community (including other churches) to join in prayer week perhaps having a pop up prayer place in town advertising and offering prayer.
- It was suggested that we have the launch service in the morning and that it would be good to end prayer week by sharing some of the prayers as a church and to find out what God has said to people praying during the week perhaps in the service on the following Sunday.
- Other suggestions about Prayer in General - Prayer Corner could maybe start to meet before the end of the service whilst we are worshipping. Connect is really helpful to use as inspiration when praying. Maybe we could introduce a prayer board for people who wouldn't necessarily go to a service but who need prayer.