

Minutes of the Church Meeting at Goring URC
Saturday 22nd May 2025 - At 7pm in the Church

Welcome: Val G

Devotions: Val B With words about Jesus life.

Those present: 17 - Apologies 10

Minutes Agreed and Signed

Matters Arising:

No matters arising this month.

Church Family News

- Hilary reported:- if there is anyone who could offer a lift to Maria our Italian friend who is new to our fellowship. She is cared for by her daughter Ben (24/7) who needs to have some time off in the week. Matthew and Wilma Smith have offered their services and may God Bless them.
- Margaret and David Butcher are alright and wish they were more alright! Val B is visiting tomorrow.
- Bobby and her husband Mick are poorly with a virus.
- Hilary concluded with prayer for these people and others.
- addition - please remember Hilary in your prayers.

Outreach Group:

Holiday at Home: This went well, no real negative comments have been heard, attendees have been asking when it will happen again, and we have provisionally have a date for the end of July next year. Keep watching for more information in the New Year.

Plant and Book Sale: Another successful event. We were never overloaded with customers at any one time, but there was a steady stream of people coming in and buying books. The total so far is £299.11, and we still have customers for plants and gnomes.

80th Anniversary of VE Day Bring and Share Lunch: This was not as well attended as on previous Bring and Share lunches, but everyone who came enjoyed themselves.

Future events and dates:

Bring and Share Lunch: It is thought that we should do this more often and our next one is scheduled for Sunday 22nd July.

Barn Dance: The date of this year's Barn Dance is Saturday 11th October. Look out for more information in the coming months.

Autumn Sale: Preparation for Winter Sale: A sale of hats, scarves, maybe gloves and warm winter coats. If you have a redundant winter coat that is in good nick and suitable for sale to someone one who doesn't have the luxury of a redundant warm coat, please look it out and let us have it after the summer. The sale will run from 12noon to 2pm, with coffee and cake for sale.

GLAD meal: date and venue to be arranged, and this will be a lunch time event.

Men's meal: date and venue to be arranged.

The Outreach Team meet again on 22nd July, if you have any ideas for events that we can try out, please let us know by then.

Finance and Hall lettings: Report by Matthew Smith, Treasurer.

Property/Quinquennial Survey

The next Finance Group meeting is scheduled for July.

Pointing - Pointing work has been completed. I also met with ACE Wall Ties to look at the decorating issue on the stage – could find nothing amiss and suggested external decoration with thorough prep should address the issue. We will leave for a few months after external decoration and then review,

Decorating - External decoration, and Kitchen decoration is scheduled for next week although the weather looks like playing its part unfortunately. I have put a notice into Welcome highlighting the possible impact on vehicle access, and on Kitchen access – Table Tennis and Kestro will need to use the Cornwall Room facilities while the painter is working there please.

Sanctuary Windows - Following a meeting with a builder it was suggested to Graham and I, that we should approach planning to see whether planning permission is required, before proceeding further. Planning have since confirmed that an application will be required and I am currently trying to work through the process, which is not geared to meet our particular situation. Once I have negotiated the initial hurdles it is expected the process will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Sanctuary Kitchen - I hope to be able to make an application to the Buildings & Loans Panel by mid to late June, subject to having all the necessary quotes.

Fire Alarm System - Further progress is required on this matter:

- a) To obtain a professional fire safety survey and risk assessment,
- b) To consider the way forward,
- c) To obtain the necessary quotes
- d) To make the necessary grants and loans application to Synod

At this point it seems unlikely that we will meet the mid to late June deadline to submit the grants and loans application to Synod, which would push the matter back to October at the earliest!

However, Paul has succeeded in obtaining 2 firm quotes for fire safety survey and risk assessment, with the cheaper (and preferred) quote coming in at £1,023. Can I have CM approval to run with this quote as we cannot afford to delay any longer. **Approval** meeting agreed

As this is a legal/health and safety issue I would ask Church Meeting's approval for Finance/Property Groups to exercise executive judgement as to the remaining procurement steps for the necessary sitewide automated fire alarm system.

