

# **Thornbury Baptist Church**

## **Minutes of Family Forum meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

Paul Ferguson gave a word of welcome Dave Ling led a time of worship.

47 Members were present and 18 had sent apologies.

### **Follow up from the last Family Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

Sally Heath spoke about how great it has been to have Heather Joy Staley on the eldership team and informed everyone that Mary Groves has stepped down as elder. Sally thanked Mary for her friendship and wisdom during her time as an elder.

Sally informed people of the following changes:

- John Payne has retired as Treasurer and that James Holt will be taking over.
- Kayte Potter has stopped working in the office at TBC
- Angela Miles has returned to work doing light duties and Sally thanked Katherine and Stephen Holmes for helping whilst Angela was off.
- The following people have stepped down from the Development Group: Daisy Byrne, Julia Jolley and Jude Dickenson. The Development Group now are the elders plus Ellie Colwill, Jon Bevan, Mary Groves, Nicky Phipps, Dave Tubb, Alina Garner, Rachael Barnes, Richard Crabtree and Kayte Potter.

Sally also told members that some of the money given to St Martin's Church in Romania has been used to heat the home of a poor non-church family in the village as well as paying for surgery to remove a brain tumour of an 8 year old child of a local Christian Family.

Sally informed everyone that there was not enough support for the proposed installation of solar panels at TBC and thanked Danny Bonnett for all his hard work.

Since the last Family Forum the following people have become members: Josephine Wilkins, Helen and Steve Webb and Andrew Wright.

Sally spoke of the success of the prayer week in January and the plans for another (not planned to be similar) prayer week in Holy Week as well as an Autumn Prayer Conference.

Easter Sunday will be a baptism service.

### **The Life of the Church Family**

Paul Ferguson and David Lawrence provided feedback on the two elder away days that were held in December and January. Paul wished to affirm the following core values:

1. The need to **encounter God** as individuals and as a community.
2. Prayerfulness – How to engage in prayer and how to equip us all to allow God to stir in our hearts and therefore there will be a prayer conference weekend in October.
3. Relationships – What does it mean to be a church family and how can we grow relationships as a family in the community? To forgive, reconcile and work through differences.
4. Discipleship – What does it look like to be a Jesus person?

## Goals & Approach

David spoke about the things the elders feel we should affirm and invest in.

1. Frontline Mission – not to lose sight of resourcing and supporting our frontlines when we are not in the TBC building.
2. Creating Bridges – How do we help people make the move from non-faith to faith? The two main things that we can do to help are forming friendships with people and praying for people. David described people coming to faith as them walking across a rope bridge with planks... the two ropes are prayer and friendship but that we can all think about how to put planks in place to make the crossing smooth and easy!



3. Millennials – How do we engage more deeply with those in their 20s and 30s? TBC is underrepresented in relation to the demographic profile of the town in this age group. We already engage with this age group in the coffee shop and two by two.
4. Work with what God is already doing! Our main contacts with the community, in terms of our organised activities are through youth ministry and the coffee shop.
5. Any new appointments should have an evangelistic edge to them – to have a heart to build bridges that help people to come to faith.

## **Proposed New Appointments**

The elders therefore propose two new appointments: A **Youth Worker** building on what has already been going on with our young people and those who come to clubs and events and a **Families Worker** to continue and develop work that has been pioneered through two by two and coffee shop.

Mike Levy outlined the proposed Youth Worker Role, which had been developed partly in discussion with Krunch (the statutory youth service provider), representatives of Castle School and within the Youth Ministry. The role comprised of the following four elements:

1. Supporting the existing work within TBC by sharing some of the load with Mike at Youth Leadership level and allowing deeper relationships.
2. Detached work in the community as a lead into existing TBC youth clubs (Basement and Attic Cafe), growing relationships and creating more planks in the bridge.
3. A focus on Castle School. Relaunching Christian Unions to support those on their frontline, supporting RS, a presence in school at lunchtimes, supporting the pastoral team, involvement in assemblies and offering prayer spaces.
4. Developmental work building on existing contacts with primary schools, exploring transition mentoring from year 6 to year 7.

Sally Heath spoke about the Families Worker role. The person will need to have the ability to create relationships with young families and support Sally in the coffee shop but also have visions of his/her own to develop the role further. The role would also include support for TBC families in Christian parenting and some work with children both within and around the church.

The elders have suggested that the youth worker be a full time position and that the families worker be a part time position but they stressed that getting the right person for each position is the key thing and therefore they are willing to be flexible.

## **There was a time of Group Discussion and Prayer**

The overall feedback from the group discussion was very positive. Members were supportive of both roles and the vision that the elders have for the church. The issue of pastoral care was raised and the idea of a group of TBC members who visited people who needed support etc. A suggestion was made to access millenials via the gym, and as men in their 20s and 30s that are not well represented at TBC there should be some focus on them.

The groups prayed for all that had been shared, and prayer was given for Mark, Tammy, Bethany and David Baker as they prepared to return to Sabah at the weekend.

## **Next Steps**

Members were encouraged to pray for the proposals and discuss with the elders ahead of the Family Forum in 4-6 weeks time to affirm the proposal and move to appointment.

## **Final Accounts Year Ending March 2018**

Accounts were sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The accounts have been filed appropriately. Mark Stuart gave thanks to those who helped prepare them and informed members that the income is up on last year and the spend is down on last year. A lot of work has been done in sourcing cheaper contracts and overall spend this year. There were £95K of unrestricted funds at the year end in the bank account and there has been a positive turn around from previous accounts. Mark suggested any questions regarding the accounts go to him or to Terry Wicks.