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| MINUTES of the **Horsforth Churches Together AGM**  Wednesday 6 Sepr 2023  7.30pm at Cragg Hill Baptiat | | |
| **Attendees:** | Judith Briggs, Jonathan Cain (Volunteer Chair), Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Rose McCarthy, Margaret Metcalf, Paul Metcalf, Deborah Pennington, Matt Powell, Duncan Stow, Evan Walker, Jill Woodman, Rhoda Wu | |
| **Apologies** | John Barnes, Jo Lightowler |  |
|  |  | **Action By:** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  Jonathan welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer for missionaries as it was the day on which the Anglican church remembers Alan Gardner, a missionary who founded the city of Durban and also the South American Missionary. |  |
| 2. | **Speaker - Tracey Brierley from MHA Communities**  Tracey returned as manager of the Horsforth branch in March 2023. She was pleased to reconnect with people whom she knew from her previous time with MHA. Currently, there are 705 members, 60 volunteers and a number of staff. She appreciated the support that HCT has always given to the project. The Horsforth branch will be 30yrs old in 2026. This year there is a national celebration in Harrogate in recognition of 80 yrs since the organisation started. Details are on the MHA website.  The group is thriving and Leeds City Council has agreed funding until 2025 and the lease and licence with Central Methodist has been finalised. Tracey thanked the Metcalfs for their continued support. They have also received £1500 from Windmill for coach trips and £1000 from Brighter Days for a hardship fund to help those who need some financial support to access the activities.  Some new activities have been added. They now have 2 Tai Chi classes on Monday afternoons. Carol Shaw has visited a number of Memory Cafes and as a result the Horsforth Memory Café will relocate to Horsforth Sports Club and will be renamed Over the Rainbow Club. It will start on 27 September and will be on the last Wednesday of the month.  Phil Maud continues to hold a short reflection each month. Tracey thanked him for all his involvement.  The MHA newsletter will be out shortly giving details of all their activities.  Jonathan prayed for Tracey and the work of MHA Communities. |  |
| 3. | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  The minutes of the previous meeting on 3 May were agreed and proposals to accept them came from Phil and Gill. Matters arising included:   * **Christian Aid** – Phil had distributed envelopes to the churches but had difficulty getting accurate return figures from churches as they used a variety of methods of collection. This is not very satisfactory for the national organisation so unless a new local organiser comes forward it was agreed that churches would organise it themselves next year. * **Bedford Court** – Phil has received very positive responses from Bedford Court. Residents value the spiritual input. Phil distributed suggested dates for churches next year. He agreed to speak to them about providing a better keyboard but said people were welcome to borrow his if needed. He agreed to approach Manorfields, the new home just off the Ring Road, to enquire if they would like visits. * **The Gala** – There were difficulties this year in getting insurance for inflatables as the cost had risen steeply. The activities were well received and the organisers are keen for HCT to continue with their activities. It would benefit from some fresh imagination so it was proposed that a small group of people could meet to consider this next year. * **Civic Service** – People were very positive about the service and the welcoming atmosphere created by the cream tea beforehand. It was suggested that in future this might be an opportunity to showcase specific projects and create a relaxed atmosphere before the service. There was some discussion as to whether the Civic Service was the best title to use. | All Churches |
| 4. | **Lent Talks**  Three speakers have already been booked to give the talks starting at 7.30pm  Week beg 19 Feb - Speaker to be confirmed  Wed 28 Feb - Inderjit Bhogal – Faith and Suffering  Week beg 3 Mar - Speaker to be confirmed  Tue 11 Mar Jon Swales – Faith and Climate Action  Joyce Simpson – Faith and Education date tbc in the first 2 weeks  It is hoped to invite someone else to speak on Faith and Science.  **It would be helpful if different churches would volunteer to host an event. Please let Lynne know if you are able to do so lgillions@yahoo.com** | All Churches |
| 5. | **Café of Hope - Wed, 18 Oct at Lister Hill**  Flyers giving details were distributed at the meeting and will be sent to the churches. It is an opportunity for Christians to gather together to celebrate those projects with which the churches have been involved and also to have conversations about opportunities for mission or any projects we might want to let go. **This is a key opportunity for us to discern the way forward for Horsforth so please promote it in your churches and invite individuals personally.** **Each church is asked to provide 3 traybakes!** | All Churches |
| 6. | **Food Pantry**  Following the relocation of the Food Pantry from Butcher Hill to Kirkstall St Stephen’s, Horsforth councillors and community workers have approached St James’ with a view to locating the Food Pantry there. The church is broadly supportive and the PCC are currently considering how this may best be achieved. The hope would be to run a café serving light refreshments at the same time that the Pantry is open. Rose suggested that some of the refugees might help run the café. Some funding is available to buy equipment before April. It may be possible to temporarily locate the Pantry at St Margaret’s until St James can accommodate it.  **Churches may like to consider donating food items from their Harvest Festivals.**  **Jonathan requested prayer to discern the way forward.** | All Churches |
| 7. | **St James 175 Events**  The Church is open this weekend for Heritage Open Days on Sat 9 Sept !0.00 - 4.00 and Sun 10 Sept 2.00 – 4.00.  In November St James’ Presents is hosting 3 events  1 Nov 8.00pm Harry Baker – A poet, a regular speaker at Greenbelt and on the BBC, a TED talker. He comes highly recommended and ‘can have you both laughing and crying’.  2 Nov 8.00pm Granny’s Attic – an evening of folk music with the group described as ‘one of the most exciting and accomplished English folk acts on the scene right now.’  3 Nov 3.00pm A Movie Matinee suitable for families.  3 Nov 7.00pm A Night at the Movies – The Way – a film exploring a father and son relationship featuring a pilgrimage on Spain’s Santiago de Compostela  Leaflets were distributed containing a QR code for booking or tickets can be purchased on the door. | All Churches |
| 8. | **Treasurer’s Report**  John was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report in. The current balance is £777.46 of which £6862.38 is HCT and £1111.08 is Perfectly Pitched. Most churches have contributed generously under the new system. |  |
| 9. | **Christmas**  In light of the rising costs of producing the Christmas cards a decision will be made at the next meeting as to whether this should continue. Regardless of that decision, **Churches are requested to send details of their Christmas services to Rhoda by Sun, 29th Oct** [rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org) Other suggested alternatives were advertising in the Squeaker or having a stall at the Christmas Lights Switch On.  Sat 9 Dec – Carols in the Park  Thurs 21 Dec – Carols in the Pubs | All Churches |
| 10. | **Perfectly Pitched Dates**  The next concert is on 21 September featuring the Avenue Ensemble and then one on 23 November at 1.00pm with refreshments served from 12.00.  Deborah was pleased that the accessible concerts were attracting a range of people. She hopes to book 6 concerts for next year usually on the last Thursday of the relevant months. | All Churches |
| 11 | **AOB**   * Rose promoted **The Great Get Together, 7pm on Friday 22 September**, an opportunity to share stories and international food together. Please invite folk from Church and RSVP to [rose@horsforthchaplaincy.org](mailto:rose@horsforthchaplaincy.org) * Matt briefly outlined the growing contact that church leaders are having with Trinity University, including an opportunity to engage with students during Freshers’ Week. * The Grove will be open on 2 Dec from 2.00 – 8.00, the day the Christmas lights are switched on, and churches are welcome to use the space for any activities if they so wish. | All Churches |
| 12 | **Closing Prayer**    As the meeting was closing, Jane was presented with a birthday cake which was enjoyed by those present.  Matt closed the meeting in prayer.  **Date of next meeting 8 Nov.** |  |