



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 10th January 2023

The meeting began at 7.30pm with 41 present, 39 of whom were members.

Matt welcomed everyone to our Annual Thanksgiving Meeting and gave an outline of the evening ahead. The meeting began with a time of worship.

Review of 2022 Pt 1

Matt began his review of 2022 with the highlights from January - March. These included the sermon series in John, the Week of Prayer, Release & New Wine Leadership conferences, and the Bible Comes to Life Exhibition which we hosted in March.

Women's Ministry Update - Gayle Eason

31 ladies within the church have been involved in running events this year, including Time Out, prayer breakfasts, Jewel and dance nights. 252 women have been ministered to through these.

Highlights:

- Seeing relationships built between women within the church family
- Women developing new confidence to step out and lead events
- Women supporting other ministries and events
- Positive feedback received about events, in particular Time Out

Prayer Points:

- Women's ministry would focus on where God leads this year
- To build a wider team to be involved in event planning
- To see a fresh expression of God within the ministry

Men's Ministry Update - Nick Eason

125 men have either been involved in, or served, through Men's events this year, including breakfasts, Release, pub nights and the Men's small group.

Highlights:

- Seeing relationships being built and the pastoral care that has flowed from that
- Increased honesty, vulnerability and a willingness to share with each other
- Space for men to hear from God
- The variety of men that who have attended
- Sons coming along to events with their Dads

Prayer Points:

- For relationships to continue to grow

- More men would get involved
- Release 2023
- That friends of Hope men would want to know Jesus

Everyone split into pairs to pray for these ministries.

Review of 2022 Pt 2

Matt continued his review of 2022 with April - June. We began our Evening Gatherings and three people were baptised on Easter Sunday. The Hub celebrated its second birthday and we enjoyed our 'Here comes the Bride' sermon series. A group of Hope men went to The Gathering (where one decided to follow Jesus!) and we had a great time at our Church Weekender with Paul Harcourt and Mark Aldridge.

Compassion Ministries Update - Marilyn Allen

The Hope Hub:

- 200 clients have been helped during 2022 (compared with 120 in 2021)
- There have been 17 volunteers, including some practising their English and some working towards D of E awards
- £1000 was raised by Jewel - Simon Newbon was thanked for his help with the promo video
- A grant via Leics County Council has allowed the employment of another staff member (Emily Owers) for one day a week
- The Christmas giving tree scheme brought in 150 gifts for 60 households - Marilyn Pinger was thanked for enabling this to happen.
- Prayer points:
 - Wisdom for how best to support and be involved with the Boulter Flat
 - Provision for volunteers and clients with additional needs, such as language difficulties

CAP:

- There have been 23 new clients and 14 ongoing ones; 9 befrienders and 8 on the prayer team
- 5 clients have gone debt-free and 4 have made new commitments to Jesus.
- Other new opportunities have included speaking at Oadby Baptist Church and on Radio Leicester
- Prayer points:
 - For more clients to meet Jesus and more to go debt-free
 - Kintsugi Hope - a new wellbeing group starting soon and for guidance in setting it up

Children & Family Support - Lesley Robinson

Lesley spoke about two of her roles.

Bright Sparks Team Leader:

- Heather Sutherley was thanked for 29 years of service on the creche rota.

- Teaching is now based around a theme that runs for the term. Before Christmas it was 'Fruits of the Spirit' and it was encouraging to see how well the children engaged and remembered what was being spoken about.

Tots:

- Tots has around 80 children on the books across both morning sessions
- 'Let's do Life' has started - a smaller group which initially met in the Boulter Flat but now more often meets at TKC

Prayer points:

- For braveness and boldness when speaking to families
- More families to know Jesus
- To be wise when signposting vulnerable families towards help for social issues

There was another time of prayer, specifically for both of these ministries.

Review of 2022 Pt 3

This summer we moved to the park each Sunday and several of our young people went to Hungarton Camp. In September Katie Vaughan took over the running of Firestarters from Matt & Sue as she began her role as Children & Youth Worker. Jewel happened, we had a great day of prayer and our Isaiah sermon series started.

