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| MINUTES of the **Horsforth Churches Together AGM**  Wednesday 1 Mar 2023  7.30pm at Lister Hill | | |
| **Attendees:** | John Barnes (Treasurer), Jonathan Cain, Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Paul Metcalf, Margaret Metcalf, Deborah Pennington, Matt Powell, Catherine Sayburn, Nigel Sinclair(during the meeting), Duncan Stow(Volunteer Chair), Jill Woodman, Rhoda Wu | |
| **Apologies** | Judith Briggs, Rachel Ford |  |
|  |  | **Action By:** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  Duncan welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a reading and prayer from Strengthening the Soul. |  |
| 2. | **Horsforth Shed**  Pete Gillions gave an update on Horsforth Shed.  The building had been converted from the old Scout Hut at St James. He was thankful to God for the provision of both people and resources. It was estimated that free labour equating to £60,000 had enabled the transformation along with initial gifts of £10,000 from St James and £10.000 from individuals. To date a total of £80.000 has been raised through gifts and grants. It is overseen by a body of trustees.  The Shed currently employs Richard Hamlyn for 2.5 days a week. There are also 10 volunteer session supervisors. It is used by a variety of clients: pupils with additional needs from 2 schools, a post 16 group giving them experience and skills, a session for children in care, men from Lighthouse and a drop in session. A guitar building course is about to start. Some of these groups generate income for the project.  Trustees are currently exploring employing another person and providing sessions during the school holidays. Pete appreciated the role HCT had played in supporting the project.  The attendees at the meeting were very positive about the work of Horsforth Shed and Duncan thanked Pete for his input. |  |
| 3. | **Refugees**  Jane Linley updated the meeting on the work with refugees. Work at the hotel continues with some men moving on and some new arrivals. One man had been removed to Newcastle but Rose had succeeded in getting him to return to this area where he is now being housed. Some men speak English but others do not.  Donations have come in as a response to appeals. They still need warm coats, trainers, joggers, sweatshirts, backpacks and bags. The group provide packs of new pants and socks for the men. Some of them get involved with activities. A group had been helping to remove tree guards, some had made masks as part of Leeds City of Culture and some had attended meetings supporting the Town of Sanctuary project.  Currently Rose and others are going into schools and giving talks eg to Forum about becoming a Town of Sanctuary. There is an International Evening from 6.00-8.00pm at St Margaret’s on Friday 10 March. Tickets are free but places need to be booked on Eventbrite.  Duncan thanked Jane for her input. | All Churches |
| 4. | **Election of Vice-Chair and Offers to Chair Individual Meetings**  Matt Powell was proposed by Duncan and seconded by Jane to become Vice-Chair. He was unanimously appointed. Duncan said that he was looking for volunteers to chair the remaining meetings this year and it is hoped that Matt will become Chair next year. |  |
| 5. | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  The minutes were accepted and matters arising were as follows.   * **Finance** There was a positive response to the new way of requesting donations from churches and one church had already sent their donations. Others had approved their giving and will be sending it in soon * **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – People were very positive about the Pulpit Exchange, the Taize service and the flexible Day of Prayer with the prayer boards on display. It was suggested that in future the Day of Prayer might attract more people if it was held on a Saturday. |  |
| 6. | **Easter**   * **7 Words from the Cross** To be held at Trinity Chapel 7.00-8.00pm on Tue 4 April. Refreshments afterwards. Phil distributed posters and asked, for volunteers from the laity to speak briefly during the service. * **Walk of Witness** Matt and Duncan to lead. Meet at 11.30 at Central. Soup and hot cross buns afterwards at The Grove. A few strong singers would be welcome to support a brief service at Bedford Court at 11.00am. * **Easter Banners** Duncan encouraged churches to put their banners on display. * **Easter Egg Hunt** at St James on Easter Saturday10.00am. A lovely family event. All welcome. * **Rewind** Year 5 children from 7 schools will be experiencing half a day of activities based on Easter. This is very popular with schools. | All Churches |
| 7. | **Leeds Trinity**  Catherine Sayburn , lay chaplain, came from Trinity to share their desire to engage more with the local community. Trinity are willing to talk to churches and build relationships. They are holding a Fun Day on Trinity Sunday, 4 June. There will be food and games and families and churches are invited to attend. It was recognised the 12 0’ clock Mass wasn’t an ideal time for churches but that it might be an opportunity for churches to go together to the picnic at the fun day after the church services. To be reflected on at the next meeting. Duncan said that we could look at ways in which to welcome students in our churches. There are already some links with the uniformed organisations. It was agreed it would be helpful to know what societies operated at the college with whom we might be able to make links. Also students might be able to support some of the church activities.  Duncan thanked Catherine for coming to the meeting. | All Churches |
| 8. | **The Coronation**  The meeting discussed the Coronation. Due to local elections town councils are not in a position to organize any events on that weekend. (NB just awaiting clafication on this as a conversation since has intimated they will be able to support activities in a limited way) Deborah said that a suggestion had been brought by a local tradesman that an event similar to the Christmas Market could be organized on the Saturday. There was some discussion about this but it was generally felt that most people would be watching the event throughout the day and it was not the best time. People felt that celebrations would focus more on street parties. |  |
| 9. | **Any Other business**   * **Perfectly Pitched** Deborah distributed posters advertising the next concert on 16 March. * **St James Choir Festival** Jonathan distributed posters advertising their next 175 event on Sat 18 Mar. Tickets available on Eventbrite. * **Farmers’ Market** Duncan distributes the latest newssheet. * **Alpha** A course starts on Sun 5 Mar at Lister Hill. Duncan encouraged people to bring someone along. | All Churches |
| 10. | **Closing Prayer**  Phil closed the meeting in prayer. |  |