

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring United Reformed Church
Held on 24th September 2022 at 10.30am in the Church

ATTENDANCE: 23 APOLOGIES 11

Val Gill, Church Secretary lead the meeting in the absence of Rev Andrew Sellwood who was on holiday.

Mary led the Devotions asking us to focus on God in the silence of the Sanctuary and then led us in quiet prayer.

This was followed by one minutes silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

MATTERS ARISING:

- None

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

- Hilary Redman shared news of the fellowship that they may be upheld in prayer.

FINANCE:

- Matthew Smith, Treasurer said there was no report until the Quarterly review.

HALL LETTINGS:

- No letting news as such
- Matthew Smith reported as follows: We submitted our proposed template agreement to the Synod Property and Safeguarding officers which has led to some to-ing and fro-ing We have taken on some points and are waiting for clarification to others. At the moment there appear to be some irreconcilable differences between Property and Safeguarding perspectives. I have advised that, in the absence of clarity, we propose proceeding with our latest version unless showstoppers are identified.
- The Elders have decided to set new hire rates for the Sanctuary at £2.00 above the respective rates for the Main Hall.
- I have had a preliminary meeting with Gaynor Anderson-Easey, we will shortly present proposals to Elders and Little Fishes Management Committee with regard to License to Occupy.
- Wilma Smith, due to health reasons, has asked that if anyone has to move the heavy chairs from the Cornwall Room to the Main Hall please can they be put them back and not leave them for her to do. This message will also go to the outside hirers
- In the interests of Security within the Church premises must be locked, please could anyone entering or leaving the buildings make sure all doors and windows are securely shut and locked appropriately. The Cornwall Door has been left unlocked and often windows are left open. It was suggested that this should be mentioned in Welcome, however Matthew said he was keeping an eye on the situation and will put it into Welcome if necessary. The problem is caused by the large number of keys that have been issued. If you have a key please make sure all doors are locked when leaving.

OUTREACH:

- Two meetings were scheduled for September 1st and 27th.
- The new noticeboard is in place outside.
- Coffee and Cake have 24 people on the books
- A 'Holiday at Home' is being considered for next year.
- Mini Fishes have restarted with good numbers and is very successful.
- The Skittle evening earlier in the month went well.
- Two Charity Coffee Mornings have been booked for 30th September (MacMillan Cancer Support) and 11th November (Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal) both 9am to 12.00.
- Barn Dance 8th October from 6pm to 9pm. Flyers and Tickets are available. See posters.

- Other events will be advertised at the Barn Dance.
- A Halloween event will be held on 31st October from 5 - 7pm with appropriate Bible Verses for children to take home.
- The idea of opening part of our buildings as a 'Warm Space' put forward to help folk in the winter to save on energy. This will be discussed at the Elders next meeting and brought to the Church Meeting in November.
- The 18th September and the 16th October service will be open from 9.30 for Breakfast.
- As part of Outreach Hilary Redman mentioned the Ministry of Flowers and do we know people who need not be church people who would appreciate a gift of flowers.

EXTRA POINTS FROM MEETING:

- Matthew Smith said as regards the 'Warm Space' we should keep the windows closed as far as possible to keep the heat in during the winter months for the environmental situation so as not to waste the energy.

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Mission and Vision Newsletter reported that the 50th Anniversary Service for the URC has been postponed due to the Railway Strikes. A new date to be advised.
- Carol Webber sent an email to confirm that Kestro are now meeting again in the Main Hall. She also asked if there is anyone able to volunteer as drivers for the group.
- Wilfred also reminded Val G about the email he sent with regard to jobs within the church. Val G said this will be discussed at the next Elders Meeting but in the meantime we have to look after each other and if anyone feels they are unable to continue with their job they must speak out either to Val G or one of the Elders.

Next Meeting booked for Saturday 26th November 2022 at 10.30am.
Val G Closed the meeting by sharing the Grace together.

Signed by Rev Andrew Sellwood 26th November 2022