

Minutes of Littleover Baptist Church meeting

13 June 2024

The meeting was chaired by Rev. Vanessa Hollingworth who opened the meeting with a short devotion.

There were 12 Members present and 8 apologies were received.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 05 December 2023 were reviewed and accepted with the correction to one of the beneficiaries to Mildmay Hospital.

There were no matters arising.

Finance Headlines:

There was no significant issues to report. Giving has increased as has the attendance on Sundays.

Church maintenance issues:

The tree in the Church car park is to be pruned on 20 June.

Post meeting note: This has been completed. The neighbour is very pleased.

Church pastoral concerns:

A number of members and friends were identified as needing our prayers. The Chair lead prayers for them.

Future Ministry:

The deacons introduced a proposal that Les Tam be appointed Community Pastor at LBC. Les left the meeting at this point. The appointment for a one-year fixed term of 15 hours a week. The position to be reviewed in 12 months. After discussion and slight amendment, a revised proposal was accepted unanimously. The revised proposal is attached to these minutes.

Proposer: Tony, Seconder: May

Post meeting note: Les accepted the offer. Terms and conditions and a job description have been agreed. Les was commissioned by Rev Hollingworth on Sunday 23 June and started his role on 1st July 2024.

AOB:

A problem had occurred with access for the funeral car recently due to a car parked outside the Church. It was suggested we ask the council for restricted access here. The Deacons will discuss at their next meeting.

Concern was raised regarding the intrusion of a camera, for recording the service, in the front row of seats in the Sanctuary. The Deacons will discuss this with Les at their next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19 September 2024 at 10.00

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting with prayer.

Littleover Baptist Church meeting Thursday 13 June 2024

PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE DIACONATE TO CREATE THE ROLE OF 'COMMUNITY PASTOR' AND APPOINT LES TAM INTO THIS ROLE

Background:

The Diaconate has been considering for some time ways in which the life and mission of the Church might move forward. This has included looking at ministry for the future, guided by the discussions which have taken place at the two Church Visioning Meetings held during 2024. Alongside this, we have also been very mindful of the work Les Tam already does for Littleover Baptist Church and the work he is currently undertaking with and through Trinity Baptist Church in Derby.

With this in mind, the Deacons asked to talk with Les to determine how he saw his own role within LBC and whether there was potential for this to be acknowledged as a specific ministry within the Church and, therefore, worthy of a paid position. Thus, a meeting was held between Les Tam and Janet Aukett (Treasurer), Paul Gardner and Hilary Robinson (Deacons) and Rev Vanessa Hollingworth (Moderator) on 22 May 2024.

Findings:

During his time living in the locality, Les has come to believe that God has specifically called him to worship and work in and through Littleover Baptist Church. Over these last few months, he has been working alongside Trinity BC and knows they would very much like him to become a member of their Church. However, he fully believes God has called him to LBC and he is not prepared to go against that calling. Consequently, becoming a full member of the church at the end of 2023 was really important to him.

In the time Les has been part of LBC, he has become invaluable in assisting in a number of ways, both on Sundays and midweek. At the moment, he sets up and operates the audio/visual equipment for Sunday services and leads worship/preaches one Sunday per month. During the week, he is responsible for the running of Daniel's Den and helps out at the Tranquillity Café.

Les's Call:

In seeking God's will, Les feels that he is called to help maintain and to sustain the life and mission of Littleover Baptist Church. By this, he sees 'to maintain' as acknowledging and strengthening what already happens in and through the church. By 'sustaining', he means to ensure a continuing viable congregation for the future.

He believes all members are called to serve in and through the church and would look to facilitate more active participation in the life of the church. Alongside this, he is passionate about a systematic approach to children's and youth work. His Hong Kong background determines that children and young play grow up in the church learning to become disciples of Jesus (not to play out of the way of the adults!). He also believes that technology could be used to facilitate setting up a youth group in the short-term by using Zoom, for example.

This type of work would be similar to that he undertook for 12 years as a pastor in Hong Kong. (NB: The Deacons have letters of reference from Hong Kong.)

The work Les currently undertakes for Trinity Church (facilitating the work of a community café for 15 hours/week) is funded on an annual basis and comes up for review in August 2024. Although it would be good for this paid work to continue for him, it is not guaranteed.

The Proposal:

The Diaconate proposes that Les Tam be appointed as '**Community Pastor**' for Littleover Baptist Church with the following initial job description:

- To encourage and facilitate participation in the life of the church – for example, training to use audio/visual equipment, training to lead worship with music/vocals etc.
- Leading Daniels' Den
- Exploring children's and youth ministry with a view to establishing children's and/or youth church at LBC.
- To take time to network within the community and take opportunities for mission to foster growth within LBC.
- Pastoral work on behalf of the Church.

This will be a paid role and is offered on the following basis:

15 hours per week at £11.44/hr (National Minimum Wage) = £8,923.20/year for a period of 1 year.

The proposal was discussed and voted upon at the Church meeting on 13th June 2024. It was passed unanimously by the members present and eligible to vote.

Les has accepted the offer and will be commissioned into the role by our Moderator on Sunday 23 June. He will start as Community Pastor on 1st July 2024.