

Coach House Church.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7TH April 2021

(meeting held online due to Covid restrictions)

1. **Welcome** – Jamie Baker welcomed everyone, opened in Prayer and went over the Zoom Protocols for all to understand.
2. **Scripture Reading** – Ephesians 3:16-20 Bekah Baker.
3. **Minutes from previous AGM** – Steve Adshead. The minutes were given out to all members before the meeting. Proposed by Jamie Baker and seconded by Philip Halstead as a true and accurate record of previous meeting. No questions or comments on those minutes.
4. **Missionary Update** – Steve Went. Steve reminded us of the Missionaries we currently support. At the moment we only have Open Doors booked to speak in June because of the Covid restrictions, Pauline is keeping an eye on the situation and is hoping to book some more later in the year.
5. **Building and Maintenance report** – Jamie Baker. Jamie shared slides and commentary on each picture. Showing lots of things have happened over the last year including:
 - Hiring a cherry picker to get on the church roof to clear gutters, take the old church sign down, painting etc.
 - Windows have been replaced.
 - 8 boxes of books cleared out and sent to Renewal North West
 - Table up out of cellar
 - Emptying chimney in the kitchen and fixing the fan.

- Electrics, lots of rewiring, cables in roof.
- Library in Coffee Hub redecorated and furnished.
- Hub refurbished, new lights, ceiling repainted, chairs cleaned, new Coach House Logo in hub and reception.
- Full skip, lots cleared out of loft.
- Squares all marked out into covid slots.

Basically the building is ready for return after covid and every room is now serviceable.

6 Treasurers Report – Steve Adshead.

There has been an increase in giving this year and thanked everyone for their faithful tithing. The running costs of the church are not inconsiderable as in previous years when we were paying of the mortgage costs of the church. Just takes a bit for heat and lighting the building as you would notice. There has been a considerable increase in GA giving, just want to speak a little about GA. Firstly if you don't GA and you think you ought to then see Me. Please check if you are GA that you are still earning enough (over around £15000) to do so. If you aren't earning that amount, then you probably shouldn't be doing so and need to see me to stop as the ownness isn't on the church but on the individual. I would like to apologise now as we are going to have to redo all the GA forms to fall in line with the new C.i.O requirements as the forms are slightly different to the ones we are currently using, we will be sorting this out as soon as get notification. Not much more to report in main account. Missions Account, we take 10% of what we bring in and give to missions, Steve Went has already given you a list of the Missions we support. You will notice that we support Steve Potts and Care Trust Romania the majority of money that comes in from individuals is because they want to support that work and there has been quite a lot more come in this year than the previous year. Additional giving has been a little bit less as we have not had speakers in the building due to covid. Just to go back to the main report I want to highlight the £5148 of restricted income, this was given specifically for building refurb and if you look further down the

expenditure you will see it replicated again. This was used with a further £8268.59 for those purposes.

No questions were asked on the accounts. Steve pointed out that questions can be asked at any time, as we want to be as honest and open as possible.

7. Trustees Report – Steve Adshead. The main thing to report on tonight is that as you know we are moving towards a C.I.O and we had to have a ballot, 65 ballot papers were given out to the members. Of the 65, 61 papers were returned, 60 voted in favour of the CIO and 1 voted no. That is 92% in favour. Thank you for that, we will keep you updated as the next steps occur. Whilst voted in favour of the CIO, it takes time to go through and if we have to refer to the Constitution in the meantime it will be the current Constitution we will be referring to until the Charities Commission has accepted our application. For now we are just forwarding that paperwork to the Solicitors so that they can take the next step.

The Trustees have met to discuss our Pastor Andy's role, if you remember his contract is due to run out the end of 2021. We have decided to renew his contract a further 2 years until the end of 2023 which gives Andy some security and flexibility to plan for things ahead. Steve went on to thank Andy for his diligence.

8. Questions.

Tina – What is the Vision for the Church for the next year? –This will be addressed in the Pastoral Review.

Anon – Can we explain Leadership and how this has come about? – Those that have been elected are Andy, Steve W, Steve A, Barry, Jamie and Paula. These have been elected as Deacons, Elders and Pastor, so elected through position. When I took on the role of Pastor I said I wouldn't be able to do it without Mel, I explained it would be a team that is running it and transferred that ethic all the way through so what you see is people who are partnered by their wives or husbands. In fact all of the team have other roles within Church, for example Mel runs Knitting, craft group and ladies events. Alina along with Pearl is the Safeguarding officer. Bekah runs the Alpha course along with organising the

Sunday Night Catalyst. People you see before you are doing everything to serve the Church. We have Leadership meetings most Mondays, we get a very balanced and open view, we don't always agree with each other but that's fine it is good to be able to challenge each other and to come through with the right decisions as a team. The Solicitor said that the CIO would want a stronger team of Trustees, so he suggested that all the Leadership Team be made Trustees which would fulfil that requirement. If you feel you have any further questions about the Team or anything, then please feel free to ask or come and speak to me.

