

Minutes of the Goring United Reformed Church,
Bi-monthly Church Meeting
held on 26th July 2019

11 Apologies /28 Present.

Devotions led by Mrs Carole Culliss, with words from Psalm 5 vv 4-6 'God is always with us'

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

MATTERS ARISING:

- The Ladies and Men's supper was attended by 22 people and was an excellent evening.
- Redevelopment of HMRC site is only the site behind the existing car park. A consultation evening was held in the Cornwall room today - 26th July and Wilfred suggested that as a church body we should make a comment on the form provided with particular reference to the extra traffic that will be generated. Research and consultation on this issue is still going on but there will be emergency entrances and exits for the 'Essential Services'. When work starts there will be a new junction in the form of a roundabout to serve the Leisure Centre and Barrington Road. Give any comments to Wilfred or Matthew by this Sunday morning.
- Plans are in place for 400 dwellings on the HMRC site and 350 for the Leisure centre site and this is the time to go forward in faith to spread the Good News to our current and extended community.
- Synod have a 2 Million fund for Mission Development – we as the local URC Church are putting together an application for a grant from this fund. This will be used to update and renovate the church to make it more exciting for the people who will be our neighbours. It was also said at the meeting that as an established Church family, we need to prepare for Mission, and welcome the new community into our Church. This preparation is both spiritual and practical purposes so that we are ready to go forward in faith becoming more spiritually based to spread the word locally.
- The Church Picnic on Goring Gap was rained off so it was moved to the Church where all those who attended had a great time. There was still a call from the meeting for outreach and to take the puppet theatre to Goring Gap another time.
- Andrew's Bible Class will take place on alternate Thursday afternoons in the autumn; more information will be available on Andrew's return from holiday.
- The Recycling event raised between £150 and £170 for the Community Chest, the meeting agreed it was a fair amount for a 2 hour collection of items on a Saturday morning.
- The daily Bible reading time will be changed and will be 12 – 1pm everyday from August. Matthew thanked all those who are supporting it by reading and added that this is part of the progress to a more spiritual life. Everyone is welcome to take part.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- George Bayley died and his funeral will be on 29th July 2019; led by Rev Tony Trevithick in Andrew's absence. We were asked to pray for his family. The meeting stood in silence to remember George.
- Wilfred reported that he had been in touch with Rev Peter Newell a good friend and occasional preacher at Goring, he has now retired from preaching and is very well.

ELDERS ELECTION:

- 2 Elders are up for re-election and one new Elder. Wilfred Rhodes and Alan Westcott were asked to be tellers. Voting took place and all three were elected with over 70% of the vote, to join or continue in the Eldership from September. Mrs Valerie Gill as a new Elder with Miss Chris Howie and Mrs Rosina Bayley continuing for another year. Matthew led the meeting in prayer for the Elected Elders.
- While the counting was happening Matthew asked for prayers for children who are vulnerable in the summer months from unscrupulous people.

SYNOD AREA MEETING:

- Mrs Rosemary Terry as our new representative gave a report to the meeting a copy of which is attached to the minutes in the file.

HOUSEKEEPING:

- Valerie Cooper reported that she has been in touch with Gemma our contact at the cleaning company we appointed for the church with regard to the standard of work. From September Valerie and Bett will be monitoring the cleaning routine as it is felt that the cleaners are not doing the job properly and are not here long enough to do the work that has been agreed for the price we pay.

FINANCE:

- Matthew reported to the meeting that we have agreed a financial arrangement with Sompting for Ministers expenses; Sompting is not as well off as other, which has been taken into consideration.
- Gift Day current total is slightly up on last years figure with £5320.00.
- There will be no income tax payable on the hall lettings as long as we don't offer services to the hirers, i.e. tea/coffee etc.
- Budget update: Projecting a deficit of a possible £1200. We are hoping for a leakage allowance from Southern Water Authority after a huge bill. Most significant is a projected offering of £33500.00 after the prompt from the treasurer with regard to giving.
- Following a letter from Synod Re Ministry and Mission we will be taking the 1% reduction from the annual fees (£41304.00). Meeting agreed with taking the reduction.
- Nothing new on Hall Lettings. There is a Dutch School coming to Worthing in October and for 3 days and have asked if they can use the Sanctuary for 30 minutes, 8.15 – 8.45 each day for morning prayer. This has been agreed and there will be no charge.

PROPERTY:

- Report from Bett Swierk
- Graham Redman has repainted the arrows and other road markings in the car park; thanks from the meeting will be conveyed to him when he returns from holiday.

- The Projection system is to be updated and 3 systems are being evaluated. 1. New Projector and one large screen. 2. Two screens one each side of the church. 3. Larger Television than the current one as it is backlit. These options will be brought the next church meeting for discussion and agreement. It was pointed out that this should be addressed quickly due to the IT failures recently.
- Alarm batteries have been replaced and a fire drill is imminent.
- The property group working hard to behalf of the church doing all sorts of jobs in the background that might go unnoticed.
- Little Fishes: will be covering the area between the Main Hall and the Little Fishes building with a rubber matting made from recycled car tyres to make it a safe place for little children to play, it will be done during the summer break. They will also be doing some decorating the cost of which will be borne by them.
- It was reported that staff and the children of LF have cut the Bank opposite their building and thanks have been offered by the meeting.
- They have also asked if they may have an area on the bank for the children to use for learning about nature. WSCC have put out a directive that children should be offered Nature/outdoor activities.

OUTREACH:

- Catch up for Christian Aid.
- There will be no Advent Hope Service this year, Event Bright has been unhelpful as this is Internet based and numbers went down. There is no money to fund it with such an uncertain future. Due to not going out house to house anymore funds are shrinking £12000 this year, which is down £1500. Events through the year do add this to however. The treasurer Peter Cronin wants to stand down this year therefore creating a vacancy.
- Winchester Coach trip is to be opened up to Sompting to join in and Maureen Clarke will be telephoned to put the invitation out on this coming Sunday morning.

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION:

- No Report.

ADMIN:

- A 3 year plan is being put together with reference to Mission and Development in the church, this will be reported further when clear plans have been decided upon.
- Registration for the Charity Commission has been put back to March 2021. John Dennison the Synod Treasurer thinks it may not happen at all. The Admin Group will however go through the necessary work so we are ready if the registration goes ahead.

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

AOB:

- Valerie Cooper reported that the coffee/tea is completely self-supporting and any money over goes into the benevolent fund. However the compostable cups we use on a Sunday morning are disappearing and re-appearing in the recycling bin also the Coffee and Tea disappear and is used and returned or left somewhere else in the church. There is a full report of this matter in the minutes file. Valerie

would just like to know who it is who uses the items. She needs to keep track of the supplies and the costs. Matthew Smith commented about Andrews preaching about intolerance and that as far as we can we can be tolerant, if possible.

- Jane Bond Reminded us about REFORM Magazine and if anyone wants to receive them please speak to her.

Meeting closed at 8.55 by Matthew who thanked the Tellers for the Elders Election and continued by leading us in sharing the Grace.

Next Meeting at 7.30 on 26.9.19 with Devotions by Chris Howie.

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Signed as a true Record of the 25th July 2019 by Rev Andrew Sellwood.