

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

Welcome and Devotions: Val G - Val spoke about Deeds & Faith from our James Study and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Those present: 14 Apologies: 7

Minutes of previous meeting, 26th July 2024: Agreed and Signed by Val G

Matters Arising:

Safeguarding update:

- Mary R gave the report as follows: *Belinda Herbert, the Synod Safeguarding Officer has gone on maternity leave from 6th of September. Her cover is Natalie Van Camp, who started on 23rd September.*

Table Tennis - ongoing! I have had one application for group leader and need at least one more. Lesley has agreed to cover First Aid for the group on a temporary basis while they get someone trained up, but I need leaders before that can happen. She says that people do not need to be able to do CPR themselves, just to be able to direct others to do it. I will check that with the trainers.

First Aid - I have 4 notes of interest - Bett, Val C, Jonathan (via Val) Rosina. Matthew may be interested. Matthew suggested that we ask Emmanuel and Sompting if they would like to join with us. Sompting don't have anyone. Emmanuel are yet to get back to me.

The updated Safeguarding Policy has been sent to the Elders. When they have ok'd it I will replace the old versions on the boards and the website. This will happen imminently. Please make sure you have a read of the new version as soon as it's up. There is a copy in the Main Hall, Cornwall Room, and Sanctuary.

Please, please, please.... we need a Safeguarding Lead. I am, at present, feeling slightly overwhelmed with extra responsibilities that I didn't sign up for!

August Bible Study:

- Mary reported that 25-30 people had taken part. 10 in the Monday Group, 8-10 in the Wednesday Group and 7 on the WhatsApp Group. People enjoyed taking part and would like to do it again; maybe over Advent. Mary will work with Valerie Cooper when she returns.

Agenda Items:

Church Family News:

- Hilary R gave her report. The people mentioned in the report were Val B; David & Margaret B; The Coopers; Caroline H; Joan J; Vic & Maureen J; The Smith Family and the Wilds, Roger and Shirley. In addition to the report people asked after Bill Marshall; Sue Mitchell and Denise Woods. Amanda nee Stewart is now worshipping at St Mary's Goring and is collecting items for Ukraine, more details will be in a leaflet with this week's Welcome. The Harvest Flowers will be arranged by Carol W. Help will be needed with the delivery on Monday please. Hilary closed with a word of prayer.

Group Reports:

Outreach:

- Val G gave the report. The Coffee Morning has raised £77.50 for the LoveUKaira charity raising funds for research, diagnosis and treatment of childhood brain tumours. Our next event will be the Barn Dance on Saturday 19th October at 6.00 p.m. The price if pre-booked is £10 to include a Ploughman's Supper. Previous events with the same band have been brilliant. Please support this if you can.

Admin/Finance/Property:

- Matthew S gave this report as follows:

Finance Group are not due to meet again until November.

MoM 2025

I am still in correspondence with Synod. After another mis-step Synod revised our contribution in line with the 1% decrease principle – reducing our contribution by £363 to £35,901 (from £36,264 in 2024). I have now asked for sight of their computation and scoping information.

Manse Letting

Proceeding satisfactorily, apart from a £114 bill to repair a leak in the kitchen plus £115 +Vat for the annual Gas Safety inspection and boiler service.

I need to consider transferring further money to the Synod Cash Plus account.

Manse Policy update

I have now received copies of the First and Second versions of the Manse Policy plus Synod Together minutes from October 1995 when the “Manse Fund Policy” was originally passed. Unfortunately, these documents, at first glance, raise further questions in my mind.

I need to deliberate at greater length before identifying next steps. Watch this space!

Property

- 1. Structural Survey– I spoke with the Structural Surveyor this afternoon. He apologised profusely for the delay in completing the report – his office has been badly hit by Covid which has disrupted their processes. He couldn't give me a completion date – he is working from home and in his third week of Covid – but will push it through as quickly as possible. As I understand it he will be recommending galvanised steel framework – this may prove cheaper than an all aluminium option – time will tell!*
- 2. Roofs – unfortunately my previous guesstimate for additional works highlighted in the Quinquennial Survey proved wholly inadequate. Instead of an extra £350, the actual figure was £1,780 including VAT. So with the previous quote of £1,340 we face a total roofing spend of £3,120.
On closer inspection with the roofer repairs proved more involved/extensive than anticipated. One of the most significant issues involves scaffolding for repairs to the Main Hall roof, where the roofer identified water penetration, which we think explains cracking to the internal East end wall of the Main Hall. This was identified by the painter who is due to redecorate during half term. In all the circumstances I determined that we need these works done sooner rather than later and certainly before the redecoration. I hope that CM will agree my approach. Weather permitting all these works will be done next week – scaffolding should go up on Thursday at 8am.*
- 3. Paul discovered a leak due to a leaking expansion vessel in one of the Main Hall toilets. On further investigation he found another 2 off the vestibule which were on the way out. Replacement of these together with a new stop cock and a pressure relief valve added up to a cost of £714*

Barnabas Aid

I have received a letter from the new International CEO of Barnabas Aid, bringing our attention to a number of irregularities in the organisation, which have led to the dismissal of the former International CEO and requests for resignations for other senior figures. An internet report on Monday highlights a £15M black hole amongst other issues. Charity Commission are undertaking a Statutory Enquiry.

