

# GURC – Church Meeting Minutes

26<sup>th</sup> November 2022

28 members present. 4 apologies.

Devotions lead by Val Berry

Minutes of previous meeting agreed and signed by Rev Andrew Sellwood

Matters arising- None

## Agenda:

### **Church family news.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those in need.

**Andrew's time-** Andrew reported on a strategic deployment meeting he recently attended and will keep the meeting updated with information regarding deployment and the pastoral committees' recommendations as well as ministerial support once Andrew retires in June 2023.

Andrew thanked the Elders for their support and commitment and spoke about the continuity the church will have with the current Elders for at least the next two years.

Val Gill will be inducted into Eldership on 27th November.

Valerie Cooper has passed her assessed services and is now an accredited Lay Preacher. She will be presented to Synod in March 2023.

The meeting showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Next Synod together meeting was taking place in Crawley on 26th November (today) to discuss future plans for the Synod area.

## Group Reports:

### **Finance and Hall lettings**

Matthew Smith shared information regarding hall lettings and also presented the budget proposal for 2023.

The meeting approved this proposal with a show of hands.

**Property.** Bett Swierk – The bench outside the front of the church has been removed due to it being unsafe and is likely to be replaced next spring.

Fire extinguishers have been checked with recommendations as to re-siting some of these.

A quote has been accepted from Keith Best to replace current security lighting with improvement in some areas.

Various other maintenance work was also reported on.

Both Bett and Matthew appealed for more volunteers to join the Property Group, even if this was just to see through a particular task.

The meeting thanked Bett for her work.

### **Outreach.** Val Gill

Coffee morning for Poppy appeal was successful.

The next Coffee morning is planned for mid-January and will then take place every two months to support various charities.

The Halloween evening was hampered by weather, but some folk did attend and particularly enjoyed the hot chocolate.

The situation with church cleaning was raised as there have been incidents when areas have not been cleaned, including toilet areas. Matthew Smith appealed for volunteers to recommend different cleaning companies and obtain quotes.

Warm Space initiative. Valerie Cooper - Goring URC is now registered to open on Monday afternoons for two hours and Sunday mornings from 10-12. Refreshments will be available.

Shoe box appeal. Bett Swierk - 12 family boxes completed this year. Bett did have to do some top up shopping for these.

The meeting was asked if they wanted Shoe boxes to continue next year and to consider this for a decision later. Another option would be to take donations to be added to the shoe box hospital.

#### **Little Fishes.** Paul Redman

Paul gave a report on Little Fishes, a copy of the annual report can be found in the minutes folder. This is also available in the public domain online. It is a requirement that a report is brought to the church meeting once a year.

#### **Review of the serving of communion-**

The Elders have recommended we continue with the current set up and this can be reviewed again in three months' time when a decision can be made with a show of hands. It was noted that some members prefer being served communion by an elder.

Valerie Cooper asked people not to re-arrange chairs in the Sanctuary as she has taken the responsibility to ensure these are placed to best suit the various seating groups in the church and to allow people to access the Communion items laid out.

It was also noted that chairs had been placed directly by the heaters which is a fire risk.

Andrew spoke of the responsibility held by the Elders to provide worship for the congregation, and this is what they have been doing thoughtfully and carefully, both during lockdown and going forward.

In future there will be more responsibility for the eldership after Andrew retires and Andrew expressed his hope that the church will support the Elders and appreciate all the hard work they do on behalf of the church. Much of which goes unrecognised and unappreciated.

#### **Tech update** Ryan Thomas

Ryan gave a presentation on the new specialist church data base system called Churchsuite which can be accessed via an App.

This is a secure and adaptable platform that can be used for all aspects of church activity.

For those members who may not have access to the necessary technology a Buddy system can be set up whereby those with access can receive online information on behalf of others.

AOB - None received.

Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 10:30 am

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace