

GURC – Church Meeting Minutes January 2023

25 members present 5 apologies.

Devotions led by Caroline Hibbs.

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed and signed by Rev Andrew Sellwood

Matters Arising: Mary gave a presentation to explain how ChurchSuite will be used by the members. There were a few questions about how this would stand alongside the web-site and paper copies of rotas, reassurance was given that these will remain as people are introduced to ChurchSuite and help is available from the Administrators.

Agenda Items:

Church family news. Hilary Redman. The meeting shared news of the fellowship. Hilary then explained how the flower ministry is lacking volunteers for supply and presentation of flowers, this does not need to be difficult, a bunch can just be put into a vase. Matthew will recompense for flowers purchased if required. The flower team also need to know of neighbours and friends who would appreciate receiving flowers.

Andrew's time:

Andrew is preparing for his retirement by liaising with Andy Twilley and Synod to try to ensure a smooth transition when he leaves us.

Group Reports:

Finance and Hall Lettings: Matthew reported that the revaluation for Insurance was completed and has produced a relatively small increase in the premium to pay. The Electricity and Gas contracts will be renewed in October. Following the broker's recommendation we will renew with a 1 year contract for both. There was nothing new to report on hall lettings.

Property: (Bett) A Co2 fire extinguisher has been fitted next to the sound desk at the back of the Sanctuary and the one in the print room has been relocated to the wall outside the room.

Outdoor security lighting has been renewed around the church. Those covering the carpark are on a timer and the others on a motion system.

The water heater in the kitchen was leaking. This as a sealed unit so will have to be replaced alongside some adjustments to the pipework. This should be fitted next week and until then the Hot Water Dispenser can be used with kettles.

The small lock on the inside of the door leading to the Cornwall Room and toilets has been removed. This is a fire door and must be accessible at all times.

Outreach: Val G had little to report. The Breakfast mornings will continue on the second Sunday of each month. Praise Services will continue on the third Thursdays at 7.00 pm. Coffee and Cake is well supported with visitors from outside our congregation, some have also attended other events and our services. Our last charity coffee morning was busy enough but only with church friends, the next one is in March for Leprosy, we will continue to advertise on social media and hope for wider support. The Outreach Group will be meeting again on January 31st.

Notices and Correspondence: Nothing to report.

AOB:

Safeguarding: Rosemary started with a reminder about the wide aspects of safeguarding and a summary of what has been achieved over the last year. Rosemary and Mary were appointed to their roles using the required safer recruitment process. The Safeguarding Teams' contact details are displayed in the vestibule. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were updated and copies are on notice boards in the Main Hall and Cornwall Room. The Safeguarding section on the website has been updated, an email account was set up and mobile phone acquired.

This year we need to prioritise training which now requires renewing every 3 years. There are dates available for both on-line and physical training, Rosemary will contact those with relevant roles and then liaise with the Synod Safeguarding Office to book onto sessions. Mary will be contacting those who need their DBS renewing.

We also anticipate receiving the annual Safeguarding and Church returns soon from Synod.

Coffee Rota: Val C appealed for more volunteers to join the rota for preparing and serving refreshments after the Sunday service. This does not need to involve using the coffee machine as instant coffee is available, paper cups are available to avoid washing up too.

Minute Taker: Jill will be taking the minutes for the last time at our next meeting and we will need a replacement. (Following the meeting Caroline volunteered to fill this role and her offer was gratefully accepted).

Date of next meeting. Saturday 25th March at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting ended with prayer led by Andrew and sharing of the Grace.