

CHESTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 20th July 2025 at 11:45am in the Church

1. ADMINISTRATION

Register and apologies

There were 36 members who signed the register and 13 apologies received.

Minutes

The minutes from Church meeting held on Sunday 18th May 2025 were agreed and signed.

2. PEOPLE

Pastoral

The following church family who are in need of prayer were mentioned and a time of prayer was held in small groups: Gwen B; Clare C; Lavinah D; Pauline F; Clifford F; Murene H; Ann L; Joyce N; Dorotha L; Adrian M; Michael M; Yvonne R; Paula W; Helen W; Rose Y. Prayers were also said for the family of Doug Phillips whose funeral it is later this week.

A number of people who have recently been prayed for by the church shared with the meeting their appreciation for the prayers, stating that God had comforted, blessed and assured them during a challenging season of their lives.

3. ENABLING

Finance – Year to date: April 2025-July 2025

The accounts were presented as follows:

Income £55,880

Expenditure £74,130

Income is made up of:

Offerings £19,475

Café £15,934

Room Hire £6318

Expenditure is made of:

Church Staffing (excluding café) £30,446

Café (including salaries) £21,046

Building (Upkeep and Utilities) £13,229

Giving £3833

Administration £994

There is currently a deficit of £18,250

Overall cash assets: £15,143

Overall assets £857,557

The meeting was encouraged to consider increasing personal giving in order to reduce the deficit so that budget targets can be met.

Questions relating to the accounts:

A question was presented to Ewan prior to the meeting, asking what was meant by 'bad debt' on the accounts. It was explained that this was debt that was owed to the church but had not been paid (for example, unpaid invoices from room hirers, unpaid wedding fees) The finance committee are looking at how this can be prevented with a percentage of money being paid upfront.

season of their lives.

4. MINISTER'S UPDATE

Sabbatical

Danny has returned from his mini-Sabbatical and today is his first Sunday back. He gave a very brief initial resume of his time.

Firstly, Danny thanked the meeting for the gift of time to be able to take a mini-Sabbatical. He also thanked people who have taken on roles to ensure that the day-to-day running of the church went smoothly. In

particular, those who have preached, led worship, put the chairs out, responded to pastoral concerns, supported 'Rejoice 6pm' service and also the staff team.

The mini-Sabbatical was from 29/5-27/6, followed by 2 weeks of a family holiday (28/6-13/7).

Danny described feeling initially 'disconnected' and unsettled for the first few days whilst he was switching off. Danny spent a week shadowing in a large church in Whitstable. It is a church of about twice the size of Chester Road and is community engaged with a small number of successful projects running. He said that he was reminded that each church has its individual calling to serve the community that it is in and he came away feeling blessed by what Chester Road does and offers to the community. Danny then spent a few days with the Canterbury churches where he preached at Pride services in the city.

Danny then recorded an audio version of his book 'To inclusion and Beyond' before spending a few days with his Mum in London.

Danny attended and preached at the Fruitful Conference which some members of Chester Road also attended.

He finished his Sabbatical with a few days at Glasshampton Monastery. This is a Franciscan Monastery which is a silent order. Danny has spent retreat time here before.

Danny then went on a 2 week family holiday.

Danny shared themes that he felt God was saying to him through his Sabbatical. As a result the next 'blocks' of teaching will focus on enabling, releasing and mobilising the church into people's individual and collective ministries in all aspects of church life. Also considering, how do we turn 'adding' into 'multiplying'.

Danny again thanked and shared his appreciation to those who served over this period.

Next meeting: The date of the next meeting is **Sunday 21st September at 11:45am**, following the morning service.

5. **CLOSE** The meeting closed at 12:45pm by saying the Blessing.