

Horsforth Churches Together

Together in our community



MINUTES

of the **Horsforth Churches Together AGM** Virtual Meeting
 Wednesday 12 Jan 2022
 By Zoom. 7.30pm.

Attendees:	John Barnes (Treasurer), Heather Booth, Judith Briggs, Jonathan Cain, Joel Cribbin, Rachel Ford, Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Jean Orton, Deborah Pennington, Duncan Stow, Jill Woodman (Chair)
Apologies	
	Action By:
1.	<p><u>Welcome</u> Jill welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.</p>
2.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u> Jill gave this summary of the year to the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HCT Chair's Report for the 2021 year.</p> <p>I am astounded and grateful looking back at 2021 to find the number of activities and community events which HCT has organised or been involved with, despite the second year of the Covid pandemic. And the new ways in which God has led us to develop, partly prompted by the pandemic. I often think, although God Himself, does not change, He is willing us to move forward in our service for Him and I think this has been seen this last year.</p> <p>EVENTS Events such as at Easter, with the powerful witness of carrying the Cross from church to church on Good Friday and the readings and prayers at The Grove, so visible on Town St; the Easter poster put up in houses and churches across Horsforth, reminding us and the community of the cost our Saviour made for us; and the fun of the Easter egg trail that so many children enjoyed. All while keeping to the tight Covid restrictions in place at the time.</p> <p>Then in the summer the Civic Service, combined with the opening of the Horsforth Shed at St James, a much prayed for venture – a lovely day with somebody's marvellous idea of having cream teas before the service.</p> <p>And of course Christmas time – with the new successful way of delivering Christmas cards tried again, and equally successfully, with a prayer for each household as well as giving church service information.</p> <p>And what a joy to have 'Carols in the Park' back, with a lovely atmosphere and people's comments showed how much they appreciated the service. And then there was the Nativity scene at The Grove again, appreciated by many passers-by.</p> <p>REGULAR ACTIVITIES Then there are the ongoing HCT community activities: Great to have the Farmers' Market back. The re-starting of the 'Open the Book' Assemblies and a film of the message of Christmas shown to many children at Horsforth School. Then there is HCAP, the Horsforth Community Aid Project, a Partnership Project that has changed to now providing a Food Pantry and Natter Café at St Andrew's in Hawksworth, while the Community Café has re-started at St Mgs.</p> <p>THANKS Thanks are owed to so many, well, to all of you of course. Particularly: A huge thank you to Duncan for all his hard work on behalf of HCT organising or being involved in all these events for the community and for his ongoing excellent work in communicating with us all regularly via the newsletters and emails. Thank you too to Phil, especially for all his work on the Easter and Christmas events. To Polly Shepherd for her lovely paintings for the Easter posters and the Carols in the Park card that we re-used this year.</p>

	<p>To Jonathan for leading the Carols in the Park and the work on the Shed/Civic Service.</p> <p>To Nigel for all his work in HCAP and the Food Pantry</p> <p>To Lynne, for being such an efficient minute taker</p> <p>To John, for all his ongoing, behind the scenes work as Treasurer</p> <p>To Judith, for all her creative ideas</p> <p>And to all the committee for their input and prayer and indeed all those in the churches that pray faithfully for HCT and the Horsforth Community</p> <p>Not forgetting dear Mavis, with thanks for all her contributions over the years and for bringing some humour into the Zoom meetings with her chiming clock.</p> <p>FUTURE</p> <p>For the future, this year, with Jesus as the driving force and as we seek to do His Will, work together in His Name, serve Him in the Community and surround in prayer:</p> <p>The activities that have been mentioned above and also:</p> <p>The Welcome Pack</p> <p>The Covid memorial service</p> <p>The three 'Perfectly Pitched' classical concerts</p> <p>And hopefully being involved in the Horsforth Gala again.</p> <p>Jill Woodman, Chair of HCT 2021-22.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>John presented a summary of expenditure and income for the year ending 31.12.21. This included the Farmer's Market accounts up to Aug when they set up their own account and now includes funds for Perfectly Pitched Concerts. The balance including PP was £6162.48 leaving HCT with a balance of £4672.48. For the forthcoming year it was agreed to ask churches for a donation equivalent to 75% of their pre pandemic contribution. This will generate £2250. The letter will be sent to treasurers requesting payment before 31. 5. 22. It will also include the proposed budget with an anticipated spend of £3709 and a request for financial support for Duncan Stow. The letter for treasurers will be sent to individual churches.</p>	All churches
4.	<p><u>Duncan's Report</u></p> <p>Duncan showed a series of pictures highlighting events from 2021. These included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Farmers' Market which is moving back to the school in February • Open the Book which have performed 2 assemblies and hope to do more from February onwards • High School work where Joel and others have been involved in mentoring, RE lessons, football and transition weeks • Good Friday walking the cross and prayer at The Grove • HCAP moving from emergency food provision to more ongoing support through the Natter Café and the Food Pantry' • The Civic Service and the opening of The Horsforth Shed which is now supporting people from Lighthouse and other vulnerable individuals • Carols in the Park • Christmas Card Delivery. <p>Duncan stressed there are lots of positives for which we can be thankful and we can move forward with confidence. He hoped 2022 would be a year of prayer where we can re-imagine church and bring hope to our community. He highlighted some ongoing issues – The Foodbank, refugees, Christian Aid and Perfectly Pitched.</p> <p>Jill thanked Duncan for his hard work.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Tributes</u></p> <p>Phil spoke about Mavis Jeffrey who sadly died on Boxing Day who had worked tirelessly for Central Methodist and also for Horsforth Churches Together He also mentioned Ann Blackburn who had been a local preacher and active in the church and the community. Jean also mentioned Mark Saville who had worked hard for the local community. Phil gave thanks for their lives.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Election of Officers</u></p> <p>Chair – Rev Rachel Ford proposed by Duncan Stow and Lynne Gillions</p> <p>Secretary – Lynne Gillions proposed by Jill Woodman and John Barnes</p> <p>Treasurer – John Barnes proposed by Jane Linley and Duncan Stow</p> <p>Vice Chair – no nominations</p>	