Executive approval may streamline the process and ensure that progress is not further impeded by our own bi-monthly Church Meeting schedule and of course the summer holidays. However, we will of course keep CM apprised of progress as and when possible.

One further consequence to be considered is the need to reconsider having a gift day as this is an unexpected and potentially large expenditure item. I will float this by the next Finance Meeting.

Approval/agreed

Finance - 2024 Accounts

I am glad I postponed presentation of the accounts at the last meeting.

In addition to the error of £24.85 picked up by Alan Westcott – I had essentially accounted twice for the same amount – the Independent Examiner identified a further discrepancy of £43.75, which tracks back to a Hall Letting invoice alteration in 2023 the impact of which I failed to pick up on at the time. The necessary adjustments have been made to the Independent Examiner's satisfaction. Together these "errors" amount to a £78.60 reduction (from the previously circulated accounts version) in our Operating Surplus for the year, which now stands at £16,291.33.

Unfortunately, I failed to carry this revised figure through to note 5 on the accounts, which I have corrected in manuscript on the paper copies circulated tonight, and to be appended to our minutes! If you have printed your own copy from the version circulated by Mary – please amend the figure at Note 5 accordingly. My thanks to Giles Wilson for alerting me to this oversight on my part.

Turning to the accounts:

- I would draw your attention to my overall summary of the significant items of interest, when compared to the 2023 accounts at Notes 4 and 5
- you will also note that I have treated Manse Income as accruing to our general funds in accordance with my understanding of the legal position, as relayed to Synod in my latest representations on the Manse Policy, but we need to treat this element with caution until

matters are fully resolved with Synod. I have deliberately refrained from commenting on this in my Notes to the accounts on Page 2! An adverse resolution would potentially reduce our Surplus, and therefore Net Assets at Page 5 accordingly!

Approval/agreed

Hall Letting

Wilma has a new hall hire for a line dancing group on Monday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. As ever this will be on a temporary basis initially and hopefully become a longer term arrangement in due course. Finance group met on 18 March, when I took them through the many and complex issues facing our finances at this time, in some considerable detail – I have since copied the Elders into my briefing paper as they have an oversight responsibility. However, I will spare Church Meeting much of the detail – there is just too much of it – but feel free to ask questions as we go along.

AOB

Odd Job Assistance:

Val G asked if we could set up a system for helping our congregation who may need help with small jobs at home. Would it be possible to make a list of those who could help. This would be on a Church family and friendly basis. Some discussion came up about this item from various points of view mostly with regard to the Safeguarding rules. Nothing was decided today.

Group Profile:

This is for the 3 churches to show a prospective Minister. We are next in line after Surrey to have a Minister.

The Profile needs to be put together from all three profiles will be sent round to the churches for perusal for all to confirm and agree the main Profile. We have to keep things moving and it should be sent to Roger before the end of the month. Ryan will do ours by tomorrow 23rd May.

Please can we cover all three churches with prayer.

There are 2 reps needed plus 1 reserve from each church to be able to keep us all aware of what's going on.

Val G and Val C will be the 2 Elders representing Goring with Ryan as a reserve.

Discussion arose about the why's and wherefores about the profiles.

It was also brought to meeting that Rev Roger Wood is not only our Moderator, so he is a very busy man.

And scoping wise; we have not been formally scoped and Matthew is looking at how it affects M.O.M.

The meeting approved the 3 people who will represent us.

Christian Aid:

Bett Swierk updated us on the amount raised this year

Quiz £70. Cake £4.50. Envelopes £198.00. Total: £272.50 with more to come.

The Church Meeting ended at 12noon approx. and Val G led us in prayer
by sharing of the Grace.

The next meeting is at 10pm in the Church - Saturday 26th July 2025

Signed byVal Gill - 26th July 2025.