

# **Thornbury Baptist Church**

## **Minutes of Family Forum meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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

44 Members were present and 38 had sent apologies.

### **Follow up from the last Family Forum on 21st February 2019**

Since the last Family Forum, Ali Hunt and Peter Hunt have become members.

Paul informed everyone that the meeting was to address the one item being the two new proposed appointments: Families Worker and Youth Worker.

Paul spoke of the discussions that were had at the last Family Forum regarding the outreach work that we do in the community and the need for more support for the youth and the vision we have as a church to expand on the work we do in schools and with the young people.

Paul also spoke of the missing gap in our church family being the “Millennials” despite the vast number of young families we have in the coffee shop. This also seems to be an obvious way to reach young men in the community.

Paul said that one of the members had spoken to him about a dream they had experienced:

“About the dream I had— It was a year last January - during the church’s week of prayer.

In the dream I was in our church when an invitation was given at the end of the service for anyone wanting to respond to the Lord and be anointed with oil. An amazing thing happened because everyone went forward. In amongst those going forward were a lot of young men. I asked someone who these men were and I was told they were the husbands of the women who attended the church coffee shop in the week. I went up to some of these men and I asked them why they had gone forward. Their answer was “We couldn’t help ourselves”

The dream has stayed with me and I can’t remember if I shared it with anybody but I often think of it.”

### **Youth Worker Role**

Paul spoke of the following requirements:

- A committed Christian with a biblical faith. Growing prayerfully as a disciple of Jesus.
- Have confidence in sharing faith, a desire to see people come to faith in Jesus and to grow disciples.
- Be a “people person” able to form appropriate relationships with young people ministry team members, other leaders in the Church, parents and third parties.

- Be committed to working collectively, as a team and able to release others in ministry.
- Be committed to be a member of Thornbury Baptist Church
- A person with the ability to work in partnership with other Ministries within the Church, parents, schools, other youth organisations
- Develop the existing Youth Ministry, in particular the two missional open access youth groups for secondary aged children (Basement and Attic Café) alongside the Sunday morning secondary aged group (Ignite) and provide mentoring for individuals who are part of those groups
- It is anticipated that they will help develop a detached ministry feeding into Basement and Attic Café, a club for Ignite and Secondary schools work including Christian Unions, assemblies, mentoring, prayer spaces, support of RE and life skills, pastoral presence.

Mike Levy spoke of positive feedback from Castle School encouraging Mike's proposal to be more involved at the school with mentoring and a Christian Union, prayer spaces, assemblies, provide a presence at the school at lunchtimes and in other capacities and Mike told us that it will work more as a partnership with TBC and Castle supporting one another.

David Lawrence made the point that the person appointed will need to be supported and people will have to step up to help with this.

## **Family Worker**

Paul spoke of our thriving Families Ministry that connects with the local community and reported about the success of our dads' mornings and the coffee shop.

- Paul said that the appointed Family Worker would be there to strengthen the work already being done by employing someone whose primary purpose will be to develop and implement the strategic vision for building strong friendships that give the opportunity to come to faith in Jesus, and who will also supporting Christian parents to grow faith on their family frontline.

The appointed person would be required to

- Work in partnership with other ministries within the church, parents, schools, other family organisations, and appropriate third parties and Children and Youth Ministry,
- This is a pioneering role that will develop, maintain and grow 'bridge building' activities, which allow the relationship between families in the wider community and TBC to deepen, and which will provide the opportunity to explore faith in Jesus.
- The person will review other existing family community link activities as part of the overall strategy with a view to further development.

- The person will also support Christian parents to grow a faith on their family frontline.
- A committed Christian with a biblical faith. Growing prayerfully as a disciple of Jesus.
- Have confidence in sharing faith, a desire to see people come to faith in Jesus and to grow disciples.
- Be a “people person” able to form appropriate relationships with young people, ministry team members, other leaders in the Church, parents and third parties.
- Be committed to working collectively, as a team and able to release others in ministry.
- Be committed to be a member of TBC.

David Lawrence said that he feels this role is innovative and that this job description is purposefully not too prescriptive to allow the appointed person to be creative.

**There was a time of discussion and prayer.**

Steve Webb spoke about social media the importance of the appointed people being able to reach the generation via social media platforms.

Will James spoke about the appointed people being born again Christians and have a burning desire to bring the young people and young families to the Lord. He also asked when we propose to appoint the people and whether we will ask about how they came to the Lord and how the Lord has called them to the position. He also spoke of supporting young people when they leave the area or go to University.

Paul said that the plan is to have appointed a Youth Worker and that ideally, he or she will be in the role and will have established links and relationships within the community by the start of a new academic year in September and that the Families Worker will be appointed as soon as the right person is found.