

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
On Sunday 24th November 2024  
At 11.30am in the Church after the morning service.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val C read by Val G. Galatians 1:3-5. Glory at ground level.

Those present: 24. Apologies 5

Minutes Agreed and Signed

Matters Arising:

Safeguarding update from Mary:

- No Report this month.

Easter Services 2025:

- Maundy Thursday: we are invited to Sompting URC, therefore there will be no service at Goring.
- Good Friday will be hosted by Goring: Sompting and Emmanuel will be invited.
- Easter Sunday we will hold a service at Goring,
- Sompting and Emmanuel will celebrate in their own churches.

Durrington LEP Church:

- Wilfred reported that he had preached his last service at Durrington this morning as the church is closing after 40 years. Originally it was termed GURC's sister church and led by Rev Ron Christopher who was an assistant minister at Goring.
- The final service will celebrate the churches 40th anniversary and be led by the Minister of Bury Drive Methodist Church on 1st December, all are welcome to attend at 10.45 for the service which will include communion.

Church Family News:

- One of our members is home and with lots of help after his 7 weeks in hospital, good news to answered prayer.
- Another member has had a hip replacement and she is recovering well.
- One couple are now not able to come out so often, he is unable to lift his disabled wife anymore as he too has disabilities; he does have a buggy so he can go out and comes to church when he can.
- We have a gentleman who is waiting for a hip replacement, should be 7th December.
- Please remember these folk in your prayers, the Lord know who they are as he know us all.

Outreach Group:

- nothing new to report as there has been no meeting since the last church meeting.
- However, the man from Synod who deals with the financial grants came to look at the area for the kitchen, potentially to be built at the back of the church. He thinks it is a great idea and is happy to push through a grant. We wait to hear the outcome.
- The Sunday afternoon Carol service and tea is next week 1st December
- A joint meal for both ladies and gentlemen will be at 6.30 at the Toby (The George).
- There are Christmas service leaflets at the back of the church to delivered, please take them if you are able.

Property:

- No report

Finance and Hall Lettings:

Finance Group met on Friday 22 November.

**Manse Policy update** - Still under consideration.

**Manse Let** – I provided up dated I&E analyses to the group showing a net surplus of £485.68 from the first tenancy, and a net surplus to date of £10,642.74 for the second tenancy – total net surplus to date £10,642.74.

**Utilities** – Our new 1 year electricity contract with Smartest Energy commenced on 1 October, while our new 3 year gas contract with EOn commences on 27 November.

**Budget Update 2024** – In ball park terms I am currently projecting a £15K surplus for the year. This figure includes projected Manse Income of £17K (which may or may not prove to be appropriate!) offset by Exceptional Spends c £14K.

**Gift Day** – the “final” figure for Gift Day was £3,529 – that’s some £576 more than 2023, so Thank You

**Budget 2025** – The Group agreed the proposal circulated to the meeting. For the sake of clarity I have recorded Manse Income and Exceptional Spends “below the line” – there are considerable unknowns around these items at this time! However, the “basic” budget projects a surplus of £696 for the year. As a result there is no need to resort to a “balancing figure” entry. A balancing figure normally needs to be raised by a Gift Day appeal. That is not to say that we will not have a Gift Day in 2025 – we will almost certainly need one to help with the major projects currently facing us, viz The Sanctuary Windows, the Vestibule roof and Quinquennial Spending, plus the Sanctuary Kitchen. Once we have clarity on the costs involved and the outcome of an appropriate grants and loans applications, Finance Group will turn their minds to the Gift Day details.

**Approved**

**Independent Examiner** – Jenny Hoults has kindly agreed to act for us once again.

**Approved**

**DEC Appeal for the Middle East** – including Gaza and Lebanon – has been launched. It is our intention to have a collection toward the end of January – a notice will appear in Welcome shortly after the New Year.

### **Property**

1. Structural Survey – received yesterday (after the Finance Meeting). I will consider its contents and seek to progress to the next stage as soon as possible.
2. Redecoration of the Main Hall is now complete

### Any other Business:

- Val G and Val B visited one of our new prospective members and the CM was asked if they agreed that she should become a member. It was agreed.
- The second prospective member was also agreed by the CM with a show of hands despite her paperwork not quite finished.
- We have received a letter from our Interim Moderator which Val G has sent to Graham Redman for the Website.
- £95 has been raised for Tear Fund after a quiz last Saturday.

- Margaret G asked if there would be a Christmas card for all to sign to our church friends making a donation to a charity, this Christmas we are supporting Turning Tides - the local charity for the homeless.

Church Meeting: Sunday after the morning service

- If the church meeting agree the next meeting will be Sunday 26th January at 11.30. There ensued a lot of discussion, some felt that having a meeting directly after our Sunday service was not a good idea as we could not focus on the morning service. This was agreed by a number of members.
- It was said we can't mix spiritual with business, it was also stated that we always begin our Church Meetings with a short devotional and end with prayer.
- The question arose again as to why people don't attend the CM and Bett is going to take a survey and bring it to a later meeting.
- It was also suggested we make the CM a social event with perhaps tea and Cake.
- The discussion ended by Val G, Church Secretary saying that our next meeting would be on Saturday 25th January at 10.00.

The meeting ended at 12.30am approx. and Val G led us in prayer by the sharing of the Grace.

The next meeting is a 10.00 in the Church on 25th January 2025

Signed by .....Val Gill - 25th January 2025

Please note: that Caroline was unable to add the Latest Budget Proposal for 2025 to these minutes and a copy is available from Caroline, Val G, or Matthew.

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
On Saturday 26th October 2024  
At 10.00 am in the Church

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val G Hebrews 11:8 Allow God to Lead

Those present: 18. Apologies 9

Minutes Agreed and Signed

Matters Arising:

Safeguarding update from Mary:

- Table tennis has reopened, with Alan Westcott, Peggy Mott and Paul Long as leaders. All 3 have completed the Safer Recruitment process.
- The New Safeguarding Policy is up on the noticeboards in the Sanctuary, Main Hall and Cornwall Room and has been sent to Graham to put on the website. Please make sure you familiarize yourself with it.

Easter Services 2025:

- Caroline reported that a suggestion was offered that we join together with both Sompting and Emmanuel to celebrate Easter together as we are now a group.
- Much discussion took place as to how this idea would work, there would need to plenty of advertisements to prepare local people for the possible changes.
- The meeting voted and were in agreement that we go ahead with both the other churches to plan the services and who would host each of the 3 services - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Next Church Meeting:

- It was suggested that we trial having the church meetings on Sunday Mornings after the 10.30 service which would make it easier for folk who are not able to attend on Thursdays or Saturdays.
- It will be an hour from 11.30 - 12.30.
- Bett Sweirk asked if we could investigate why members do not attend church meetings by giving everyone a piece of paper to write why they don't attend. No-one need put their name to it. Val G asked Bett to take on this task, she agreed.
- All are welcome to church meetings, members or not. However only members are able to vote.
- Matthew said perhaps folk need to be reminded that being a member means that a they attend the church meeting as part of their membership.
- Hilary raised the question, asking whether new members actually do get told about the church meeting .... this will be addressed.
- Graham reminded the meeting that there is a handout with information about being a member.
- The meeting agreed to the trial meeting on a Sunday morning after the service.

New members:

- Two people are wanting to become members of the church - Jill Colbourn and Shaune King therefore the meeting was asked with a show of hands if they agree to this going ahead.
- The meeting agreed.

Church Family News:

- Hilary reported that one member is still in hospital and is soon to come home with a care package. There is some coughs and colds around and one church person is about to have a hip replaced.
- Hilary asked for prayers for these folk and asked everyone to let her know if anyone needs prayer.
- She ended her report with prayer.

## Outreach - Report from Val C:

- We met on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We reviewed the Barn Dance held the previous Saturday. This was a great success, all really enjoyed it so we look forward next year. We wait confirmation of dates from Sean, the band leader.
- Christmas arrangements: Mary has found a Bible Study book for Advent called The Radiant Dawn, there is a list at the back of the church if you would like a copy, the price is yet to be determined, the more people request a book the cheaper they will be, however this is only if you are able to pay, there will be no charge as before. Bible study groups on the book will not be run during Advent as we all have enough to do during that time, but there will be conversation cards on the tables to be used during coffee time.
- Leaflets will soon be printed for Christmas to be distributed around local streets, including the occupied houses on the new estate, Elizabeth Square.
- The leaflet will include the dates of our Christmas services, Afternoon Carols on the 1<sup>st</sup> December followed by mince pies, the evening Thursday 19th December, Carols by Candlelight, followed by mince pies
- Family Nativity service on Christmas Eve at 5pm, with child friendly refreshments after. Each Family attending will be given a book which relates to the story that the puppets will be performing.
- Mary is in contact with Safe in Sussex about gifts for the people sheltering with them, as well as selection boxes, which will also be given to the Little Fishes Children. We are requesting that the offerings given at the extra services be given to Turning Tides, previously known as Worthing Churches Homeless project.
- The Outreach Team are looking for permission from Church Meeting to apply for a grant from the Strategic Mission Fund to help pay towards kitchenette that we have spoken about previously. The application needs to be very soon. The cost should come around £5-7,000. After some discussion the meeting was asked to approve this in principle on the fact finding basis and the meeting agreed to applying for the grant.
- It was stated that there is some money in the outreach fund to go towards the works.

## Property, Finance and Hall Lettings:

Matthew Smith Report for Finance Group who are not due to meet again until November.

### **MoM 2025**

I have now received Synod s computation for 2025 which shows GURC s scoping at .34 (down from .7 prior to Andrew s retirement). Application of the 1% decrease principle reduces our contribution by £363 to £35,901 (from £36,264 in 2024) – as previously reported. Synod are not prepared to stray from the principle. However, if I read the computation correctly, next year is likely to be our last reduction. I therefore propose to accept the requested contribution of £35,601 for 2025.

### **Approved**

#### **Synod Cash Plus Account**

I propose to transfer a further £10K to the Synod Cash Plus account taking our total deposits to some £51.2K plus accrued interest for 2025. This should leave approx. £19.4K in our CAF Gold

### **Approved**

**Manse Policy update** Still under consideration

#### **Property**

1. Structural Survey – still awaiting report.
2. Roofs – works now complete.
3. Redecoration of the Main Hall will take place during half term week commencing 28 October. Unfortunately, materials have rocketed since the quote last November – so we can expect a slightly increased bill.

4. We need to revisit our Quinquennial Survey Plan, especially Pointing issues and will report further in due course

**CAF Bank Mandate** It was agreed that Ryan Thomas would continue as an account signatory.

**Hall Letting** Nothing to report.

Notices and Correspondence:

- We have received an, to Caroline, from Wendy Piccinini inviting us to the annual carol service at St Giles in the field church in London on 6th December at 12.50. In aid of the Leprosy Mission. Booking is needed by 29th November.
- A newly updated Membership handbook has been produce by Graham Redman ..... thank you Graham.
- Last Fridays De-fib class was well accepted and was very good, therefore there will be another one sometime soon and Val G has put a list at the back of the church for anyone to sign up if they would like to go.

A.O.B.:

- Bett announced that she is going to do a refresher on Health and Safety for the Stewards/Welcomers with regard to fire drills. She intends to have a Fire alarm test sometime soon. They will be taken round the buildings so they are all aware of where the Extinguishers are and the emergency exits, including Little Fishes as it is so important to get children out. Everyone must know what to do in event of fire
- Wilfred announced that the Durrington LEP church will be closing at the end of the service there on the 1st December after 40 years. The church began as a sister church to Goring URC and is now part of Bury Drive Methodist Church. We are all invited to the service.

The meeting ended at 11.00am approx and Val G led us by the sharing of the Grace.

The next meeting is after the service at 11.30 on Sunday 24th November 2024

Signed by .....Val Gill 24th December 2024

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
On Thursday 26th July 2024  
At 7.30pm in the Church

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Caroline - Friendship

Those present: 20. Apologies 13

Minutes Agreed and Signed

Matters Arising:

Safeguarding update:

No Report.

August Bible Study:

- Mary reported that 25 people had signed up to the Bible Study including one person who was part of our fellowship and wants to join in the Study. If anyone else still hasn't joined they are to see Mary or an Elder and there are still people Mary has to invite to join in.

Elders Election:

- Voting slips were handed out to the meeting, Val G confirmed that both nominees on the voting slip can be voted for. Barbara Hillman and Mary Redman gathered the slips and counted them. A 75% vote is needed for the nominees to become members, the vote was over 75% therefore both Nominees will take their place as Elders for another 3 years. The slips will be shredded.

Church Family News:

- Hilary gave her report and 2 people who have been in hospital one is better and one has made progress.
- One of our older members is a little confused but really enjoys visits from church members.
- Love and prayers were sent from us all to Val G's husband who is recovering well from a serious cycling accident, hit by a car.
- Hilary concluded her report with the words 'Praise the Lord that he knows us all so well and is very good'.

Outreach:

- Good news: the Elizabeth Square development has people moving in from this week and the Lisa in the sales office has agreed to put the leaflet which has been prepared by the Outreach group and the Elders about our church ('The Church on the Corner') in the welcome pack given to all the new occupants.
- We called it 'The Church on the Corner' because that's what we are and the people living there will see us whenever they go out and come into the estate.
- The leaflet contains our Mission Statement, when we meet for worship, that the services are online, our website and what goes on each week reaffirming that we are part of the local community.
- Mind Coffee Morning: raised £93.24
- Next Coffee Morning: Friday 13th September in aid of 'Love Keira', a childhood brain tumour charity that Mary is involved with.
- The Barn Dance: Saturday 19th October - tickets available in September and we are hoping to offer cashless payments for those who want it.
- Holiday at Home: Last month I mentioned this will happen in April and more information will come at the January Church Meeting.
- Prayer Board: Some people from the Monday afternoon Coffee and Cake group have asked for this. We know we have a prayer book and the availability of prayers online but feel this will be more personal and will stand out in the coffee corner. Therefore we ask the meeting if a board could be made to put on the notice boards by the coffee trolley. This is a social area where we join together for Coffee, Bible Study, the Praise Evening and is easily accessible. Can I ask the meeting for permission to do this? **Agreed by the meeting.**



### Property:

- Bett reported a leak in the toilets of the Main Hall therefore out of use signs have been put up, all doors are marked and closed while we await the plumber.

### Finance and Hall Lettings:

- Finance Group met on 16 July.
- At the meeting I apologised to Wilf for an inaccurate response to his MoM question at the June CM. I had overlooked the need to scrutinise the 2025 allocation, particularly Goring's scoping factor. Rest assured I will be carrying out the necessary scrutiny when I receive the new allocation – probably next month. At this point I have no knowledge as to whether scoping has been determined since Andrew's retirement for either the immediate short term or indeed for the future.

### **Manse Policy update:**

- Still no response to my email to the moderator.
- We need to consider the possibility that our Manse Income may need to be ring fenced against Manse improvement costs when a new Minister is called.
- This means, in effect, potentially removing this income source from our mainstream Income and Expenditure/Budget.

### **Property:**

- Work on prioritising/costing the **Quinquennial Survey** recommendations is and will be ongoing – especially requiring revision once the **Sanctuary Windows**, issue clarifies. I am presently awaiting the structural survey report to enable us to proceed to gathering quotations.
  - Having put some "scores on the doors" it looks like the Quinquennial Survey costs may total some £35K+ over the next 5 years - excluding Sanctuary Window replacement.
  - Having agreed broad prioritisation criteria with Property Group our initial priorities for 24/25 amount to an estimated £8K+ broken down as follows:
    1. Structural Survey £1.5K - report awaited
    2. Gutter Clearance £250
    3. Pointing £2K - quotation to be sought by Property
    4. Roofs - previous quote £1,340 brought to CM needs to be revisited (estimate an extra £350?) – may I have CM approval to exercise my discretion in this matter?

Protecting the fabric of the buildings is the primary concern, although roofing recommendations regarding the transepts require more consideration with resolution requiring extra spends either this year or next – our Insurers are showing an unwarranted interest in the results of the Survey and our action plan response – this may force the issue as to how we proceed but I would prefer to take an objective rather than a subjective approach.
    5. H&S £500
    6. Decorating the Main Hall £2,170 – we have previously discussed this quote, aiming to have the work done during the summer holidays. Slippage due to the Quinquennial Survey and analysis thereof means we have missed this opportunity but the painter is able to do the work during the next half term.
      - The Quinquennial Survey makes various decorating recommendations and I have asked Property to work up a decorating plan. High on the list will be
        - external decorating issues
        - kitchen and Cornwall Room disabled toilet
- However, we are proposing to put the Main Hall at the top of the list because of its importance to our Rental Income revenue stream. I assume this meets with the meeting's approval.

Agreed by the meeting



### **Budget Update:**

- The main topic for our Finance meeting was the Budget update to end June. I do not intend to give you a blow-by-blow account. Instead, I will highlight the two major factors which impacted our deliberations:
  - the need to exclude Manse Income as mentioned earlier – projected £17K
  - the scale of exceptional spends – projected to exceed £13K (£8K arising from the Quinquennial Survey and £5K already spent on the repairs to the Hall ceiling above the stage and extension of the Hall heating to the stage area).
- These factors contribute to a forecast shortfall of £10K, which position would be much worse but for the level of our Hall Letting income for which we owe a big thank you to Wilma for all her diligent work on our behalf – I should have mentioned this when presenting the accounts last month. We should also record our thanks to Paul for all he does in his cleaning role, which saves a lot of money.
- Given the scale of the challenges facing us over the next few years (Quinquennial Survey and Sanctuary Windows) Finance Group consider it prudent to hold a Gift Day at Harvest and we are suggesting a Gift Day target of £5K to offset the forecast shortfall. The last gift day realised just under £3K but we trust in the Lord and will work with what He provides.
- We also noted the continued decline in member s giving and I intend writing to everyone encouraging that we all review our giving in prayer – I have noted that a number of members have already increased their giving for which many thanks
- **Approval of Gift Day proposal** for the Gift Aid at Harvest. **Agreed by the meeting**

### **Hall Lettings:**

- Nothing new to report on Hall Hires per se. However, Wilma has written to all external groups advising them of the need to produce their own Safeguarding policies in future (in accordance with the new guidance mentioned in our recent safeguarding training. In addition, Wilma has requested updated details of all keyholders as part of her key audit (for insurance purposes). Also Wilma plans to issue new Licenses to Occupy to each group during August in time for the new Letting year.

### Notices and Correspondence:

Email received from John Bunker with regard to the new future of our churches.

John Bunker, Convenor of Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committee.

The details to pass on to your Elders and Church Meetings:

- I am pleased to report that we will be combining Goring with Emmanuel URC, Worthing and Sompting URC, in a new 3-church pastorate.
- Separate arrangements are being made for Rustington and Littlehampton.
- We are now seeking an Interim Moderator, to work with the 3 churches, whom we hope may be in place by Sept. We hope the 3 churches can work on the combined pastorate profile, building on the work each church has done with their Visionary companions (VCs), during the Autumn and then be able to get this pastorate to the Moderator's meeting early in 2025.
- You have completed your own Pastorate Profile, which includes the Vision and Mission Statements and priorities for a new minister, as have Emmanuel and Sompting. You will then need to appoint say 2 Elders who might join a combined vacancy committee, to prepare the documents and coordinate the process with the Interim Moderator in due course. No hurry, as the IM is not in place yet, and there is another pastorate, which has two churches which have been without a minister for more than 3 ½ years, who will be considered before us.
- It is a very difficult overall picture, as the Pastoral Committee (P/C) only had a potential 3 further ministers for 13 churches, to make a total of 7 ministers for 29 churches in Surrey and Sussex Synod Area (SSSA). It is now just 1 year, 8 months, since I took over as the convenor of the SSSA P/C and we have had to find & train VCs to work with 16 churches in vacancy, to review their life and mission, within the new Synod Deployment Policy. Four of

those churches have a new minister starting in September. Another new minister started last November. We have in the last week had the last of the reports back, for a meeting on Thursday, so we have had a huge amount to do in that time. But we are getting there, having made real progress!

Questions:

- Matthew Smith asked if Synod Pastoral committee have worked out scoping or examining the 3 Churches. **TBA**
- Wilfred Rhodes asked if the Interim Moderator will come to church meetings, the answer is we have to wait and see.
- There will be joint elders for all three churches which will be dealt with in time.
- Will the Visionary companion to meetings etc. Val G said he has done his job and we have made a good relationship with him and he will be coming to preach again later in the year.

Wilf asked Val G to send 2 questions to JB about the scoping and moderator.

A.O.B.:

Members Handbook:

- This is for information .... It kept in the top drawer of the desk in the print room. Please do not leave it out if its used. This is a part of the Data Protection Laws. THEREFORE IT MUST BE PUT AWAY AND NOT LEFT LYING AROUND. Thank you.
- Wilfred Rhodes reported that he had been to Durrington Community Church (formally LEP) who are no longer part of GURC. We had not been made aware of this fact having had no notification from them, so this means we no longer have any connection to to the Durrington Community Church. They have joined with Bury Drive Methodist Church.
- As there will only be 3 Elders from September **Val G** if we could ask Non-Serving Elders to lead devotions as Church meetings and other jobs that may be needed. **The meeting Agreed**

The meeting ended at 8.30 approx. by the sharing of the Grace.  
The next meeting is Thursday 26th September at 7:30pm

Signed by .....Val Gill 26th September 2024

# Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC

Thursday 27th June 2024 7.30pm in the Church

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Mary: Read from our August Study book following 'James' ending in prayer.

