

## GURC Church Meeting. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Welcome by Revd Andrew Sellwood. Devotions led by Val Gill.

23 members present 6 apologies received

Minutes of previous meeting agreed and signed by minister.

### **Matters arising**

Lesley Wake the manager of Little Fishes spoke to the meeting about Mini Fishes and appealed for further volunteers from the church to support this.

Lesley reported 103 families had attended on various weeks with a minimum of 25 children and maximum of 47. Word has spread about this provision in the community. Mini Fishes is making use of the various rooms in the church also their own sensory room and outside play area. They are providing staff for the session. This was originally 1 person but is currently involving 3 members of the Little Fishes team

It was noted that church volunteers can speak into the spiritual and faith aspect of this venture.

If anyone is willing help with making tea/coffee, talking to mums and carers, or helping with activities please speak to Val Gill. Any volunteers will be directed to Rosemary Terry as a DBS will be required.

Rosemary thanked Lesley and the Little Fishes staff for the work in setting up this valuable community venture. Mini Fishes runs every Monday from 09:30 -11:30

Matthew Smith commented on the level of deprivation in our locality and how working together with Little Fishes could be a valuable and relevant mission for the church and encouraged people to prayerfully consider volunteering. Andrew Sellwood spoke about the need to build and develop relationships in our community and added his own thanks to Lesley and her team.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Church Family News.** Hilary Redman

The meeting shared news of the church family and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time.

The meeting stood in silence for two church family members Mr Trevor Plank and Mrs Trudi Sanders who passed away In December 2021.

The meeting also approved and agreed Anita and Malcom Strudwick for church membership. This had already been agreed by the Elders before coming to the church meeting.

A transfer of membership from GURC to Tunbridge Wells URC was also discussed and Hilary Redman will liaise with Andrew as to how to proceed.

### **Andrew's time**

Andrew and the Elders are attending the first meeting of the LICC learning hub on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January and will feed back their finding to the next church meeting. Andrew expressed his hope that this venture will bear fruit for the life of the church.

### GROUPS REPORTS

**Finance and Hall lettings.** No report

**Property.** Val Gill on behalf of Ryan.

Many tasks have been completed since the last report.

Fibre cables for the new internet have been damaged and now replaced.

The vestry refurbishment is now completed.

The heating in the sanctuary is now repaired and a manual override is installed. Further details of works will be available In Sunday's Welcome leaflet.

**Outreach.** Val Gill

The last Outreach meeting had to be cancelled due to ill health.

Mini Fishes is doing well.

Messy Church is growing and there will an appeal in Welcome for supplies.

Table tennis is thriving with a new person joining the junior section.

Coffee and cake on a Monday had 8 visitors, some new to the church.

The leaflet distribution is bearing fruit and thanks were offered to all those involved.

Craft club is starting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. For further details please see Caroline Hibbs.

## AOB

Wilfred Rhodes. Furniture

Wilf raised his concerns, which are also shared by Graham Redman, at the general state of the church in respect of cleanliness and storage. This included concerns around storage of chairs and books. Andrew concurred that appropriate storage is a problem, as is ascertaining who the various unclaimed items belong to. It was suggested we need a Church Spring Clean.

Graham Redman proposed the Property groups is asked to review this situation and look at how the issues raise could be addressed. He also pointed out that as the Covid restrictions begin to lift we can consider getting some of the chairs which were removed to facilitate social distancing, could be brought s back out of storage.

It was suggested the Elders could discuss and bring back to the next meeting ideas regarding a spring clean, but it was felt this would be too long a wait given the next meeting is not until March.

Bett Swierk spoke in her role as part of the property committee. She reminded the meeting that due to Health and Safety various changes had to be made and that hymn books for example had to be removed and stored. Bett has already taken some items to the tip.

The meeting was reminded that all the various church groups need to take responsibility for the things they use and how and where these are stored. There is a lack of space, and it needs to be used appropriately. Please can people let the Property committee be aware of any issues and if they are unable to address this then it will be taken to the Elders.

Bett kindly volunteered to arrange the Church Spring Clean.

Hilary Redman suggested that ownership of items and property needs to be established.

Matthew Smith spoke of the need to view the overall picture and pointed out that when our church hosted Synod Together, we used every available chair we have and suggested the fundamental issue is indeed that of storage.

**Safeguarding.** Rosemary Terry

There have been two applicants for the roles of safeguarding officer and deputy. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay getting the interviews completed but it is hoped this will be done by the beginning of February. More information will be brought to the next church meeting.

**KESTRO.** Carol Webber

As already reported in Welcome, Kestro is in danger of closing due to lack of drivers and leadership. This could happen as early as March this year.

Carol asked the meeting for any ideas of how this valuable provision for those who have suffered a Stroke could continue. The Kestro committee will be meeting in a few weeks to discuss this. The meeting was asked to pray for Kestro.

The meeting was informed that although Kestro had declined to be a church organisation it is an important part of the church.

Andrew pointed that that whilst it is important to look for new outreach opportunities, we must not forget the need to support existing outreach and stated he hoped this is not a sign of a declining church.

Matthew Smith reminded the church that Kestro is registered as a charity which means it is in a different position. He noted that whilst transport is a technical issue, the fundamental problem is the need for new blood to organise and take Kestro forward.

Andrew encouraged the Church to be revived and inspired to become involved in the life and work of the church to support its moving forward.

Notices and Correspondence. Nothing to report.

Next meeting 26th March at 10:30

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.