

Minutes of CHURCH MEETING held on Sunday 23 November 2025

Present: The Minister, 19 members and 2 non-members

Apologies for absence: none were given

1. PASTORAL NEWS AND PRAYERS

Mark Robinson invited the meeting to send any pastoral news to him or Elders for the Prayer Fellowship and the Prayer Gathering.

2. MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH MEETING held on 12 October 2025

These had been circulated. The meeting had agreed in principle to amalgamate with Cheshunt Free Church, subject to the necessary approvals.

The minutes were **agreed**.

3. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION WITH CHESHUNT FREE CHURCH

The meeting considered a report from the joint meeting, held on 12 November, of Broxbourne and Cheshunt Elders with the Property Development Officer, Thames North Synod. They had explored together what amalgamation would mean in practice. Information included: properties and future use/status, finances and related commitments, church attendance and welcome arrangements. We shall continue to get advice from Synod.

Carol Foskett asked a question about item 12, Choices and Next Steps. It was difficult to make a decision about amalgamation before making a decision about the Cheshunt Church and manse buildings. We did not want to be left with letting and hiring of the buildings. The Minister explained that the consensus at the 12 November meeting was to recommend putting the buildings up for sale and to take the money. Gordon Kelso agreed: we in Broxbourne, although a larger congregation, are getting older and do not feel that we can take on any more responsibilities.

In answer to a question from David Davies, The Minister confirmed that the purpose of the joint Broxbourne/Cheshunt meeting on Sunday 30th November is to confirm that we wish to amalgamate and when.

David Davies proposed that we amalgamate with Cheshunt provided that the church and manse are sold. This was seconded by Carol Foskett.

Decision: the motion was carried with 17 votes in favour and one abstention.

4. CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER brief update

Rosemary Woodall reported that most of us had now met Maggie Stewart. Her DBS and references were being progressed and she had booked her intermediate safeguarding training. She would have a formal start date once these requirements had been completed. A mentor had been signed up. This was good news.

5. SAFEGUARDING .

Our Pastorate Administrator had prepared a new version of the Pastorate Safeguarding Policy, based on the URC's recommended template and circulated it for adoption by our church. A copy is on the church's noticeboard and on the pastorate website. Key information on how to report a safeguarding concern and who to contact is at the front of the document. Safeguarding posters are displayed. Dorothy Blatcher is the Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator and can be contacted in Stepanka

Moysey's absence. No safeguarding concerns were reported.

Decision: The Safeguarding Policy was adopted, with thanks to Stepanka.

6. BRIEF FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer reported that our COIF investment fund interest was going down by about £30 per month. The 'barometer' is the housekeeping account. Comparing income and outgoings, income was £7,000 less than the outgoings at the end of October. Scottish Power take the same amount each month and currently have £3,000 credit. That will be used up during the winter. We are around £4,000 down. Amanda is searching why this is. Everything is more expensive. Monthly payments to Ministry and Mission are still very high. Everything costs more. On the plus side, lettings income is going up. Mary Bite does a good job. The Christmas Market usually does well.

Action: The report was noted, with thanks to Amanda and also to Mary..

7. ELDERS' REPORT

a. Fire safety: The Fire Authority carried out an audit of our premises on 4 November. It is their opinion that some people are at risk in case of fire. We are required to complete the work outlined in the schedule as soon as possible, balancing the need for safety against the demands on our church. Our Lettings Secretary, Mary Bite, advised that we must have a fire risk assessment. A Fire Logbook should be provided and fire practices must be held. There is much to be done.

The Minister had looked at the possibility of an evac chair. He reported that we need more information from David Skipp and from the fire risk assessor. We may not need an evac chair as we have two fire refuge areas. Gordon pointed out that we might have to remove the cupboard in the refuge area at the top of the rear and possibly the coat rack at the top of the main stairs.

Agreed: That we employ a fire risk assessor and carry out the required work.

b. Fabric: Ian Woodall reported that the premises were 'ticking over quite nicely'. The outside notice boards had been refurbished, including LED lights which were cheaper to run. The sensor controls mean that the lights come on at dusk and go off at midnight. Thanks to Ian and Rosemary.

The lift now had additional LED lighting which would last for up to 3 hours if the lift was stuck. The phone to the lift is a BT line, linked with our WiFi. It runs on old copper lines and will need to go digital by December 2027. There is a problem with the line from the BT box to the lift. BT have visited and Stannah will try and get the phone working. The landline will be replaced with a mobile link box outside the lift and a 2 way inside the lift. Ian will get a quote from Stannah and a second quote. James Smith asked whether Ian had enquired about an adaptor. The answer was that BT could not provide it. The mobile phone will be connected to more than one network

c. 99 High Road update. The Minister had written to Adam Harvey at Rapleys and also to David Skipp, who had contacted the buyers for an update. It was noted that there was no news as yet.

d. Fellowship hot lunch 11 January after the service. Diane Price reported that Invitations will be sent out. Sign-up sheets for attending and for providing food will be available from 30th November. We are providing the main course and Hertford and Cheshunt the desserts.

8. WORSHIP TEAM REPORT (Details will be in the December Magazine)

a. New theme for 2026: 'Trust' had been agreed by joint elders. Once a month the Minister will talk about trust as the theme. He is hoping to write articles for the magazine with discussion points that explore biblical words and events where translation or context can mislead, guiding us toward a deeper trust in the word of God.

b. Carols by candlelight 14 December 6.30

c. Christingle service 21 December. Maggie Stewart and Rosemary Woodall will plan this service and involve the youngsters.

9. CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET Dorothy Blatcher advised that setting up is from 3.45 on Friday. Tables will be set up at 3.15. Help is needed with set down on Sunday. People were asked to promote this event through social networks. Priority parking will be given to our many guest stallholders. Members were asked to car share and park elsewhere where possible. (Parking at the White Bear pub to be confirmed)

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Marion Smith wishes to be a member of our church. The meeting was very happy to support her application.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Sunday 30th November with Cheshunt Free Church, following the joint service at Broxbourne. The Minister will be at Cheshunt Church until 10.00, when he will bring Cheshunt members and attendees to Broxbourne URC.

The Minister thanked all for attending. The meeting closed at 12.25 with thanks to God for blessing, grace and guidance.