

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 30th
- the next coffee morning on 12th 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 'Pyms and Hymns' from Chichester and Pagham, Apparently the singing was better after Pyms 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 25th July 2024 at 7:30pm

Signed byVal Gill 25th July 2024