Those present: 19 members: apologies 5

Minutes Agreed and Signed for May.

## Matters Arising:

### Safeguarding update:

Mary Announced an update for Coffee and Cake that there will always be 2 leaders present in case of any issues that may arise. Medical forms will also be available for people to fill in which will be kept in a sealed envelope and handed to a paramedic if needed. This is the first church group to have set up this safeguarding rule and it will also be done for other groups.

Church Family News: In Hilary's report she repeated that Joan Finlay had died and her memorial had take place on 21st June.

2 other members have issues one had a foot operation and the second has issues with his hand and is under the doctor we were asked to pray for both people and their families.

## Group Reports:

- Outreach: Val C reminded everyone about:
- the Bring and Share lunch on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>
- the next coffee morning on 12<sup>th</sup> July is for MIND.
- Barn Dance in 19th October Advanced Booking £10 and later booking slightly more expensive and no refunds
- Next year the Outreach group are planning a 'Holiday at Home' during the Easter holidays and more details will be released in January.
- She thanked the meeting for the support.

## Property, Finance and Hall Lettings:

Matthew Smith Treasurer's report

Manse Policy update

Still no response to my email to the moderator.

## Property

Work on prioritising/costing the Quinquennial Survey recommendations is ongoing – I hope to present an initial plan at July CM but this will need revision once the Sanctuary Windows, issue clarifies.

The structural surveyor/architect no longer deals with “commercial” properties. I have therefore arranged a structural survey by Philip Goacher Associates on Tuesday at 10.00. Cost approx. £950 + VAT. Unfortunately, he requires scaffolding above the vestibule and exposure of the existing lintel – erection on Monday and removal in the Tuesday p.m./ Wednesday? – not costed at present.

We will need to consider the architect question separately.

Questions?

## Accounts 2023

There were a lot of changes to factor into the accounts in 2023, notably

- Manse Letting
- Investment Strategy changes
- The consequences of Andrew’s retirement
- The movement of LF income from a “donations” basis to LtO basis

The accounts show a deficit of £3.7K.

Overall receipts were up by almost £2K but the key changes were:

Increases

Manse Income + £5.1K

Investment Income +£1.6K (Cash Plus Interest +£1.2K, CAF Interest+£0.5K)

Grants +£4.4K

Decreases

Reduced giving/Gift Aid - £3.4K

LF “hall rents” – £1.4K (net)

“Hall lets” - £0.7K

Joint Pastorate - £1K

The increase in receipts was eclipsed by an overall increase in payments of £8.1K with key changes as follows.

Increases

Manse expenditure +£8.2K (exceeds income figure!)

Church exceptional spends +9.6K

Security Lighting £.9K

Emergency Lighting £1.4K

Vestibule Windows £1.6K

Pointing £.9K

Roof Repairs £3.5K

Sanctuary Windows (temp repairs) £1.4K

Printing +£1.1K

Decreases

Cleaning -£4.6K

Turning to the Summary of Funds page an increase in the value of our investments of £1.4K has resulted in a net reduction of £2.3K in the overall value of our Net Assets.

Questions?

If we no longer have a Minister why is the M.O.M. still paid?

Answer - Ask Matthew

Do we still support Ruth Raharimantsoa from the Mission Fund?

Answer - YES.

Why has the investment gone down from £50K to £16K?

Answer - because we have taken funds to invest elsewhere for a better return, which Matthew reported when it was done last year.

Is it right we have a different Auditor and have to pay her?

Answer - Yes and she only charges us £50.00

Is Bobby Hitchen still running the Mission Fund?

Answer - Yes with Bett Sweirk and we put the minimum amount to each organisation as agreed by the meeting.

Hall Lettings

Nothing new to report, apart from a reminder that the Sanctuary will be used as a Polling Station for the General Election on Thursday 4 July.

Thanks to Matthew for his hard work for us all.

#### Surrey and Sussex Synod area (SASSA) meeting at Crawley URC attended by Val Cooper:

- Rev Helen Higgin-Botham opened the meeting, Rev Martin Hayward sent apologies
- Finance: Brian Manners Said the committee will meet in August to discuss the final annual amount churches have to pay. Also asked that treasurers need to send Annual accounts as soon as possible.
- Pastoral: John Bunker said the committee have made good progress in the last few months.
- The meeting agreed to the calling of a Minister to the North Downs Group. The lady called will be inducted on 7th September.
- Martin Knight was introduced to the meeting as Pioneer Minister at Brighthelmstone URC his role is
- Chaplain and to look after 3 other Churches in Brighton which are all inclusive churches. He will be available as a visiting preacher and his contact details will come out in the meetings minutes. The second part of his role is ministering to the LGBTQIA community, this a new role created by SYNOD is a 'Fresh Expression of Church' which will take most of his time.
- The meeting was introduced to the new Area Administrator Denise Woodhatch who will be based in  
Horsham and will be able to answer Church and secretarial questions.
- Synod are now looking for a new Training and Development Officer as Rev Andy Twilley has returned to the Baptist Church also needed is someone to replace Martin Hayward as he takes on the role of Synod Clerk.
- Rev Roger Wood is now our (GURC) link to the Pastorate Committee.
- Development Update: in February 16 churches were in vacancy now there are 12. When Helen H-B retires from Pagham there will be 13. More information will come out in September and John thanked all involved this process as some didn't begin the process till later. (Ie: Us). We waited 11½ months to find a Visionary companion.

- There will hopefully be 3 ministers for the 13 churches.
- A representative on the Property Committee is urgently required, Any takers?
- Ellie Bunker was Introduced as the new Lay Preacher Co-ordinator.
- We heard some good new stories from other churches one being 'Pym's and Hymns' from Chichester and Pagham, Apparently the singing was better after Pym's and a Strawberry tea!
- Littlehampton unanimously voted to DELEP as the United Area has broken down and it will formally take place later in the year.
- Next meeting 21st September when 2025 meeting dates will be announced.
- The meeting closed at 11,20 with prayer and sharing the Grace.
- Thanks go to Val for representing GURC at the meeting and her report.

#### August Devotional:

- Mary reported on the training that the Elders have been engaged in with Rev Andy Twilley, it was to draw members together in a spiritual way.
- So in August we encourage the fellowship to take part in a 30 day devotion. There will be books for everyone focussing on the book of James.
- There will be other ways to join together in different ways to discuss what we have read. The Sunday Services will be part of this and other groups meeting for discussion in the week, Jonathan has opened his Bible study on Wednesday evenings and Hilary has offered her house as a daytime meeting. Also a Monday morning in the church or set up WhatsApp groups of perhaps 6 people.
- Copies of the book will be available and donations towards the cost will be much appreciated only if you are able to.
- More information will be shared about the various groups during July.
- This information will be in Welcome throughout July and some forms to fill in as to how you would like to take part. Everyone can take part whether on line or in person with others.
- Matthew Smith said he hopes this spiritual exercise will be good for our church.
- Mary also said we will repeat this sort of devotional fellowship at other times for example: Advent,
- Thanks to Mary for organising this Church Devotional.

The meeting ended at 8.20 by the sharing of the Grace.

The next meeting is Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7:30pm

Signed by .....Val Gill 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
At 7.30pm in the Church

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val B: Prayer, "My unfailing Friend"

Those present: 20 members: apologies 7

Val G welcomed the Rev. Roger Wood, our Visionary Companion (VC), to the meeting, inviting him to explain the process we are going through since Rev Andrew Sellwood retired last year.

Roger explained that he was appointed to be our VC by the Synod Pastoral Committee and the Moderator of Sothorn Synod, to help us to establish the vision and mission for our church. A lot of ministers are now retiring especially in Surrey and Sussex Synod Area (SASSA) and there are not enough trainees to replace them, therefore we will probably have to share a minister with 2 or 3 other churches. This will put more emphasis on Elders and members.

- 1) Elders: Elders are called as part of the leadership with a minister, however in vacancy the roll of the Elders becomes more important, especially important in spiritual leadership, more so than the administrative duties. This comes from the Biblical background of Pentecost when elders were appointed to oversee the church, of course there were no ministers then.
- 2) Church Members: Members all have a part to play, referring to 1 Corinthians 12, the body of Christ—we all have a role to play with the gifts, talents, and personalities, God made us to be. He also mentioned the other gifts of the Spirit listed in Romans.  
Roger talked about "Every member ministry", during the Reformation Luther, Calvin and others claimed that we are all priests in Christ, we all have a ministry and part of that is to support the Elders and minister when there is one.  
We are in a new situation and we need to go back to core of Christianity—what is the church---the Body of Christ.

The Elders are working on the Pastorate Profile of GURC, which will be passed to the Moderator and to the Pastoral Committee together with the profiles of two other URCs. Although not set in stone these are likely to be Sompting and Emmanuel.

In the north of our Synod four churches, Reigate Park, Redhill, Dorking and Banstead have put a joint profile together for one minister to be part of a team. The team will be made up of one minister, two retired ministers in the group, and a trainee non-stipendiary minister along with an elder from each of the churches and an administrator. It was mentioned that ministers are now being trained to work with multiple churches rather than a single church as in the past.

Roger emphasised that prayer is a very important part of this process.

Several comments and questions were made from the floor: 1) Having had experience of previous team ministries, it would be good to have more help and input from Synod as no one size fits all. It was felt that a business-like approach should be made and kept under constant review.

Roger: Requirement between the churches will be different, with different theological background, the minister will need to be adaptable.

2) Does a team ministry mean that churches have to work together or is it just the ministers?

Roger: three separate churches; the team lead will be the minister with an Elder from each church with a secretary/administrator and possibly including lay preachers from each of the churches.

There will be occasions when the churches meet to worship or socialise together.

As the minister will probably only take a service in each church once a month this will not change the need to find other preachers.



This is still an experiment, the North Downs Group will be watched very carefully.

What happens next? The Pastorate Profile needs to be completed, as does Somptings, Emmanuel's is nearly complete, it is hoped to claim a vacancy by summer. This is a good location, close to the sea and Downs, our church has good facilities including plenty of parking.

Val G thanked Roger for explanation of the process and the possibilities that the future holds.

The meeting continued:

The minutes of the previous meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were agreed and signed by Val G.

#### Matters Arising:

Safeguarding update: nothing to report.

#### Agenda Items:

Church Family News: Hilary reported Joan Finlay died on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (103 years of age). The arrangements for a service of thanksgiving and a celebration of her life and witness will be held here, GURC, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 2.30pm. The meeting stood in remembrance of Joan.

A number members and friends are in need of prayer at this time, and we are asked to pray for them.

It is noted that Rosemary Terry has resigned her membership and is happily worshipping closer to home.

#### Group Reports:

- Outreach: Val C reminded everyone about the Bring and Share lunch on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> and the next coffee morning on 12<sup>th</sup> July is for MIND.
- Property: Included under Finance.
- Finance and Hall Lettings: Matthew reports as follows

**Manse update:** New Tenants have been found at the asking rent of £2.3K pm and have taken occupancy today.

#### **Questions:?**

**Manse Policy update:** No response to my email to the moderator so far – other than to say she has passed it to Colin McCracken to look into.

#### **Questions?**

**Property:** I have discussed the Quinquennial Survey Report with Property Group and we are in the process of establishing priorities for the year ahead – this will involve making broad brush estimates of costs so we can determine what is affordable.

Much of our planning will depend on determining the way forward on the Sanctuary Windows, which is a key priority – as is resolution of various roofing issues.

As a first step we are seeking to obtain a structural surveyor report to advise on the “method of fixing and also wind loadings, due to the overall size of the opening”. The name we have is also an architect and we need architect services in respect of a roofing issue in the areas of the 2 transepts. Unfortunately, he has been on holiday for over 2 weeks, although he is due back today! I will seek to set up an early appointment and hope we can move on quickly to the next steps for both the windows and the roofing issues.

#### **Questions?**

### **Accounts 2023**

The accounts have now been examined by Jenny Houlton of Evans Weir from Chichester. Copies of the accounts will be available in the vestibule and will be formally presented at the June Church Meeting.

### **Questions?**

### **Hall Lettings**

Nothing new to report, apart from 2 notices. Joan Finlay's memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Friday 21 June at 2.30pm. On 4 July the Sanctuary will be used as a Polling Station for the General Election.

Notices and Correspondence: A big thankyou to those who cleared the hedge cuttings.

### **AOB:**

Christian Aid: Bett reported that from the quiz and coffee morning £258 came in and together with the envelopes and with the sale of her homemade marmalade we should be able to send around £300.

There has been a request for a Baptism certificate, which is in hand.

The meeting ended at 8.15 with the sharing of the Grace.  
The next meeting is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:30pm

Signed by .....Val Gill 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
on Saturday 24th February 2024  
at 10.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Ryan Thomas read prayers written by Eddie Askew.

Those present: 18 Apologies 7

Minutes of meeting agreed and signed by Val G

Matters arising:

Safeguarding Training Update:

- No Full Report. Note: There are still people who have not signed up for the Intermediate Safeguarding training.

Val G welcomed Lesley Wake Manager of Little Fishes (LF):

Lesley introduced herself to the meeting and spoke about Mini Fishes (MF) on Monday mornings. She said that after the Ark closed it was felt that there was a need for a baby/children's group was needed in this area.

She reported that between 23 and 47 families attend weekly confirming there is a real need for such a support group for both children and their parents and carers. She made it clear that she would not be able to work in MF every week due to being committed to LF as manager, particularly with the retirement of Val G from MF.

Lesley went on to ask for volunteers who would be willing to give some time to the group, not necessarily every week or even all the morning, perhaps just an hour or two, it can be on a rota basis or on a Bank Staff type list of folk to call on. This is a very important outreach and the numbers arriving each week make it worthwhile. She explained the jobs are not arduous but very much appreciated.

If no help is forthcoming the group will have to close, which would be a great loss. Anyone applying will have to be DBS checked and have the necessary Safeguarding training which Mary will arrange.

See Bett Sweirk for information.

Inclusivity:

- Jonathan Cooper gave a talk about Inclusivity Asking how you become inclusive and do you find it easy? What if people don't find it easy and how should we react; particularly if the person has a disability that is invisible.
- It is important that we are aware of this, the meeting was shown a short film as though we were looking through the eyes of a child with Autism in very noisy and busy environments.
- After the film he went on to say that people on the Autism Spectrum have trouble processing what is coming in and just shut down, Jonathan bravely spoke of his own battle with Autism. If you see someone in need like this treat them gently and kindly like Jesus would have done. Do we stare or go away without helping. Some folk will wear headphones to cut out the noise around them.
- At this point we watched the film again with a different informed view. Then Jonathan ended with the words of the hymn 'Let us build a house'. Val G thanked Jonathan for his part in this talk.
- Wilfred Rhodes thought we should be reminded of caring for the people we meet and maybe the film should be shown on a Sunday morning. We like to think we are open and friendly but must be more careful the way we speak to people being more gentle.

Church Family News:

- Hilary reported that our member who had been in hospital is now very relieved to be home who thanked everyone for their prayers.
- A former loyal member of this church has passed away and our prayers are needed for his family, the announcement will be in Welcome.

- Hilary also said everyone is always in need of prayer.

#### Elders Time:

- We have got a name of the Visionary Companion who is to be the retired Rev Roger Wood from Hove. He also serves other churches including Emmanuel.
- The Elders will be meeting him and hopefully before July.
- The Elders have begun working on the things that have been laid down by John Bunker from the Synod Pastoral committee and are also to attend a training session on 'Time of change for Elders' led by Rev Andy Twilley.

#### Outreach report:

- Mini Fishes: Monday mornings, this group is well attended with up to 30 families attending on any one week, with new ones coming each week as well as the regular attendees. This shows the great need there is for this community outreach, and we are always in need of more regular help, we have tried various colleges, but Monday mornings are not the best times for releasing students for experience. If you feel you are able to help in any way, please speak to me, Bett, Val G or Mary.
- Coffee and cake: Monday afternoons continues to be well attended, with upwards of 20 people coming each week for company, tea, coffee and good cake. There is a small group who play a fun game of scrabble!
- Charity coffee mornings on the second Friday of alternate months; these are raising good amounts of money thanks to the generosity of those who come. The next one is on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, for The Anthony Nolan Trust, May is for Christian Aid and in July we are considering an animal charity. If there is a charity that you feel needs more support, let us know and we will put it forward for the next half of this year.
- The afternoon carol service and tea were well attended and enjoyed. We propose to hold another one this December, date to be confirmed. We are having an afternoon Communion service and tea on Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please bring along anyone you know who would benefit from coming, details and invitations coming nearer the time.
- The Outreach Group thought it was time to have another bring and share lunch and this will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, halfway through the year. Details will appear in Welcome nearer the time.
- Our annual Barn Dance has been booked for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Ticket prices remain at £10 for early booking, but later bookings will be a bit more expensive and there will not be any refunds if people don't attend once they have booked.
- The housing estate, Elizabeth Square, next door, "launches" today, with the opening of the show houses, not that any others have been completed yet. We will be in the office on Monday afternoons offering cake to the sales reps, making GURC known.
- The Outreach Group and various others have been discussing the possibility of enlarging the coffee area for some time to make it more self-sufficient when there is no access to the kitchen. It will include a hot water dispenser, small sink, small under the counter dishwasher and fridge, with counter tops and cupboards underneath. The coffee trolley will then be used as a mobile counter on occasions. We are looking into the costs to see the viability of this.

#### Property:

- The replacement windows are still on the list and will be done in due course.
- Decorating the Hall and Cornwall Room is still waiting for the Quinquennial Survey which hopefully will be with us by the end of March. Possible decorating in the summer.
- Anything that you spot that needs doing please report it to Paul Redman or Bett Swierk.

#### Finance and Admin Report:

The following was read by Wilfred Rhodes who stood in for Matthew who is not well.

The next Finance Meeting is scheduled for 19 March so apologies to the group for not running things through them first.

- Accounts, Flower Fund: you will recall the flower fund was moved into the General Church account at the end of 2022. In pulling together the 2023 accounts I realised we need to deal with

an accounting technicality ahead of their presentation once finalised. The Flower Fund was previously reflected as a “Designated Fund” which status I propose to remove but require Church Meeting approval to do so.

- Including money transferred from the Flower Fund, income totalled £54.56 and payments £63.55 leaving an end year deficit of £8.99. In practice members buy and large donate flowers, meaning cash donations and expenditure are small. I would prefer to record both as Sundry items from a practical accounting point of view – the Church can certainly afford to subsidise the flower ministry from our reserves.
- I consider it impractical to maintain a Designated Fund with a negative funding profile (actual and prospective). However, I can provide a yearly analysis if and when required – I always analyse Sundry income and expenditure as part of my end year process so that I am prepared to respond to any questions which may arise. Therefore, now that it stands alone and no-one to do the job it comes into the accounts and the main account.
- Manse update: I have to report that things have not worked out with our tenants at the Manse. Things are on track for them to vacate in early March. So, we will need to start again. The Elders were fully informed of the situation and agreed that the circumstances would be treated as confidential. If there are any questions which do not require breach of confidence I will deal with these at the next meeting, when I will hopefully be able to report on progress toward reletting.
- Sanctuary Windows: Synod have at last appointed **two** surveyors. I have stressed our urgent need for a quinquennial survey visit and pressed for a date in March – as early as possible. We may be able to make a claim from Synod.

#### Letting Report:

- We have a new let on Wednesdays in the Main Hall between 11.30 and 13.30 Weekly, term time. It is for a charity by the name of SENSE – They have almost 70 years of experience in providing personalised support for people of all ages – from early life to adulthood. They provide opportunities for disabled people to be creative and active through holidays, arts, sports and wellbeing programmes.
- So, the group who are hiring our hall are a woodworking class and the class is run by a gentleman named Rob Anthony. They met for the first-time last Wednesday. In this group there are two teenage boys with learning difficulties along with their Carers. The numbers can go up to five teenagers with Carers but no more. Rob has booked for this half term through to Easter and this is being run on a trial period to ensure it works out for everyone concerned.

#### A.O.B:

- The Elders were asked if they could write to Carol Webber who is current Flower Secretary asking if she wants to stand down from the job. Val G will email her this week.
- Bett Swierk asked if folk don't want to stay in a job they must say so.
- Geoffrey Redman said in response to the Manse letting that perhaps the Ukraine scheme for housing could be considered as we have the house. He said the church would receive £350.00 per month and Val G said she would speak to Matthew.
- Notices and Correspondence:
- A notice from St Mary's Broadwater, We are invited to join an Evening of music with an extended time of worship. More information will be available.
- Books Alive: An independent Christian Book Shop in Brighton are asking people to check out their website to see what they do. [www.booksalive.co.uk](http://www.booksalive.co.uk)
- St Mary's Broadwater invite you on 9th March to a music and teams informal evening. Sign up through church suite or turn up on the night with instruments and voices.

- Susie Thomas reminded that the annual World Day of Prayer is at Ferring Baptist Church at 10.30 Friday 1st March, Everybody Welcome. Refreshments served. 700 bus. A second service at 2.30 at All Saints, Findon Valley.

The Meeting ended at 11.35 with some words read by Val G from the prayer by Eddie Askew in the opening Devotions.  
The next meeting is Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 10.30.

Signed by .....Val Gill on 23rd March 2024

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
for October 2023 meeting held on Saturday 4th November 2023  
at 10.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Caroline: what does the bible say about a New Era for our Church.

Those present: 17 Apologies 8

Minutes of meeting amended, agreed and signed by Val G

Matters arising:

Safeguarding Training Update: Mary reminded the meeting that the first Zoom meeting for training is Tuesday 7th November at 6 - 8pm to be held in the church.

