

Minutes of the Olive Tree Church Meeting

Sunday 11th June 2023

28 members were present.

1. Rev. Joanne Sherwood opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Apologies: Christine Kent, Mark Newport, Elaine and Philip Sharpe
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March were accepted and signed.
4. Ministry – The leadership team have met with a minister who has expressed an interest and have arranged for him to lead the services on 25th June at the Branch and 2nd July at the Tree. In addition he will be present at the BBQ on Saturday 1st July. His wife is a nurse and they have four children, the three youngest of which would require school places in Luton if they came. For this reason the service on 2nd July will be followed by a question and answer session and a special church meeting to expedite matters. The manse may not be available as it was leased for another 12 months in March, albeit with a six month break clause. Other manses in Luton may be available. Members were asked to keep all of this in their prayers.
5. Finance – Glynis presented the accounts from 1st September 2022 up until 30th April 2023. Total giving was £31,800. The gift day raised £2716, half of which will be used for community work and half for the accessible toilets. Gift Aid accounted for £5600 and rents £42,289. Utilities cost £33,167 but, as we pay by direct debit evenly over the year, we have actually spent another £2500. This is being addressed such that we pay as we use it in future. We have too much in our reserves at present and the leadership team is looking to produce a reserves policy. Glynis pointed out that we may have to pay someone to do some of the admin, including the accounts, before too long. Thanks were expressed to Glynis for all that she does.
6. Accessible Toilets – Madit reported that 3 quotes have been received varying from £10,000 per toilet to £18,000. The meeting gave approval for two toilets, one in the church and one in the hall, to be done together, as this should reduce disturbance and keep the costs down. Ripping out the cupboards in the hall store room ourselves would also reduce costs. It was left to the leadership team to decide which quote to accept.
7. Community Work – Mary was welcomed back and she thanked everyone for their prayers. Mary is on a phased return to community and pastoral work and outlined her week as follows: Monday – am pastoral phone calls, pm Stay and Play.
Tuesday – Just finished an English class and is starting an exercise class.
Thursday – Craft Group, who have been having picnics in the park recently.
8. Safeguarding – Peace has just completed an audit at the Branch and two recommendations to be followed up, both at the Branch and the Tree, are to have an information board with relevant phone numbers for such things as Childline and Shelter and, secondly, to have job descriptions for unpaid workers taking on new jobs.
9. Charity Commission – the report is in the process of being written.
10. A.O.B. – a) Roger has a phone number for the owner of a missing Bengal cat last seen around the church.
b) Colin asked for help to fill in the property form for the LEP and Peace offered to help.
11. The meeting ended with the Grace.

Hilary Rogers 16/6/23