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| MINUTES of the **Horsforth Churches Together**  Wednesday 8 November 2023  7.30pm at The Grove | | |
| **Attendees:** | George Asomaning, Ann Bailey, John Barnes (Treasurer), Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Paul Metcalf, Deborah Pennington, Matt Powell (Volunteer Chair), Duncan Stow, Andy Walker, Rhoda Wu | |
| **Apologies** | Judith Briggs, Jonathan Cain, Jo Lightowler, Margaret Metcalf, Nigel Sinclair, Jill Woodman |  |
|  |  | **Action By:** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  Following a serious incident in Horsforth, Matt opened the meeting with readings from John and a time of open prayer for the people affected and for the community as a whole. |  |
| 2. | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  The minutes of the previous meeting on 6 Sept were agreed with one adjustment. In Section 8, the current bank account total should have been £7973.46.  **Food Pantry**  The Food Pantry is opening at St Margaret’s in the next 2 weeks, initially for previous clients. St James PCC are meeting on 14 Nov to decide on which plans should be submitted for the building on their site.  **Lent Talks**  Wednesday 28th Inderjit Bhogil Suffering/ Refugees and Faith @ The Grove  Thursday 7th March Joyce Simpson Education and Faith Venue TBC  March Tuesday 12th Jon Swales MBE Environment and Faith @ Central  Week beginning 18th March TBC  ***Please could a church offer to host on 7 March*** | All Churches |
| 3. | **Christmas**  **Christmas Cards**  Duncan presented outcomes from his research with some proposed costings. Following a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of different options, including one submitted by Judith Briggs, it was agreed that this year we would have 5000 cards printed. These would be distributed   * At the Farmers’ Market * At The Christmas Market when the lights are switched on. Rhoda will * co-ordinate volunteers. * At Carols in the Park * In churches * In key places around Horsforth   **Christmas Market and Lights Switch On – The Grove – 2 Dec**  The Grove will be open on Christmas Market Day from 12.00 to 8.00pm. There will be a display of wreaths, churches are invited to contribute one if they wish. Phil is keen to get some musicians from the churches to play for half hour slots. ***Please let Phil know if anyone in your church could fill a slot.***  From 2.00pm - 6.00pm there will be a café in The Grove Centre. ***There is some display space available if anyone would like to put up a display.*** There will be a display of nativity figures outside leading up to the Church to encourage people to visit.  Please note Lister Hill will be doing a Christmas Fun Day for children and their families from 11.00-2.00pm  **Carols in the Park – 9 Dec**  Speaker to be decided at Leaders’ meeting. ***Please will churches ask for volunteers and each church provide 7 boxes of mince pies.*** There is a planning meeting at Cragg Mon 13 Nov 8.00-9.00pm if anyone wishes to attend.  **Carols in the Pubs**  Usually takes place on the Thursday before Christmas. Duncan is unsure if he can commit so ***anyone willing to organise this, please see him.***  **Rewind**  7 schools will be attending half day presentations about Christmas on 1 and 5 Dec.    **Candy Cane Project**  Matt mentioned that this is an excellent resource to help individuals share their faith. Details are on the Yorkshire Baptist Association Website. https://www.yba.org.uk/candycane  **Shoeboxes**  Lister Hill are collecting and making up shoeboxes. Please let them have any filled boxes by Sun 19 Nov. Also please see HCT website and newsletter for details of items being collected for shoeboxes for the refugees. | Rhoda  All Churches  All Churches |
| 4. | **Café of Hope Feedback**  The main areas discussed were   * Hope for Children and Families * Hope for Young People * Hope for people in Later Life * Hope for people Seeking Sanctuary * Hope for People Struggling to make Ends Meet * Other Areas needing Hope   Attached with the minutes is a detailed breakdown of the outcomes from the meeting. ***It is hoped that individual churches will share these outcomes and from that some people may emerge who could develop some of the areas.***  Phil shared information from MHA including how to become a volunteer. He provided a pack for each church.  He also mentioned the need for a couple of trustees to take over the Horsforth Community Bus. £17000 is available to finance the bus which is available for community use. | All Churches |
| 5, | **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 Jan**  **Pulpit Exchange**  To be organised by leaders.  **Prayer Events**  Some possible follow up to Café of Hope. Leaders to discuss at their meeting.  On Fri 19 Jan leaders pray with the Trinity Chaplaincy Team. There is also Evensong in Trinity Chapel during the week. | Church  Leaders |
| 6. | **Treasurer’s Report**  Current Account - £7315.45 of which HCT - £6846.58 and Perfectly Pitched £468.87.  Thanks to the Churches, all of whom have paid their contributions.  Emmanuel have an outstanding cheque which needs to be cashed by 17 Dec.  Within the budget, HCT has received a gift of £300 for a project and £500 for youth work. |  |
| 7. | **Budget and Dates for Year Ahead**  An outline budget was presented and accepted.  **Proposed HCT Budget 2024**  Easter Good Friday and Easter Sunday(hopefully offset by grants) **£400**  Lent Talks (Collection taken at events to offset some ) **£300**  Gala  **£500**  Primary Schools - 2 rewind and resources of Open book subscription **£900**  “Welcome to Horsforth” Pack **£50**  Christmas Cards **£750**  Carols in the Park **£400**  Extras **£191**  Insurance **£209**  TOTAL **£3,500**  With Likely £400 grant for Easter and maybe £100 for Lent talks leaving £3000  **Dates for Year Ahead**  A full set of dates for the year is attached with these minutes but 2024 HCT Meetings are Jan 10th (AGM), March 6th , May 1st , Sept 4th , Nov 6th |  |
| 8. | **Nominations for Vice – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**  No nominations were received for Vice-Chair. Lynne and John are prepared to continue in their roles. |  |
| 9. | **AOB**   * It is hoped to employ someone 2 days a week to reach out to refugees. Job advert coming soon. * Prayer requests for Trinity – the upcoming Carol Service and ensuring the building work does not adversely affect the work of the Chaplaincy Team. | All Churches |
| 11 | **Closing Prayer**  Matt closed the meeting in prayer.  **Date of next meeting AGM 10 Jan 2024** |  |