Mission Statement:

Please see appendix 1 for the full report.

- To obtain the approval of the Church meeting there are two questions to ask.
- 1 ... does the meeting understand and acknowledge that the Mission Statement should be reviewed, refreshed and updated? Vote ... 17 present ... 16 agreed.
- 2 ... Will the meeting entrust the Elders to use consideration that the new Mission Statement, it would be good to have it in place by Christmas, prayerfully considering the input from the responses received? Vote ... 17 present ... 15 agreed.

Church Family News:

- The email from Hilary Redman was read to the meeting. See Appendix 2

Church Flowers:

- Hilary is stepping down from the flower duties on a Sunday morning at the end of November.
- This means that a different system should be put in place. The suggestion is that a note book/diary should be left in the flower room for Hilary as pastoral secretary and anyone else who knows of someone who would appreciate flowers from the church.
- This means that those people on the flower delivery rota will just consult the book and sort out the flowers for delivery.
- Bett Swierk mentioned the flower supply/arranging list sometimes has no-one on it. This was answered by Val G ... anyone could buy and arrange them, not necessarily a big arrangement but perhaps just put in a vase.
- Matthew Smith, Treasurer said that it is perfectly proper for anyone who purchases flowers be reimbursed.
- This will mean working as a team and not all on one person's shoulders.

Elders Time:

- in the light of the Southern Synod Deployment Process it asks us to Pray Pray Pray therefore it was mentioned we should arrange a Prayer time.
- The ideal time for this is at the Thursday Praise Evening, therefore the next one on the 16th November will a time of Worship and Prayer, concentrating on praying for our church and its mission going forward, it is hoped it will be a very welcome time of prayer. It was



suggested that it should appear in Welcome this week and November's editor Wilfred Rhodes will do this.

#### Outreach:

- Val C reported that Outreach has not met since the September meeting .... Therefore a few reminders.
- Coffee Morning for Safe in Sussex at 10.30 to 12 noon Friday 10th November.
- The January coffee morning is in aid of Papyrus a charity working to prevent suicide in young people. It also helps those grieving after losing someone to suicide.
- The joint meal is Monday 6th November at the North Star.
- 3rd December at 3pm there is to be a short Carol Service, for those who can't get out easily and those who are unable to go out in the dark for the candlelit carol service on Thursday 21st December at 7pm. Please think and invite anyone you may know who would appreciate these services.
- We will shortly be looking for unwrapped gifts for those being supported by Safe in Sussex. More details will follow so please watch Welcome and notice boards for more information.
- Mini Fishes is thriving 41 children visited last Monday. Thank you to those who came forward to help and are being safely recruited, the team look forward to you joining us soon.

#### Synod meeting:

- The meeting was coming from Temple URC, St Mary Cray and also on Zoom, Giles Wilson delivered his report. See Appendix 3.
- Giles has stepped down from going to the Synod meeting, Val C said she would be prepared to go to the meetings for the church on Zoom but no further than Crawley URC.

#### Property 1:

- Health and Safety report was delivered by Bett Swierk, See Appendix 4.
- The question arose that some of the points in the H&S are not being adhered to by those using the premises. Matthew Smith answered for the Hall lettings that when the hirers sign up for the hall they are given and should read the the Health and Safety Policy.

#### Property 2:

- Paul Redman gave the second part of the Property Report.
- Service of Gas and heating is being done on 7th November and the company will also quote for 2 radiators on the stage.
- Keith Best Electrical has been in and done various jobs.
- The fire exit signs and safety lighting is not working as they should so Keith Best gave a quote of £1386 to put them right. This was deemed urgent and necessary work and the Church Meeting Agreed to it being done asap.
- KB also looked at 2 lights in the Sanctuary that are not working, he thought they had fused and it would cost £480 to fix. The meeting decided after Paul had switched on the lights that it wasn't a problem therefore it would be left for a while and review it again particularly if others stop working.

- Lesley, manager of Little Fishes reported to Paul some issues as a result of the bad weather. The back of the car park was flooded in the heavy rain and leaves blocking drains etc, some were cleared by parents.
- There has also been a mud fall from the bridge which needed clearing and has been swept away but it is an issue to keep watching.
- Other problems in the heavy rain are windows leaking, the kitchen guttering has been cleared and some silicone is loose. Window firms being contacted and hopefully will come in soon to give advice and quotes.
- Matthew also reported that the guttering has been blocked on the Church roof and the soak away is not always working. He suggests that we get someone to check this out as it may effect the buildings all round including the Car Park.

#### Work Completed:

- A ramp has been put into the Choir Vestry to the Cornwall Room, so is no longer a step and notices have been put to this effect.
- The kitchen hatch has been fixed, both the veneer put back or new where necessary and it now shuts properly and has a bolt to lock it. This was important because as it prevents draughts and the spread of fire.
- Room to room thresholds have been marked with hazard tape to avoid tripping where there are carpet tiles.
- The broken window in the Sanctuary has been repaired
- Stair gates have been installed in some doorways for the safety of small children at Mini Fishes.
- A rubberised mat is to be purchased to cover the electric cable to the lectern as this is a trip hazard.
- If you spot anything in the church please let Paul or Bett know.

#### Finance and Hall lettings:

- The update on the last report will be at the next meeting as the Finance meeting is Tuesday 7th November.
- Ministry and Mission (M&M) Matthew has written to Synod again and the reply was the same as last reported, He will speak again to them on Monday 6th November. Therefore a more detailed report at the next church meeting will be delivered.
- As regards the Vestibule roof and Sanctuary Windows the next step is to bring the Quinquennial survey forward as it needs a proper survey but Synod is awaiting a new surveyor.

#### Hall Lettings:

- The Curtain Call Academy have a discounted rate for the use of 2 halls; they are using one hall on Monday and two on Wednesdays in the afternoon.
- AFM ladies are holding a prayer meeting in the Sanctuary from 11 - 12 on Thursdays.
- Rowland singers have booked the Sanctuary for a concert on 13th December at 7pm and also a date in November to be confirmed for rehearsal.

#### Notices and Correspondence:

- 4 people have resigned from their jobs in the church.
- Giles Wilson from the Synod meetings, Hilary from the Flower distribution. Eileen Rhodes from Duty Elder and Margaret Butcher from the Welcomers. Heartfelt thanks go to them all for their hard work over many years and for their loyalty in the service of God, in this place.
- A suggestion was made by Val C that we approach the council for double yellow lines to be painted on to the south side of Barrington Road opposite the church as it is always full of large Vans and Motor Homes which makes Barrington Road a single carriageway and is very difficult for larger cars to get into church property. It also means that a fire engine could not get in either, should the need arise. This situation will be made worse by the new housing estate as the traffic will probably double or treble. Accidents may occur and the query of for those who need a Blue Badge also arose. Geoffrey Redman informed the meeting that those with blue badges in cars can park anywhere. The question to the meeting was 'Do we look into this issue?' The meeting agreed we should.
- Matthew also asked that perhaps a Zebra Crossing could be mentioned at the same time to help Elderly or wheelchair bound people and people with small children and babies in prams and buggies.

The Meeting ended at 11.35 with prayer  
the next meeting is Saturday 25th November at 10.30.

Signed by .....Val Gill on 25th November 2023

### The Mission Statement

Following the Synod deployment process, a Visionary Companion will be appointed to each church after their Minister retires or is called to a new position. The Visionary Companion is appointed to a church by the Area Pastoral Committee according to the church's requirements once that church's Mission Statement has been reviewed. Research showed us that "a mission statement should be reviewed every three years to ensure that it is relevant, especially during challenging periods". Our current Mission Statement was last reviewed and rewritten around 20 years ago.

As you heard at last month's Church Meeting, the Elders were called to meet with Rev. Andy Twilley, Synod Training and Development Officer, to do this. We did this by following the "Three Cs", Christ, Church, Community, presenting our thoughts to the last Church Meeting, following up with the request for written comments prior to the Elder's Meeting last Thursday.

We thank those of you who took the time to think about and respond to the drafted Mission Statement, valuing the comments made, prayerfully spending a good chunk of our meeting on them.

We have altered one word from the original draft that was put to September Church Meeting, so the proposed Mission Statement reads:

Goring United Reformed Church

We are here to

<sup>grow</sup>  
~~God~~ closer to God,

Support and encourage one another,

Share the love of Jesus.

- We need to vote that*
- The membership acknowledge that the mission statement had to be reviewed + refreshed. nearly all.*
  - Can I then propose that we vote to decide on this as our new Mission Statement?

13

Appendix 2.

Hilary Redman <hilli@amos.org.uk>

27/10/2023 10:53

## Church Family Report to Elders meeting.

To Val Gill <val.gill@ntlworld.com> Copy Val Berry <rickval@talktalk.net> •  
Ryan Thomas <ryan@mcmouse.co.uk> • Caroline Hibbs <cb.hibbs@icloud.com> •  
Mary Redman <mary@redlee.co.uk> • Valerie Cooper <vhcooper@hotmail.co.uk>

Church Family news to Elders Oct/Nov meeting 2023

Happily there is no new news of illness or sadness to date (Oct 27), but neither any celebratory news !!

However,  
Attendees:

Lindsey and Brian Parsons have confirmed that they find it difficult to continue worshipping at GURC following Andrew's retirement and wish to move on.. Val B visited them to see if all was well, and as a result of that visit I wrote them a letter expressing our sadness, and our understanding.

I delivered the letter by hand and was invited in for a chat.

They have not found anywhere else to worship as yet.

Of course I said that if they would like to come to GURC at any time they would always be very welcome.

I also discovered that Lindsey's father, Ian Hennell, was a serving elder in this church. He was a member here from 1993 until his death in 2006. I hadn't realised the connection.

Membership: Alf Parsons has asked to be received into Church Membership. Val G has this in hand.

Hand Book/Directory: There will be a new edition of the Handbook as soon as possible but we are waiting for news of new inclusions to be confirmed - Shaune, Barbara and Jean (Joan?). This is positive news from the Coffee and Cake meetings. Val Berry is onto this, and we will proceed when we get back from our holiday next week.

Flowers: You will have seen the emails about this, and I pray that a solution will be found soon.

The present system is creaking but holding up till the end of November .

With your blessing, and as usual, I will ask Matthew to fund the distribution of plants for Christmas.

Flowers Back

David Eames has been coming to Coffee and Cake and found a companion in Alf!!

Apologies: Unfortunately Graham and I have to give our apologies to the church meeting on Saturday, 4th November because we will be away.

Please will someone précis this report for that church meeting?

With every blessing, in Jesus' Name

Hilary

Val, Alan C.



## Appendix 3

### **Report for GURC on Synod Together Meeting 21 October 2023 Temple URC, St Mary Cray**

On Saturday 21 October I watched the Synod Together meeting held at Temple Church, St Mary Cray on one-way Zoom.

Before the meeting proper we were welcomed to Temple URC, by a member of the church, who apologised to those attending in person for not having mentioned in the Calling letter that the church was inside the London ULEZ and expressed the wish that no-one had encountered a problem.

As the Moderator, the Reverend Banks, had only just come out of hospital after an operation and subsequent complications, the Convenor of the meeting was the Reverend Russell Furley-Smith.

The opening worship was led by members of Coplestone Church and Community Centre on the theme of "Go out!"

The opening worship was followed by the induction of the Reverend Martin Hayward as Synod Clerk.

After the minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2023 had been unanimously agreed Pastoralia was dealt with swiftly with a mention that the Moderator will need at least six weeks recovery time before returning to work.

The first paper before the meeting was the Synod Council Report dealing with Synod personnel matters, the still to be completed Staffing Review, Synod strategy and the merger of West Kent and Surrey Synod Area with the East Kent Synod Area among other matters. In 2018 Synod Together recognised 3 Priorities for Southern Synod over the next 5 years:

- 1. Supporting Walking the Way as the cornerstone of our planning and activity.*
- 2. Encouraging local churches to review their local mission and ministry and to identify their own priorities within Walking the Way.*
- 3. Working for an equitable use of resources within the Synod and across the URIC.*

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27/10/2023 10:53

## Church Family Report to Elders meeting.

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Membership: Alf Parsons has asked to be received into Church Membership. Val G has this in hand.

Hand Book/Directory: There will be a new edition of the Handbook as soon as possible but we are waiting for news of new inclusions to be confirmed - Shaune, Barbara and Jean (Joan?). This is positive news from the Coffee and Cake meetings. Val Berry is onto this, and we will proceed when we get back from our holiday next week.

Flowers: You will have seen the emails about this, and I pray that a solution will be found soon.

The present system is creaking but holding up till the end of November .

With your blessing, and as usual, I will ask Matthew to fund the distribution of plants for Christmas.

Flowers Back

David Eames has been coming to Coffee and Cake and found a companion in Alf!!

Apologies: Unfortunately Graham and I have to give our apologies to the church meeting on Saturday, 4th November because we will be away.

Please will someone précis this report for that church meeting?

With every blessing, in Jesus' Name

Hilary

Val, Alan C.



## Appendix 3

### **Report for GURC on Synod Together Meeting 21 October 2023 Temple URC, St Mary Cray**

On Saturday 21 October I watched the Synod Together meeting held at Temple Church, St Mary Cray on one-way Zoom.

Before the meeting proper we were welcomed to Temple URC, by a member of the church, who apologised to those attending in person for not having mentioned in the Calling letter that the church was inside the London ULEZ and expressed the wish that no-one had encountered a problem.

As the Moderator, the Reverend Banks, had only just come out of hospital after an operation and subsequent complications, the Convenor of the meeting was the Reverend Russell Furley-Smith.

The opening worship was led by members of Coplestone Church and Community Centre on the theme of "Go out!"

The opening worship was followed by the induction of the Reverend Martin Hayward as Synod Clerk.

After the minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2023 had been unanimously agreed Pastoralia was dealt with swiftly with a mention that the Moderator will need at least six weeks recovery time before returning to work.

The first paper before the meeting was the Synod Council Report dealing with Synod personnel matters, the still to be completed Staffing Review, Synod strategy and the merger of West Kent and Surrey Synod Area with the East Kent Synod Area among other matters. In 2018 Synod Together recognised 3 Priorities for Southern Synod over the next 5 years:

- 1. Supporting Walking the Way as the cornerstone of our planning and activity.*
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I also discovered that Lindsey's father, Ian Hennell, was a serving elder in this church. He was a member here from 1993 until his death in 2006. I hadn't realised the connection.

Membership: Alf Parsons has asked to be received into Church Membership. Val G has this in hand.

Hand Book/Directory: There will be a new edition of the Handbook as soon as possible but we are waiting for news of new inclusions to be confirmed - Shaune, Barbara and Jean (Joan?). This is positive news from the Coffee and Cake meetings. Val Berry is onto this, and we will proceed when we get back from our holiday next week.

Flowers: You will have seen the emails about this, and I pray that a solution will be found soon.

The present system is creaking but holding up till the end of November .

With your blessing, and as usual, I will ask Matthew to fund the distribution of plants for Christmas.

Flowers Back

David Eames has been coming to Coffee and Cake and found a companion in Alf!!

Apologies: Unfortunately Graham and I have to give our apologies to the church meeting on Saturday, 4th November because we will be away.

Please will someone précis this report for that church meeting?

With every blessing, in Jesus' Name

Hilary

Val, Alan C.

## Appendix 3

### **Report for GURC on Synod Together Meeting 21 October 2023 Temple URC, St Mary Cray**

On Saturday 21 October I watched the Synod Together meeting held at Temple Church, St Mary Cray on one-way Zoom.

Before the meeting proper we were welcomed to Temple URC, by a member of the church, who apologised to those attending in person for not having mentioned in the Calling letter that the church was inside the London ULEZ and expressed the wish that no-one had encountered a problem.

As the Moderator, the Reverend Banks, had only just come out of hospital after an operation and subsequent complications, the Convenor of the meeting was the Reverend Russell Furley-Smith.

The opening worship was led by members of Coplestone Church and Community Centre on the theme of "Go out!"

The opening worship was followed by the induction of the Reverend Martin Hayward as Synod Clerk.

After the minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2023 had been unanimously agreed Pastoralia was dealt with swiftly with a mention that the Moderator will need at least six weeks recovery time before returning to work.

The first paper before the meeting was the Synod Council Report dealing with Synod personnel matters, the still to be completed Staffing Review, Synod strategy and the merger of West Kent and Surrey Synod Area with the East Kent Synod Area among other matters. In 2018 Synod Together recognised 3 Priorities for Southern Synod over the next 5 years:

- 1. Supporting Walking the Way as the cornerstone of our planning and activity.*
- 2. Encouraging local churches to review their local mission and ministry and to identify their own priorities within Walking the Way.*
- 3. Working for an equitable use of resources within the Synod and across the URIC.*

Synod Officers will bring updated priorities for the Synod to Synod Council in February 2024 for consideration and discussion at the Synod Together meeting in March 2024. The report was approved unanimously, as was the Synod Ministries Report.

Next there was a presentation dealing with Church Related Community Work (CRCW) Ministry, which works in parallel to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Ministers of CRCW are not ordained but are trained community workers. They have to help tackle any perceived injustices and help churches become relevant to their communities. They can also assist people with learning difficulties find work and generally help churches engage with the local community.

The last presentation before lunch was the report of the Synod's Children's and Youth Work Committee. This started with a welcome to Zeerak Shahbaz as Synod Youth Representative, who had taken over the role from Heather Moore. Zeerak then ran through a number of events in which he had taken part including a week long tri-national youth exchange (France, Germany and the UK) staying at Lee Valley Youth Hostel. He has been invited to attend a similar event in Germany in 2024. The Committee report, among other topics, also dealt with a report on the Greenbelt Festival, an on-line course on mental health first aid training and the Synod Youth Executive. 2023 Advent Resources are available from CWW.

During the lunch break delegates were asked to discuss the possible consequences of RAAC being discovered in church buildings. Unfortunately there was no feed-back afterwards. However, Synod has funds to cover costs of surveys.

After lunch the Training and Development Officer presented a report on Stepwise, confirming that the programme is still running and that events and courses are planned.

The meeting then moved on to formally approve the merger of WKESSA and EKSA, which will take place on Saturday 3 February 2024.



Moving on to the General Assembly report it was noted that General Assembly strongly encourages the United Reformed Church at all levels and in all teams to use the revised Design and Digital Visual Identity to ensure quality and consistency across the work of the denomination. Full details of this and the use of the URC logo are in the General Assembly 2023 papers.

The final item for discussion was the Treasurer's Report on Synod finance and the 2024 budget. The crisis fund available for energy costs closes on 31 December. The accounts for 2023 were accepted. If there are any potential difficulties with the M& M contributions for 2024, Church Treasurers should speak to the Synod Treasurer. The budget for 2024 was approved unanimously.

After setting the date of the next meeting for Saturday 9 March 2024 at a location still to be decided the meeting closed at 3.15pm with an act of worship.

Giles Wilson, Synod Together representative.

Appendix 4.

**Health & Safety Report**  
**November 2023**

- Update of all yearly and 6 monthly
- Gas Appliances: Bourke & Cooper
- Electrical: Keith Best
- Fire Alarms: Craysfire. 6 month. In house check of all alarm points – 2 months
- Fire Extinguishers: Merryfields

All copies of above records can be found on the Church website

**Church Premises**

Property Group are checking on a regular basis, inside and outside, anything that is or could become a Health & Safety issue.

Please do not leave doors wedged open or left open. Check windows are closed and locked.

We have a possible damp issue on the stage ceiling which we are investigating. If you need to close the stage curtains, please ensure they are open when you leave.

No chairs are to be left stacked on the stage. Would groups who use tables please wipe them down before putting away. Spray and cloths are available in the Cornwall Room and Main Hall Kitchen.

If you find anything that needs attention, please contact the Property Group.

Thank you

Bett Swierk – Health & Safety Rep.

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
Saturday 30th September 2023 at 10.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val G: Visions for the future of our Church.

Those present: 21 Apologies 5

Minutes of meeting amended, agreed and signed by Val G

Matters arising:

Safeguarding Training:

Safeguarding report for Church Meeting 30/09/2023 from Mary Redman

- Rosemary Terry has stepped down as Safeguarding Lead. I am still working as Deputy, filling in where I can, but the post for Lead is vacant and I will not be applying for the job. Application details will be out soon, but the role description is available from Val G today if anyone would like to find out more.
- Rosemary and I have finished filing all the legal and confidential files and organizing the new filing cabinet.
- Safer Recruitment has begun in earnest. Mini Fishes have recruited Lesley Wake as Leader, and myself as a volunteer. Tuesday Fellowship have recruited Wilf Rhodes and Christina Shearer as Leaders. The paperwork is mostly complete and filed now. I am focusing on safely recruiting to all new positions, as they occur. If you need volunteers for any role, please check with me before placing a note in Welcome.
- Thank you to the 16 people who have signed up for one of the two Safeguarding Training sessions being held later this year. If you have not been contacted, it's either because you are up to date, or you are not required to take part for the role you hold. However, all are welcome, so if you would like to come and join us, please let me know. The dates are Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the evening, or Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the morning.
- Mini Fishes desperately need more volunteers. It is not safe to run with less than 3, preferably 4 people on site. Although I have volunteered my time for this term, I am having to turn down paid work to do this, and so can only do it as a stop gap. We need one full-time helper and a core group of people who don't mind being called on to step in for an occasional week to cover absence. There are 40 families on the register who we serve, with 25ish coming each week, making this our most vital and valuable outreach project. So please prayerfully consider if you are able to help.

