

Goring United Reformed Church Meeting
30th November 2017

21 members present.
5 apologies received.
Chair - Revd. Andrew Sellwood
Devotions led by Chris Howie

Minutes of previous meeting. Amendments were made including a request for a copy of Welcome detailing monies sent to various charities and organisations the church supports. The appropriate copy will be located on the website and printed out for inclusion. Minutes were then signed as correct by the Minister Andrew Sellwood.

Pastoral news. No news of the fellowship reported. The meeting stood in silence to remember Grace Hope and Jean Webb.

Agenda items.

1. **Andrew's time.** Andrew informed the meeting he would be commenting on some of the various issues raised during the course of the meeting.

Andrew informed the meeting of his induction at Sompting on Saturday 20th January 2018 at 2:30. The Moderator will be presiding. The Revd Dr Peter Stevenson will be preaching. All are invited. The service will be followed by tea.

2. **Preaching Plan Secretary.** Wilfred Rhodes is stepping down from this post and Caroline Hibbs will be taking over. Caroline and Wilfred will work together for a six-month handover period. The meeting thanked Wilfred for his work in this role.

3. **Christmas Services** were listed on the back of the meeting agenda. The Carols by candlelight service is being held on Thursday 21st December at 7pm. This mid-week service will be reviewed as to its success. The Christmas morning service will be led by the Elders. All gifts collected during December will go to WCHP. All cash donations will go to Safe in Sussex.

Leaflets advertising our Christmas services will be distributed around local roads with a large poster on the notice board.

4. **Synod Report.** This was presented by Wilfred Rhodes (his 22nd) and a copy of the report will be attached with the November minutes. Andrew reported that synod officers spoke highly of Goring URC's successful hosting for the day.

Wilfred announced he will be stepping down from this role as Synod representative and made a request for someone to take over.

It was suggested we could invite some students who are training for ministry to come and speak at our Church.

5. **Presidency at Communication.** Valerie Cooper has recently completed a Sacrament course. The meeting was asked for approval for Valerie to now preside at Communion. Andrew Sellwood said he would write to the Pastoral committee for authorisation. The meeting gave its approval for Valerie's name to be put forward.

6. **The Ark.** Valerie reported that after some deliberation it has been decided the Ark will not continue after this term. There has been a significant reduction in the number of attendees and it was agreed that the Ark has run its course after 27 years.

The Outreach committee will be asked about the stored items belonging to the Ark. Andrew said this reflects the nature of how things are in the community and how the Church needs to react and respond. We will need to look at other Mission work in the life of the church.

7. **News from the Print Room.** Bett Swierk reported the engineer was called out and it is his belief that the photo copier paper drawer has been closed forcefully causing the printing problem. Pleases can all users be gentle. Bett requested to be informed by other members who are present if and when the engineer visits. Any paperwork left in the print room will be labelled with a request to confirm if it is to be kept or recycled.

8. **Eileen Rhodes** gave a report which she requested not to be recorded in the minutes.

9. **Group Reports.** 1. **Finance.** Matthew Smith gave an update on Lettings. The dog training has moved from Saturday to Monday. Pilates meet on Wednesday. Sparkle Dance use the premises Wednesday evenings before the Rowland singers. There is a new booking - two Saturday evenings a month by an Indian Church group.

Financially we should break even at the end of the year. We have purchased new piano and a Defibrillator and also new fencing for the Manse. Members were provided with details of the budget proposal which were agreed and passed by the meeting.

2. **Property.** Paul Redman. A quote has been received from Bourke and Cooper for £2,563 + vat to replace the gas heaters in the main hall. Much of the piping is already in place for a radiator system. As we have now used all the

spare parts available from previous salvaged heaters. It is time to carry out this work which is an extension of the original system in the Cornwall room. It is anticipated this will reduce the heating bills. Any work will fit around Lettings. The meeting approved this expenditure.

The heating in the church requires a new controller as the existing one no longer works efficiently. The system is currently being operated manually. Ryan Thomas has requested a quote from Keith Best and also Owen Electricals. It is hoped we can have a system similar to the 'Hive App' which means the system can be operated from an iPhone. The meeting approved in principle the works noted above.

Matthew Smith also reported the Church had been broken into a week last Friday (17th November). Access had been gained via a skylight in the Ladies facilities area. The property group decided to board and felt this rather than replace it. It was reported to Matthew that some church member had entered the premises and cleaned up, thus destroying any forensic evidence the police could have used. Members were asked to refrain from such actions should this happen again.

3. **Outreach.** No report.

4. **World Church and Mission.** Bett Swierk reported 46 shoe boxes were filled this year. These will be bar-coded which means we will get feedback as to their destination. There was some discussion around a T.V programme regarding these boxes and their Christian origins. Bett will review this situation early next year.

4th December is the Christian Aid Advent concert at Lancing College. There will be a speaker who will report on the plight of mothers and children in Kenya. Bett has tickets for anyone interested. Bett also requested jam jars as she is to make marmalade in aid of Christian Aid. These can be left in the flower room.

The next Christian Aid service will be held on 13th May 2018 at Goring URC.

10. **CTG.** Carole Culliss reported that only three people attended the last meeting on 20th November. A decision has been made that these meetings will not continue due to the lack of support.

Carol singing will still take place at the Mulberry Shops on 16th December 10:30am.

There is an open invitation for other churches to join the evening service at Goring if they wish.

Andrew informed the meeting that there will be a change in the leadership of the churches in the area which could bring about changes in joint ventures and closer ecumenical working.

11. **Defibrillator.** This has been purchased with some of the £1640 cost coming from a grant of £1000 from the Community Chest. Wilfred Rhodes was thanked for his efforts in acquiring this significant donation. The Defibrillator comes with DVDs which Wilma Smith and Val Gill plan to show to various building users and church members. The defibrillator is self-explanatory and simple to use. A condition of receiving money from the Community Chest is that someone from the Church attends the meeting held quarterly. This is when decisions are made as to how the £30,000 funds available are spent. Wilfred has been attending since the first Ice skating venture and now wishes to stand down. A volunteer has been requested. Please see Wilfred if interested. He has the necessary paperwork.

Notices and Correspondence : Koinonia are looking to offer support to elderly people in their own homes and wondered if we would be interested in hearing more about this.

We have received communication from an inmate at Ford Prison requesting a donation to a charity called Catching Lives which supports the homeless.

Valerie has details of a Lay Preacher course. This has been mentioned in Welcome but please speak to Valerie Cooper if further information is required.

Revd. Nigel Uden is preaching at Emmanuel church on 4th February 2018. Revd. Andy Twilley is preaching at Goring URC the same day.

A joint prayer meeting was held at Sompting last week. Emmanuel will host the next which is yet to be arranged.

AOB.

Paul Redman and Wilfred Rhodes are trustees of Little Fishes and reported on an excellent OFSTED report, it was outstanding. Wilfred suggested we ask Eloise who runs Little Fishes to come and talk to the meeting in January about the work they do. There is a large proportion of children with Special needs. The Elders will also discuss whether it would be helpful to ask her to come and speak to the congregation one Sunday morning.

Margaret Butcher thanked the church members for their support of the Proms evening held in the church in aid of the Bible Society.

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.

Next meeting 24th January 2018 7:30pm.

