

Minutes of Church Meeting 22 March 2018

Chair. Andrew Sellwood

Devotions led by Rosina

17 members present. 8 apologies received.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved and signed as correct.

Matters arising from previous meeting – Time for God – no offers of hosts forthcoming, to be discussed again at the May Church meeting.

The Ark – 9 meetings have taken place and numbers have fluctuated. Overall the average has been 10 adults, 12 children and lots of volunteers. To be reviewed again at May Church meeting

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

Agenda Items

- 1) Shoeboxes and Samaritans' Purse – Bett reported that with mixed feelings she had taken what was for her not an easy decision to stand down from co-ordinating this very important work. Another member of the Church is currently thinking about taking over the co-ordinators role and discussed with Bett what is involved. The Church meeting was happy for someone else to take over the role. Bett will let her know. The Church meeting expressed their thanks to Bett for all her hard work over the years.
- 2) Andrew's Time. Cluster update – someone is coming to preach with a view on 22nd April at Emmanuel. This will be followed by lunch. Then Emmanuel, St. Andrews and Littlehampton will meet to make a decision. Andrew Twilley is with us again on 18th April; he will be sharing new worship songs.
- 3) Southern Synod Report – Giles Wilson gave a report on the recent meeting which was held at East Croydon - copy attached
- 4) Synod Area Report – this meeting was held on 20th February and the report was delivered by Hilary Redman - copy attached
- 5) Little Fishes – would like to extend their use of the Harris Room by carrying out the following work, during the summer holidays.
 - by putting in a new access door to the Harris Room. This will allow the children to access a new play area between the hall and the existing Little Fishes buildings where new gates will be installed.
 - to have a temporary office space divider clipped to the wall at the top of the ramp and extended to the wall where the coat hooks are. (This is to cover Safeguarding). These can be removed quite easily for access to the kitchen when the Church need to use it.
 - utilising the cupboards down the ramp. This would mean that other cupboard space would need to be built somewhere else on the Church premises to accommodate what is stored by various groups in the ramp cupboards.

Slides to show the proposed changes are attached. Church meeting approved the extended use of the Harris Room in principal (15 for, 1 against, 1 abstention). The new access door and the gates to go ahead. After discussion the property group were asked to look at a solution for alternative storage, including

- i) on the back wall of the stage,
- ii) the choir vestry, and
- iii) to take out the stage completely and use that area for storing the table tennis tables with cupboards along the back wall at floor level.

Decision to be made at May Church meeting.

6) Preaching Plan for July to December – will be discussed at next Elders meeting.

7) **Group Reports – Finance** – Matthew presented the accounts to year ended 31 December 2017. These were approved. A Gift Day with a target of £8,000 to be held on 27th May was agreed. Matthew will put a Notice in Welcome nearer the time. The following resolution was passed unanimously to circumvent legal advice received by Synod:
“The Church Meeting of Goring United Reformed Church authorizes the Elders Meeting as agents for the Trustees to permit the hiring of the Church/hall premises for any reputable purpose when not required for Church use.”

Letting News – a new over 50s exercise group has begun on Monday mornings between 10 and 11 and a possible further booking; a baby sensory group who would be using the Cornwall Room; to begin in May.

Property - reported by Paul on behalf of Ryan. During February the old and unreliable heaters in the Main Hall were replaced with four new radiators. This work is not quite complete with an additional radiator to be fitted soon to the East end of the hall. A new heating control system covering the Sanctuary, Main Hall and Cornwall Room was also installed. The Quinquennial Survey has been carried out. We are waiting for the full report but the surveyor did indicate that there was nothing major to worry about. Wilma has unfortunately had to step down from the Property Group due to the pressures of the Letting Secretary role. The Property group would like to place on record their thanks for the years of assistance she has given. It does mean however that we are spread very thin; so please bear with us until we find a replacement.

Outreach – nothing to report.

World Church & Mission – A Christian Aid meeting had been held in Lancing where members of the committee were introduced to the new coordinator for the area, Mark Johnston. Loretta Mingela, the Chief Executive Officer has moved on. Peter Cronley, Treasurer reported that for the year 2016/2017 £19,502.00 had been given to Christian Aid. The house to house collection was £571 higher than the previous year. Bett will continue to make marmalade for funds.

Notices and Correspondence – As listed on Agenda for information and there will be no evening service on Easter Sunday

AOB – Wilf notified the meeting that people will need to be re-certificated for DBS checks. Wilf will be contacting people in due course.

The next Church meeting will be held on Thursday 31 May 2018.

The meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace.