

Minutes of the Goring United Reformed Church,
Bi-monthly Church Meeting
held on 30th May 2019

6 Apologies

Devotions by Rev Andrew Sellwood

MINUTES: Andrew signed the minutes of the March meeting as a true record in agreement with those present.

MATTERS ARISING:

- Thanks were given to Valerie Cooper for the Easter Breakfast.
- Recycling event was very successful and we will learn later how much was raised for the Community Chest as a result.
- The Sompting Community Service was thought successful and another will be held in September.
- Thanks were given to Bett Swierk for her work with Christian Aid and Over £400 was raised.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- All are healthy!
- Thanks were given to Brian Mitton for his years of service on the door at the Ark.
- Prayers were asked for Edna Nicholas, she is well but not very strong.
- Christina Shearer has joined our congregation.
- Jill and Andrew have been blessed with a new Grandson, Theo who was born 6 weeks early and is now home from hospital. They are both off to Australia to meet him.
- As an aside Andrew conducted a baptism at Sompting who was also 6 weeks early!
- May the Lord bless all these folk.

ANDREWS TIME:

- He reported that he is prayerfully thinking and planning for mission and also for a series of sermons in the autumn.

ELDERS ELECTION:

- 2 Elders are up for re-election and one new Elder. Voting will take place at the July Church meeting on 25th July at 7.30.

HOUSEKEEPING:

- All ok – A couple of reminders.
- Please flatten boxes when putting in the recycling bin to save space.
- Will Church Groups please put recycling in the bins outside and not leave in the kitchen.
- Black sacks are available for normal rubbish.

GORING CHURCHES PRAYER WALK:

- On 8th June a walk will commence from St Mary's round the churches in Goring leaving St Mary's at 2pm.

PREPARATION ROTA FOR COMMUNION:

- Alan Westcott is to take over this job from Eileen Rhodes. Thank you to Eileen for her service and thank you to all who prepare the Communion Table, May the Lord continue to bless them.

LETTERS FROM THE TREASURER:

- Please can the Elders deliver any of the letters that are left on the table at the back of the church?

THANKS were offered to Giles for joining the Welcome rota.

FINANCE:

- Nothing new to report, except to say the Barn Dance was very successful with requests for more! There was a £22 shortfall, which is not a problem.

PROPERTY:

- Report from Bett Swierk
- Stuart Newell has resigned from his job as Health and Safety Rep and Bett has taken it over.
- 18 items in the Quinquennial report are completed.
- 3 full size Adult tables have been purchased for the use of the church and the hall hirers.
- Health and Safety needs addressing and Graham and Bett have tested all the fire alarms and recorded it as proof.
- Fire Drill will take place within the next month, stewards will be updated prior to the drill, and the property group have it all in hand.
- Graham and Betts phones are the ones to use in an emergency and if a false alarm occurs no one is to turn it off. **ONLY THE FIRE BRIGADE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TURNING IT OFF.**
- The beeping in the choir vestry means a new battery is needed.

OUTREACH:

- 80 people attended the Barn Dance, which was successful.
- The ladies and gentlemen's meals have taken place
- Joint meal out arranged for 24.7.19
- Church picnic 7th July at Goring Gap after the morning service.
- Coach trip to Winchester 21.8.19, cost £10.00 per person. Leave at 9.30 from Church and leave Winchester at 4.30. This will be in Welcome for the next few weeks and sign up sheet on the table by the sound desk. Bring your friends.

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION:

- Christian Aid raised £447.83 from the collecting envelopes, the Quiz and Marmalade.

ADMIN:

- Matthew said not much happening to report at the moment.
- He also spoke about the Bible Reading initiative. We are opening the church for one hour per day around lunchtime and reading the bible from beginning to end. It starts on 10th June and there is a list on the table by the sound desk to sign up. It is a challenge and the more knowledge we have of the bible the better we will be.

OTHER ITEMS:

- 9th June is gift day.
- Andrew has a course at Sompting called 'How to read and study our bibles'. Question, Do we want it at Goring too so that we can get the most out of our time with the bible? The course will be one day a week.

- Wilfred would like notices given out prior to the Sunday morning Services. BOTH OF THESE QUESTIONS NEED AN ANSWER.

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Safeguarding training 23rd June at Emmanuel 2 – 5.30pm for Group leaders. There was a complaint about it being Sunday afternoon.
- Mission, Vision at Sevenoaks 11th June.

AOB:

- For the information of all: Graham Redman Spoke about the App he has set up which is on smart phones and tablets, a mini version of our website can be accessed, you can listen to sermons, view church business, diary and prayer requests.
- Carol Webber asked a question about whether the church wanted flowers every week, in which case we need more people to sign up to prepare them as an arrangement or in vases. It's too much to expect one or two people to keep it going. It was confirmed that the flowers are here to Gods Glory. And for the pleasure of those who receive them. It was agreed we do want to have them every week and more others signed up to help.
- We need to encourage and thank people for their work here.

Meeting closed at 8.35 by Andrew leading us in sharing the Grace.

Next Meeting at 7.30 on 25.7.19

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Signed as a true Record of the March Meeting
By Mr Matthew Smith in place of Rev Andrew
who is away and sends apologies.