



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 14th January @ The Kings' Centre

The meeting began at 7.30pm and was quorate, with 48 members being present by the end of the voting time.

Matt welcomed new members and gave an outline of the meeting.

There followed a short time of worship and prayer, where he reminded us that our help comes from the Lord and it is He who has helped and watched over us in 2019 and will continue to do so in the future.

Matters Arising

Matt pointed out that a small adjustment was required to the minutes of last year's meeting, with regard to the results of the vote to re-elect two of the elders. The wording will be changed from 'unanimous' to 'overwhelming majority.'

No other changes were suggested.

Eldership

Matt gave a brief overview of the biblical picture of eldership, which gives rights and responsibilities over the people of God. He described Paul's emphasis on character in 1 Tim 3 and that whilst no one is perfect, elders should be seeking to lead this kind of life. The elders believe that Kathy Allen is doing this already and is a good fit for the the leadership team: she brings a heart for the prophetic and the gifts of the Spirit along with a voice and wisdom that is needed on the team.

Nic & Kathy were invited to leave the room while Matt opened the meeting for any one to ask questions or comment - none were made.

Members were asked to vote and Kathy was elected with a massive majority.

Matt prayed for Kathy, Nic and the girls as they step into this new season for them as a family.

Ian Powell has been serving as an elder at Meadows/Hope CC for over 20 years but now will be stepping back from this role and Matt wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge the personal and public blessing he has been over this time. He will remain on the Leadership Team. A Church Lunch will be arranged as part of the celebration of his 'retirement.' Matt prayed for blessing and a clear calling for Ian in the next season.

Review of 2019

Matt then presented a slideshow review of everything that happened in 2019, which was an incredibly busy year, requiring plenty of chocolate caramel spread to keep him going!

The meeting broke into smaller groups for a short time of thanksgiving prayer for what had gone before.

Finance Update

Pete Owers gave a brief overview of the current financial position:

- Income has increased compared with 2018, whilst expenditure has only increased by £2000. Partly this is due to new givers, but also due to a reduction in spending on mission work
- Most of our giving comes through Gift Aid, although the income via the collection box has gone up slightly this year
- The value of HCC assets is largely similar

Pete invited questions:

- Mike Haggioannu asked about the amount of cash in the bank. There is currently £93,000, some of which is restricted to be used for projects. He also asked about depreciation, which is an accounting term relating to the loss of value of assets over time and can make expenditure appear artificially inflated.
- Phil Edwards briefly commented on the TKC accounts, pointing out that HCC would have to find an extra £20,000 to fund the running of the building without the activities of TKC.

Matt encouraged new-joiners to give and contribute by Gift Aid if possible.

Children & Young People Update

Matt Davis gave an overview of the current group structure and reported that there are currently 65 children and youth on the Firestarters books.

He thanked the leaders and helpers for their hard work. Several leaders are doubling up on rotas due to lack of help. In addition a new group is needed for the Yr 7-8 age group as this is a growing age group in the church. He invited anyone interested to come for a 'taster' session to see what the groups are like.

He shared the following prayer points for the Firestarters' team:

- Continued enthusiasm, passion, flexibility and unity
- To find new teaching material that is a good balance of fun and relationship building
- Wisdom in developing the individual gifting of the children and young people
- To explore options for Sunday mornings as an alternative or addition to Art Attack and current group system
- For the kids' relationships with God to grow
- For help in growing the leaders of tomorrow

Matt Mac thanked Matt D for all of his efforts and the hard work of the Firestarters' team and appealed for new leaders/helpers to come forward to prevent burnout of those currently serving.

Church Family Update

Sue Pearce gave a short report on changes within the church family over the last year.

Membership Update:

- At the time of the last meeting there were 78 members.
- Resignations have been received from Fred & Margaret Jennings and Jade Garbett.
- We have welcomed 17 new members, taking our current membership to 92, with another 7 people in the process of applying.
- In addition, our current adult contact list on ChurchSuite is 146.

Small Groups:

- New programme of courses launched with Sign up Sunday on January 5th
- Initial plan was for 6 groups of 12-15 but due to an overwhelming response a seventh group has been created, with 92 people signed up!
- Planning will begin soon for next term and the Small Groups team will be seeking feedback from both members and leaders as we go forward

Newcomers' Lunches:

- These were a new venture for 2019, consisting of a meal and a short talk from Matt about the church vision. Attendees are given an information pack about ways to get involved and what membership is about.
- 3 were held in 2019, hosting just over 30 people with another 4 planned for 2020

ChurchSuite:

- HCC adopted ChurchSuite after visiting Knighton who have been using it for several years
- It is a web-based software package that makes all of the church admin processes much easier to manage.
- We have started using it for our contacts database & managing bulk communications, the membership process, rotas, small group sign up and the calendar which will integrate with new website,.
- Over the coming months we will be looking to develop events sign up, the children's module & DBS administration.
- Uptake has been good, especially in the last few weeks!

2020 Preview

Matt discussed the coming year in terms of:

- Consolidation - to sustain growth:
 - church structure
 - Pastoral care & prayer ministry
 - Small group structure
- Growth:
 - Rebranding hopefully to be completed by the end of February
 - In the gifts of the Spirit, so we are distinctive as a church
 - Reaching our community - growth through new believers
 - Phase IV proposal by the end of 2020

Matt invited comments or questions:

- Jo Dickens commented that wisdom, discernment and training will be needed in helping the broken people we are hoping to welcome in

AOB

- 1) A Community Fun Day is being held on Saturday 29th February where we hope to publicly introduce ourselves as Hope Community Church. A facebook poll has been started for people to sign up to help and a paper copy is on the server.
- 2) The Christmas collection for El Alfarero's SOS appeal raised £1600. Overall they have almost hit their target.
- 3) Richard Spicer has been stewarding at Meadows/Hope for 26 years but is now stepping down to be more available for prison work. Matt thanked him for his hard work over the years.
- 4) Geoff Adams & Mike Pearce reported on the food bank:
 - 6000 food parcels were given out during the last year from both TKC and various hubs across the county
 - 35 tonnes of food are needed to keep the food bank running, half of which comes in during December
 - Funding is currently by grants but the food bank is trying to become self-sufficient
 - 40 volunteers regularly help at TKC, with an increasing number of Christians among them, who are able to tell clients that the food is a sign of God's love for them, and to offer prayer. It would be good if this number could increase further so that significant conversations and prayer could happen more regularly.
 - There is a new 'Food for a fiver' campaign being launched and flyers were made available; they are also trying to develop 'corporate' days where businesses send a team to work together in the warehouse
 - Barbara Reynolds was thanked for her work in developing the food bank in the early days before stepping down earlier last year.
 - More christians have joined the team recently to mingle with clients. Christians

Lou closed the meeting in prayer, asking for more of God's presence to be felt by everyone who walks through the door of TKC.

Matt thanked everyone for coming.