Church Family News:

- Hilary updated the meeting with the news of the fellowship and the meeting stood for prayer following the death of our friend and long term member Daphne Eames.

Elders time:

- Ryan showed slides of a possible new Mission Statement following the Elders meeting with Rev Andy Twilley
- The meeting was regarding taking our church into the future after Andrews retirement.
- The meeting was based on following what he called the 3 C's - Christ - Church - and Community. The Elders separated into 2's and discussed the words and what each group thought about how we see our church going forward using the 3 C's and how to bring the church closer, sharing our love and the love of God.
- This unexpectedly came up with a new Mission Statement to take to the Church Meeting. It was felt it was brief but to the point.
- It was reported that we are still waiting for our Visionary Companion to help through this time in our Churches Life.
- Val G asked for any questions and thoughts: One thought was Jesus was not mentioned only God. Then much discussion took place and became heated. It was felt that there is a large gap between the Elders and the fellowship.
- VG said that the Mission Statement was for us as a church to build on, the beginning of our journey not a fait accompli.
- One suggestion was to discuss the possible new Mission Statement with the congregation, it was mentioned that half the congregation was at the meeting therefore things can be agreed. It was also mentioned that the whole congregation never comes to the Church Meetings.
- For information," it was the Elders with the Minister who wrote the last Mission Statement" was the response when Val G asked the question. She stated she has great confidence in Rev Andy Twilley and feels there is a lack of confidence in the appointed Eldership.
- It was suggested that the Church Meeting goes back to once a month to ensure better communication. This was voted on and Agreed.
- Matthew Smith added that things have been very difficult for the Serving Elders as they are temporary leaders in the service of the church and in light of no Minister or Visionary Companion and it's going to be a long process to move forward and if infighting starts we will not be able to move forward.
- It was stated that the Elders were not being criticised and it was felt that the new monthly meetings will help. Also it was stated that the Elders should be supported in prayer. Which could be done on Sunday mornings.

#### Notices and Correspondence:

- The job of the greetings cards needs a volunteer in the light of the sad death of Daphne, Rosina has volunteered on a temporary basis.
- A volunteer is needed to sort the flowers ready to give out after the Sunday service Hilary will still give out the list of who should have them.
- Heartfelt thanks were given to Graham Redman for all the work he has done in editing and writing the Chronicle Magazine over many years.

#### Surrey and Sussex Synod Meeting:

- See Appendix 2.

#### Outreach:

- Barn Dance on 16th September was successful, it made a small loss of £14.



- The afternoon Service and Tea was also successful.
- Mini Fishes is in need of support.
- Next Coffee morning 9th November in aid of 'Safe in Sussex'.
- The last coffee morning made £84 for MacMillan Nurses.
- Next meeting Tuesday 3rd October.

Property:

- Paul Redman spoke first and reported that the broken window in the East transept will be repaired in the coming week
- The Health and Safety rules and details is out of date and the Property Group will update it.
- The Kitchen hatch is in need of repair and the property Group are dealing with it; deciding what to do, and to get done as soon as possible.

Property, Hall Lettings and Finance: See Appenix 3.

- Roger Wylde made a point of thanking Matthew for all the hard work he has done for the church with the Manse and everything else he does as treasurer.

Meeting Ended at approximate 11.45am in prayer and Val G repeated her prayer from our devotions at the beginning of the meeting.

Next Meeting Saturday 4th November 2023 at 10.30 the first monthly meeting.

.....signed by Val

Gill,

Church Secretary 04.11.2023

## APPENDIX 1

### Church Meeting Report 30 September 2023 - Admin/Finance & Hall Letting

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for November. Unfortunately for the team, along with Elders and Property, I'm afraid they haven't been idle, having been bombarded with emails, partly to fulfil the undertaking to pass decision making on the manse letting front through the Elders but on other fronts as well.

#### **Manse update**

Firstly, can I apologise for a typo in my report to the July meeting. The fully managed letting service was offered at 7% +VAT (not 6% + VAT) + an initial £250 set up fee. I do hope and believe that I reported the correct figures in my verbal report. 7% was in fact previously approved by Elders.

All the necessary works have been completed and the new Tenants are moving in today.

A rental figure of £2.3K per month was achieved, with upfront costs totalling £7,418, meaning it will take 4 months to recoup the initial expenditure.

After provision for other expenditure during the year, which will come out of monthly rental income, I estimate approximately £2.1K net income for the remainder of the tenancy, with the first payment due to arrive next week.

Turning to the Church Buildings

#### **Choir Vestry Roof & Cornwall Room parapet wall**

The necessary works have been completed by Premier Building Consultants as approved at the July meeting as have the pointing works by Ace Wall Ties.

### **Vestibule Roof and Front Window**

We are still waiting for meaningful feedback on the option to replace the existing Sanctuary window frames with Aluminium. However, it has become clear that further expert advice is necessary to determine our best option. There is no prospect of taking matters to the Synod Grants and Loans Committee when they next meet in October. The committee meets quarterly and we will aim to progress things as quickly as is feasible.

### **Printer**

The new printer is now in place.

### **Investments**

After doing my “math” I was able to transfer £30K to the Synods cash deposit account. I will of course be monitoring our bank balances closely over the coming months.

I have yet to consider an investment strategy for the future but aim to do this in time for the November Finance Meeting/November CM.

### **M&M**

I have received the annual M&M letter from Synod, in which we are asked to agree a 6.35% increase for 2024. I'm afraid I decided to challenge this increase – the first time in all my years as treasurer.

#### **Read email response**

Unfortunately, I have not yet received a reply – I suspect the Synod Area treasurer is on holiday.

I am not necessarily advocating rejection of the increase. However, we need a clearer understanding. My email to Synod was issued solely on the principles involved as I currently see them.

We need to bear in mind the very significant covid correction, which greatly benefitted the Church (sorry I cannot quite lay my hands on the details at this time). Also we will be benefitting to a great extent from the rental of the Manse in 2024. In short it is not at present a question of affordability on our part.

Rather than issue a flat refusal I suggest this needs more informed/detailed consideration once we have all the facts. To this end I would seek CM approval either for

- delegation of the decision to Elders with feedback at the November CM, or
- deferment until November CM

In the meantime, it is only right and proper to gauge “feelings” on the matter.

### **Questions**

In light of the earlier decision to revert to monthly church meetings it was agreed to defer to the next meeting on 4 November

### **Hall Lettings**

The new Licences to occupy for 23/24 are out for signature and the process will hopefully be completed soon.

Wilma has a hall letting enquiry which has prompted a revisit to our current hall letting rates policy.

As you are aware we currently stick rigidly to the set rates for each hall, while operating a reduced rate for part bookings where both halls are booked – the discount is £5 per hour – this was a pragmatic policy decision based on the fact that we would rarely, if ever, book 2 parties in adjacent halls at the same time.

The new hall hire enquiry is from a musical theatre “academy”.

They have confirmed that they wish to book Monday evenings 6.30 to 7.15 term time from 30 October = approx. £420 pa

They would also like to book Wednesday evenings 4.00 to 5.30 term time - both halls (splitting dance and singing groups – and rotating them between the halls). The sticking point here is affordability. If we insist on charging full rate £13 + £14 per hour we risk losing a potentially valuable addition to our booking portfolio.

We therefore propose applying the same £5 discount as for party bookings where both halls are booked by the same hirer.

If accepted by this hirer new this could generate a further £1,320 approx p.a. – overall £1,740 p.a. This would be a take it or leave it offer – as a matter of principle we would resist negotiations beyond this concession.

We would of course extend the same terms to other hirers where appropriate. At present only Worthing Musical Theatre would be affected and then only occasionally – minimal consequential loss of income from that source.

**Approved** - I will arrange for the rates to be updated on the Website



App 2

**Note of meeting of Sussex and Surrey Synod Area meeting  
Crawley URC  
Saturday 23 September 2023**

Unfortunately as a result of a train cancellation I missed the opening of this meeting arriving part way through the opening devotions.

During this time the Chair in talking about church plans recommended the Methodist book, "Our Church's Future", for those churches planning ahead, or in a time of vacancy. She ended the devotions by saying "Keep eyes on Jesus. He will give us focus".

The rest of the meeting was slightly hampered by the failure of documentation, including the Agenda, to reach many of the attendees.

John Bunker, Pastoral Committee Covenor, dealt swiftly with pastoral matters. John made the suggestion that churches should come together to discuss future plans, as was happening in the Reigate Park and Horsham areas. We should concentrate on the things we do well. Churches should use the training resources available through Synod. SaSSA was an under-ministered Area. There had been 30 ministers 4 years ago. Now there were only 4½ with 12 vacancies in the Area. Visionary Companions for churches with a Vacancy are initially available for 12 months.

*Brain  
matters* John then delivered the Finance Report. The letters to churches giving details of details of the proposed M&M contribution for the year 2024 had been sent out. Any church finding it difficult to raise the proposed figure should contact Synod. Once again he made a plea for churches to send any outstanding annual accounts to Catherine Kingdom as soon as possible.

Next the newly appointed Synod Clerk, Martin Hayward, took the stand. He emphasised that Synod is willing to take sensible risks, preferring to call them opportunities. He said that one way of providing outreach was to identify and concentrate on specific communities in certain areas, such as the Koreans in and around New Malden or the 26,000 strong LGBTQ community in Brighton. This latter topic was the subject of the discussion papers which had not reached all the attendees. Martin also stressed the importance of encouraging people to become lay preachers. He concluded by recommending attending a free talk at Reigate Park Church, one of the North Downs Cluster of Churches, on 31 October at 2.30pm. Those interested should contact Wendy Hopkins on [wendy\\_hopkins@ntlworld.com](mailto:wendy_hopkins@ntlworld.com) or 07855 233770.

The only items under any other business were a plea for people to step forward as Property Manager for SsSSA and Minute taker and the proposals for future meetings. Having agreed that face to face meetings gave people the chance to put faces to names and discuss matters of mutual interest the dates for meetings in 2024 were provisionally fixed for 17 February, 15 June and 21 September at Crawley URC.

The meeting closed with a prayer and a shared grace just before midday.

Giles

G N Wilson Synod Together Representative

24:09:2023

Church Meeting Minutes: July 2021 - November 2024

## APPENDIX 1

### ELDER RESIGNATION

ROSEMARY TERRY

After much prayer and discussion with those closest to me, I have decided to resign from the Eldership and all the roles that I currently have within GURC at the end of July. I am announcing my decision at this Church Meeting as the usual Elders Election process starts in June.

It has been a privilege and blessing to be elected and serve as an Elder and work alongside the others, but as most of you are aware, not without challenges over the past two years. Some of the challenges have been rewarding and even fun! I have learned a great deal and enjoyed helping with our ministry and progressing necessary procedural updates. Others have not been and some of the reactions that I have been on the receiving end of have been extremely unpleasant.

Fortunately my career and other life experiences have made me a pretty resilient person but there comes a time when difficult decisions have to be made and for me, this is the time. So as previously said, I have decided after nearly 36 years of association with GURC, for the sake of my spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing to step down at the end of July and also to step away from gathered worship here. I will make a decision about my membership at a later date.

My faith is the most important factor for me not where I 'hang my hat' and I am fortunate to have associations with a number of churches locally, so will be able to continue to enjoy shared worship with other Christians. I felt it was important for the Church Meeting to hear my decision first hand rather than via the church jungle drums!

I wish Andrew peace and blessings in his retirement and hope and pray that GURC will come together and move forward in its ministry.

Thank you for listening.

April/May, 2023



## Church Meeting Report 25 May 2023

### Admin/Finance & Hall Letting

Firstly, I'd like to apologise for a faux pas in my last report, and for the length of this report.

When I sat down to do the paperwork following our decisions on investments, I found that I had misread the email from Synod – in fact we were only being recommended to transfer a small part of our investments to the Epworth Multi-Asset Fund, specifically our investments in the Sterling Sovereign Bond Fund and the Corporate Bond Fund (value c £4.6K) – not the other investments we hold.

I quickly convened a brief Finance Group meeting where we agreed to authorise transfer of those Bond Fund Investments and to move the £20K to the Epworth Cash Plus Account as agreed at CM, leaving the other investment issues in abeyance pending further investigation.

This turned out to be fortuitous as “property” issues now dictate

- a complete rethink of our priorities, and
- revision/reinstatement of our “4 year plan” which has been on the back burner for so long

At a further Finance Group meeting on 12 May we had detailed discussions on the various issues facing us, and agreed to

- postpone further investment decisions until we have a clearer understanding of the property matters
- report back to CM
- establish our new priorities through Admin Group, which I hope to reconvene in the next week or so. Because of the property issues involved I have invited Bett Swierk to join this group, so we can have the benefit of “hands on” input from a Property Group perspective – Bett has been doing a lot of valuable work in the background

Turning to the “property” specifics:

- Bett has been gathering quotes for replacement windows for the Sanctuary and essential repointing, and generally taking forward the issues highlighted by the Insurance Survey - next
- when Andrew vacates the manse we have the option to retain and let it out, rather than hand it over to Synod. From a Finance perspective this option is a “no brainer”, but there will be a lot of ground to cover in a short time scale. [Not only is this a financial “no brainer” but more importantly it keeps our options open

regarding calling a new minister in the future – Synod policy says only churches with a manse can call a minister.]

- and we propose to consult a letting agent to
  - agree what, if anything needs to be done before the manse can be let – redecoration and carpeting are 2 items possibly needing consideration – there may be others, and
  - manage the letting going forward

As you will appreciate there are a lot of variables to be explored, and we cannot presently provide you with firm details. But, at this point I would ask whether CM is content with what I have presented thus far, or indeed whether you need clarification on any point.

### **Questions**

We will not make decisions regarding the Church related issues, without seeking appropriate approvals from CM, hopefully at the July CM.

However, we need to ensure speedy decision making in relation to the manse let and seek special dispensation from CM to make such executive decisions as are necessary, so that we are able to place the manse on the letting market as soon as practicable. We propose that Elders should be empowered to make such decisions on behalf of CM. We will of course keep CM appraised of progress.

### **Questions/Vote**

### **2022 Accounts**

As I reported at the March Church Meeting, the 2022 Accounts show a surplus for the year of £4,329.61. However, our investments suffered a “loss” of £5,372.38 as a result of the Ukraine War, major inflationary pressures and, of course, the fall out from the Truss/Kwateng failed mini budget.

Our Net Assets figure has therefore reduced to £106,392.19.

The accounts have now been signed off by Munro, who has indicated that this will be his last examination. We need to record our thanks for the many years of service in this important role and I personally would thank him for his many illuminating insights.

In addition to my notes on page 2 I should perhaps highlight the significant changes in our “Rents & heating contributions” on the receipts side and the “Upkeep of Church/Manse Premises” figure on the payments side. These changes essentially reflect the upturn in hiring and church life activities as we continued to emerge from Covid restrictions during 2021 and 2022.

## **Questions/Approval**

### **Gift Day**

We would normally have held our Gift Day this Pentecost weekend. However, this slipped off my radar, probably fortuitously – the Lord does appear to be developing a habit of using our (or perhaps more accurately) my human frailty to steer us in other directions.

We therefore propose moving Gift Day back to Harvest this year, which should enable us to more accurately identify a suitable target and indeed the specifics of our property projects. We will seek to bring firm proposals to July CM

### **Hall Lettings**

Wilma still has three Licences to Occupy to finalise these should be resolved pretty soon – then she will need to start putting agreements in place for the next letting year.

Our long association with Say Aphasia (or ADA as we used to know it) has come to an end – our dear friend Doreen Norris was heavily involved in the group for many years.

Durrington Bridge House training events are becoming more frequent and a useful addition to our Letting income.

Last week Wilma arranged for the use of the premises by Glyndebourne for 2 youth workshops, one in July for ½ a day in the Main Hall and in one in August for a full day in both halls, with prospective fortnightly bookings probably in the Main Hall, from September – another interesting addition to our portfolio of hall hirers. Glyndebourne are putting together a Youth Opera about Climate Change.

Also, a new group will be beginning in September for a 6 months trial period, we think monthly on a Tuesday evening in the Cornwall Room and they are called The Oddfellows. They are a Charitable Group with a long history providing Care, Advice and Support.

## **GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

### **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

#### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
  - a. The pages are as follows:-

i. Pages 2	Notes
ii. Page 3	Summary of results
iii. Page 4	Statement of assets and liabilities
iv. Page 5	Summary of Funds
v. Page 6	Report of the independent examiner
2. More detailed accounts and the reconciliation of cash and bank balances are available on request.
3. Under the Charities Act it is necessary to make a distinction between the General Fund and any designated or restricted funds. A designated fund is one which the Church Meeting has decided to earmark for a special purpose, but the meeting can change this whenever it wishes. A restricted fund can only be used for the purpose specified when the funds were given – an example of this is Youth Work.
4. The Church finances continue to be healthy despite the challenging times we live in and we have once again been blessed through:
  - a generous donation of £8,055 from Little Fishes,
  - a very good response to our Gift Day appeal, amounting to £3,400, and
  - a significant improvement in our rental income.

The background challenges of soaring energy prices have not impacted us because of the utility contracts currently in place. New contracts will need to be negotiated in 2023 and we wait to see the outcome of these against a hopefully continuing downward trend in prices.
5. Despite the challenges the General Fund shows an operating surplus of £4,329.61 which has been allocated to Designated Funds, in accordance with the Analysis of Fund Movement on Page 6, while our investments suffered a significant loss of £5,372.38 due primarily to the war in Ukraine, referenced in last year's accounts (see Summary of Funds entry at page 6), resulting in a reduction in our overall funds of £833.90.
6. 37 people used Free Will Offering envelopes or bankers' orders and contributed £30,891.25 during 2021.
7. 22 people made Gift Aid donations during the year.
8. £1,739.19 was received from our sister Church at Sompting as a result of the arrangements for sharing ministerial expenses.

Summary of results for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021

**GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS**

30,957.68	FWO envelopes & bankers orders	30,891.25	
3,107.00	Loose collections	2,352.99	
12,170.00	Donations	8,055.00	
46,234.68		41,299.24	
8,405.89	Tax refund	7,977.70	
54,640.57			49,276.94
6,123.35	Rents & heating contributions	19,932.54	
503.59	Investment income	1,437.44	
1,164.26	Sundry income	2,242.65	
1,997.60	Joint Pastorate	1,739.19	
5,585.00	Fundraising events	3,400.60	
24,342.85	Grants	0.00	
5,000.00	Legacies	0.00	
99,357.22			78,029.36

**GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS**

33,927.00	Maintenance of Ministry	33,927.00
601.60	Pulpit Supply	593.00
5,918.49	Ministerial & Manse Expenses	6,610.37
13,775.67	Upkeep of Church/Manse Premises	20,281.80
28,332.00	Major Projects	0.00
4,181.04	Sundry expenses	6,973.98

5,484.09	10% Mission Fund	5,313.60
92,219.89		73,699.75
7,137.33	<b>GENERAL FUND OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	4,329.61

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

### Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022

#### 2021

68,165.27	CAF Bank	71,175.81
4,029.62	Cash	6,061.11
	Investments held by URC (Southern Province) Trust Ltd	
	Goring URC B Account	
4,811.15	3,575.2 Units Epworth New Sterling Sovereign Bond Fund	3,552.68
1,332.93	1,074.6 Units Epworth New Corporate Bond Fund	1,092.01
26,482.64	14,637.76 Units Epworth New UK Equity Fund	23,170.11
3,096.42	2,059.34 Units Epworth New Global Equity Fund	<u>2,635.96</u>
107,918.03		107,687.68
	<u>Less</u>	
691.94	Liabilities	<u>1,295.49</u>
107,226.09	NET ASSETS	<u>106,392.19</u>

5,729,799 Church, halls and contents at Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, are valued for insurance at £6,159,115.

314,748 Manse at Drummond Road, Goring-by-Sea (freehold), is valued for insurance at £339,928

In addition, the Church Meeting would administer funds remaining if the following organisations were disbanded. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 the amount held was:-

391.09 Tuesday Fellowship £458.37

#### Notes

1. These accounts have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis and comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.
2. The accounts were approved by the Finance Committee on 29 March 2023

*Matthew Smith* Treasurer



## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Summary of Funds for the year ended 31 December

	Net Assets	Receipts	Payments
at beginning			
of year			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	10,000.00	73,699.75	73,699.75
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>			
Junior Church	197.77	0.00	0.00
<b>Reserve Funds</b>			
Bank	35,539.75	3,329.61	0.00
Investments	35,723.14	0.00	5,272.33
Organ Repairs	19,935.74	1,000.00	0.00
Flower Fund	(23.44)	255.00	212.00
	91,372.96	4,584.61	5,484.33
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Communion	2,458.84	1.00	0.00

Mini Fishes	89.02	1135.39	1,070.5
Junior Church Bible Fund	19.06	0.00	0.0
Children and Youth Work	3,286.21	0.00	0.0
	5,853.13	1,136.39	1,070.5
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£107,226.09</b>	<b>£79,420.75</b>	<b>£80,257.7</b>
<b>Analysis of Fund Movement (to account for Operating Surplus)</b>			<b>4,329.61</b>
Reserve Fund		3,329.61	0.0
Organ Repairs		1,000.00	0.0
		4,329.61	0.00

The Reserve Fund has been split between Funds held at Bank and Investment Funds

**N.B.**

#### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

I have examined the financial statements of Goring United Reformed Church which comprise the summary of results for the year ended 31 December 2022, the statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022, and the accompanying notes. My examination did not amount to an audit but was carried out in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charities Commissioners for the independent examination of accounts of smaller charities.

