

GURC Church Meeting 25/01/18

Present 15 members + minister.

Apologies. 8 received.

Devotions lead by Matthew Smith.

Minutes of previous meeting. Two typographic errors were amended and the minutes approved and signed as correct.

Matters Arising. Giles Wilson is to be the new Synod Representative and Wilfred Rhodes will hand over this role. Thanks were offered to Giles for taking on this role. The meeting also acknowledged their thanks to Wilfred Rhodes for his many years of service as Synod Rep.

Defibrillator. 16 people attended the first meeting, both church and external users of the premises. Val Gill showed a DVD. A further showing will be on 8th Feb and there will be details of this in Welcome.

Christmas services. The members were asked for feedback on these.

Ark. The minister, Revd Andrew Sellwood read out a statement which will be included in the minutes file - see Appendix 1.

As a result of developments following the last Church Meeting, and conscious of the time constraints involved Andrew had decided that ARK should continue under new leadership. Rosina also read out a statement, in which she acknowledged the work of the previous leadership and the fact that ARK numbers had indeed reduced. However, she and Hilary were eager to give ARK a further chance and had volunteered to take it forward. Following a fresh publicity approach numbers have increased and they think ARK has a fair chance of success. The Elders supported ARK's continuation, in the circumstances, subject to review in May. There was consensus that much of the work within the Church is carried out by a few people and we need to carefully manage our limited resources and ensure those who work so hard are not overburdened. As there had been no formal resolution/vote at the November meeting, it was agreed that none was necessary on this occasion. However, the meeting unanimously gave its blessing to continuation, subject to review. The hard work of all those involved in ARK, both past and present was acknowledged.

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

Agenda Items.

Little Fishes.

Elouise Spencer, the manager of Little Fishes, began by thanking the church for the support we offer which enables learning that may not be possible without this backing.

Elouise then gave a very enlightening report on the work of Little Fishes which recently was given a status of Outstanding by OFSTED. We heard about the complex needs of many of the children and their carers and the work Elouise does on conjunction with Social services, especially in the area of Child Protection. The

meeting thanked Elouise and her staff for all the hard work they do and how this represents our church.

Andrew's time.

Andrew reported the success of his Induction service to Sompting and thanked those who attended. We are in the process of forming a cluster of 5 churches and this involves the calling of a second minister. A member, usually an Elder of Goring URC will be required to attend the meeting of the calling group as an observer. The whole process will be addressed at the next Elders meeting on 8th Feb.

TFG. The meeting was asked if we would like another TFG person and volunteers were invited to be host family/families. This could be a shared role. Hilary agreed to consider if she will be able to continue the role of supervisor. This will be further discussed at the next Elders meeting.

Group Reports.

Finance. Matthew Smith reported the ending of the dog training letting.

Property. Grahame Redman (on behalf of Ryan Thomas) Radiators are being fitted in the Hall on 12/ 13th Feb. The heating control for the Sanctuary has failed and this is currently being operated manually. It was suggested we have a control system operated via an App which will mean this can be controlled via the Internet. To do this for the Sanctuary, main hall and Cornwall room will cost around £1000. Given we take around £20, 000 a year in Letting this will enable us to provide the best service to those who use our premises. The meeting gave its unanimous approval for this expenditure.

Susie Thomas agreed to inform Ryan of the need to replace the outside front light.

Outreach. No report.

W C and M. No report.

CTG. Joint service This Sunday at Catholic Church No evening service at Goring URC. The meeting was informed that the CTG prayer group is still functioning.

Notices and Correspondence. None.

AOB.

Eileen Rhodes suggested a round table could be placed at the front of the church to be used as a bible stand and for the collection plate. This will be forwarded to the Property group.

Eileen also informed the meeting of the forthcoming Women's World day of Prayer which has been put together this year by the women of Suriname and is titled All God's creation is very good.

Service to be held at English Martyrs on 2nd March at 14:30 and St Michaels on Hayling Rise at 19:30.

Next meeting will be held a week earlier than usual on 22nd March due to Maundy Thursday falling on 29th March.

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.