

QUINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity no. 1128423

CHURCH COUNCIL

9 MARCH 2021.

MINUTES

Introduction.

The Rev. Ajay Singh welcomed all to the meeting, held on zoom.

Ajay opened with a Prayer, devotions and reflections. He took his inspiration from the Circuit Lent Study.

Those present on zoom.

There were 20 in attendance

Apologies received.

There were 6 apologies

Minutes of Meetings held on 22 October 2020 and 2 December 2020.

These were agreed and will be signed when restrictions permit a meeting in person.

Matters Arising.

There were none.

The Work of God at Quinton.

Ajay asked that the achievement of one of the Members in securing the post of President of the Birmingham Battalion of the Boys's Brigade be noted and congratulations were offered.

The Work of God is focused on securing the future of the Church, expanding and enhancing Worship, and bringing forward ideas for the future. This is enshrined in the Mission Action Plan.

The significant contribution being made by the student being supervised by Ajay to Worship and Church Life was noted.

Nominations are sought for further people to join Church Council as Trustees of the Church.

Quinton Youth for Christ had asked that someone from QMC join as a trustee, and a suggestion was agreed.

Safeguarding and GDPR

A document had been circulated before the Meeting.

A master control document showing requirements will be kept in the Vestry. All Trustees must be aware of this and sign when they have read.

The requirements include carrying out data mapping and data cleansing and reviewing annually. All data must be held securely, be password protected and not held on devices that others can access. This includes emails, rotas, lists and pastoral records.

Those with QMC email addresses must use these for Church matters, data on personal emails is not secure, and should be put on a memory stick and deleted from the computer.

If Church data is only being shared within QMC, consent is not needed. Data consent forms must be used for anything else.

Those holding data but no longer having a need for it in a Church position are to be contacted and advised to delete and destroy (including old rotas, lists and pastoral records). Pictures of people, (eg of Brigades at camp) must be deleted.

Archived information is largely exempt so long as permission to retain is held.

The Church computer must not be used for personal purposes or contain private information, this is contrary to GDPR and a potential Safeguarding risk.

External organisations using the building must satisfy the Church that they hold data securely.

Circuit Matters. The

Meeting was informed about the stationing process following Ajay being identified for a priority appointment. The outcome is that Rev. Ilidio Christino de Oliveira Junior, a Minister from overseas, has been appointed to the Circuit starting September 2021. A review of pastoral oversight has resulted in City Road Church being moved to Nutan's section.

The Circuit Mission Review has identified that Sandon Road and Akrill Churches will close, as will the Beginagen Project.

A Circuit Youth and Community Worker, shared between several Churches, has been agreed; each Church taking part is to provide two volunteers to be in place when the Youth Worker is holding sessions or activities.

Two Members have been invited to be part of a subcommittee to manage the project for the Circuit. Quinton wish to be part of the initiative and discussions will be held with others and it was stressed that the Worker needs to be involved in Worship and provide this focus for young people.

Two Members represented Quinton at the Review. Ajay gave thanks to them both a particularly for profiling the importance of the role of all age groups in the Mission of the Church, and the help in updating the Mission Action Plan following the Review.

Leadership Team.

Outreach required a new committee chair and without this cannot continue. A suggestion is to be discussed.

Work on the Peace Garden is planned to start during the Easter holidays.

Ideas for Flexible and Creative Worship included integrating Messy Church, Breakfast Church and Morning Worship.

Communications and Technology.

Thanks were given to all for responses to the review of all our platforms, and progress was outlined with Online Services and future options for these. Further volunteers are needed for this streaming of Services to continue. A group is being set up to prepare plans for a camera in the Worship Area to stream from Church.

The content and style of the magazine is being reviewed, and it was agreed that suggested that guidance be provided about the length of articles.

Ajay advised that if we transform from traditional Church to Hybrid Church (online and offline) we need to facilitate and encourage regular and online Giving or risk losing income from those Worshipping at home.

Criteria for Reopening.

A document had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

The Leadership Team recommended that Church reopen for Worship on Palm Sunday. There was some disquiet that this was too early because of the concern about indoor gatherings that in other settings are not permitted until after 17 May. Other considerations were that most of the congregation are likely to have received their first vaccination, and that mental health of many would be helped. Girl's Brigade attendance is difficult to encourage without Worship taking place in Church, notwithstanding the contribution of online activity.

Boy's Brigade hope to reopen after 12 April, and Girl's Brigade in the same timeframe. Certain outside groups can reopen subject to Government and Church guidelines after 12 April.

A vote was taken and 11 voted in favour of reopening for Palm Sunday. The restarting of groups is subject to agreement and regulation by the Leadership Team.

Finance and Property.

Finance

A financial summary document had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. The key points were highlighted, and there are many uncertainties; that gift aid is limited to certain transaction methods. The entry for Junior Church is the donation to Quinton Youth for Christ.

We have signed up for Give as You Live and a volunteer is required to handle this. The Treasurer reminded the Meeting that he wished to retire from the position of Treasurer, but it is not desirable to pay an external person for this post. He offered to train those who might be interested.

Property

A document about the Church Heating Control System had been circulated before the Meeting. The recommendation was that the quotations be accepted. This was agreed, by a vote of 18 in favour. A proposal was made to have an Inpost installation in the car park that would bring an income to the Church. Potential Safeguarding considerations were highlighted as people would potentially be using the car park while the Brigades were meeting, and it was considered that this was manageable. The proposal was agreed, by a vote of 16 in favour.

Pastoral.

It is important that the Pastoral Secretaries are aware of pastoral issues, this is not always happening. This was important also so that Ajay is able to carry out his pastoral work. Additional Pastoral Visitors are needed following retirements. The Prayers that Ajay gave were highlighted, together with the availability and distribution of Prayer booklets and resources. The processes of keeping in touch will all especially during the pandemic, and the use of social media and telephone calls, was mentioned. All Membership Cards have now been distributed.

Ajay expressed his appreciation for all the pastoral work that is taking place.

Brigades.

Girl's Brigade have been holding remote on line meetings in groups, with around 7 younger and 3 older members regularly taking part. The Facebook facility is well used. When they return to meeting in the building, it will be in 2 bubbles (as there will be over 15 meeting). There are national financing issues for Girl's Brigade.

For Boy's Brigade, it was advised that up to 10 younger members were regularly engaged. 2 members are completing their Queens Badge. It is not practical to go to camp this year, but they are considering a summer outdoor activity.

Thanks, endorsed by all of Church Council, were given for the work of the Brigades in keeping their members engaged while the building has been closed, and we looked forward to when they can return in person.

Annual Church Meeting.

This was scheduled for 25 April 2021 as an extension Morning Worship, however such meetings cannot be held face to face until after 21 June 2021, and could only be on zoom on 25 April.

It was agreed to move it to 11 July 2021, as an extension of Morning Worship, this is also Action for Children Day.

Circuit Meeting.

Quinton on Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 7.30pm.(subject to restrictions permitting)

Next Regular Church Council.

Tuesday 12 October 2021. 7.30pm .In Church. (subject to restrictions permitting)

The Meeting closed with Prayer.

This was Ajay's last regular Church Council Meeting before moving to his priority appointment. Great thanks were given for his chairing of the Meetings and best wishes were extended to him in his new role.

18 March 2021.

