

Thornbury Baptist Church

Minutes of Family Forum meeting 8th October 2018

Dave Ling gave a word of welcome and led a time of worship.

59 Members were present and 25 had sent apologies.

Follow up from the last Family Forum on 24th April 2018

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

- **Harvest Festival** - Mike Levy thanked everyone for their generosity and advised the members that the amount gathered so far was close to £6000. He praised God for his answer to prayer with regards to the church finances to the point where we could offer up the Harvest giving to three mission partners.
- **New Members** - Lauren Ludlow has been baptised and Katie Jarvis, Tony Jarvis and Val Ricketts have become members since our last Family Forum.
- **Oasis House** has moved on from the construction phase to the operational phase since the last family forum with two residents being supported by the Oasis team. Mark Stuart asked for prayer for the settling down phase and that the residents to come to faith and Mike praised God for the residents and the team that work with them.
- **TBC Staff** - Mike Levy told the members that Paul is well and will be back on the 1st November following his sabbatical. Mike thanked Dan Potter for his contribution to TBC and Dan thanked everyone for their generosity and ceaseless encouragement. Mike also thanked Rhean for her contribution to TBC but expressed disappointment in rumours that suggested Rhean had been dismissed. Mike gave a categorical assurance that Rhean had not been dismissed and gave a prayer of thanks for all she has done for TBC. He advised anyone with queries regarding the TBC team and the changes to speak with one of the Elders.

Eldership

David Lawrence told members that Dave Ling has been a great addition to the eldership team and that the elders were very grateful for his contributions so far.

David asked the members to consider Heather J Staley for Eldership. Heather has some great gifts that she can bring to the team, she has been involved in various aspects of the church and David asked that members talk to her and consider prayerfully about confirming Heather as an Elder.

Green Living

Danny Bonnett spoke to the members about "Loving God's World". Danny began by talking about the World as God's earth, we should do our best to look after it and that we should all

love one another. We are connected to all the people around the world and it is our obligation to do what is right as individuals and as a church.

Danny explored the science behind the headlines and answered some of the big questions about Climate Change. Danny showed various graphs that demonstrated the rise of the temperature over thousands of years, the rate of emissions and what it needs to be done to reduce the rise in temperature. We need to keep the rate down to 1.5 degrees and not 2 degrees.

Danny asked the members to discuss some key questions in smaller groups. Some of the key points members chose to feedback on were:

- We need a more efficient public transport system.
- There could be new technologies that we could be making use of in our homes but also in church eg Solar panels, Insulation etc - how do we get this information?
- A lot more information could be provided on what practical things we could do at all levels from industrial to domestic as well as knowledge on how much energy each appliance uses.
- Members would like to know more about the balance between the pollution aspect of environmental change vs the impact on climate change.
- We could reduce the amount of flying that we do and think more about our carbon footprints. Perhaps people could choose to eat more food that is produced in the UK rather than flown in from other countries.
- The effective use of systems in place at church rely on all the members using them properly eg the waste and recycling system and the heating systems.
- Being greener can be more expensive but there are options that do not cost much (like changing to a green energy supplier).
- Social media can be a platform for influencing greater change and we can all make use of that regardless of our financial situation.
- The poor are affected more acutely by the actions of the rich with regards to climate change, so there is a strong social justice argument for action.

As a church we have changed our energy supplier to a green company which has reduced our cost and the amount of energy we use; we have replaced all our lights with LED bulbs, we have introduced recycling bins and we have begun to source eco-friendly cleaning products, compostable plates and cutlery for community meals and Fairtrade products in the coffee shop.

Danny said that if you aren't sure on what you could do, don't get stuck in inaction, FIND OUT! You can always ask him, or Google.

Don't doubt Climate Change... it is real!

Danny also encouraged us all to have an energy assessment on our homes and stressed how easy it is to make small changes to use less energy. Danny will do an informal audit for any TBC members who want one.