**Minutes of Worship and Outreach Meeting: Monday January 6th 2020**

*Present: Revd Andrew Micklefield, Wendy Burnhams, Robin Kemp, Jenny Lawrence, Sarah Neish*

*Jane Lees and Gillian Muller for item 2 [a]*

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Matters arising from the meeting on 2nd December**

a] Jigsaw Festival

Jane gave a brief history of the festival since the interregnum and its value in bringing together members of different churches in the parish and involving non-church members in the Alton community. This continues in a monthly jigsaw drop-in session involving several regulars. She regretted that the wash-up session held in September had not been advertised more widely. She expressed the disappointment of one or two others that Rotary might share the running of the event. She and Gillian proposed the end of the October half-term, 28th-31st 2020 as a suitable date.

A general discussion followed in which one point was made that co-operation with an organisation like Rotary would extend the reach of the event into the community. A second point was that while the Christmas Tree Festival includes local organisations, jigsaw-enthusiasts who travel a distance to attend the festival are not our prime concern as members of the parish.

Both Jane and Gillian accepted an invitation to join a joint steering committee with Rotary to organise next October’s festival, with Jane offering to organise the volunteers from the parish in a rota. It was agreed that the subject would be aired at the first of the Parish Conversations at 10.00a.m. on Saturday 18th January. The matter of the appropriate allocation of profits between Rotary and the POTR would be discussed then.

**Action: Andrew will report to Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver the issues that have been raised.**

b] Alpha 2

Andrew reported very positively on the success of Alpha pre-Christmas and the value of dividing the material up into two halves. He reported that a good proportion of those who attended before Christmas will return this week for Alpha 2. It was agreed that Alpha should continue as a rolling programme, starting up again in September.

c] Walking Church for Men

Robin distributed cards for the Spring programme, announcing that new aspects would include two Sunday afternoon walks in February and March, the second being open to wives and families as well. He regretted that one event clashed with a choir event at Winchester cathedral which he had not known about.

**3. Pancake Race: 18th February**

Robin reported that Peter Bell and Clare Baldry had kindly offered once again to cook the pancakes. Sarah was concerned that too much literature should not be distributed on this occasion. It was agreed that beside the pancake team there should also be others, led by the clergy, taking the opportunity to talk with the young families and other bystanders. Literature on Chrurch@4, Teddies and the Anna Chaplaincy would be distributed.

**Action: Robin to approach Tim Codling to ask if he is willing to organise the event once again.**

**4. Alton Community Fayre: Saturday 20th June**

The decision had been taken last year not to be involved in this event. Robin reported that the parish has been offered a 3m x 3m location for a gazebo, and it was agreed that this would provide both “presence” and a “proclamation” opportunities for outreach. Sarah spoke of the need to provide a focus activity for children to take part in, such as writing origami prayers to float in a paddling pool, as demonstrated at Church @ 4. A limited range of literature, again, should be distributed to advertise the activities of the parish.

**Action: committee members will approach parishioners who might like to head up this event.**

**5. Informal Evening Services**

Andrew distributed an attractive new card advertising these services, which can be targeted at Alpha members to ease their transition to full church services. Sarah volunteered to join the team helping with the refreshments, which will start at 6.15p.m. and be served at tables in the Galilee Chapel. The services will be flexible in content, start-time and length: as the Spirit leads.

**6. A.O.B**

a] Sarah offered to attend the GAP liaison committee on Thursday, to notify our Methodist friends about events in the parish.

b] Robin briefly raised the issue of the morning service diet in the parish, suggesting a reduction of parish communions. This large topic was deferred to next month’s meeting.

c] Also postponed until February’s meeting: Just One: Portsmouth Cathedral on 4th/5th May

Outreach on the Wootey’s and Manor Estates

Communication: e.g. published minutes of meetings

**7. Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 3rd February : 12 noon

*The meeting ended at 1.15p.m.*

*Robin Kemp*