

Horsforth Churches Together

Together in our community



MINUTES

of the **Horsforth Churches Together** AGM
 Wednesday, 10 Jan 2024
 at St James 7.30pm.

Attendees:	Ann Bailey, John Barnes (Treasurer), Judith Briggs, Jonathan Cain, Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Rose McCarthy, Paul Metcalf, Matt Powell (Chair), Deborah Pennington, Jonathan Rule, Nigel Sinclair, Duncan Stow	
Apologies	Jo Lightowler, Margaret Metcalf, Cat Sayburn, Jill Woodman, Rhoda Wu	
		Action By:
1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Matt opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Thessalonians 5 and emphasised the importance of rejoicing and giving thanks particularly for the previous year and the forthcoming year. People then contributed their own reasons for thankfulness which were then offered in prayer.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The minutes from 8 Nov were agreed with an acknowledgement that Cat Sayburn had been present at that meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some discussion about the response to the death of Alfie Lewis. Nigel appreciated the support he had received from other churches and Matt thanked Nigel for his response and involvement following the incident, Nigel said it had helped him appreciate the years of work that had been put in with the children and youth such as Open the Book and Rewind which had enabled the young people to engage with the church in their grieving. Duncan commented on the overall positive and dignified response by the community. • The Food Pantry has opened at St Margaret's and local families have transferred from Kirkstall. Numbers are small but gradually increasing and there is a good supply of food. There are a good number of volunteers and clients are referred from trusted sources. Nigel informed the meeting that small sums of money were available through HCAP to support any folk in particular crisis. Planning for the building at St James has been passed. Plans for its erection are underway with a team from Horsforth Shed. A construction company have offered to put in the foundations. Work should begin at half term. • Leaders need to discuss the follow up to the Café of Hope. On separate Friday evenings, St Margaret's are now offering social evenings to Ukrainian refugees, their hosts and to residents from the hotel. This is part of the Town of Sanctuary initiative. 	
3.	<p><u>Open Reflection on 2023</u></p> <p>People offered their views on which events had been appreciated These included St James' 175th year, The Christmas Market particularly the activities in the Grove such as the display of wreaths and the play area for families, the Civic Service combined with afternoon tea, the collage of Horsforth, the Walk of Witness and the growing relationship with Trinity University.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Horsforth Chaplaincy Project</u></p> <p>Duncan showed photographs of the events of 2023 -7 Words from the Cross, Walk of Witness, Town of Sanctuary launch, work around dementia, the Gala, Civic Service, Great Get Together, refugee work, Café of Hope, Open the Book, Rewind, Perfectly Pitched, Farmers' Market, work with Yrs 7-10 at Horsforth School and the Wreath festival.</p> <p>Rose thanked everyone for the overwhelming response from the community and schools to the work with refugees and their generosity in providing cards, gifts and</p>	

	<p>clothing. Duncan informed the meeting that Rose was stepping down in March and the job advert below will be circulated.</p> <p>HCP Refugee Support Worker Advert Horsforth Chaplaincy Project are looking to appoint a Refugee Support Worker The role is initially for 15 months, 2 days a week. The successful candidate will work with an existing team of volunteers supporting those seeking asylum living in a local hotel and developing the wider aims of Horsforth Town of Sanctuary. To request more information and how to apply please contact Rhoda rhoda@horsforthchaplaincy.org or see Horsforth Churches Together Website https://www.horsforthchurchestogether.co.uk/part-time-refugee-support-worker-post-15-hrs/</p> <p>Deadline for Application Friday 2nd Feb</p> <p>No 11 on the agenda was moved under HCP and Jonathan Rule spoke to the meeting. He has submitted the information below for your attention.</p> <p>Free Counselling Service at Cragg Baptist</p> <p>My name is Jonathan Rule, I've been a resident of Horsforth for the last 13 years and have been studying to become a counsellor for the last three. I'm currently studying my CPCAB Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling at Dearne Valley College in Rotherham, which is the final part of my training. The type of counselling I am practising is called Person Centred Counselling. It is similar to other forms of counselling but prioritises the client's self-exploration in a non-directive and supportive manor, enabling clients to find their own solutions.</p> <p>In order to qualify I need to complete a number of client facing hours, as part of this I am offering a free counselling service to people who are in contact with Horsforth Churches Together. Clients will be offered an initial consultation via email and then six sessions of 50 minutes. The finer details are still being worked through but the sessions will most likely be held at Cragg Baptist Church. There is also the possibility of working online for those who would like. I am able to see a maximum of three clients per week to start with.</p> <p>I am a student member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, I have a current enhanced DBS check and I will be regularly attending clinical supervision.</p> <p>If you are interested or have any questions please get in contact with me at jon@horsforth-counselling.org or through Horsforth Chaplaincy Project at duncan@horsforthchaplaincy.org</p>	<p>All churches</p> <p>All Churches</p>									
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> John presented the detailed 2023 annual accounts to the meeting. The account is divided into two, Horsforth Churches Together and Perfectly Pitched.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">HCT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">PP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start of 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4215</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1570</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End of 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5933</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£78</td> </tr> </table> <p>The cost of printing the 2023 Christmas cards, £435, will appear in next year's accounts. Some costs from the cancelled Carols in the Park may also be recouped. The proposed budget and letter to churches requesting contributions were agreed.</p>		HCT	PP	Start of 2023	£4215	£1570	End of 2023	£5933	£78	
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<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Christmas Feedback</u> Not all Christmas cards had been used but it was noted that some should have been distributed at Carols in the Park. Approximately 2000 had been distributed, particularly at the Farmers' Market and the Christmas Market. It was suggested that maybe schools could be asked to distribute them. Matt said that creative ideas would be welcome in a future discussion at a later date with regards to Christmas cards in 2024.</p>										
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Chair's Vision for 2024</u> Matt recognised that there had been a lot of journeying to get to the point where HCT is now. He emphasised the need to look after volunteers and the need to encourage more people to become involved. He posed some questions. How do we encourage new people? Can we do things differently? What might HCT look</p>										

