

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 Rahrinantsoa:

- 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	GENERAL FUND OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	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 31st 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			
GENERAL FUND	10,000.00	73,699.75	73,699.75
DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Junior Church	197.77	0.00	0.00
Reserve Funds			
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
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
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
NET ASSETS	£107,226.09	£79,420.75	£80,257.7
Analysis of Fund Movement (to account for Operating Surplus)			4,329.61
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:	PVCu		Aluminium	
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
Total	£30,952.00	£31,068.00	£51,552.00	£66,214.00

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."