	All were duly elected.	
7.	<p><u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes from 3 Nov 2021 were agreed. Matters Arising – Perfectly Pitched is now organised with the first concert on 3 Feb 2022 at St Margaret's where the church covid guideline will be followed. Deborah is visiting community groups to promote the concerts. She has asked churches to ask for volunteers to steward the concerts. Please contact her by email or telephone with names ASAP at mpenn.dpenn@ntlworld.com or 07910414586</p>	All Churches and HCT Reps
8.	<p><u>Christmas Feedback</u> About 600 people attended Carols in the Park. Some people lingered at the end and there were numerous thanks and positive comments. There was a great atmosphere and it was a wonderful witness of churches working together. The flasks for serving drinks had been donated by local shops and the Junk Food Café. The Christmas cards were all delivered despite the inclement weather on one of the days! This method of distribution has worked well and will probably be used in the future.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 Jan</u> The pulpit exchange has been organised for 23 Jan. A prayer meeting will be held between 12.00 and 1.00 on Thursday, 20 Jan in The Grove Church.</p>	All churches
10.	<p><u>World Day of Prayer</u> Jean is contacting some people who have previously been involved in organising The Women's World Day of Prayer to see if this event is viable. There was some discussion as to whether in the future this should be an event just for women. But no conclusions were drawn. It was noted that it is no longer called The Women's World Day of Prayer.</p>	JO
11.	<p><u>Covid Remembrance Service</u> Judith, Nigel and Phil had met as a sub group to discuss ideas. The proposition is to create a space for the community to grieve or to give thanks. Several ideas were discussed including a permanent wall of remembrance on the Green which might be a long term consideration or an opportunity to mark 2 years since the start of lockdown on 23 Mar by inviting people to place stones and ribbons at The Grove as an act of remembrance. Heather, Judith, Jane, Phil, Nigel and Duncan will take this idea forward.</p>	HB, JB, JL, PM, NS, DS
12	<p><u>The Year Ahead</u> The location and time of the Civic Service is to be agreed by church leaders. A Christian Aid Zoom Conference is being held on 20 Feb which is promoting ideas for fund raising. Phil is attending and others are welcome to join him. As we did last year, Jan Smith is keen to drop leaflets through doors with a collecting point at Morrisons. It raised over £2000 last year. Duncan suggested a quiz and Heather offered her support. It was agreed that decisions should be taken at the next meeting.</p>	All Churches
13.	<p><u>Dates for the Year Ahead 2022</u> HCT Meetings Wednesday March 2nd Wednesday May 4th Wednesday September 7th Wednesday November 2nd Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th Sunday 23rd January Pulpit Exchange Perfectly Pitched : Thursday February 3rd, Thursday April 7th, Thursday June 2nd <i>Lent: No Joint Lent Activities</i> Women's World Day of Prayer March 3rd (TBC if happening) Covid Lock Down 2 YR Event around March 23rd (TBC) Holy Week - 7 Words of Jesus Tuesday 12th April @ Leeds Trinity</p>	

	<p>Good Friday Walk of Witness 11.30 – 12.30 15th April</p> <p>Easter Sunday in Park 17th April (TBC)</p> <p>The Queens Platinum Jubilee Thursday 2nd Sunday 5th June Street Parties encouraged</p> <p>Civic Service (TBC)</p> <p>Horsforth Gala June 26th</p> <p>Walk of Art Weekend July 2nd & 3rd</p> <p>Carols in the Park December 10th</p>	
14.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Matt Powell is being inducted as leader at Lister Hill on 5 Mar. Invitations will be going out</p>	
15.	<p><u>Closing Prayer</u></p> <p>Rachel closed the meeting in prayer.</p>	