

Horsforth Churches Together

Together in our community



MINUTES

of the **Horsforth Churches Together** Virtual Meeting
 Wednesday 9th March 2022
 By Zoom. 7.30pm.

Attendees:	Judith Briggs, Judith Colley (Visiting Speaker) Joel Cribbin, Ruth Dent, Rachel Ford (Chair), Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jean Orton, Duncan Stow, Jill Woodman	
Apologies	Jonathan Cain, Jane Linley, Phil Maud	
		Action By:
1.	<p><u>Welcome</u> Rachel welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer with a particular focus on Ukraine.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> The minutes from 12 Jan were agreed with no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p><u>MHA (Live at Home)</u> Judith Colley gave an update on the work at MHA. They had continued to support people through covid with door to door visits. They still meet at Central and they celebrated their 25th anniversary in November with a party. She outlined some of their activities – lunch club, bacon butties, 41 Christmas dinners, mince pie drop off, annual memorial, Burns night, visiting recorder group, twice monthly local walks led by Lyn Cadmore, 'Love to Move' exercise class, fellowship led by church folk. They have linked with Morrisons to hold a dementia café and are planning one to include Easter treats. They meet in the Yoga Café for their 'Living with Loss' sessions supported by Leeds Bereavement Forum and the Community Foundation. They received Winter Wellbeing funding of £2500 and delivered members a 'hug in a mug' – a mug containing a range of sundries which were well received. They organise regular trips out and a holiday in Llandudno is planned for September. Wheelchairs are usually accepted on coaches as they want to be fully accessible. The Queen's Tea party is planned on 31st May and 7 June. They currently have 680 members which represents 13.3% of Horsforth's elderly population. They are targeted to increase to 15% (80 more members) so Judith is keen to encourage new people who simply need to give their names to her or go along to one of their activities and they will receive their regular newsletter outlining all activities. They currently deliver 400 newsletters. Volunteers and befrienders are always welcome and the support from the churches is much appreciated. Some of their partners include LS18 Rocks, Churches, Morrisons, New Croft, memory support workers, Bedford Court, the Library. Members are generally doing well and new friendships are being formed. MHA particularly focuses on loneliness, dementia, loss and mobility. Judith was thanked for all their hard work and Judith Briggs prayed for them.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Covid Memorial – 'Two Years On'</u> On Wednesday, 23 Mar, HCT plan to hold an event at The Grove to mark two years on from the first lockdown. The plan is to encourage passers-by to write on ribbons their response to the pandemic and tie them to the railings. Different coloured ribbons could represent different things – yellow for sadness, red for loss, blue for thanks. It will last from 10am until 6pm and tea and coffee will be available. There will be 3 short services for prayer at 10am, 2pm and 6pm. Volunteers are needed to fill hourly slots. Publicity will be distributed to the churches giving all the details. A letter has also gone out to schools. The ribbons will remain in place until Palm Sunday. Judith Briggs shared her experience as a chaplain and the importance of giving our community a space to express their feelings.</p>	All churches

5.	<p><u>Easter</u> Permission has been granted for the Walk of Witness to go ahead on Good Friday and a grant from the Council will allow the closure of the road. It will commence at 11.30 at Central Methodist and culminate on The Green where a service is being organized by Rachel Ford. There will be no hot cross buns served this year. In the past, singing has been led by an accordion player but she is unavailable so suggestions of an alternative would be welcome.</p> <p>The '7 Words from the Cross' service at Trinity has been cancelled.</p> <p>The Easter Egg Hunt at St James on Easter Saturday is going ahead.</p> <p>There is a concert, 'The 7 Last Words of Jesus', by The Heritage Singers at St Margaret's on the evening of Good Friday.</p>	All Churches
6.	<p><u>Platinum Jubilee</u> The Town Council have funds for lighting a beacon on Thursday, 2 June and a picnic in the park on Sunday, 5 June. They have invited all churches to come along to the picnic, possible organising some low level games eg parachute games, Connect 4 etc. The meeting was supportive of the idea and Duncan and Joel will attend a planning meeting with the Council.</p>	All Churches
7.	<p><u>Welcome Pack</u> The Welcome Pack is complete and will be distributed to churches initially for people to distribute to any newcomers in their area. Duncan showed it on screen and people were enthusiastic about it. It will also be put in the Library. Strategy for its use will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	All Churches
8.	<p><u>Gala</u> John Archer, a Christian magician, who was a semi-finalist on Britain's Got Talent is available to attend at a cost of £600. He would be available at the Gala and also for an evening performance of fun, comedy and magic. Tickets could be sold at a modest price to help recoup the costs. Duncan was keen to use a church for the evening. He showed a video of one of his performances and people at the meeting warmed to him and were generally supportive of the idea. There was some discussion about some Christians' negative attitude to magic but it was generally felt that this was about fun, comedy and sleight of hand tricks and would be a family night out.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Civic Service</u> To be held at The Grove on 10 July</p>	
9.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u> Lynne noted that the Open the Book Team are resuming in 5 schools with an Easter assembly.</p> <p>Jean said the World Day of Prayer had been attended by small numbers but with women from a range of churches.</p> <p>Judith wondered if we could get feedback from some of our events by using Survey Monkey.</p>	
10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> Wednesday 4 May - In person or on Zoom to be confirmed</p>	
	<p><u>Closing Prayer</u> Gill closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting closed at 9.15.</p>	