Pearl asked - What If the Government uses the Charities Commission to force us to comply with things we don't agree with? - This was discussed in 2019 when first thought about moving to a CIO. The answer is simple, as soon as the CIO start telling us what we can and can't do and it starts to be against our judgements as a Church, we will dismiss the Charity and we will go alone and trust God.

9.Pastoral Report - Pastoral Report 2021.

"From the moment we were due to have the AGM in 2020, to this current date, we have, and are in, some of the strangest church times that I can think of. I did not believe that I would have the task of closing the church doors and posting 'do not enter' signs, but the Covid Pandemic has been a tough reality that we have all had to adapt to.

I have to say, that the leadership team has been bold in its decision making and has worked tirelessly to make sure that we are connected and cared for. When we have been able to open church, we did so with the upmost care and worked hard to maintain safe working practices in line with and beyond, government advice. To date we have no instances of Virus infection arising from the church doors being open, but we remain vigilant and will remain cautious as the lockdown restrictions begin to ease. For example, we will not be throwing open the doors at the earliest opportunity and instead will take a measured approach to reduce restrictive operations one by one. We are very mindful of the duty of care we have to our older congregation and therefore we act accordingly to ensure safety.

As you can imagine, we have had many discussions and meetings over the last year with regard to how we remain open and how we look after those who are unable to attend. We are aware that some people are cautious about returning to the church (or indeed anywhere), so we will be looking at assisting their return in order to maintain confidence. Whilst many churches have remained closed and online, we have felt strongly that the need to be together in fellowship and corporate worship has been important to us.

It has brought benefits, both from a spiritual perspective, but also from the point of wellbeing and remaining connected. With this in mind, I would like to thank all the team that have made our safe return to church a reality – we have run two services every Sunday, and over the easter weekend the attendances were the highest we have seen. With more expected to return soon, we are in a difficult position of accommodating everyone, but we will find a way.

The leadership team deserves our thanks for the care they have shown, but also the less visible servants that have helped maintain our focus throughout the year. Pauline Swindells as Missions secretary and Christine Guest, looking after homegroups, have both had difficult years, and we are thankful for their time and commitment. On a personal note, I would like to thank the leadership team for the way they have looked after me as well. This is very important and their commitment to making sure I find rest and am spiritually fed is recognised and valued.

I was given a scripture in January 2020, which I believe has been shown to be relevant for the year have come through.

It was: Jeremiah 17:8 (NLT)

They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

The context of this verse is that Jeremiah, who has pronounced judgement on Judah, gives this oasis of hope to those who put their trust and hope in the Lord.

I believe that this has been our experience in 2020 – and I would go so far as to say, that the Oasis that God provided for us has been one of worship, fellowship and strength. The fruit that has been shown during that strange year has been bountiful. We have seen stronger relationships, extended leadership, empowered women and balanced preaching. All to the benefit of Gods people. We have seen the building being brought up to date and dealt with some safety issues that were outstanding. All in all, even though we may look on 2020 as the year Covid struck, as a church we are stronger, physically and spiritually. I trust that you have all experienced the benefit of a united church pulling together in order to honour God.

I stated last year (and will continue to state as much as I am able), that it is obedience that the Lord looks for. I know that we don't always get things right, but I believe that God looks on the heart and it is from there that we are actions are judged. Our efforts to be obedient as a church leadership is fraught with balancing all of the needs and desires of the 'church'. When God calls you to a church, you become part of it and whilst for many years, I would venture that some of us have 'attended' church, in the last year I have seen us, even with the restrictions, 'becoming' church. That isn't to say that everyone has found their place yet, but the groundwork has been, and is being, laid to make sure that everyone has their unique place of service. These are exciting times and I am very aware of God's hand as He leads us forward.

So, what of the future? Recently I was drawn to Ezra 3 – 10-13

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanks giving they sang to the Lord:

“He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.”