Children & Youth Update - Katie Vaughan

4-11s on Sunday:

- We have 16 children on the register in this age group
- Since September a new format has been introduced, with worship and games together before splitting into KS1 and KS2 age groups.
- This term the topic will be 'Identity in Christ'

11-16s on Sunday:

- 13 young people in this age group
- Two weeks of the month they are in their groups, with two weeks in the main service where they are being encouraged to develop their gifts by serving on the main rotas

TNI:

- 22 young people on the register
- Last term's topic was 'Real Lives', hearing the testimonies of local or famous Christians which has had a big impact on some of the young people.
- Also looking at 'Identity in Christ' this term

Schools Work:

- Contact with another local churchgoer has helped with gaining access to local primary schools
- Two have been visited already but hoping for more invitations

Prayer points:

- More openings in schools

- Thanks for full teams on the Sunday rotas
- That the new material this term will speak to the children and young people

Small Groups Update - James & Rachel Tingley

Thanks were expressed to the planning team for their support over the year.

There were 19 small groups in 2022 with an average of 68 attendees each term, which equates to 60% of the membership attending each term.

A variety of groups were offered, from traditional bible study to exercise and parenting groups.

Prayer points:

- For more potential leaders coming forward to run groups
- For more to feel confident in leading and new leaders to be grown.

More time was spent praying for these ministries.

Review of 2022 Pt 4

October brought Persecuted Church Sunday, the Light Party and a Community Lunch hosted by the fabulous Coffee Morning team who hosted over 100 guests! Three people were baptised in November and Christmas was busy but brilliant.

Finance Update - Pete Owers

Pete apologised for the lateness of the accounts due to illness and leave at the accountancy firm. Those presented were still in draft form - any further changes will be presented at a later meeting to be approved.

He gave thanks to God for His provision during this last year.

Both income and expenditure have increased this year and if depreciation is removed from this total then our income exceeded our expenses by £15,000.

Giving has increased by around £13,000.

Building costs have increased with the rise in utilities prices of around 30%

Staff & ministry costs have also increased due to the arrival of Katie, and Marilyn has been working for all of 2022.

An entry at the end of the accounts regarding the Food bank is incorrect and will be amended. Mike Pearce was thanked for the time spent as a trustee of the Foodbank.

Everyone was encouraged to review their giving if they hadn't done so recently, and reminded that the church has money set aside specifically for anyone facing financial hardship due to current financial pressures.

Approval was sought for the accounts by a show of hands and accepted by an overwhelming majority.

Church Family Update - Sue Pearce

Membership Update:

- At the time of the last meeting there were 107 members.
- Resignations have been received from Nicole Millar and Jemima Howell.

- We have welcomed 12 new members, taking our current membership to 117, with another 2 people in the process of applying.

Looking ahead to 2023

Matt outlined four areas to be focussed on this year.

Pastoral Care:

- Our structures need to adapt as we grow
- The first step is to form a Pastoral Care Team, made up of those who are already involved in this area, to meet termly to share and develop an overview of how we are doing things

Prayer:

- We are starting a new sermon series this week called 'House of Prayer'
- Will be more of a priority, not just in Sunday services but in every area of church life

Proclamation:

- Seeking opportunities to be bold and courageous and invite friends and family along to events

Putting in a new kitchen:

- A decision has been made to 'pause' phase IV given the current financial crisis
- We are still hoping to install a catering kitchen in the coffee lounge to increase our ability to hold catered events

Diary Dates

16th-22nd Jan - Week of Prayer:

- Meeting on Zoom every morning
- A mixture of in person and Zoom gatherings each evening
- 24 hours of prayer from 10am Saturday to 10am Sunday
- Prayer for Wigston with local churches on Sunday 22nd

4th Feb - Release

26th March - Hope 30th birthday celebration

9th-11th June - Church Weekender; more info to follow!

AOB

Matt explained the leadership structure of the church. Paul & Sue Gask have been invited to join the Leadership Team for their valuable wisdom and insight. They will be leading an Alpha course soon, starting on Thurs Jan 26th.

Steve W asked about finance for maintaining the building - main hall lighting needs replacing and there is a leak in phase IV. Money has already been set aside for repairs.

Phill Beynon closed the meeting with prayer.