My examination was under Section 145 Charities Act 2011. The Church keeps records under Section 130 of the Act.

Nothing has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me cause to believe otherwise than that the accounts accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records apparently satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I am not aware of any

matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

17 May 2023..... M Wightman

Appendix 4 - PROPERTY REPORT from Paul Redman.

The items from the insurance survey:

**The Sanctuary windows:**

Most of us on property have said go with Glasstec Aluminium, Glasstec for price and Aluminium for looks.

However we have also had someone point out that the aluminium is a poor choice due to condensation issues experienced on previous installs and also that we have test PVC windows in place and no-one, as far as we are aware, has expressed a dislike to those and PVC is a lot cheaper.

Maybe we need to see what CM say to this, plus we may need Synod approval for a large project like this??? No-one has been able to confirm this yet as far as I'm aware.

**The pointing:**

We have a pointing quote in and ready to go and as it's sub one thousand pounds we just need to let CM know about this.

**The roofing:**

We have some quotes in but I believe that it's best to wait until the windows have been completed because the glaziers will be walking on newly finished roofing!

**The speeding issue raised by GLF staff:**

- The staff have reported back that the signs have made little or no difference to the speed of cars as they pass through the GLF area.

- We have found that a new 5mph speed hump can be installed for around £113.02 Inc. VAT plus some more permanent warning signs.

**The new bench:**

- Alan and Bett have been showing us the one from Argos for between £200 and £300. Again we can just go ahead with this as it's a replacement, not a new idea, but CM need to be informed first, or so I believe.

**Chairs in the Main Hall and Cornwall room:**

- Wilma is working her way round all the hall hirers to make sure that no chairs are left stacked.

The only chairs that should be stacked are those that have been taken out of general use and are put aside in storage.

**Work completed since last CM:**

We've had new windows installed, and new ash trays since the last CM

**This year's Quinquennial Inspection:**

Delayed by a year until 2024

Prices inclusive of VAT	Glasstec	Worthing Windows	Glasstec	Worthing Windows
Description:	<b>PVCu</b>		<b>Aluminium</b>	
Front elevation 20 inserts	£5,880.00	£4,854.00	£9,425.00	£10,410.00
West Transept 12 inserts	£3,680.00	£3,884.00	£6,589.00	£8,710.00
East Transept 15 inserts	£4,526.00	£4,654.00	£9,052.00	£10,310.00
Side sections 10 each with 6 inserts 1 to be an opener	£16,020.00	£17,676.00	£25,640.00	£36,784.00
10 decorative glass units (surcharge)	£846.00	Included	£846.00	Included
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,952.00</b>	<b>£31,068.00</b>	<b>£51,552.00</b>	<b>£66,214.00</b>

Reminder of the insurance survey report:

"Further to Williams Pitt survey report, there is 3 requirements that need to be completed as soon as possible. They are:

*Building Risk assessment (roof) - Although no knowledge of claims relating to defects of the roof and its covering several areas of water penetration were noted at the time of the survey, it is required that a roof inspection be carried out in order to ascertain the condition of all roof areas, its coverings and any associated flashing and gutter details by a suitably qualified and experienced person, this survey should identify if the roof is suffering from covering failure, blocked built in gutters etc, a copy of any subsequent report to be issued to Insurers (NFRC member recommended)*

*Maintenance issues - During the survey various areas of maintenance were recorded that have the potential for further damage/risk to the integrity of the building, these are as follows: -*

- Repointing required to roof verge fillet, rear corner of the West Hall.*
- Repointing required to external wall to rear corner the stage.*
- Minor cracking to the left-hand wall of the sanctuary (to be monitored).*
- Glazed areas to left hand windows of sanctuary has putty coming away.*
- Rotten windows to the left and right side of the front vestibule, windows to be repaired or replaced.*
- Repointing required to left hand side of the front vestibule.*
- Areas of visible water ingress to right side of the organ loft, left side of the West transept.*

***These areas should be addressed to maintain the integrity of the building and evidence of completion should be forwarded to ourselves."***

# Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC Thursday 27th July 2023 at 7.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val G: Faith and Deeds, James Chapter 2

Those present: 20 Apologies 6

Minutes of meeting amended, agreed and signed by Val G

Matters arising:

## Safeguarding Training:

- Rosemary reported that the Mini Fishes will continue for the next term and Lesley from Little Fishes will be safely recruited as per the safeguarding rules. Mini Fishes will need at least one other member of the volunteer staff.
- Mary offered to volunteer for the 3 months up to Christmas until a permanent volunteer can be safely recruited. Mary will be interviewed and supply references as per the ruling.

## Church Family News:

- No report came from the pastoral secretary but it was reported that one of our members is very poorly and returned to hospital and needs prayer.

## Elders time:

- Deployment process, lots of decisions are to be made for our future at GURC.
- With reference to this Val G, Mary, Ryan and Giles attended the Summer Synod meeting.
- GURC have not yet had a Visionary Companion (VC) allocated to us.
- GURC and Sompting are no longer a joint pastorate and Sompting has a VC.
- We as Elders and members have to look at and think about what our vision is for the future and how we can put it into place. As Elders we will revisit the Mission Statement, this is a task the whole church have to be part of. Does it need changing in anyway in these changing times.
- We were asked to go away and pray for our church and its future using the flowchart and think about our God given skills and how we can use them for the good of the fellowship here.
- Val G will read the report she read in church on Sunday the 29th July. See Appendix 1.

## Outreach:

- The recent coffee mornings have been successful raising money for the various charities.
- Next one 9th September for Macmillan Care
- Barn Dance is 16th September and includes supper.
- Afternoon communion will be 17th September at 3 and folk from the Barn Dance will be invited.
- Invitations will also be available for the Harvest Festival on the following Sunday 24th September.
- The next Outreach meeting is week commencing 7th August.
- There is a small draw unit at the back of the church in the settee area containing quiet toys etc for children.

Property and Finance: See Appendix 2.

## Notices and Correspondence

- Peter Southcombe ... died on 11th July.

A.O.B:

## Christian Aid:

- Bett reported that she has been working for CA in our church for 19 years and has witnessed many changes. She has recently received an email to say that the Chair of the Committee is standing down and there has been no response to replace her and the committee may well have to fold.
- Bett has said she will continue to collect for the charity in our church, and carry on with the fundraising with Coffee and Cake, marmalade and Christian Aid envelopes with the churches support.
- When asked to Vote, all present Agreed.

Meeting Ended at approximate 8.10pm sharing the Grace together.  
Next Meeting Saturday 30th September 2023 at 10,30.

..... Signed by Val Gill, Church Secretary.

APPENDIX 1

## Southern Synod Deployment Process

(see flow chart)

The first box is 'Minister Leaves'.

The second level:-

We do yet have a Visionary Companion appointed to us by the Area Pastoral Committee. Vision is the priority and John Bunker & Andy Twilley are involved in this appointment. It is important that the right person is chosen for every church.

The third level:- Where we are at this time.

The pink area including Pray, Pray, Pray. We all need to be praying as we discuss and identify 'What is the Church's mission and vision for the future? '

'What God given skills / gifts do members and the leaders have?'

The Elders will be revisiting our Mission Statement and welcome input. We also encourage everyone to consider their own God given skills and gifts.

From there we will move on to the further questions

We cannot presume that even if a Minister is deployed in this area they will be placed with us, even though we have a Manse for them to live in.

As we move to the lower boxes we need to identify IF we need a Minister and how we would deploy them if the answer is yes.

This process will take a minimum of 1 year.

Although there are many churches in our local area without a Minister we have been informed that Synod will not be making a multiple pastorate of 5-6 churches.

We are no longer a joint partnership with Sompting URC but would like to maintain the friendship.

The Elders will keep you informed as we move along the process.

Keep praying and keep talking to each other, we are in this together.



## Church Meeting Report 27th July 2023

### Admin/Finance & Hall Letting

Finance met on 17 July and Admin on 24 July. Once again we had rather full agendas.

#### **Manse update**

Bett and I met with an Estate Agent, Ollie Whiting from Jacobs Steel.

Ollie offered a fully managed letting service for 6% +VAT (normally 10%) = an initial £250 set up fee.

He also offered to obtain quotes for, and manage, the works necessary to bring the manse up to a lettable standard – mainly decoration and some carpeting – there will be a separate charge for this service. We will need to fund these costs but they should be recovered in the first 3 to 4 months of letting. Bett and I are meeting with Ollie tomorrow morning to discuss the quotes to date. Once the necessary quotes are in place, and approved by Elders, we will be able to put a bit more flesh on the bones. And, once, started the works should be completed in around 4 weeks.

It is hoped to achieve between £2.3K and £2.5K per month with the intention to market at £2.5K.

There will of course be other items of expenditure, which will largely come out of monthly rental income. I am currently anticipating net income of around £2K to £2.2K.

A full report has been given to Finance/Admin, and of course Elders, who approved the proposed arrangement, which will minimise Church input to the process, speeding up the marketing schedule and therefore optimising our rental income.

Note the Manse lease will be 1 year with a 3 month notice to quit on the church's side.

**Questions** It is hoped that the Manse will be on the Market by September 23.

Turning to the Church Buildings Paul and I met with a builder (Premier Building Consultants) to seek clarification of what is required with our current roofing issues. This was a successful exercise.

#### **Choir Vestry Roof & Cornwall Room parapet wall**

The builder has submitted a quote for works required on the parapet wall above the Cornwall Room, where water is running down the walls, and the Choir Vestry roof, which was identified by the Insurance Survey as an area of concern. The sum quoted is £3,468 incl VAT.

Previous quotes by other companies have proven unsatisfactory for various reasons and this is the only quote that covers the specific requirements of both areas. It is therefore the recommendation of Finance/Property/Elders that Premier's quote be accepted.

## **Questions**

**Approval.** Approved by the meeting

### **Vestibule Roof and Front Window**

The builder confirmed previous advice that we need to deal with the front window before the vestibule roof – there was no identifiable pointing requirement in this area.

However, he did suggest that we may wish to consider replacing the window frame as well with an aluminium frame – off the cuff estimate £10K including double glazing.

We then drew his attention to the state of the East Transept window where the concrete is breaking down – he thinks that further deterioration can be expected in the relatively near future.

We therefore suggest delaying a decision until we explore matters further.

### **Sanctuary Windows (generally)**

Elders asked Finance to explore the financial viability of doing all the Sanctuary windows at once.

After consideration of various financial scenarios Finance were able to confirm that this is feasible in principle.

However, Finance would prefer to make a Grants and Loans application to Synod in view of what is potentially a very substantial, one off, spending requirement – next Synod committee meeting is in October.

Given the further work required to fully explore our options, the grants and loans possibility and to refine the overall financial feasibility we suggest putting installation back to 2024, thus avoiding installation in Autumn/Winter, and enabling us to plan installation for a “holiday period” when traffic disruption for all our “hall users” can be minimised.

## **Questions**

**Agreement.** The meeting agreed.

The meeting heard that priority pointing is scheduled for 29th September. ACE wall ties are still to quote for other areas requiring attention.

## **Printer**

Bett and I met with our rep from Premier, who have supplied and maintained our printer for many years.

We last replaced our printer in December 2019. The guaranteed service period was 3 years with the expectation that it would be serviceable well beyond.

In the event, Covid has intervened and manufacturers are no longer producing parts and we face the possibility of losing printer facilities without notice, and the possibility of prolonged delay in obtaining another because of long lead in times in the supply chain.

Premier offered us 3 options

- 5 year Lease of a new Canon machine
- Purchase of a new Canon machine – 3 years guaranteed service, probably extendable to 5 and possibly more years
- Purchase of a reconditioned Toshiba machine – 3 years guaranteed service, but only best efforts beyond

Finance considered all three options (based on cost extrapolations for each) and concluded that the Lease Option – cheaper than new and possibly dearer than the refurbished option (but risky) - is the safest (and arguably the cheapest) overall.

## Questions

**Approval.** This was approved by the meeting to go ahead.

## Finance

The budget update at end June is forecasting a surplus of just over £7K but there are a lot of variables to be factored in as the rest of the year unfolds, but our finances remain in a healthy state.

## Gift Day

Gift Day will now take place on Harvest Sunday which has been set for 24 September. Finance have agreed to set a target of £3.5K, taking account of changing financial realities at the personal level. We obviously have many challenges ahead and continue to rely on the Lord's provision and his guidance in prayer as to your personal response on Gift Day.

## Investments

Our Cash investment in Synod's cash deposit account has already yielded £146.76 since April with interest rate on that account standing at 4.9% on 3 July. Interest will remain in the deposit account in order to benefit from cumulative interest at higher rates than can be achieved in our CAF account.

As we are postponing works on the Sanctuary windows until next year we propose transferring a further £30K to the Synods cash deposit account in order to optimise interest returns. Finance agreed to this in principle but I have further work to do on the "math". If transfer too much we can, of course, withdraw funds from the account at short notice.

I would therefore like CM approval to transfer up to £30K to the account. I will of course report back at our September meeting.

With the additional income headed our way from Manse letting it will be necessary to develop an investment strategy for the future but this will require much consideration not only on the strategy front but also on the processes required. Again, I will report to CM in due course – hopefully by November CM.

Investments agreed by the meeting

### **Authorised Signatories**

With Rosemary Terry's departure this week it is necessary to remove her name from the list of authorised signatories for CAF Bank. We suggest 2 additional names be added to the list – Val Cooper and Ryan Thomas (both of whom have been authorised signatories previously).

**CM to authorise all three changes please.** The meeting agreed to all three items.

### **Hall Lettings**

Wilma will be issuing the new licences to occupy for 23/24 during the coming weeks.

Unfortunately the Glyndebourne booking has fallen through as they have found other premises that better meet their requirements.

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Andrew  
Devotions: Ryan: Unity  
Those present: 20 Apologies 8  
Minutes of meeting agreed and signed  
Matters arising:

Safeguarding Training:

- Rosemary reported that the safeguarding policy was due for review which has been done and signed off by Andrew.
- Mary reminded the meeting the need for Safeguarding training and how important it is.
- Andrew added that he has heard that the training is voluntary. However both Andrew and Rosemary agreed that anyone working with children or vulnerable people it is necessary to take the course. They confirmed that the URC says it is mandatory take it. The URC guidance that Safeguarding is looking after each other and we have to be safer and more aware.

Ruth and Mamy Rahrимantsoa:

- Now that Ruth is working in the UK it was discussed if we were to keep our financial support for her in the same system as before. It was suggested we give the money direct to her but Matthew (treasurer) said that she is still paid by Whitcliffe therefore we should continue paying in the same way directly to Whitcliffe as per our mission budget. It was also mentioned when she settles to retirement they will have a shortfall and it was suggested that friends may wish to help.

Church Family News:

- Hilary gave a full report of those in the fellowship who needs our prayers.

Andrews time:

- He began with some very sad news that Rosemary Terry is resigning from the Eldership. He read out her letter of resignation. (Appendix 1). Andrew said he has been privy to what she has suffered over the past year which was reflected in Ryans devotions this evening. Matthew Smith said it has been a great privilege to work with her and suggested that Ryans words on Unity should be printed in the Chronicle. She was thanked with love for all she has done under great duress.
- Andrew reported that the Elders are going to have extra work as we enter the Interregnum which could last years. The words; Mission, Vision and implementation will be heard a lot soon. He added what this will mean for the elders and the church, Mission = Purpose ... Vision = Plans open to and for God and what he wants of us ... AND ... Passion = This is such an important part of our faith and fellowship to go forward for God's Kingdom and not to be cold hearted.
- He ended with Joyful news that Barbara Hillman is to become a church member with the agreement of the Church Meeting. All present agreed. Val G will let her know and she will be sponsored by Mary.

Outreach:

- Val G reported that the Christian Aid Quiz raised £100, and the coffee morning for prostate cancer £86.30. The next Coffee morning is 14th July in aid of Cancer Research. There is a list in the church for the Mens Meal and 16th September will be this years Barn Dance. Bett Sweirk added that the total raised so far for Christian Aid is £261.80.

Finance and Hall Lettings:

- For Matthews full report see Appendix 2.
- Year End Accounts Appendix 3
- He also reported that Munro is to step down from his work on the annual accounts and was thanked for this work which he has done for many years.

Property:

- For full Property report see Appendix 4
- The meeting agreed that a replacement bench to be purchased for the front of the church as its not as expensive as first thought at £250.

- It was also agreed by the meeting that property should go ahead and purchase speed signs and a hump should be formed on the driveway at the North-West corner of the church buildings to keep the Little Fishes children safe.
- Matthew Smith also said with regard to window replacements that we should get the 4 year plan for the church sorted and then decide on the window type.
- The renovation of the church buildings needs to be done as soon as possible due to price rises. It was suggested that Property Group and the Admin Group should work together to both fit in with the 4 year plan and to make sure of good communication to be able to move forward.
- The insurance repairs are to be done first and it was noted that both types of windows in the report should last 30 to 50 years.
- Due to time scales with meetings by-monthly it was agreed that the Elders were given permission to make the necessary decisions for the church repairs.

Notes and Correspondence:

- Nothing to report

AOB:

- Bett Sweirk wanted it noted that last Sundays Fire Drill was very good and the church was evacuated in 5 minutes. The next one will be in September.

Next Meeting 27th July 2023 at 7pm.

Andrew closed this his last meeting at Goring URC at 8.25 by sharing the Grace.

..... signed 27th July 2023.



## APPENDIX 1

### ELDER RESIGNATION

ROSEMARY TERRY

After much prayer and discussion with those closest to me, I have decided to resign from the Eldership and all the roles that I currently have within GURC at the end of July. I am announcing my decision at this Church Meeting as the usual Elders Election process starts in June.

It has been a privilege and blessing to be elected and serve as an Elder and work alongside the others, but as most of you are aware, not without challenges over the past two years. Some of the challenges have been rewarding and even fun! I have learned a great deal and enjoyed helping with our ministry and progressing necessary procedural updates. Others have not been and some of the reactions that I have been on the receiving end of have been extremely unpleasant.

Fortunately my career and other life experiences have made me a pretty resilient person but there comes a time when difficult decisions have to be made and for me, this is the time. So as previously said, I have decided after nearly 36 years of association with GURC, for the sake of my spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing to step down at the end of July and also to step away from gathered worship here. I will make a decision about my membership at a later date.

My faith is the most important factor for me not where I 'hang my hat' and I am fortunate to have associations with a number of churches locally, so will be able to continue to enjoy shared worship with other Christians. I felt it was important for the Church Meeting to hear my decision first hand rather than via the church jungle drums!

I wish Andrew peace and blessings in his retirement and hope and pray that GURC will come together and move forward in its ministry.

Thank you for listening.

April/May, 2023

## Church Meeting Report 25 May 2023

### Admin/Finance & Hall Letting

Firstly, I'd like to apologise for a faux pas in my last report, and for the length of this report.

When I sat down to do the paperwork following our decisions on investments, I found that I had misread the email from Synod – in fact we were only being recommended to transfer a small part of our investments to the Epworth Multi-Asset Fund, specifically our investments in the Sterling Sovereign Bond Fund and the Corporate Bond Fund (value c £4.6K) – not the other investments we hold.

I quickly convened a brief Finance Group meeting where we agreed to authorise transfer of those Bond Fund Investments and to move the £20K to the Epworth Cash Plus Account as agreed at CM, leaving the other investment issues in abeyance pending further investigation.

This turned out to be fortuitous as “property” issues now dictate

- a complete rethink of our priorities, and
- revision/reinstatement of our “4 year plan” which has been on the back burner for so long

At a further Finance Group meeting on 12 May we had detailed discussions on the various issues facing us, and agreed to

- postpone further investment decisions until we have a clearer understanding of the property matters
- report back to CM
- establish our new priorities through Admin Group, which I hope to reconvene in the next week or so. Because of the property issues involved I have invited Bett Swierk to join this group, so we can have the benefit of “hands on” input from a Property Group perspective – Bett has been doing a lot of valuable work in the background

Turning to the “property” specifics:

- Bett has been gathering quotes for replacement windows for the Sanctuary and essential repointing, and generally taking forward the issues highlighted by the Insurance Survey - next
- when Andrew vacates the manse we have the option to retain and let it out, rather than hand it over to Synod. From a Finance perspective this option is a “no brainer”, but there will be a lot of ground to cover in a short time scale. [Not only is this a financial “no brainer” but more importantly it keeps our options open

regarding calling a new minister in the future – Synod policy says only churches with a manse can call a minister.]

- and we propose to consult a letting agent to
  - agree what, if anything needs to be done before the manse can be let – redecoration and carpeting are 2 items possibly needing consideration – there may be others, and
  - manage the letting going forward

As you will appreciate there are a lot of variables to be explored, and we cannot presently provide you with firm details. But, at this point I would ask whether CM is content with what I have presented thus far, or indeed whether you need clarification on any point.

### **Questions**

We will not make decisions regarding the Church related issues, without seeking appropriate approvals from CM, hopefully at the July CM.

However, we need to ensure speedy decision making in relation to the manse let and seek special dispensation from CM to make such executive decisions as are necessary, so that we are able to place the manse on the letting market as soon as practicable. We propose that Elders should be empowered to make such decisions on behalf of CM. We will of course keep CM appraised of progress.

### **Questions/Vote**

### **2022 Accounts**

As I reported at the March Church Meeting, the 2022 Accounts show a surplus for the year of £4,329.61. However, our investments suffered a “loss” of £5,372.38 as a result of the Ukraine War, major inflationary pressures and, of course, the fall out from the Truss/Kwateng failed mini budget.

