POTR

**Community and Outreach Committee Meeting: Notes**

**6th January 2025**

*Present: Revd Andrew Micklefield, Revd Bruce Nicole, Kevin Anderson, Shirley Anderson,*

 *Rosemary Arrowsmith-Oliver, Angie Briggs, Robin Kemp, Sarah Neish, Judy Nicholls*

*Apologies: Revd David Chattel*

**1. Prayer**

The meeting opened in prayer.

**2. Matters arising from the notes of meeting on 11th November 2024**

* **Away Day** for the benefice set for Saturday 13th September at Bentworth Jubilee Hall. Andrew suggested Revd David Bracewell as a possible speaker. Format similar to last Away Day.

**Action: Robin to book the hall and follow-up on the speaker. Methodist Church members will be invited to attend.**

* **Harvest Lunch** set for Sunday 12th October at Old Park Farm in Beech.

**Action: Robin to explore provision of brief entertainment/community singing over coffee at end.**

* **Christmas Unlocked December 4th** **review** Widespread approval for moving many people along on their faith journey and good liaison with Alton churches [including Harvest, almost in spite of itself]: balance of income v expenditure – modest cost of £155 [but response booklet resources available for future use]: 20 people prayed for at the event: well-organised.

**3. Alpha Course**

Bruce announced that the course would start on Wednesday 15th January at 7.00pm at the Maltings, led by Jon Rooke and Mark Rumsby, with food provided by Harvest members. Bruce will back Jon up and encouraged prayer support for the evenings. It will run to April 2nd.

**Action: Bruce to make final appeal for attendees [prayer supporters and Christian friends to accompany guests in the first instance] next weekend.**

**4. Marriage Course**

Kevin & Shirley offered to run this 7-week course in May & June, for maximum of 6 couples. Monday or Wednesday evenings suggested, at All Saints Hall.

**Action: Kevin & Shirley to clear venue and dates with the office, research the latest course materials online and arrange posters, flyers & publicity.**

**5. Pop-up Carols review**

Generally successful. Selborne Park small numbers [Tony], but keen to expand next year. Vine Close, Barley Fields & Beech went well [with Barley Fields resident offering a fire-pit next year]. Some duplication over Lingfield Close carol evenings.

**Action: Robin to alert Ben & co. re Lingfield Close next year. Robin to follow-up with Main family re fire-pit provider for Barley Fields.**

**6. Lent Course**

This will run for five weeks from Thursday 20th March to Maundy Thursday at the Maltings on the theme of Jesus Across the Table [?], with speakers including Andrew, David, Andrew Lawrence, Howard Wright and Ben Burge.

**7. Lent Lunches**

These will run weekly at Holy Rood for five weeks from Wednesday 12th March to 9th April.

**Action: Keith will recruit his team of soup makers.**

**8. Easter Week [14th-21stApril]**

There will be the regular pattern of services, but a decision has yet to be made about the event on Good Friday morning. The animals for the morning in St Lawrence churchyard have already been There will not be an Easter sunrise service at Old Park Farm this year.

**Action: An alternative venue for an Easter sunrise service to be explored by the committee.**

**9. Follow-up events to Christmas Unlocked**

Robin suggested a possible youth event, including the Christian band LZ7. This band will feature at the next Big Church Festival near Steyning over the August bank holiday: so the week of such an event would not be until 2026. Youth groups from Alton will be going to the Festival. Bruce suggested a Christian band called Celtish.

**Action: Robin & David to follow up these suggestions. Youth to attend Big Church Festival.**

**10. Methodist Church events**

Saturday 10th May : Spring Fair [10.00am to 12 noon]

Travelling meal now restricted to a Methodist Coffee morning in June to a dinks & nibbles evening at St Lawrence in September.

**Action; dates and times to be confirmed at next gap Council meeting on 22nd January.**

**11. Summer Programme**

* **Parish Tea:** Sunday 20th July at 3.00pm at Old Park Farm
* **Holiday Club:** possibility for three days in the last week of August, subject to finding a co-ordinator
* **Alton Walking Men’s Church**  White Horse family and friends event on Saturday 30th August at 2.30pm

**12. A.O.B.**

**Holy Rood Quiz and Fish ‘n’ Chips evening:** 6.30pm, with food at 7.30pm. Guests to bring their own drink.

**Action: Keith and Rosemary to organise the publicity and arrange the evening.**

**13. Date & time of next meeting**

Monday 24th March at 5.00pm