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| MINUTES of the **Horsforth Churches Together**  Wednesday 6 Nov 2024  7.30pm at Lister Hill | | |
| **Attendees:** | Judith Briggs, Lynne Gillions (Secretary), Jane Linley, Phil Maud, Paul Metcalf, Deborah Pennington, Matt Powell(Chair), `Duncan Stow, Jill Woodman, Rhoda Wu | |
| **Apologies** | Jonathan Cain, Margaret Metcalf, Cat Sayburn |  |
|  |  | **Action By:** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  Matt welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer. He read a verse from Job 1v20 and reminded us that when we face challenges, we, too, should turn to God and worship him. He then led a moment of contemplation and played ’10,000 Reasons”. |  |
| 2. | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. Matters Arising:  **2025 Events** As Duncan takes a sabbatical from next year’s Walk of Witness, Gala and Carols in the Park, Matt encouraged people to look to the future and what HCT might look like in 5 or 10 years. Several ideas were suggested:   * Organise small teams to oversee each event * Send an invitation to churches inviting people to participate in the teams * Discuss in church councils * Encourage young people to participate and contribute ideas * Could churches link in more with the Walk of Art rather than the Gala. There was a recognition though that HCT are the only people providing free activities at the Gala. * Could HCT have a sabbatical from the Gala? * Could organise window displays in houses and shops around Horsforth and people vote for their favourite. * Could LS18 Rocks play at Carols in the Park?   The conclusions agreed were   * Church leaders would organise the Walk of Witness. * HCT would have a sabbatical from 2025 Gala and invite councillors to a HCT meeting in the future to discuss the way forward. * Young people would be approached to discuss ideas for celebrating Christmas They would be supported by adults in this process.   **Refugees**  Jane updated the meeting.   * The Home Office is processing applications faster. If granted the right to stay refugees have 28 days to find accommodation and work. To avoid them being on the streets, an organisation called Refugees at Home wants people to offer accommodation to a refugee for a fixed period. Homes are vetted and refugees must speak some English. Details will be circulated to churches. * Christmas presents will be given to about 180 men. Items such as trainer socks, boxer shorts, gloves, notebooks, pens, moisturiser can be dropped off   Mondays - Horsforth Community Café 10.00am-2pm  Tues-Fri - Holy Name Church, Otley Old Road 9-30-11.30am  Fridays – Cragg Hill Baptist 10.30-12.00   * Two men were recently baptised at St George’s Farsi group * Fri 10 Jan – Food and social at St Margaret’s | All Churches  All Churches |
| 3. | **Christmas**  **Christmas Cards**  A draft copy was circulated. Service times will be checked with churches and then published in The Squeaker.  **Christmas Market Day – Sat 7 Dec 12.00-7-00pm**  There will be a range of activities at The Grove including a Festival of Angels where community groups are invited to decorate an angel and refreshments will be available too. Volunteers will be needed to distribute Christmas cards.  **Rewind**  300 Year 4 children from all the primary schools will be participating in Rewind on Fri 29th Nov and Tue 3 Dec. New volunteers very welcome.  **Carols in the Park – 14 Dec 4.00pm**  Please will each church provide 4 or more stewards, people willing to dress up as nativity characters and 7 boxes of mince pies. In extreme weather it will relocate to The Grove at 4.15pm | All Churches |
| 4. | **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January**  Duncan is organising the pulpit exchange.  Please contact leaders with Ideas for prayer during the week by Monday 18th Nov.  There is a healing service planned at St Mary’s 7.00pm on 14 January. | All Churches |
| 5. | **Constitution**  Rhoda has done some work on this but it will be discussed at the next meeting. |  |
| 6. | **Perfectly Pitched**  Deborah thanked people for their support. There is now a regular core audience. Unfortunately funding from Horsforth Town Council was declined. She is planning to hold 4 concerts next year rather than 6. More grants can be applied for if HCT has its own constitution. |  |
| 7. | **Treasurer’s Report**  Total in the bank £733.42 of which  HCT £7205.07  Perfectly Pitched £ 228.35  All churches have paid their 2024 contributions. |  |
| 8. | **Children’s and Youth Work in Horsforth**  Much of this was covered in Item 2, 2025 Events |  |
| 9. | **Trinity University**  Over 100 drinks are served at their Mon and Wed ‘Tea on the Landing’ meetings. Matt regularly attends and finds it a very positive experience. He requested prayer for the ongoing relationships and the establishment of a new campus near Leeds station. |  |
| 10. | **AOB**   * St James is holding 2 events:   Fri 8 Nov - Spoken Word 8.00pm. Bar open at 7.00pm  Fri 22 Nov – Granny’s Attic (an excellent folk group). 8.00pm. Bar open at 7.00pm.   * Thurs 21 Nov – St Monica’s Mass (to pray for family members)7.00pm Holy Name * Prayer request for Live at Home * Shoebox packing at Lister Hill Sat 9 Nov 10.00-12.00 |  |
| 11. | **Closing Prayer**  Matt closed the meeting in prayer. |  |