	<p>like in the Future? How do we continue to grow? He listed some areas on which to focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new people and build good relationships. • Create some small teams to plan the main events and generate new ideas. Duncan will be holding planning meetings (see dates below) • Build on people's desire to get together to pray for the community. • Explore possibilities to further develop work with young people. • Responding to the needs of people who are struggling. <p>At the end of his talk Matt thanked Deborah Pennington for offering to be Vice-Chair.</p>	Duncan All Churches																										
8.	<p><u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 Jan</u> Thurs 18 Jan – 7.00pm St Mary's are hosting a healing service open to all. There will not be communion during the service. Fri 19 Jan – Church leaders meet to pray with the chaplaincy team at Trinity Sun 21 Jan - The pulpit exchange Wed 24 Jan 4.30 Evensong at Trinity Also note that 3 Franciscan nuns lead worship at Trinity 6-8pm On 6 Feb and % March.</p>	All Churches																										
9.	<p><u>Lent</u> The following talks have been arranged. Venues will be confirmed ASAP.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Wed 28th Feb</td> <td>Inderjit Bhogal</td> <td>Refugees and Faith</td> <td>@The Grove</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thur 7th Mar</td> <td>Joyce Simpson</td> <td>Education and Faith</td> <td>@St Mary's TBC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 12th Mar</td> <td>Jon Swales</td> <td>Environment and Faith</td> <td>@ Central Methodist</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 19th Mar</td> <td>Bill McCarthy</td> <td>The NHS and Faith</td> <td>Venue TBC</td> </tr> </table>	Wed 28 th Feb	Inderjit Bhogal	Refugees and Faith	@The Grove	Thur 7 th Mar	Joyce Simpson	Education and Faith	@St Mary's TBC	Tue 12 th Mar	Jon Swales	Environment and Faith	@ Central Methodist	Tue 19 th Mar	Bill McCarthy	The NHS and Faith	Venue TBC	All Churches										
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10.	<p><u>Easter</u> This was moved to the next meeting.</p>																											
11.	<p><u>Counselling</u> See 4. above</p>																											
12.	<p><u>Dates for Year Ahead 2024</u></p> <p>HCT Meetings</p> <table> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>10th (AGM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March</td> <td>6th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>1st</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept</td> <td>4th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov</td> <td>6th</td> </tr> </table> <p>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th Thurs 18 Jan – 7.00pm St Mary's are hosting a healing service Fri 19 Jan – Church leaders meet to pray with the chaplaincy team at Trinity Sun 21 Jan - The pulpit exchange Wed 24 Jan 4.30 Evensong at Trinity</p> <p>Lent</p> <table> <tr> <td>Wed 28th Feb</td> <td>Inderjit Bhogal</td> <td>Refugees and Faith</td> <td>@The Grove</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thur 7th Mar</td> <td>Joyce Simpson</td> <td>Education and Faith</td> <td>@St Mary's TBC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 12th Mar</td> <td>Jon Swales</td> <td>Environment and Faith</td> <td>@ Central Methodist</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 19th Mar</td> <td>Bill McCarthy</td> <td>The NHS and Faith</td> <td>Venue TBC</td> </tr> </table> <p>Easter</p> <p>29 Mar 11.30 – 12.30 Walk of Witness 31Mar Easter Sunrise on Hunger Hills TBC 5 April Grove Cinema The Passion of the Christ</p>	Jan	10 th (AGM)	March	6 th	May	1 st	Sept	4 th	Nov	6 th	Wed 28 th Feb	Inderjit Bhogal	Refugees and Faith	@The Grove	Thur 7 th Mar	Joyce Simpson	Education and Faith	@St Mary's TBC	Tue 12 th Mar	Jon Swales	Environment and Faith	@ Central Methodist	Tue 19 th Mar	Bill McCarthy	The NHS and Faith	Venue TBC	All Churches
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	<p>Monday Civic Service TBC</p> <p>Horsforth Gala 29th June</p> <p>Walk of Art Weekend 6th & 7th July</p> <p>Carols in the Park 14th Dec</p> <p>Perfectly Pitched Concerts Thursdays Feb 29th April 25th May 30th Sept 26th Oct 31st Nov 28th</p> <p>Dates for Bedford Court 12th Feb The Grove, 9th April St James, 14th May St Mary's, 9th July Willow Green</p> <p>Planning Meetings – come and join a team making our events special. Open to all April 15th for Horsforth Gala and Oct 7th For Carols in the Park Both 7.30 at Cragg</p>	
13	<p><u>AOB</u> None</p>	
14.	<p><u>Closing Prayer</u> The meeting closed with prayer requests from each church Cragg - visitors will stay and become part of the church The Grove - their part in a review of 17 churches St Margaret's - the Friday night socials Central – coping with the workload and thanks for financial provision St Mary's – the priest who oversees 3 parishes St James – the Food Pantry</p>	<p>All Churches</p>