

Church meeting minutes. 30th November 2019

Welcome.: Andrew Sellwood in the chair

Devotions: led by Matthew Smith.

21 members present.

12 apologies received.

Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed by Revd Andrew Sellwood.

Matter arising:

Bible study on 1st Sunday evening of the month have been well received and will continue.

Thanks given to Peggy Mott for the Remembrance Sunday poppy display.

Thanks to the audio-visual team for our new TV screens and improved vision for hymns etc.

Pastoral report. Hilary Redman.

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

The meeting also heard happy news of those recovering from surgery

Margaret Gardner has been welcomed into church membership.

The meeting remembered Charlie Ward who has passed away.

Thanks were given to those who help distribute church flowers and new volunteers are always welcome to support this important ministry.

Hilary has as if the property group can provide a larger notice board for the back of the church. Please can members remove any out of date information they may have placed on the notice board .No church related information can go on the shelves in the porch area please.

AGENDA ITEMS.

- From the Elders meeting. Dates have been set for Café church. Format and structure have yet to be decided. This will be reviewed after a period of time.
- Samaritans purse. Carol Culliss. 45 shoe boxes were filled and taken to Burgess Hill for distribution. Toothpaste and sweets can no longer be included in parcels. These items have now been given to Safe in Sussex. Carol will begin the collection for 2020 in January
- Synod report. This was read out by Giles Wilson and a copy will be included in the minutes file when provided
- Little Fishes report. Matthew Smith. It has been brought to the attention of the church that there is food poverty amongst some of the families of the children who attend Little Fishes. It has been suggested we look at how the church can address these needs and how we can help. A formal proposal will be brought to the next meeting but in the meantime a decision was taken to provide a selection box to each child at a cost of £1:00 each. This has been funded out of the Minister's benevolent fund and there will be a retirement collection on Sunday for those who wish to contribute. It is important the church reconnects with Little Fishes.
- Journeys with Jesus. Message received from Valerie Cooper and Bett Swierk to say this has now come to an end but that the word of the Lord has been passed to those children who attended. Bett and Valerie will now be putting their energies into other ventures. Thanks were given to both for this work.
- Christmas leaflets. These have been printed by Mary Redman and Jonathan Cooper and are available for distribution. Please can everyone take and deliver to their own road and surrounding areas.
- Christmas gifts. Collections from Christmas Day service will be donated to the Safe in Sussex charity. Mary Redman is also asking for toy gifts to be taken to the children who will be in the refuge over Christmas. Full details will be in Welcome.
- Christmas service dates will be given at a later date as not available for the meeting. These will be on the information table at the back of the Church.

GROUP REPORTS.

- Finance. Matthew Smith. Matthew presented the budget update to the meeting.

We are due to receive a £5000 legacy and should break even without the need for a Gift day. The new T.V screens were not included in the budget, but it is anticipated the legacy should cover this.

- Photocopier. The supplier has warned this is reaching the end of its viable life and that new parts cannot be guaranteed after next May. Trade in value is £1,320.
Matthew requested permission from the meeting to go ahead with trading in the current photocopier. This new copier should last beyond 5 years as it is a new generation model. The meeting gave its agreement and the motion was passed.
- Matthew is also negotiating the Utilities contracts.
Electric price is set until September 2020 and Gas until September 2021. However, an opportunity has arisen to get an early deal ahead of these to ensure we get the best deal. Matthew has therefore signed an agreement for electricity and will provide details of Gas agreement at a later date.
- Lettings. The India church will resume using the premises shortly.
Marshmallow fitness are no longer booking rooms.
The Apostolic Faith Mission church will use the Sanctuary Sundays from 1-4 pm. They will also use the Cornwall room for Sunday school from 1-2:30 pm. The Elders agreed this is an appropriate agreement.
- Cleaning costs have reduced by £1000 which reflects where we are with the cleaning costs and is a realist budget figure.

Property. Graham Redman.

- Graham thanked the meeting for approval to purchase TV screens. £1600 has been spent so far. We are waiting for electrical work to be completed which will bring to cost up to £2000. Wiring needs to be tidied and Graham requested the church members bear with the property group while they complete this important piece of work.
- The agreement to purchase tv screens was agreed at the ad hoc church meeting and was ratified as passed and agreed at today's meeting. Graham and his team were thanked for their hard work in this venture.
- Ray Knight presented his report regarding the outer structure of the building including window replacement and asbestos checks. The full report is filed in the minutes folder. The meeting thanked Ray for his hard work.
- Matthew Smith reported that the church can access a yearly £2,000 grant from Synod towards property maintenance.
The meeting was asked for approval of the works as outlined in Ray's report. This was proposed by Matthew Smith and Seconded by Graham Redman. The meeting agreed to the proposals in principle. This work will take place over a 4-year period and can be funded via Gift aid.
Andrew commented that this is a big task for the future of the church and that we may be able to take advantage of Mission funds available from Synod.
It was noted that available quotes will increase over the 4-year period.
- Matthew presented a report from Bett Swierk regarding waste collections which is now fortnightly. Matthew will discuss with Bett the possibility of requesting additional bins.

Outreach

No report.

WC&M Bobby Hitchin.

£100 has been donated to various charities supported by the Church. Details of these have already been provided in 24th November welcome.

Bobby also read out an extract of the thank you letter from FEBA radio, one of the recipients of donations.

Administration.

From the Elders. The daily bible reading schedule will be rescheduled in the New Year.

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.

Next meeting 25th January at 10am.

