

# Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC Thursday 27th July 2023 at 7.30 in the Church.

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val G: Faith and Deeds, James Chapter 2

Those present: 20 Apologies 6

Minutes of meeting amended, agreed and signed by Val G

Matters arising:

## Safeguarding Training:

- Rosemary reported that the Mini Fishes will continue for the next term and Lesley from Little Fishes will be safely recruited as per the safeguarding rules. Mini Fishes will need at least one other member of the volunteer staff.
- Mary offered to volunteer for the 3 months up to Christmas until a permanent volunteer can be safely recruited. Mary will be interviewed and supply references as per the ruling.

## Church Family News:

- No report came from the pastoral secretary but it was reported that one of our members is very poorly and returned to hospital and needs prayer.

## Elders time:

- Deployment process, lots of decisions are to be made for our future at GURC.
- With reference to this Val G, Mary, Ryan and Giles attended the Summer Synod meeting.
- GURC have not yet had a Visionary Companion (VC) allocated to us.
- GURC and Sompting are no longer a joint pastorate and Sompting has a VC.
- We as Elders and members have to look at and think about what our vision is for the future and how we can put it into place. As Elders we will revisit the Mission Statement, this is a task the whole church have to be part of. Does it need changing in anyway in these changing times.
- We were asked to go away and pray for our church and its future using the flowchart and think about our God given skills and how we can use them for the good of the fellowship here.
- Val G will read the report she read in church on Sunday the 29th July. See Appendix 1.

## Outreach:

- The recent coffee mornings have been successful raising money for the various charities.
- Next one 9th September for Macmillan Care
- Barn Dance is 16th September and includes supper.
- Afternoon communion will be 17th September at 3 and folk from the Barn Dance will be invited.
- Invitations will also be available for the Harvest Festival on the following Sunday 24th September.
- The next Outreach meeting is week commencing 7th August.
- There is a small draw unit at the back of the church in the settee area containing quiet toys etc for children.

Property and Finance: See Appendix 2.

## Notices and Correspondence

- Peter Southcombe ... died on 11th July.

A.O.B:

## Christian Aid:

- Bett reported that she has been working for CA in our church for 19 years and has witnessed many changes. She has recently received an email to say that the Chair of the Committee is standing down and there has been no response to replace her and the committee may well have to fold.
- Bett has said she will continue to collect for the charity in our church, and carry on with the fundraising with Coffee and Cake, marmalade and Christian Aid envelopes with the churches support.
- When asked to Vote, all present Agreed.

Meeting Ended at approximate 8.10pm sharing the Grace together.  
Next Meeting Saturday 30th September 2023 at 10,30.

..... Signed by Val Gill, Church Secretary.

APPENDIX 1

## Southern Synod Deployment Process

(see flow chart)

The first box is 'Minister Leaves'.

The second level:-

We do yet have a Visionary Companion appointed to us by the Area Pastoral Committee. Vision is the priority and John Bunker & Andy Twilley are involved in this appointment. It is important that the right person is chosen for every church.

The third level:- Where we are at this time.

The pink area including Pray, Pray, Pray. We all need to be praying as we discuss and identify 'What is the Church's mission and vision for the future? '

'What God given skills / gifts do members and the leaders have?'

The Elders will be revisiting our Mission Statement and welcome input. We also encourage everyone to consider their own God given skills and gifts.

From there we will move on to the further questions

We cannot presume that even if a Minister is deployed in this area they will be placed with us, even though we have a Manse for them to live in.

As we move to the lower boxes we need to identify IF we need a Minister and how we would deploy them if the answer is yes.

This process will take a minimum of 1 year.

Although there are many churches in our local area without a Minister we have been informed that Synod will not be making a multiple pastorate of 5-6 churches.

We are no longer a joint partnership with Sompting URC but would like to maintain the friendship.

The Elders will keep you informed as we move along the process.

Keep praying and keep talking to each other, we are in this together.

## Church Meeting Report 27th July 2023

### Admin/Finance & Hall Letting

Finance met on 17 July and Admin on 24 July. Once again we had rather full agendas.

#### **Manse update**

Bett and I met with an Estate Agent, Ollie Whiting from Jacobs Steel.

Ollie offered a fully managed letting service for 6% +VAT (normally 10%) = an initial £250 set up fee.

He also offered to obtain quotes for, and manage, the works necessary to bring the manse up to a lettable standard – mainly decoration and some carpeting – there will be a separate charge for this service. We will need to fund these costs but they should be recovered in the first 3 to 4 months of letting. Bett and I are meeting with Ollie tomorrow morning to discuss the quotes to date. Once the necessary quotes are in place, and approved by Elders, we will be able to put a bit more flesh on the bones. And, once, started the works should be completed in around 4 weeks.

It is hoped to achieve between £2.3K and £2.5K per month with the intention to market at £2.5K.

There will of course be other items of expenditure, which will largely come out of monthly rental income. I am currently anticipating net income of around £2K to £2.2K.

