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| MINUTES of the **Horsforth Churches Together AGM**  Wednesday 3 May 2023  7.30pm at St Margaret’s | | |
| **Attendees:** | Ann Bailey, Judith Briggs, Jonathan Cain, Rachel Ford, Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Val Jennings, Jane Linley, Phil Maud (Volunteer Chair), Rose McCarthy, Paul Metcalf, Deborah Pennington, Matt Powell, Catherine Sayburn, Duncan Stow, Jill Woodman, Rhoda Wu | |
| **Apologies** | John Barnes, Jo Lightowler, Margaret Metcalf, Miriam Parker, Nigel Sinclair |  |
|  |  | **Action By:** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  Phil welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a poem by Bob Hartman. |  |
| 2. | **Speaker**  No speaker was available for the meeting. |  |
| 3. | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Matters arising included   * **Town of Sanctuary**   Rose reported back on the Town of Sanctuary Launch Event. About 150 people had attended and had enjoyed a range of foods from different countries, singing and good conversations. St Margaret’s had been an excellent venue and Rose thanked all those people who had volunteered and made it such a successful event, including local schools who had sent children’s pictures for display. Their next meeting is at 5pm on 22 May at St Mary’s Sacristy.   * **The Coronation**   Deborah described the event taking place on Town St on Sat 6 May from 2pm-8pm. There will be a stage in front of The Green with a range of musical acts. Stalls will line the bottom half of Town St and there will be some children’s activities in the grounds of The Grove. It will be officially opened at 2pm.   * **Trinity Sunday Update**   Cat had posters advertising the event on Sunday 4 June. There will be a Mass at 12.00. This will be followed from 1.00-3.30 with a fun day with free activities for families and free food and drink. It is helpful if people book a place on Eventbrite so that they have an idea of numbers but it is not essential. | All Churches |
| 4. | **Easter Feedback**   * **7 Words from the Cross**   Phil thanked Trinity for their hospitality and said how much he had appreciated the atmosphere of the occasion and the beautiful setting. Rhoda suggested that candles might be considered for a future occasion. Rose said that it helped to build stronger links with the university.   * **Walk of Witness**   Duncan said there had been a good turnout both of participants and spectators and there was a lovely atmosphere going down Town St. He thanked Matt for leading the worship and The Grove for their hospitality. Phil said that £203 was raised for Mission Aviation Fellowship.  Judith commented that at some point it would be good to remove some of the lower branches of the trees on The Green so that the cross would be more visible.   * **Easter Egg Hunt**   Duncan commented that it had been thoroughly enjoyable and Jonathan agreed it had been very successful with good numbers attending.   * **Sunrise Service**   This was attended by about 12 people who had enjoyed the service   * **Bedford Court**   Phil had led a short service at Bedford Court with a couple of helpers on Good Friday. He said he would continue to do so in the future and whilst a few more volunteers would be welcome it was not essential. He said Bedford Court were very grateful for the spiritual input from the local churches.   * **Lent**   There was a discussion about returning to Lent Talks next year and this was felt to be a good idea. Duncan suggested Christian Apologetics such as Faith and Science, Faith and the Environment and Faith and Suffering. He asked people to let him know of any particularly good speakers on such issues and Cat suggested Jon Swales from Lighthouse Church to speak on the Environment. Interjit Bhogal was also suggested. | All Churches |
| 5. | **Treasurer’s Report**  John was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report in. The current balance is £8245.96 of which £6702.19 is HCT and £1543.77 is Perfectly Pitched. Most churches have contributed generously under the new system. Two churches have yet to contribute. | All Churches |
| 6. | **Christian Aid 14-20 May**  It was agreed that support for Christian Aid should be left *this year* to individual churches. It would be useful to note *at our next meeting* if anyone missed the door to door collections. It will be advertised on HCT’s website. Rachel agreed to do a daily pick up of donations from a display in Morrisons. Phil agreed to order envelopes for churches as requested at the meeting. | All Churches |
| 7. | **The Gala 24 June**  The event had only been confirmed 2 weeks ago. Duncan suggested similar activities to previous years although the insurance indemnity on inflatables had risen significantly and might effect what we could do. He would really welcome creative ideas from other people.  **The Walk of Art is on 1-2 Jul** . Phil said space was available in The Grove Youth Centre if any artist required a room. A textile map of Horsforth is being produced and Rhoda has contacted some people to encourage contributions from the churches. Anyone interested in participating should contact Rhoda [rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org) | All Churches |
| 8. | **The Civic Service 23 July at St James**  This is to be linked in with St James 175th anniversary celebrations. There will be a cream tea followed by the service. Jonathan is looking at possibly including some musical contributions from different churches. | All Churches |
| 9. | **Future Events**   * **Café of Hope**   Possibly to be held on Wed 11 or Sun 14 Oct. This will be in 3 parts – celebrating what we already do, dreaming together about possible future activities and praying together.   * **Death Café**   Pete Gillions is exploring putting on an evening at a local café where people can openly and respectfully discuss their views and concerns. Pete has approached some possible contributors eg a palliative care consultant. Other people mentioned the Bereavement Forum which meets in the Library and other local organisations who deal with bereavement. | All Churches |
| 10. | **Future Dates**  The next meetings are on 6 Sept and 8 Nov (**NB This was originally going to be on 1 Nov)** On 1 Nov Harry Baker is appearing at St James | All Churches |
| 11 | **AOB**   * 12 May Bagpiper is leading a Scottish Evening at Kirkstall Abbey * 14 May Andrew Charles is running the Leeds Marathon on behalf of HCT and Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Sponsors welcome. * <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/andrew-charles-marathon-for-refugees> * 18 May Perfectly Pitched Concert at 1pm at St Margaret’s Neil Balfour * I June Perfectly Pitched Concert at 1pm at St Margaret’s aimed at families with the Brass Quintet of Opera North. * 15 – 21 May Dementia Action Week. Phil distributed posters for the churches advertising the events. | All Churches |
| 12 | **Closing Prayer**  Phil closed the meeting using St Patrick’s Breastplate Prayer.  As the meeting closed, Phil thanked Rachel for her involvement in HCT during her time in Horsforth and wished her well as she moves to Rawdon to become vicar of St Peter’s. Her licensing service is at 7pm on 5 July |  |