I will pass copies of these documents to our Mission Group with a recommendation, subject to CM's agreement that we cease donations to this charity until they get their house fully in order.

As a side issue I note that Naomi Campbell has been disqualified as a director of her charity "Fashion For Relief", and indeed banned from holding charity directorships in future.

We do not support this charity but I suggest that it would be prudent for Mission Group to review bona fides (via internet searches) to avoid supporting any suspect organisations in future! Our donations are small but it is right that we seek to ensure they work for the best causes.

- Paul R told the meeting that Little Fishes have had to erect a new wooden fenced gate area off their playground. This was an urgent thing they had to do for the safeguarding of their children. It had to be done or they could risk being closed if the children aren't considered safe by the governing authorities!

Update on Hall Letting:

- Matthew S gave this report from Wilma S as follows:

A few changes –

*1. The Curtain Call Academy group who hire our halls on a weekly basis (except half term) they used to meet on a Monday afternoon and a Wednesday afternoon
They are no longer meeting on a Monday afternoon*

*2. Rob Antony from the Charity SENse used to meet from 11.30 to 13.30 in the Main Hall on a Wednesday, he runs woodworking classes for young people with learning difficulties.
He is now running two classes -
One class from 10.00 until 12.00 in the morning continuing with his woodworking classes in the Main hall and a second class in the Cornwall room from 12.30 until 14.00 teaching the same young people about 'Employability'*

3. We have a new booking on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings in the Cornwall room from 9.15 until 10.15.

*It is an exercise class which is mat based, but it is an exercise class with a difference!
Anthony Punshon who runs the class is a Physique and Fitness Trainer, the group do 'Metabolic Resistance Training'. He has a website called 'PW Physique and Fitness' if anyone wants any more information. So, it's not an exercise class where you can just turn up, you need to contact Anthony direct.*

Update on 2024/2025 Contracts

These have all been individually updated particularly the section on Safeguarding following our training earlier in the year and following the guidance from head office. Wilma has issued 10 new contracts so far, three of which have been signed and returned. Our thanks go to Val Berry who agreed to be the designated Elder to sign off the Contracts on behalf of the Church. (Ryan used to fulfil this role). Anthony Punshon (our new hirer) will receive one in due course, once we are sure that both parties are content with the arrangements that have been put in place. Our thanks also go to Mary who is receiving all the copy documents (Insurance Certs, Safeguarding Policies and Risk Assessments) into the Safeguarding email address, she is printing them off and holding them securely. A lot of extra work but a necessary requirement.

Wilma Smith - Hall Letting Secretary

Notices and Correspondence:

Surry & Sussex Synod Report:

- Val G gave this report as follows:

Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Meeting Sat 21st Sept '24

The finance report from Brian Manners included a request that the M&M Contribution for 2025 is wanted and have churches agreed and accepted the amount specified.

There is a new Property Officer, Ian Fletcher and he is keen to be used as a resource to liaison between churches and Synod. Please use him.

Denise Woodhatch is the Area Administrator and appears to be very efficient. She is aiming to make it clearer what information is available and how and where to find it on the website. She spoke about the Strategic fund where money is available for church projects.

There are ready made Sunday services available on the web-site to help Elders when there are spaces on the preaching rota.

John Bunker spoke as the representative of the Pastoral Committee.

Basically we are still second in line for looking for a suitable Minister for our group of 3 churches. The possible candidate for Caterham, Marsh Green, Oxted & the Moat, and East Grinstead has fallen through. So I guess the process begins again.

Then it will be Emmanuel, Goring and Sompting.

Hove & Portslade, will follow then Littlehampton, Rustington and potentially Pagham too.

The aim is to have 7 Ministers for 29 churches + 2 who don't count in the numbers.

John also spoke about Elders Training, which has been prepared by Andy Twilley and tweaked by Nigel McDonald. They are encouraging all Elders to partake in this but we attended this course led by Andy at Emmanuel Church earlier this year. It was worthwhile and I don't think we need to go again at this time.

I have the dates for the 3 meetings in 2025 and hope that we will be able to attend and not need to ask for volunteers.

Defib & CPR Training:

- Val G said that the training will take place on 25th October at 10am. People who attend will be able to try CPR for themselves or just watch and learn.

AOB:

Milk Bottle Tops:

- Mary R said that she will stop collecting these at the end of November because there have been too many wrong types collected amongst the correct types and sorting them out has been taking about an hour each time. Worthing Household Recycling will now take all types of plastic bottle lids for recycling, so long as they are attached to the bottle and put in the blue bins that people have at home.

Church Meeting on a Sunday am?

- Val G asked if people thought it would be a good idea to have the church meeting after the am Sunday service. People will have time to consider this and make a decision at the October meeting. Last Sunday in November will be the 24th.

The meeting ended at approximately 8.30; we stood to share The Grace.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 26th October at 10:00am

Signed by Val Gill 26th October 2024