Our Net Assets figure has therefore reduced to £106,392.19.

The accounts have now been signed off by Munro, who has indicated that this will be his last examination. We need to record our thanks for the many years of service in this important role and I personally would thank him for his many illuminating insights.

In addition to my notes on page 2 I should perhaps highlight the significant changes in our “Rents & heating contributions” on the receipts side and the “Upkeep of Church/Manse Premises” figure on the payments side. These changes essentially reflect the upturn in hiring and church life activities as we continued to emerge from Covid restrictions during 2021 and 2022.

## **Questions/Approval**

### **Gift Day**

We would normally have held our Gift Day this Pentecost weekend. However, this slipped off my radar, probably fortuitously – the Lord does appear to be developing a habit of using our (or perhaps more accurately) my human frailty to steer us in other directions.

We therefore propose moving Gift Day back to Harvest this year, which should enable us to more accurately identify a suitable target and indeed the specifics of our property projects. We will seek to bring firm proposals to July CM

### **Hall Lettings**

Wilma still has three Licences to Occupy to finalise these should be resolved pretty soon – then she will need to start putting agreements in place for the next letting year.

Our long association with Say Aphasia (or ADA as we used to know it) has come to an end – our dear friend Doreen Norris was heavily involved in the group for many years.

Durrington Bridge House training events are becoming more frequent and a useful addition to our Letting income.

Last week Wilma arranged for the use of the premises by Glyndebourne for 2 youth workshops, one in July for ½ a day in the Main Hall and in one in August for a full day in both halls, with prospective fortnightly bookings probably in the Main Hall, from September – another interesting addition to our portfolio of hall hirers. Glyndebourne are putting together a Youth Opera about Climate Change.

Also, a new group will be beginning in September for a 6 months trial period, we think monthly on a Tuesday evening in the Cornwall Room and they are called The Oddfellows. They are a Charitable Group with a long history providing Care, Advice and Support.

## **GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

### **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

#### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
  - a. The pages are as follows:-
    - i. Pages 2            Notes
    - ii. Page 3            Summary of results
    - iii. Page 4            Statement of assets and liabilities
    - iv. Page 5            Summary of Funds
    - v. Page 6            Report of the independent examiner
2. More detailed accounts and the reconciliation of cash and bank balances are available on request.
3. Under the Charities Act it is necessary to make a distinction between the General Fund and any designated or restricted funds. A designated fund is one which the Church Meeting has decided to earmark for a special purpose, but the meeting can change this whenever it wishes. A restricted fund can only be used for the purpose specified when the funds were given – an example of this is Youth Work.
4. The Church finances continue to be healthy despite the challenging times we live in and we have once again been blessed through:
  - a generous donation of £8,055 from Little Fishes,
  - a very good response to our Gift Day appeal, amounting to £3,400, and
  - a significant improvement in our rental income.

The background challenges of soaring energy prices have not impacted us because of the utility contracts currently in place. New contracts will need to be negotiated in 2023 and we wait to see the outcome of these against a hopefully continuing downward trend in prices.
5. Despite the challenges the General Fund shows an operating surplus of £4,329.61 which has been allocated to Designated Funds, in accordance with the Analysis of Fund Movement on Page 6, while our investments suffered a significant loss of £5,372.38 due primarily to the war in Ukraine, referenced in last year's accounts (see Summary of Funds entry at page 6), resulting in a reduction in our overall funds of £833.90.
6. 37 people used Free Will Offering envelopes or bankers 'orders and contributed £30,891.25 during 2021.
7. 22 people made Gift Aid donations during the year.
8. £1,739.19 was received from our sister Church at Sompting as a result of the arrangements for sharing ministerial expenses.

Summary of results for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021

**GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS**

30,957.68	FWO envelopes & bankers orders	30,891.25	
3,107.00	Loose collections	2,352.99	
12,170.00	Donations	8,055.00	
46,234.68		41,299.24	
8,405.89	Tax refund	7,977.70	
54,640.57			49,276.94
6,123.35	Rents & heating contributions	19,932.54	
503.59	Investment income	1,437.44	
1,164.26	Sundry income	2,242.65	
1,997.60	Joint Pastorate	1,739.19	
5,585.00	Fundraising events	3,400.60	
24,342.85	Grants	0.00	
5,000.00	Legacies	0.00	
99,357.22			78,029.36

**GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS**

33,927.00	Maintenance of Ministry	33,927.00
601.60	Pulpit Supply	593.00
5,918.49	Ministerial & Manse Expenses	6,610.37
13,775.67	Upkeep of Church/Manse Premises	20,281.80
28,332.00	Major Projects	0.00
4,181.04	Sundry expenses	6,973.98



5,484.09	10% Mission Fund	5,313.60
92,219.89		73,699.75
7,137.33	<b>GENERAL FUND OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	4,329.61

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

### Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022

#### 2021

68,165.27	CAF Bank	71,175.81
4,029.62	Cash	6,061.11
	Investments held by URC (Southern Province) Trust Ltd	
	Goring URC B Account	
4,811.15	3,575.2 Units Epworth New Sterling Sovereign Bond Fund	3,552.68
1,332.93	1,074.6 Units Epworth New Corporate Bond Fund	1,092.01
26,482.64	14,637.76 Units Epworth New UK Equity Fund	23,170.11
3,096.42	2,059.34 Units Epworth New Global Equity Fund	<u>2,635.96</u>
107,918.03		107,687.68
	<u>Less</u>	
691.94	Liabilities	<u>1,295.49</u>
107,226.09	NET ASSETS	<u>106,392.19</u>

5,729,799 Church, halls and contents at Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, are valued for insurance at £6,159,115.

314,748 Manse at Drummond Road, Goring-by-Sea (freehold), is valued for insurance at £339,928

In addition, the Church Meeting would administer funds remaining if the following organisations were disbanded. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 the amount held was:-

391.09 Tuesday Fellowship £458.37

#### Notes

1. These accounts have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis and comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.
2. The accounts were approved by the Finance Committee on 29 March 2023

*Matthew Smith* Treasurer

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Summary of Funds for the year ended 31 December

	Net Assets	Receipts	Payments
at beginning			
of year			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	10,000.00	73,699.75	73,699.75
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>			
Junior Church	197.77	0.00	0.00
<b>Reserve Funds</b>			
Bank	35,539.75	3,329.61	0.00
Investments	35,723.14	0.00	5,272.33
Organ Repairs	19,935.74	1,000.00	0.00
Flower Fund	(23.44)	255.00	212.00
	91,372.96	4,584.61	5,484.33
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Communion	2,458.84	1.00	0.00

Mini Fishes	89.02	1135.39	1,070.5
Junior Church Bible Fund	19.06	0.00	0.0
Children and Youth Work	3,286.21	0.00	0.0
	5,853.13	1,136.39	1,070.5
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£107,226.09</b>	<b>£79,420.75</b>	<b>£80,257.7</b>
<b>Analysis of Fund Movement (to account for Operating Surplus)</b>			<b>4,329.61</b>
Reserve Fund		3,329.61	0.0
Organ Repairs		1,000.00	0.0
		4,329.61	0.00

The Reserve Fund has been split between Funds held at Bank and Investment Funds

**N.B.**

#### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

I have examined the financial statements of Goring United Reformed Church which comprise the summary of results for the year ended 31 December 2022, the statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022, and the accompanying notes. My examination did not amount to an audit but was carried out in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charities Commissioners for the independent examination of accounts of smaller charities.

My examination was under Section 145 Charities Act 2011. The Church keeps records under Section 130 of the Act.

Nothing has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me cause to believe otherwise than that the accounts accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records apparently satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I am not aware of any

matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

17 May 2023..... M Wightman

Appendix 4 - PROPERTY REPORT from Paul Redman.

The items from the insurance survey:

**The Sanctuary windows:**

Most of us on property have said go with Glasstec Aluminium, Glasstec for price and Aluminium for looks.

However we have also had someone point out that the aluminium is a poor choice due to condensation issues experienced on previous installs and also that we have test PVC windows in place and no-one, as far as we are aware, has expressed a dislike to those and PVC is a lot cheaper.

Maybe we need to see what CM say to this, plus we may need Synod approval for a large project like this??? No-one has been able to confirm this yet as far as I'm aware.

**The pointing:**

We have a pointing quote in and ready to go and as it's sub one thousand pounds we just need to let CM know about this.

**The roofing:**

We have some quotes in but I believe that it's best to wait until the windows have been completed because the glaziers will be walking on newly finished roofing!

**The speeding issue raised by GLF staff:**

- The staff have reported back that the signs have made little or no difference to the speed of cars as they pass through the GLF area.

- We have found that a new 5mph speed hump can be installed for around £113.02 Inc. VAT plus some more permanent warning signs.

**The new bench:**

- Alan and Bett have been showing us the one from Argos for between £200 and £300. Again we can just go ahead with this as it's a replacement, not a new idea, but CM need to be informed first, or so I believe.

**Chairs in the Main Hall and Cornwall room:**

- Wilma is working her way round all the hall hirers to make sure that no chairs are left stacked. The only chairs that should be stacked are those that have been taken out of general use and are put aside in storage.

**Work completed since last CM:**

We've had new windows installed, and new ash trays since the last CM

**This year's Quinquennial Inspection:**

Delayed by a year until 2024

Prices inclusive of VAT	Glasstec	Worthing Windows	Glasstec	Worthing Windows
Description:	<b>PVCu</b>		<b>Aluminium</b>	
Front elevation 20 inserts	£5,880.00	£4,854.00	£9,425.00	£10,410.00
West Transept 12 inserts	£3,680.00	£3,884.00	£6,589.00	£8,710.00
East Transept 15 inserts	£4,526.00	£4,654.00	£9,052.00	£10,310.00
Side sections 10 each with 6 inserts 1 to be an opener	£16,020.00	£17,676.00	£25,640.00	£36,784.00
10 decorative glass units (surcharge)	£846.00	Included	£846.00	Included
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,952.00</b>	<b>£31,068.00</b>	<b>£51,552.00</b>	<b>£66,214.00</b>

Reminder of the insurance survey report:

"Further to Williams Pitt survey report, there is 3 requirements that need to be completed as soon as possible. They are:

*Building Risk assessment (roof) - Although no knowledge of claims relating to defects of the roof and its covering several areas of water penetration were noted at the time of the survey, it is required that a roof inspection be carried out in order to ascertain the condition of all roof areas, its coverings and any associated flashing and gutter details by a suitably qualified and experienced person, this survey should identify if the roof is suffering from covering failure, blocked built in gutters etc, a copy of any subsequent report to be issued to Insurers (NFRC member recommended)*

*Maintenance issues - During the survey various areas of maintenance were recorded that have the potential for further damage/risk to the integrity of the building, these are as follows: -*

- Repointing required to roof verge fillet, rear corner of the West Hall.*
- Repointing required to external wall to rear corner the stage.*
- Minor cracking to the left-hand wall of the sanctuary (to be monitored).*
- Glazed areas to left hand windows of sanctuary has putty coming away.*
- Rotten windows to the left and right side of the front vestibule, windows to be repaired or replaced.*
- Repointing required to left hand side of the front vestibule.*
- Areas of visible water ingress to right side of the organ loft, left side of the West transept.*

***These areas should be addressed to maintain the integrity of the building and evidence of completion should be forwarded to ourselves."***

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC  
25th March 2023, 10.30

Welcome: Andrew

Devotions: Rosemary

Those present: 25 approx Apologies 6

Minutes of meeting agreed and signed

Matters arising:

**Safeguarding Training:**

Rosemary reported that some are not happy to undergo safeguarding training, she reiterated that it is a strict requirement of the URC and that we are expected to undertake the training. Safeguarding is part of our ministry. We do understand the negative reaction for the training that is so far away from home but Mary has an option that will make it easier to complete. She said there is a foundation module online which everyone can do at home; it will raise awareness of the need for safeguarding and why. Whatever volunteer rolls we undertake we need to know what situations that may occur and what we can do about them. These issues need to be reported and addressed remembering this is a URC directive.

Mary quoted John 13:34,35 - Safeguarding is part of looking after and loving each other. The course online takes about 1½ hours following the directions and it can be done in your own time and not necessarily all at once. Mary also quoted other methods to complete the training. If you have queries please refer to both Rosemary or Mary who are here to help you.

Andrew thanked them for their work and reiterated the importance of doing the training and asking for help.

**Church Family News:**

Hilary shared news of the fellowship and those whom we should keep in our prayers.

**Andrews Time:**

- Andrew reported that plans are being made as to how we continue after he has retired with a new way for the interregnum. A Visionary Companion will guide us through; discussion of this will be deferred to the next meeting.
- With regard to this Andrew told the Church meeting that an Elders Day has been arranged for 22nd April and will be reported at the next CM.
- Maundy Thursday Service is confirmed as 7pm, it will begin with communion and readings referencing the Passion and the church will have a different layout. Sompting has been invited to join us.
- Review of the serving of Communion, it was reported that the Elders are happy with how it is currently done as are many others in the fellowship.

**Finance:**

- The Finance committee met on 20th March
- Cleaning, there has been a change in arrangements. The cleaning duty is now done by Paul Redman, who is doing an extremely good job and Matthew said it is hoped that it will remain but depends on Paul's Work/life balance.
- This years accounts will be presented at the next church meeting in May.



# GURC – Church Meeting Minutes

26<sup>th</sup> November 2022

28 members present. 4 apologies.

Devotions lead by Val Berry

Minutes of previous meeting agreed and signed by Rev Andrew Sellwood

Matters arising- None

## Agenda:

**Church family news.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those in need.

**Andrew's time-** Andrew reported on a strategic deployment meeting he recently attended and will keep the meeting updated with information regarding deployment and the pastoral committees' recommendations as well as ministerial support once Andrew retires in June 2023.

Andrew thanked the Elders for their support and commitment and spoke about the continuity the church will have with the current Elders for at least the next two years.

Val Gill will be inducted into Eldership on 27th November.

Valerie Cooper has passed her assessed services and is now an accredited Lay Preacher. She will be presented to Synod in March 2023.

The meeting showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Next Synod together meeting was taking place in Crawley on 26th November (today) to discuss future plans for the Synod area.

## Group Reports:

### **Finance and Hall lettings**

Matthew Smith shared information regarding hall lettings and also presented the budget proposal for 2023.

The meeting approved this proposal with a show of hands.

**Property.** Bett Swierk – The bench outside the front of the church has been removed due to it being unsafe and is likely to be replaced next spring.

Fire extinguishers have been checked with recommendations as to re-siting some of these.

A quote has been accepted from Keith Best to replace current security lighting with improvement in some areas.

Various other maintenance work was also reported on.

Both Bett and Matthew appealed for more volunteers to join the Property Group, even if this was just to see through a particular task.

The meeting thanked Bett for her work.

### **Outreach.** Val Gill

Coffee morning for Poppy appeal was successful.

The next Coffee morning is planned for mid-January and will then take place every two months to support various charities.

The Halloween evening was hampered by weather, but some folk did attend and particularly enjoyed the hot chocolate.

The situation with church cleaning was raised as there have been incidents when areas have not been cleaned, including toilet areas. Matthew Smith appealed for volunteers to recommend different cleaning companies and obtain quotes.

Warm Space initiative. Valerie Cooper - Goring URC is now registered to open on Monday afternoons for two hours and Sunday mornings from 10-12. Refreshments will be available.

Shoe box appeal. Bett Swierk - 12 family boxes completed this year. Bett did have to do some top up shopping for these.

The meeting was asked if they wanted Shoe boxes to continue next year and to consider this for a decision later. Another option would be to take donations to be added to the shoe box hospital.

#### **Little Fishes.** Paul Redman

Paul gave a report on Little Fishes, a copy of the annual report can be found in the minutes folder. This is also available in the public domain online. It is a requirement that a report is brought to the church meeting once a year.

#### **Review of the serving of communion-**

The Elders have recommended we continue with the current set up and this can be reviewed again in three months' time when a decision can be made with a show of hands. It was noted that some members prefer being served communion by an elder.

Valerie Cooper asked people not to re-arrange chairs in the Sanctuary as she has taken the responsibility to ensure these are placed to best suit the various seating groups in the church and to allow people to access the Communion items laid out.

It was also noted that chairs had been placed directly by the heaters which is a fire risk.

Andrew spoke of the responsibility held by the Elders to provide worship for the congregation, and this is what they have been doing thoughtfully and carefully, both during lockdown and going forward.

In future there will be more responsibility for the eldership after Andrew retires and Andrew expressed his hope that the church will support the Elders and appreciate all the hard work they do on behalf of the church. Much of which goes unrecognised and unappreciated.

#### **Tech update** Ryan Thomas

Ryan gave a presentation on the new specialist church data base system called Churchsuite which can be accessed via an App.

This is a secure and adaptable platform that can be used for all aspects of church activity.

For those members who may not have access to the necessary technology a Buddy system can be set up whereby those with access can receive online information on behalf of others.

AOB - None received.

Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 10:30 am

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace

- Electric Contract, Matthew has signed a up for a years contract with YU Energy and it will be reviewed again next year to minimise any financial risk, The meeting agreed to this measure.
- Investments, we have changed where our investments are kept as Synod advised that the fund we currently hold will close on 30th April. This we have done as it reduces our exposure to loss. The meeting agreed to this being done.
- Hall hire rates, the rates for hire have been raised by £1 per hour and the rates will be reviewed again next year if gas prices rise significantly, again the Meeting agreed. There is a list of rates attached.

### **Property:**

- Paul Redman, a survey has been completed for Insurance. There are works to be done, Water Ingress, Windows need to be replaced in the Sanctuary and the toilets off the vestibule and pointing of brickwork. Paul reported that we need 2 quotes for anything to be done and its difficult to get replies. It is intended we do the work piecemeal beginning with the toilets at a spend of around £2000. The Meeting Agreed.
- The 5 MPH speed limit signs have been put as it is dangerous to drive any faster with the potential of children in and out of Little Fishes.
- It was suggested that a notice for the one way system round the church should be put up but it was said that no-one reads them.
- If anyone finds anything broken or in need of attention please let Paul know and he will deal with it.

### **Outreach:**

- Coffee and Cake is going well with nearly 20 regulars
- Leprosy Mission Coffee morning raised around £80
- Next coffee mornings are 12th May for Christian Aid and a Quiz in aid of Christian Aid will be held on 20th May 3-5pm
- Recent GLAD meal attended by 20 ladies with some new faces, next one May/June, TBC.
- Next Barn Dance 16th September.
- There will be a bring and Share Lunch after 7th May Service to celebrate the Coronation and another on 18th June after Andrews last service as our Minister.
- Mini Fishes, are desperate for volunteers please prayerfully consider if you are able to help. This is a very strong group that is of great value.
- Shoe boxes, Bett asked the meeting if they want to continue with this important outreach. Andrew said this is a great ministry to which the meeting agreed therefore a list will be in the April Welcome etc.

### **Synod Together Report:**

Giles, who made the report, and others from our church attended the meeting, the following is relevant for us:-

‘Some time was spent learning about the role of Visionary Companions, who would help local churches decide on their mission and vision for the future after the departure of a minister taking into account the God given skills of church members. Once all these had been decided a team would be created to report to the Pastoral Committee with a view to appointing an Interim Moderator to help create a profile for a Vacancy List.’

The rest of the report is attached as Appendix 1.

**Notices and correspondence:**

- The latest Mission and Vision newsletter is at the back of the church.
- For information, news of a URC Big climate protest is at the back of the church.
- Also Ruth and Mamy's newsletter.

**Any other business:**

- Ruth and Mamy are not retiring yet, they are moving to their new home in North Wales and Ruth will be working from home for at least a year. They still need prayerful and financial support and it was agreed at the meeting that this should continue, it was noted that the amount is the same as it has always been and perhaps should be revised. Matthew will deal with the review.
- Lighting: We do not always need electric lights on during the day in such a bright and airy church. Therefore its been agreed that we do not put lights on unnecessarily. In the Hall the lighting is still the same strip lights and it may be prudent to update them.
- ECO grants are available from Synod but only till the end of 2023.

Next Meeting Saturday 25th May 2023 at 10.30am  
Meeting ended at 11.55 with prayer and sharing the Grace.

.....  
Signed By Rev Andrew Sellwood on 25th May 2023

APPENDIX 1  
**Report for GURC on Synod Together  
Meeting 11 March 2023  
Brighthelm Centre, Brighton**

On Saturday 11 March I attended the Synod Together meeting held at the Brighthelm Centre URC in Brighton. After a welcome to those who were attending in-person and the opening worship, led by West Thamesmead Pioneer Ministry, we were welcomed to the formal meeting by the Moderator, the Reverend Bridget Banks, who dealt with Pastoralia after the minutes of the meeting on 9 October 2022 had been unanimously agreed.

Various Synod papers were dealt with in fairly short order. From the Synod council report we were told that each Synod Area would be holding a "Prayer Day" centred on the theme of "Listening" when we could come to listen for God's guiding voice. In listening to this "collective" voice from the different Synod Areas, we hear a prophetic voice in ways which we hope will enable the "synod" to grow stronger in faith and purpose.

Some time was spent learning about the role of Visionary Companions, who would help local churches decide on their mission and vision for the future after the departure of a minister taking into account the God given skills of church members. Once all these had been decided a team would be created to report to the Pastoral Committee with a view to appointing an Interim Moderator to help create a profile for a Vacancy List.