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

What I notice here is that Gods people were obedient to the task of rebuilding the walls of the temple. There were some however that wept when they saw that the foundations were being laid out – we do not know whether this was because it wasn't as splendid as they had previously known, or whether they wept in Joy at the restoration – nevertheless – they were obedient in building as the Lord directed. The top priority here is being obedient to Gods plans not our own.

There may have been some who looked on the rebuild and wept, but the important aspect is that both the expressions of joy and the weeping joined together and became a sound that was heard far away. I have great joy in telling you that The Coach House is being re-established here and people are taking notice.

The journey we are on is very similar to the story of the rebuilding of the temple. Great expectation as the foundations were laid, and then opposition which stopped the work in its tracks. Covid stopped us just as we were about to embark on youth works, parent and toddler group, Tinytalk classes & Catch 22 community projects. All of which had opened up to us as we embraced the need to reach out into our own community.

Opposition (Covid) has brought about a pause – but that doesn't mean that nothing has happened. The foundations have been guarded and, if anything, strengthened and we are eager to get building as the Lord allows. We may not have been able to do church as we envisaged, but just look around you at what God has been building! All the hoped-for works are still in the pipeline, but now they look more defined.

The use of the building for community projects allowed us to cite this in our approach to become a CIO. We had nothing to speak of before this, so it is almost as if there was a plan!

I can also tell you that on the day restrictions lift on Monday 12th April, Tinytalk resumes its use of the building, but it has expanded its requirement threefold!

Parents and toddlers we will be looking at kicking off, and in the meantime, God has brought a family with 5 children into our fellowship. The first family, I am sure, of many. God is not idle and neither should we be. I don't know what the future holds, other than that as we are obedient, God will continue to open the doors. By the same token, we pray that if we are not being obedient, that it will be painfully obvious to the point that we stop what we are doing, get on our knees and repent of our actions.

It is clear to me that God has a long- term plan, a plan that HE brings about, regardless of our failings. What we need to do is be tender hearted and pliant so that we can be moulded easily, not stubborn and hardened so that God has to deal with us harshly. It is a great privilege to be helming the ship, and I am very thankful that I am not alone in the task. I couldn't do this without your backing and support, so I want to thank all of you for the love and backing you have shown.

We are clearly in a different place to where we were. HCCC has closed behind us, we have embraced the culture and vision of the Coach House as given to Joe Bailey long ago. We are now preparing to step into the unknown. Church needs to be relevant and serve the community in which it is placed. We will do this with the name re-established and the past being dealt with by God – this is the where you come in. The church is the people. You are the Coach House. You are God's ambassadors here. Our job as leadership is to equip you and direct you to reach your potential, as you encourage us to reach ours.

These are exciting times but it is important that we maintain our focus on the elements we know make up the Coach House: A Hospital – we have seen restoration and healing in this last year. I am keen to stress that the Lord would not bring people into a hospital without the doctors and nurses being in place. We are seeing people being drawn in now and I am positive that this is because we have been obedient and patient.

Training and Releasing – We have seen the teaching established in the church. Our journey through Acts, the encouragement of the Psalms and the teaching

through 1 Peter have all drawn upon the varied experiences of the teaching team. As well as this we have seen Morgan, Phil and Steve Clayton, all learning new skills as they take on new technology. I want to thank Ben for his help in making this happen. With this is place we are ready for the next phases.

Transforming – look around you on any given day at church and you will see how far we have come, individually and collectively. God is good. Missional – a stronger discipleship model leads to a number of other objectives, one of which is our understanding of the missional call on our lives. Make disciples of all men – wherever they are – Alpha has been completed and we look forward to the next one in September. We have still engaged with missions’ speakers throughout the year, and actually I believe that we have become more personally involved with them, which will be beneficial as we determine how we shape our support in the years to come.

And finally. Love - The major underpinning of everything we do.

In all you do let love abound more and more. Be determined to show your love to each other extravagantly and be expectant of Gods reward for doing so, whatever 2021 holds for us”

Andy then prayed for the Church.

Steve Adshead thanked Andy, Mel, Jamie and Bekah for all their hard work over the past year and for all people that have helped bringing food to look after them. There are lots of other things that have gone on too and God will thank you for that. It just shows what a powerful family God has created in this church.

10. Open Questions – Non to report.

11. Date of the next A.G.M is Wednesday 23rd March 2022. (moved to 30th March 2022)

Jamie just thanked Andy for all he has done for him this past year, looking after him whilst he has been out of work and everything.

Jamie then said he felt God telling him to quote from Psalm 36, he then closed in prayer.