A full report has been given to Finance/Admin, and of course Elders, who approved the proposed arrangement, which will minimise Church input to the process, speeding up the marketing schedule and therefore optimising our rental income.

Note the Manse lease will be 1 year with a 3 month notice to quit on the church's side.

**Questions** It is hoped that the Manse will be on the Market by September 23.

Turning to the Church Buildings Paul and I met with a builder (Premier Building Consultants) to seek clarification of what is required with our current roofing issues. This was a successful exercise.

#### **Choir Vestry Roof & Cornwall Room parapet wall**

The builder has submitted a quote for works required on the parapet wall above the Cornwall Room, where water is running down the walls, and the Choir Vestry roof, which was identified by the Insurance Survey as an area of concern. The sum quoted is £3,468 incl VAT.

Previous quotes by other companies have proven unsatisfactory for various reasons and this is the only quote that covers the specific requirements of both areas. It is therefore the recommendation of Finance/Property/Elders that Premier's quote be accepted.

## **Questions**

**Approval.** Approved by the meeting

### **Vestibule Roof and Front Window**

The builder confirmed previous advice that we need to deal with the front window before the vestibule roof – there was no identifiable pointing requirement in this area.

However, he did suggest that we may wish to consider replacing the window frame as well with an aluminium frame – off the cuff estimate £10K including double glazing.

We then drew his attention to the state of the East Transept window where the concrete is breaking down – he thinks that further deterioration can be expected in the relatively near future.

We therefore suggest delaying a decision until we explore matters further.

### **Sanctuary Windows (generally)**

Elders asked Finance to explore the financial viability of doing all the Sanctuary windows at once.

After consideration of various financial scenarios Finance were able to confirm that this is feasible in principle.

However, Finance would prefer to make a Grants and Loans application to Synod in view of what is potentially a very substantial, one off, spending requirement – next Synod committee meeting is in October.

Given the further work required to fully explore our options, the grants and loans possibility and to refine the overall financial feasibility we suggest putting installation back to 2024, thus avoiding installation in Autumn/Winter, and enabling us to plan installation for a “holiday period” when traffic disruption for all our “hall users” can be minimised.

## **Questions**

**Agreement.** The meeting agreed.

The meeting heard that priority pointing is scheduled for 29th September. ACE wall ties are still to quote for other areas requiring attention.

## **Printer**

Bett and I met with our rep from Premier, who have supplied and maintained our printer for many years.

We last replaced our printer in December 2019. The guaranteed service period was 3 years with the expectation that it would be serviceable well beyond.

In the event, Covid has intervened and manufacturers are no longer producing parts and we face the possibility of losing printer facilities without notice, and the possibility of prolonged delay in obtaining another because of long lead in times in the supply chain.

Premier offered us 3 options

- 5 year Lease of a new Canon machine
- Purchase of a new Canon machine – 3 years guaranteed service, probably extendable to 5 and possibly more years
- Purchase of a reconditioned Toshiba machine – 3 years guaranteed service, but only best efforts beyond

Finance considered all three options (based on cost extrapolations for each) and concluded that the Lease Option – cheaper than new and possibly dearer than the refurbished option (but risky) - is the safest (and arguably the cheapest) overall.

## Questions

**Approval.** This was approved by the meeting to go ahead.

## Finance

The budget update at end June is forecasting a surplus of just over £7K but there are a lot of variables to be factored in as the rest of the year unfolds, but our finances remain in a healthy state.

## Gift Day

Gift Day will now take place on Harvest Sunday which has been set for 24 September. Finance have agreed to set a target of £3.5K, taking account of changing financial realities at the personal level. We obviously have many challenges ahead and continue to rely on the Lord's provision and his guidance in prayer as to your personal response on Gift Day.

## Investments

Our Cash investment in Synod's cash deposit account has already yielded £146.76 since April with interest rate on that account standing at 4.9% on 3 July. Interest will remain in the deposit account in order to benefit from cumulative interest at higher rates than can be achieved in our CAF account.

As we are postponing works on the Sanctuary windows until next year we propose transferring a further £30K to the Synods cash deposit account in order to optimise interest returns. Finance agreed to this in principle but I have further work to do on the "math". If transfer too much we can, of course, withdraw funds from the account at short notice.

I would therefore like CM approval to transfer up to £30K to the account. I will of course report back at our September meeting.

With the additional income headed our way from Manse letting it will be necessary to develop an investment strategy for the future but this will require much consideration not only on the strategy front but also on the processes required. Again, I will report to CM in due course – hopefully by November CM.

Investments agreed by the meeting

### **Authorised Signatories**

With Rosemary Terry's departure this week it is necessary to remove her name from the list of authorised signatories for CAF Bank. We suggest 2 additional names be added to the list – Val Cooper and Ryan Thomas (both of whom have been authorised signatories previously).

**CM to authorise all three changes please.** The meeting agreed to all three items.

### **Hall Lettings**

Wilma will be issuing the new licences to occupy for 23/24 during the coming weeks.

Unfortunately the Glyndebourne booking has fallen through as they have found other premises that better meet their requirements.