The pilot Energy Audit of church premises has been paused because the reports proved not particularly helpful for the average local property convenor. Synod is now looking for other more realistic ways in which churches can act on the path to reduce their carbon footprint. The target date for reaching net zero emissions has been moved from 2025 to 2030. To reach this goal it is proposed that each church will produce a self-assessment checklist of practical options to assist in embarking on the road to reducing their carbon footprint. Grants will be available from Synod until 31 December 2023. Churches should aim to become Eco-churches. Manses would be upgraded during vacancies.

On Finance the Treasurer thanked all those responsible for the effort put into submitting M&M reports. He was pleased to report that the 2023 payment to reduce the deficit on the Pension Scheme had been paid in October 2022. In order to ensure that accounts and M&M reports were submitted on time the Treasurer recommended that church treasurers should attend governance meetings.

In the report on the work of the Children and Youth Committee it was mentioned that groups from Germany and France will be holding a holiday in the Lea Valley from 12-19 August. The cost of taking part in the holiday is £95.00. The Youth Assembly had discussed many topics relevant to local churches including the provision of a substance abuse resource, a Warm Space, a quiet space in church, inter-church support and on-line courses on mental health. There are already some dates for the last item.

Shortly before the lunch break the Revds Sally and Andy Willett told us enthusiastically about their work establishing a church in West Thamesmead. Starting from scratch they had walked around the area talking to people, invited people to drop in for coffee and a chat, stood outside a petrol filling station and in local streets. As people became involved they managed to hire a school where Messy church and the Harvest festival were popular. Other activities included street evangelism with the local police on Saturday nights, an Open air Nativity and Easter fun in a local park.

During a discussion on new and retiring ministers the Moderator thanked Andrew Sellwood among others for their services to their churches. Jacob Bali gave his account of work as a Special Category Minister. Joseph sees it as his duty, independent of local churches to make people aware of faith and show them it is possible to have faith in their everyday lives.

After lunch we were shown a video entitled the "Legacy of Slavery". This gave examples of racism experienced by members of the black community in the UK and of the way URC churches had acted to overcome the problems, including a confession from the URC and an apology for slavery. The video posed the question, "What could or should local and the wider church do to become an anti-racist church?" One delegate queried why the video did not deal with the question of black on brown racism. This brought the meeting to a close with a final act of worship.

The next meeting is scheduled for 21 October 2023 at St Mary Cray in Kent.  
Giles Wilson, Synod Together representative.





GURC Church Meeting 28 07 2022

Present 25 members

Apologies 4

Chairman Revd. Andrew Sellwood

Devotions led by Rosemary Terry

### Elders Election.

Matthew Smith and Bett Swierk were agreed as Tellers by the meeting.

Andrew led the meeting in prayers for guidance.

Valerie Gill was unanimously re-elected to the Eldership. Thanks were given in her absence.

The meeting agreed to the destroying of the ballot slips.

Minutes of previous meeting. After one amendment these were agreed and signed by the minister.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **1.Safeguarding.** Rosemary Terry

Kestro are virtually at the end of the signing process and are hoping to resume on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. How long they can continue will depend on the number of helpers available.

#### **2. Looking forward.** Revd Andrew Sellwood,

Andrew gave an update on Where we are and Where we're going. He has noted the comments around the way we "Do church" since coming out of Lockdown. Andrew has received both written and verbal comments. It has been requested we vote on the issues raised.

Here are highlights from Andrew's introduction to the item 2 in Matters Arising. A full transcript is to be found in the minute folder.

*"The next few years will be difficult for the Church and we pray God will present us with opportunities and resources.*

*The situation for the wider URC is appearing be quite challenging but here at Goring URC we are blessed with a committed Eldership.*

*Our finances are better than many churches and we have a fantastic potential for Mission.*

*The LICC initiative, which was approved by the church meeting, is moving forward.*

*Andrew expressed his sadness that the Elders are currently under a lot of criticism and pressure from individuals within the church.*

*The Elders have a heart for the future of the Church and the meeting was reminded that the church members agreed to pray for and support the Elders when they were ordained and inducted."*

Three of the serving Elders present at the meeting, representing the Eldership, each spoke in turn regarding the following matters.

Church seating plan, Communion and other elements of worship.

Some members prefer a central aisle and some prefer the chairs to remain as they are since lockdown. The meeting was asked if they thought the current seating arrangements affect their worship of our Lord. Can the Cross the Lectern, the pulpit or the screens still be seen?

Does the new arrangement provide a more relaxed, friendly and inviting atmosphere to people visiting our church?

Going back to "Normal".

What is normal? The rituals we have always had are now out of date and have no place in our quest towards Mission. The beginning of the service should be indicated by the arrival of the minister or visiting preacher, not the ritualist bringing in of the Bible and the parade of Elders into the Church. Given Andrew will be retiring in 2023 we need to keep things simple for those leading our services who are inexperienced or unused to visiting different churches.

Doing things the same way is the easy option. Change challenges us so maybe now is the time to be challenged.

Communion rituals can be very confusing and off putting for people new to Church.

Having this laid out on tables means people can chose to partake or not without feeling pressured or confused about what to do. The decisions made by the Elders have not been to throw their weight around, but to gently nudge us into the future. Given our dwindling congregation, this is something the Elders feel is important and there are exciting prospects for tomorrow.

If we had not moved forward and embraced new ways our members would not have been able to view services online during lock down, we would not have the visual and sound systems we have.

There was then a discussion time for the meeting to express their concerns and ask questions.

A selection of questions and comments from various church members follows ...

"Why are we spending time on this, surely there are more important things to talk about?"

"Andrew spoke recently about Outreach, what about In-reach to members?"

"Using the Arundel Silver is part of our tradition, some people like tradition. "

"It is the way of the URC to vote on matters such as this so please can we vote."

"We voted for the Elders, why are we questioning their decisions?"

"I applaud what the Elders are doing."

"The position of the chairs is a personal point of view to individuals, but it does not affect worship."

An example was given of another church in Brighton, who recently took a difficult and challenging new decision which has paid off and led to growth.

"If we keep looking back, how can we look forward".

It was suggested that taking such a vote could prove to be constraining to both the Elders and the Church as the outcome would be decisive and could be divisive. The Eldership should review the effectiveness of decisions and review if necessary.

Andrew reported that he has spoken with the Moderator about the ongoing issues. The serving Eldership do have autonomy to make certain decisions, such as finances and spending a sum of money previously agreed by the meeting, without having to bring the Spend to the meeting beforehand.

After much discussion the meeting voted on whether they wanted to vote on this matter. The vote was unanimously in favour of this.

The Proposal for the vote was-

Keep things as they are currently or revert back to how things were pre lockdown in respect of :

Chair layout

Communion

At the beginning of worship – the ceremonial carrying in of the Church Bible and Elders joint entry from the vestry.

The proposal to keep things as they are now, following lock down had a majority vote of 18 in favour.

Andrew added a caveat that the Elders will maintain a review process of our worship but for now things will remain as they are. Let us move on.

A representative of the Eldership requested that backbiting and unhelpful comments to the Elders now ceases as this has made them all feel very uncomfortable.

Some members expressed their concerns that people were not at the meeting who also share the view that things should go back to how they were. The meeting was advised this could equally apply to those not present who wanted to keep the post lockdown changes. Every member has the opportunity to attend Church meetings and that those present at the meeting today were a representation of the Church.

It was noted that a minority of members were not happy with the outcome. The meeting was reminded we are guided by the Holy Spirit on this and all decisions.

Revd Andrew Sellwood spoke of his concerns for the Eldership over recent times, pointing out they have had a very difficult time and that a lot of hurtful comments have been directed towards them by various people in the Church. Andrew asked if this could now be put behind us grace, love and encouragement is the way forward.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**Church family news.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer all those with special needs at this time.

A request was made for the Prayer book to be reinstated as it is a useful tool. This has been well used online also.

**Group Reports:** Matthew Smith

Finances and hall lettings

The budget has been presented to the Finance committee. Shortfall of £603 forecasted for end of year but final outcome could change either way. The committee are content with the mid -year situation.

Much depends on Hall letting which remain short of pre Covid levels.

A number of factors necessitate revisiting hall hire agreements. The aim is to issue new agreements (Licences to Occupy) over the next few weeks. Prime drivers are Safeguarding policies and insurance cover to be evidenced. This exercise needs to be conducted yearly.

Wilma and Matthew Smith with Rosemary Terry will be working on the details over the next week or two.

There will be no increase in hall hire rates for now due to the protection afforded from our gas and electricity contracts. Decisions will be made around increases from Sept 2023-2024. These will be addressed at the March meeting each year

An increased rate for Sanctuary hire is being considered but Matthew is looking to the Elders to steer on this.

Progress is also needed to formulate letting agreement with Little Fishes. Church Meeting will be updated.

Signatures for bank mandate. The meeting was asked to agree on the following signatories: Mrs Valerie Gill, Mr Wilfred Rhodes, Mr Matthew Smith, Mrs Rosemary Terry, Mr Alan Westcott, and Mr Roger Wilde.

This proposal was carried unanimously by the meeting.

**Property.** Bett Swierk

There was some criminal damage to the church a few weeks ago. The perpetrators were captured on Little Fishes CCTV camera, and this is now in the hands of the police. Choir vestry roof repair is delayed due to the Roofer being unwell.

PAT testing is completed.

The new notice board is arriving soon. Barbara Hillman is to “go to” person for the notice board.

The meeting was requested to be mindful of security and locking up the church securely.

**Outreach.** Coffee and Cakes is going well with 17 people attending last week, not all church folk. This is an informal setting where games can be played, or people can just sit and chat.

**Notices and Correspondence**

An email has been received from Synod asking the church to respond to 3 questions.

Where will we be in 5 years' time?

What could be better within the URC?

What would one area of change be in your local church.

**AOB.** None notified.

Date of next meeting

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30

Andrew closed the meeting with a Prayer

## **GURC Church Meeting. 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

19 members plus minister present - 11 apologies

Devotions led by Ryan Thomas

Minutes of previous meeting agreed and signed by Revd. Sellwood.

### **Matters arising.**

**Safeguarding.** Rosemary Terry gave an update.

The church safeguarding policy has now been updated and signed off. This is displayed in the Cornwall room and main hall. A copy of this was distributed to members at the meeting.

Thanks were offered to Graham Redman for his help in putting this document on the website and App which is due to go live soon.

All contact details are up to date and the safeguarding email address and mobile phone number are now up and running.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have face to face safeguarding training in the church, but these sessions will be organised on an area and Synod level. Rosemary will investigate this.

### **Kestro.**

This situation is ongoing and is a work in progress.

Rosemary acknowledged her difficult position as the Safeguarding lead. She is working closely with Synod and Kestro, as well as with Matthew and Wilma Smith with regards to hall lettings.

Rosemary requested that any church members who come across hearsay that the church does not want Kestro to continue please stress this is inaccurate and that we are working towards a satisfactory outcome.

Rev Andrew Sellwood stated his appreciation for the work Rosemary is doing on behalf of the church in this challenging task.

### **Agenda items**

**Church family news.** Hilary Redman.

The meeting shared news of the fellowship. No special needs at the moment and those in the family who have been unwell are now recovering

We remembered those in the church family who have not yet returned to worship with us in person but are joining via the streaming service.

News was also shared of new visitors to our services.

The meeting stood in remembrance of Gordon Brunton who passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Doris Baker who passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Funeral details were given for the latter.

**Issues to be discussed.** Valerie Cooper.

Church members were invited via Welcome last week to bring any concerns to be discussed at the meeting. One issue was raised around church cleaning. Matthew Smith confirmed the cleaners work two hours on a Monday morning to clean the Halls, kitchen and main areas and one hour on Thursday to clean the Sanctuary. Matthew informed the meeting there has recently been a review with the manager Gemma who subsequently organised a Deep clean. It was acknowledged the situation was not perfect but that alternatives would have implications around cost, sourcing a provider and value for money.

Valerie Cooper noted the cleaners had recently been seen cleaning the kitchen on a Sunday morning and that Mini Fishes have reported the floors being in a bad state.

**Use of Face Coverings.** Matthew Smith.

The church has been following the recommendations of the Moderators meeting around face covering in church. This is not a legal requirement but a personal choice.

It was noted that less people are now wearing face coverings in church and that these are removed to share coffee time. Matthew suggested we change our wording to people being welcome to wear a face covering if they wish but that we are not encouraging them to do so.

Arrangement of chairs and position of Aisle. Valerie Cooper.

A discussion was had regarding the positioning of chairs and the Aisle and the rationale for this. It was considered by the Elders to give a more relaxed and informal first impression to any new visitors and was felt to be more inclusive.

It was acknowledged that we are fortunate to have flexibility with the layout of the Sanctuary which can be changed for events such as Weddings and Funerals. The members were advised that this has been previously discussed in church meeting at the time the central aisle carpet was removed. This was pre Covid.

Various opinions were raised around how this impacts on church members and it was noted some may not be happy with the current layout. It is a subjective issue, but Elders are suggesting flexibility of layout is for the greater good.

Bett Swierk confirmed she has checked that the layout does conform to fire regulations.

### **Complaints Procedure.**

In line with URC guidelines the meeting was advised that any complaints should firstly be taken to the Church secretary and NOT the Minister. If these complaints are regarding either the Elders or Minister they should go to Synod Pastoral committee.

Four people will then be appointed to investigate any complaints.

Matthew Smith reminded the meeting of the promises they make to support the elected Elders in their role and that it is not helpful or supportive to have the Elders in the firing line. He also reminded the church we should be looking forward, not looking back.

### **Andrew's time**

Andrew reiterated what Matthew had said, adding we have a very good Eldership currently who have been subjected to much criticism and personal attack. Andrew stated his sadness that some of our fellowship are involved in this ungracious activity.

Andrew reminded us that before the Covid Lockdown the Church was planning how we could develop a mission field in the new housing estate, thinking about opportunities and considering getting a CRCW to help. We also looked at redeveloping our church interior to be more attractive and welcoming. Covid may have led people to think more of themselves than others and stressed the need to break out of this self-centredness.

Andrew also asked if the time of lockdown and Covid had somehow made the church more inward looking in light of current discussions and described how claustrophobic this felt to him. He stressed the importance of not going back to pre-vision times and we need to face the challenge and look for growth of the Kingdom of God in this place, not favouring our own limited wishes.

Andrew reported on the progress of Sompting URC (our sister church) and the Grace Spaces project, developing a community garden. This is building relationships with the local community, working together, an example of outward looking. Andrew asked the meeting what we can do in Goring URC. Engage with the outside world and share our great message or are we happy to stay as we are and diminish.

We need to move away from our own agendas as this is not what God wants for us, His vision is much larger than ours.

Once Andrew has retired in June 2023 the church will be in a time of interregnum and may not have a minister for 4-5 years. The Elders are already taking on more responsibility and this will increase in the absence of a minister. The role of the Eldership has changed and is very different to how it was even five years ago. They have more accountability as trustees of the church and a legal responsibility under the Charitable commission.

Andrew asked the meeting to look after the Elders and asked the Elders to ensure they communicate efficiently with the church.

Matthew Smith added to this stating the Elders are doing what is absolutely essential. They are putting in a great deal of work and that once these plans are in place and agreed, it should not be necessary to re-visit them.



## **Group Reports**

### **Finance and Hall lettings.** Matthew Smith.

Accounts signed off by Munro Wightman. These were approved and carried by the meeting. Thanks were given to Munro.

Youth group funds to be amalgamated with children's work funds and retitled 'Children and Youth work'. The designated fund status is maintained but allows some flexibility of use in the future.

This was agreed and carried by the meeting.

Hall lettings. One booking lost. Wednesdays and Thursdays the halls are vacant. Anyone interested in hiring please contact Matthew and Wilma.

Gift Day will be Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Pentecost

### **Property.** Bett Swierk.

Property and outreach groups are looking to replace the outside notice board with one that is easier and safer to access.

### **Outreach.** Valerie Cooper.

Mini fishes have now settled to around 25-30 families attending. More offers of help with this are needed please.

Coffee and cake grew to double figures last week. They plan to move outside when the weather allows.

20 ladies enjoyed a meal at the North Star recently and a Men's meal is being planned.

Skittles evening is booked for 25<sup>th</sup> June at The Spur in Slindon. Please add names to list at back of church.

A barn dance is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Due to low numbers and a small team, Messy Church will not be continuing. The families that attended enjoyed their time and were given a bible.

The church meeting gave their agreement to a proposal to hold a weeknight praise evening, probably on the last Thursday of the month. This will initially use Worship Lyric Video music.

Craft club continues on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 -12:30

### **AOB.**

An invite is extended to us from Revd Helen Higgin-Botham to a Synod Together meeting at Crawley URC on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Caroline Hibbs will be attending. Anyone else is welcome to join her.

Sussex Synod, a letter invites young families to help write and prepare Advent material. Tickets can be obtained via Eventbrite.

Welcome Editors needed!

Requested by Wilfred Rhodes (who was not at the meeting). More editors are required to join the rota please to share the load.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm

The meeting ended in prayer and the sharing of the Grace

## **GURC Church Meeting. 26.3.2022**

Present 19 members plus minister

Apologies. 10

Devotions led by Hilary Redman who kindly stepped in at the last minute.

Previous minutes amended and signed by Revd Andrew Sellwood.

### Matters arising

#### **Safeguarding.** Rosemary Terry

The ratification of Rosemary Terry as Safeguarding Lead and Mary Redman as Safeguarding Deputy was carried by the church meeting.

Rosemary provided information about the interviews for these posts following the Safer Recruitment process as we need to have evidence these have been followed.

Both Rosemary and Mary have taken on these roles at a challenging and changing time, both for the church and nationally in terms of Safeguarding. Rosemary gave an overview of her most recent experience in this field.

There will be a safeguarding mobile phone and email address. These actions follow a recommendation nationally. The Elders will discuss at their next meeting how these will be shared.

We need to update the safeguarding policy and make this available to all who wish to access it.

Serving Elders have a responsibility to ensure due process is followed in the areas of Health and Safety, Finances, Data Protection and Safeguarding. There can be implications both financially and legally if not done correctly. They are Trustees of the Church as laid out in the Charities commission mandate.

Disclosure and Barring Service checks need to be completed where required for all who work in the various church groups.

Annual safeguarding returns are required and information regarding safe recruitment is part of this remit.

Safeguarding Training needs to be undertaken by those working with Children and Adults at Risk. Rosemary is trying to see if face-to-face training can be arranged.

#### **Kestro and Safeguarding.**

The meeting was informed that due to some safeguarding discrepancies Kestro has had to cease. Steve Webber, who is the chairperson asked the questions as to why this has happened as Kestro is not affiliated to the church.

Steve reported that although Kestro does not have a written safeguarding policy in place they do operate within a safeguarding way, always working in pairs and that no volunteer is alone with any of their members for more than a minute or two.

Steve also stated his understanding that Disclosure and Barring is discretionary not compulsory.

Safeguarding Lead, Rosemary Terry responded to these questions. It was acknowledged that this situation is distressing to all concerned but Rosemary stated she is unable to provide all the facts due to confidentiality issues. The Revd. Andrew Sellwood is aware.

The Safeguarding Lead was made aware of a serious matter relating to Kestro and after further information was sought, it was necessary and her duty, to seek advice from the Synod Safeguarding Coordinator, Belinda Neilson. It was on her recommendation that Kestro should be suspended for the time being.

Kestro has been in existence for many years and at no time has there been a formal hire agreement in place. Any outside organisation using church premises should sign an agreement which will include safeguarding. If they do not have their own safeguarding policy, they should work in line with Church procedures.

It was acknowledged that Kestro has unfortunately slipped through the net but that it is necessary to follow statutory guidance and have a written policy. In future anyone who takes on either a paid or voluntary role will need to be safely recruited and have a DBS check if required, before they begin any activity. To not do so could potentially lead to a serious issue.

The URC has recently changed its requirements as to who requires a DBS check. Someone who is supervised at all times should not require one.

It was noted that Belinda had recommended Kestro is suspended, and the question was asked why they cannot resume and not follow this recommendation. Rosemary stated they need to follow recommendations as there could be consequences if not doing so. These could include legal and /or financial consequences if recommendations are not followed through. She also added that she thought that if Kestro did not comply with the recommendations, the Serving Elders would need to consider whether Kestro could continue to hire the hall.

Belinda Nielson has sent an email to the Kestro Committee members with a list of questions. The Safeguarding Lead is aware of the content, received a copy which has been passed on to Revd. Andrew Sellwood for information. Any further questions from Kestro as to why they cannot resume need to be directed to Belinda Neilson at Synod. Rosemary Terry reiterated that there were serious and confidential reasons why she consulted with Belinda Neilson and sought advice, that she is not able to answer any further questions and strongly advised Steve and the Committee to respond to Belinda's email.

Revd Andrew Sellwood acknowledged the vital work of Kestro and the frustration this situation is bringing. He noted that Church has become more complicated and that we must abide by regulations and address issues to avoid long term consequences.

Kestro now need to liaise with Belinda Neilson who can direct them as to how to proceed. Matthew Smith stated that having Rosemary as Safeguarding lead with all her experience was of great value to the Church. He has now provided Rosemary with a copy of the Hall hire agreement template and will email a copy to Kestro. Anyone using our halls will have to abide by the signed agreement.

It is hoped that this situation will be addressed as soon as possible and that the Church can provide evidence we have done all we can to meet full compliance.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

Church Family news. Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time .This included those currently residing in Nursing Homes and those recovering from Covid.

#### **Andrew's Time.**

Andrew shared news of Sompting URC.

The Wednesday mid- week service and community garden project are both going well.

Anita and Malcolm Strudwick are now church members since 13.2.22.

## **Group reports**

Finance and Hall lettings. Matthew Smith gave his report, a copy of which is in the minutes folder.

Approval of the Mission and Outreach budget was carried by the Church meeting.

There will be a gift day on 6<sup>th</sup> June when we hope to raise £5,000.

The resolution that mini fishes will come under the auspices of the Outreach group was carried by the church meeting.

Property. Bett Swierk

Ceiling panel in Cornwall room is now replaced and air vents put in. The other ceiling panels have also been checked and are safe.

Kitchen cupboard will be sorted on Monday.

Chair situation. We have an excess of 50 which will be offered to other local URC's .50 will be stored on the stage.

Fabric chairs are difficult to clean which is why they are not used in certain areas.

Please can any chairs used be put back from where they were taken.

Cleaning day. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 9-12

Alternate date could be Wed 27<sup>th</sup> but Bett will not be available and someone else will need to take the lead. Details will be in Welcome.

Under Health and Safety Bett does regular checks around the property and requested we all do what we can to help each other. This includes wiping tables clean before putting them away.

Outreach Val Gill.

Val updated the meeting on the success of various activities in the church. A copy of this is in the minutes folder

Synod Report. Giles Wilson reported on Synod meeting which was held on 12.3.22.

A copy of this report is in the minutes folder.

## Notices and correspondence

Val Gill has received information of events within the Southern Synod. A copy of this will be on the table at back of the church

AOB. None received.

Next meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm

The meeting ended with a prayer and the sharing of the Grace

## GURC Church Meeting. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Welcome by Revd Andrew Sellwood. Devotions led by Val Gill.

23 members present 6 apologies received

Minutes of previous meeting agreed and signed by minister.

### **Matters arising**

Lesley Wake the manager of Little Fishes spoke to the meeting about Mini Fishes and appealed for further volunteers from the church to support this.

Lesley reported 103 families had attended on various weeks with a minimum of 25 children and maximum of 47. Word has spread about this provision in the community. Mini Fishes is making use of the various rooms in the church also their own sensory room and outside play area. They are providing staff for the session. This was originally 1 person but is currently involving 3 members of the Little Fishes team

It was noted that church volunteers can speak into the spiritual and faith aspect of this venture.

If anyone is willing help with making tea/coffee, talking to mums and carers, or helping with activities please speak to Val Gill. Any volunteers will be directed to Rosemary Terry as a DBS will be required.

Rosemary thanked Lesley and the Little Fishes staff for the work in setting up this valuable community venture. Mini Fishes runs every Monday from 09:30 -11:30

Matthew Smith commented on the level of deprivation in our locality and how working together with Little Fishes could be a valuable and relevant mission for the church and encouraged people to prayerfully consider volunteering. Andrew Sellwood spoke about the need to build and develop relationships in our community and added his own thanks to Lesley and her team.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Church Family News.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the church family and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time.

The meeting stood in silence for two church family members Mr Trevor Plank and Mrs Trudi Sanders who passed away In December 2021.

The meeting also approved and agreed Anita and Malcom Strudwick for church membership. This had already been agreed by the Elders before coming to the church meeting.

A transfer of membership from GURC to Tunbridge Wells URC was also discussed and Hilary Redman will liaise with Andrew as to how to proceed.

### **Andrew's time**

Andrew and the Elders are attending the first meeting of the LICC learning hub on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January and will feed back their finding to the next church meeting. Andrew expressed his hope that this venture will bear fruit for the life of the church.

### GROUPS REPORTS

**Finance and Hall lettings.** No report

**Property.** Val Gill on behalf of Ryan.

Many tasks have been completed since the last report.

Fibre cables for the new internet have been damaged and now replaced.

The vestry refurbishment is now completed.

The heating in the sanctuary is now repaired and a manual override is installed. Further details of works will be available In Sunday's Welcome leaflet.

**Outreach.** Val Gill

The last Outreach meeting had to be cancelled due to ill health.

Mini Fishes is doing well.

Messy Church is growing and there will an appeal in Welcome for supplies.

Table tennis is thriving with a new person joining the junior section.

Coffee and cake on a Monday had 8 visitors, some new to the church.

The leaflet distribution is bearing fruit and thanks were offered to all those involved.

Craft club is starting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. For further details please see Caroline Hibbs.

## AOB

Wilfred Rhodes. Furniture

Wilf raised his concerns, which are also shared by Graham Redman, at the general state of the church in respect of cleanliness and storage. This included concerns around storage of chairs and books. Andrew concurred that appropriate storage is a problem, as is ascertaining who the various unclaimed items belong to. It was suggested we need a Church Spring Clean.

Graham Redman proposed the Property groups is asked to review this situation and look at how the issues raise could be addressed. He also pointed out that as the Covid restrictions begin to lift we can consider getting some of the chairs which were removed to facilitate social distancing, could be brought s back out of storage.

It was suggested the Elders could discuss and bring back to the next meeting ideas regarding a spring clean, but it was felt this would be too long a wait given the next meeting is not until March.

Bett Swierk spoke in her role as part of the property committee. She reminded the meeting that due to Health and Safety various changes had to be made and that hymn books for example had to be removed and stored. Bett has already taken some items to the tip.

The meeting was reminded that all the various church groups need to take responsibility for the things they use and how and where these are stored. There is a lack of space, and it needs to be used appropriately. Please can people let the Property committee be aware of any issues and if they are unable to address this then it will be taken to the Elders.

Bett kindly volunteered to arrange the Church Spring Clean.

Hilary Redman suggested that ownership of items and property needs to be established.

Matthew Smith spoke of the need to view the overall picture and pointed out that when our church hosted Synod Together, we used every available chair we have and suggested the fundamental issue is indeed that of storage.

**Safeguarding.** Rosemary Terry

There have been two applicants for the roles of safeguarding officer and deputy. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay getting the interviews completed but it is hoped this will be done by the beginning of February. More information will be brought to the next church meeting.

**KESTRO.** Carol Webber

As already reported in Welcome, Kestro is in danger of closing due to lack of drivers and leadership. This could happen as early as March this year.

Carol asked the meeting for any ideas of how this valuable provision for those who have suffered a Stroke could continue. The Kestro committee will be meeting in a few weeks to discuss this. The meeting was asked to pray for Kestro.

The meeting was informed that although Kestro had declined to be a church organisation it is an important part of the church.

Andrew pointed that that whilst it is important to look for new outreach opportunities, we must not forget the need to support existing outreach and stated he hoped this is not a sign of a declining church.

Matthew Smith reminded the church that Kestro is registered as a charity which means it is in a different position. He noted that whilst transport is a technical issue, the fundamental problem is the need for new blood to organise and take Kestro forward.

Andrew encouraged the Church to be revived and inspired to become involved in the life and work of the church to support its moving forward.

Notices and Correspondence. Nothing to report.

Next meeting 26th March at 10:30

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.

## **GURC Church Meeting 20.11.21**

Chair. Revd Andrew Sellwood

Devotions led by Rosemary Terry.

Apologies 3

Present 23

Minutes of meeting agreed after 1 amendment and signed by Revd Sellwood.

No matters arising.

Church Family News\*. Hilary Redman

\*This is a change of title from 'Pastoral news' and was agreed by the Elders to be more inclusive.

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time.

Pastoral Elders will be delivering Christmas gifts of pot plants to the housebound or those in nursing homes.

Safeguarding. Rosemary Terry

Thanks were given to Hilary and Matthew for their work as Safeguarding Officers. These roles have now been advertised and applicants are being considered by the Elders and it is hoped the safeguarding lead and deputy safeguarding lead will be in post by the end of December.

A report was given detailing this difficult subject and the significant changes needed to comply with the latest URC guidance. Further updates will be brought to future church meetings.

Rosemary is liaising with the Synod Safeguarding Officer

The meeting was reminded that Safeguarding is Everyone's responsibility.

Wilfred Rhodes offered thanks to Mary Redman for her work with the Disclosure and Barring process which she will continue to do.

Further details of Rosemary's report will be in the Church meeting notes folder.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

Group reports

Finance. Matthew Smith

Thanks were given to Rosemary who has now joined the Finance group.

The meeting approved holding MoM at last year's levels.

The 2022 budget proposal was explained, and the meeting approved this.

Munro Wightman was approved by the meeting to act as the Independent Examiner for End of Year Accounts.

A detailed account of the presentation will be kept in the Meeting folder.

Property report. Paul Redman

Paul reported on the various works completed including:

the Manse roof, which is now completed and financed by Synod.

Change of Broadband provider. Thanks was offered to Paul and Ryan for sorting this.

Completion of ministers washroom and the need for new vanity mirror for the vestry.



Problems with the Printer jamming and the Print room dehumidifier.  
Both Property and Finance groups confirmed the £2000 yearly maintenance grant from Synod will continue to be available.

#### Outreach. Val Gill.

Val Berry has been welcomed into the group.

The coffee and cake drop in will now move to a Monday, starting on 10<sup>th</sup> January at the back of the Sanctuary (main doors). A leaflet drop is planned to advertise this. Activities will include board games and puzzles. Rosina encouraged church gentlemen to attend to encourage other men to come along as historically these events are attended in the main by females.

Details of donations of both gifts and money for Safe In Sussex will be in Welcome.

Mini Fishes. 3 families have returned, and the first session was very well attended. Thanks were offered to Hilary for her help in the re-opening. More volunteers are required please. The notice board has been refreshed.

Mary Redman has updated leaflets detailing our Christmas events and services. Volunteers are needed to deliver these .

#### AOB.

Photos of Minister and Elders to be updated by Graham.

Further discussions were had regarding leaflets detailing our various activities.

Tuesday Fellowship have also encouraged more male attendees.

The meeting approved Valerie Cooper's application to go on the Lay Preachers course.

Thanks were given to Valerie for investing her time in this important role in the life of the Church.

#### Mission

Bett Swierk has filled around 20 shoe boxes and is now volunteering with Link Romania in Ferring.

The meeting approved Bett to continue this ministry of providing family boxes. Thanks were given for her work in this venture.

#### Notices and Correspondence.

None.

Date of next meeting **22.1.22 at 10:30**

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace

## Church meeting. 30th September 2021

Chair Revd Andrew Sellwood

Welcome

Devotions. Caroline Hibbs.

Minutes of July meeting signed as a true record.

Apologies 5

Present 21

Matters Arising

### **Bett Swierk. Christian Aid**

The new chair for Christian Aid is Archbishop John Sentamu.

This year's Aid collection In Worthing amounted to £8,000.

Their next AGM will be held at Goring URC on 26th October.

New ways of fund raising will be considered and there is discussion around a newsletter where all churches participating can advertise their various fund-raising activities.

Bett also reported on Christian Aid's on going work in Afghanistan

### **Shoebboxes**

We are now registered with Link Hope.

Our boxes will go to families in Eastern Europe.

It is estimated we will be able to fill 10-15 boxes

Bett has requested boxes and if possible, wrapping paper which can be left under the table at the back of the church

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Andrew's time**

Andrew spoke of the challenge to change our way of life to save the planet. Post Covid we are challenged to amend, adapt and change our lifestyle. This includes our Churches where we need to make radical change. Andrew encouraged us to focus our minds on what we can do to, not just survive, but to flourish and grow for God's kingdom.

Andrew also discussed the Moderator's letter to the churches regarding the deployment of ministers. By 2023 the Synod needs to reduce its number of ministers from its current 41 down to 34. Andrew counts towards this reduction due to retirement in June 2023.

This reduction is to do with scoping according to General Assembly guidelines, not finances. Goring URC is considered one of the larger churches in the Synod with around 70 members. The Worthing cluster has not been effective as each church had its own agenda and the necessary groundwork and preparation was not done. Andrew has expressed the need for churches to be prepared for any future clustering/grouping of churches.

It is inevitable that Churches will be working in larger groups in the future. Andy Twilley will be encouraging people to come forward and train as lay preachers/local leaders.

Andrew stated he will be doing his best to prepare both Goring and Sompting URC's for the changes coming.

There are many resources available to help churches grow and develop. As mentioned at a previous meeting The LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) has designed a training hub which can provide a 2-year learning programme. Andrew and Caroline Hibbs attended a LICC presentation and Goring URC have been accepted into the programme. A

core group (6 or 8) of people from Goring will be required to attend 4 half day training sessions a year and can then present back their findings to the church.

The work will be tailored to our church, and it is hoped we will all be inspired by this input.

Andrew mentioned that many other churches have already benefited from LICC involvement. The meeting was asked to approve going forward with LICC initiative. This was agreed unanimously by the church meeting.

Martin Hayward, mission enabler, is to do a mission audit with the church to help formulate our future plans. Andy Twilley will also be offering time and inspiration. It would be good if we can identify a project in our local community. If we do there is a possibility of us claiming up to £20,00 in grant funding if our proposal is accepted.

Financially the church is doing well. Various activities are taking place, messy church, puppet club, shoe box collection and junior church work.

### **News from Sompting.**

Since coming out of lockdown we have thought and prayed long and hard about the future. We have changed the worship style it is less formal, and we now have a new enhanced audio/visual system. During our Service prayers, readings, music and lyric videos, film clips etc can be put together in a PowerPoint presentation. This has made such a difference for the good.

Shorter services with time over coffee to discuss the service or other relevant issues raised. Transforming a piece of waste land at the back of the church into a community garden we call it a 'grace space'. Working with the local community and in partnership with *men in sheds*. At the front of the church an artistic installation which is changed each month. It reflects on a current seasonal situation and shows the church is active. A monthly curry night open to non-church folk and each Friday night an informal meeting around a fire pit. A new mid-week praise service led by members.

There seems a new sense of purpose. People are wanting to become more involved in the life of the church at many levels.

Andrew asked the question, what happens here if we do not make some changes, do some things differently, what if we stay as we are, or worse, if we go back to how things were?

Post Covid we are presented with a fresh start.

He then offered encouragement to try something different. If we don't try, we won't know!

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Pastoral.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time. The meeting was reassured that Pastoral care was provided and received during lockdown.

The ministry of flowers is resuming with people to arrange and deliver in place.

A special request went out for volunteers to occasionally give a lift to a church member who would not otherwise be able to attend. Please let Hilary know if anyone has a special need for flowers.

### **Finance Report.** Matthew Smith

Matthew informed the meeting of our current finances which included the £2,750 raised from gift day.

Little Fishes have given £9,420 for hall rental and electricity

Food bank collection has raised £310 so far.

**Hall Letting.**

Wilma is doing an incredible job on bringing in new groups and bringing back previous groups. Covid requirements continue to be met in respect of room lettings. Also getting our own church groups that feel ready, back in their allocated rooms.

Matthew also spoke of revisiting the option of Solar panels for which there are grants available.

A detailed report from Matthew will be included in the minutes file.

The meeting was asked to approve an increase from a £500 to a £750 spend by the property/finance committees and the need for any work to have only 2 quotes to go ahead without the approval of church meeting.

This was agreed by the meeting.

**Property.** Paul Redman

Minister's vestry washroom has a replacement toilet and hand basin. Painting is deferred until a later time.

Children's toilet by main hall needs replacing.

Heating engineers are booked for November to service the boiler and heating system in the church and manse.

Some urgent work has been carried out on the manse roof and agreement has been received from Synod to finance the rest of the work on the property.

Work was due to start on the church roof above the vestry and print room on Monday. The roof above the choir vestry will probably have to wait until next year but some work has been done as a stop gap.

**Outreach.** Rosina Bayley

Reported on the various outreach activities.

Pre-school puppet club.

Messy church for which there is an online booking system.

Toddler group resuming after half term\*.

Skittles night arranged for 11th June 2022.

Fellowship in Cornwall Room.

Table tennis.

Coffee and Cake.

A meal for which can invite friends, possibly taking over a function room somewhere, is being considered.

Other activities such as a barn dance are also being considered.

The next Outreach meeting is on 16th November and the committee would welcome any new ideas.

**Notices and Correspondence**

An email has been received from Koinonia Care home requesting we put up a staff recruitment poster in our church. This was agreed.

Weight watchers made a request to put a sign on our notice board for the duration of their weekly sessions held in our premises. This was agreed.

**AOB**

\*Reinvention of the Ark. Val Gill.

This is hoping to restart after the October half term.  
It will be held on a Monday morning and will be renamed Mini Fishes  
The Church meeting was asked for its agreement for this renaming.  
Agreed by the meeting.  
Volunteers are needed for coffee making and to spend time with children and carers.

**Bible Society.** Eileen Rhodes.

Margaret Butcher has now stepped down from this role. The meeting offered their thanks to Margaret for all her hard work.

Christina Shearer has agreed to take over this role and the meeting was asked for its approval. Post agreed by the church meeting.

A Bible Society event is taking place at Emmanuel church on 21st October at 14:30. Titled the World in Action. There will be a cream tea and a cake sale. Tickets £5:00.

There was a discussion around the Coffee and Cake and Tuesday Fellowship provision which will need careful consideration.

**Date of next meeting Saturday 20th November at 10:30am.**

The meeting ended with prayer and the sharing of the Grace

## Church Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Chair. Revd Andrew Sellwood

Devotions led by Caroline Hibbs.

Present 30 members and adherents

Apologies 5.

Covid 19 restrictions meant there were no minutes to be signed from the previous church meeting due to the time lapsed.

### Elders' election.

Andrew thanked the Elders for all their hard work during Covid lockdown.

The following Elders have now stepped down.

Matthew, Wilfred, Chris, Rosina, and Bobby. Thanks were given on behalf of the meeting.

Caroline and Ryan were standing for another term and Val Gill was continuing.

Matthew Smith and Bett Swierk were appointed by the meeting to act as Tellers.

Andrew explained the voting process and emphasised it was open to church members only.

All six nominated Elders were appointed by the Church meeting.

Andrew led the meeting in a prayer for those newly appointed.

Mary Redman.

Ryan Thomas

Caroline Hibbs

Valerie Cooper

Val Berry

Rosemary Terry

The meeting also ratified the decision of the Elders to appoint Val Gill as Church Secretary with a unanimous vote.

### Lay Preacher Assessment Service

Andrew advised the meeting that Tom Hackett, CYDO (Children and young people's development officer), will be taking the service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July and will be assessed to be a Synod accredited Lay Preacher.

### Pastoral Report.

The Elders and Pastoral visitors have been aware of and responded to the needs of the congregation during Lockdown.

Andrew led a time of prayer for Carol Culliss.

### Finance and property Management.

Matthew presented a report with a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Ryan.

This covered the Church accounts for 2019 and 2020. These were ratified by the Church meeting.

2021 budget was presented. A Gift Aid Day is proposed for Harvest service on 26<sup>th</sup> September with a target of £8,000

## Property

Firstly, thanks were offered to Ryan and all the team for the excellent AV system set up during Covid which allowed us to continue to hear the Word each week.

The necessary expenditure on various I.T. items as detailed by Matthew and approved by the Elders, was ratified by the church members.

Flat roof repairs. Were approved by the Elders due to necessity of getting work completed. Expenditure was ratified by the Church Meeting.

Vestry toilet expenditure. Ratified by meeting.

Little Fishes have requested to extend their playground this was discussed, and the rationale given. Children are now to be offered Free Flow and have access to indoor and outdoor activities at all times with the safety and security being a priority.

The meeting was asked to agree this in principle in order to obtain further proposals and costings. Agreement In principle ratified by the Church meeting.

Little Fishes have also requested to erect an electric awning to help protect the children from the sun. The Elders have given their agreement and with the exception of two abstentions this was carried by the church meeting.

Matthew informed the meeting he will be putting in a claim to Synod for the £2000 grant available each year for building maintenance.

## Manse

Following Andrew's manse report Synod have approved a new roof, but we are still awaiting a formal response.

Taps have been replaced. Kitchen worktops replaced. Back door lock to be replaced.

Property group to arrange further assessment of the bedroom window and re plastering of wall.

Items not covered by Synod will be paid for using the annual Manse grant.

Thanks were offered to the Finance and Property team for their hard work

## Hall Lettings

Hall hire is now being rolled out after Lockdown put a stop to this. Matthew and Wilma will need to carry out Risk Assessments for Lettings. Matthew has based his financial report for this year on the basis we can fully let the rooms by September.

Little Fishes 10-year lease has come to an end and will need to be re-negotiated by the Trustees.

The 3-year plan for the church was put on hold due to Covid restrictions and the potential financial implications of this had to be considered.

A new plan for 2022 will be created once we have a better understanding of the church's financial position. This plan will also require active member support to help both with minor property tasks and also to support emerging mission plans and activities.

The 'new' Eldership will be looking at Mission and Outreach initiatives which will be necessary if the church is to survive into the future.

We all have skills and abilities which we can offer to further the Kingdom here in Goring.

The key to success will be working together as a team.



Anyone with administrative or practical skills would be most welcome to join the Property group.

There was a brief question and answer time around various aspects of the PowerPoint presentation and report. Andrew thanked Ryan for putting together the power point presentation.

Matthew and Wilma were also thanked for their hard work both with finances and Hall letting and Management.

**Full details of this report and PowerPoint are included in the Church minutes folder.**

Notices and Correspondence. No Report

AOB. Val Gill spoke about Samaritans Purse shoe boxes which had been organised by Carol Culliss. It is decided the church will now work with Link Romania to provide shoe boxes for families and the elderly. Bett and Bobbie have agreed to take this on. The meeting agreed to would be good if we could start this year.

**Next meeting Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm**

Andrew again thanked the outgoing Elders and encouraged the meeting to pray for the newly elected Elders.

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace