POTR Alton

**Community and Outreach Committee Meeting – Notes 6th September 2021**

*Present: Robin Kemp, Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver, Wendy Burnhams, Sarah Neish*

*Apologies: Revd Andrew Micklefield*

**1. Prayer**

**2 & 3. Notes of last meeting [9th August] & matters arising**

a] It would be helpful if these notes could go straight on the website, rather than wait for them to be grouped with all the other committee reports to the PCC.

b] Robin exploring with Tim Codling the existence of a large gazebo. It is worth spending out on a quality 6m x 3m gazebo with sides [Robin has sourced one from Dancover at £437 including storm guys and shipping]. It will pay for itself [over hiring] very quickly. [N.B. Helen Waters has a gazebo she is happy for the parish to use.]

**Action: *Robin*** *to meet Tim to examine the 6m x 3m gazebo in the church centre loft. If unsuitable, to apply for money to the PCC for a new one.*

***Robin*** *to send these notes to parish office.*

**4. Review of Summer Parish Event [20th August]**

Excellent event with some 80-90 guests, including a number of children. Huge thanks to Sarah and her team.

For another event on this scale, important to have a team of labelled welcomers who greet all the guests and introduce them to one another. A Friday afternoon clearly deterred very few guests in August. Repeatable next summer.

**5. Website wording**

We agreed with Wendy’s proposal that the phrase *“and our local community”* should be inserted in the second sentence after “one another” on the first page of the website.

**Action: *Robin*** *to make proposal to Andrew and the PCC*

**4. Alpha Review**

Wendy had looked at alternatives such as Christianity Explored, but found them nowhere near as good. It was agreed to recommend that the Holy Spirit sessions should be handled with sensitivity to avoid the implication that those who, for example, do not speak in tongues are inferior to those who do. Similarly, the kind of churchmanship encouraged need not be exactly on the HTB model.

Alpha will restart in person in the Parish Centre in October in conjunction with COGS. Bruce Nicole, Matthew Bayliss and John Rooke [COGS] will lead this. Some concern expressed that there were no designated female leaders [as yet?].

**5. Growing Community**

Analysing section 2.1 in “Looking to the Future” it was agreed that joint events with other churches should be for outreach or teaching [viz.not simply social]: -

a] a recommendation to devise a **Lent Course** in the neutral venue of the Assembly Rooms again, which is interactive and groups together members of different churches;

b] a proposal to have a **fish and chip supper and quiz** in late November in the Parish Centre:date tbc;

c] **Christmas Tree Festival** to be reintroduced on w/e of 11th/12th December;

d] **Carols & address round the Christmas tree**in Market Square in conjunction with all churches in

Alton. This needs to be arranged soon.

e] **Yuletide mini-fair** : with the last two Saturdays in November and the first two in December on

offer from the Council it is suggested that we go for Saturday 20th November [when the team are

available and there is no clash with the monthly Saturday market]

Reference section 2.1, several names were put forward as additional members of this group.

Reference section 2.4 [develop outreach in the Wooteys/Manor area], some concern was expressed that this was a huge project requiring considerable human [and financial] resources, which are simply not available in the parish at the moment.

**Action: *Keith & Robin*** *to approach certain individuals for inclusion on this committee*

***Wendy*** *to put these recommendations before the Ministry Team before going to the PCC*

***Sarah*** *to contact Elaine, Carol and Jenny re the Christmas Tree Festival*

**6. Eco Service around the time of Cop26**

**Action: *Robin*** *to approach Elspeth for further clarification of exact date and nature of the Emmaus Road streamed service and the submission of a proposal to the Ministry Team*

**7. Parish Harvest Celebration event**

After some discussion it was agreed to propose a Harvest Celebration service and supper on the evening of Sunday 10th October [thus replacing an informal 6.00p.m. evening service] at St Lawrence and thereafter in the Parish Centre. The meal would be ticketed at £5 through the parish office, to cover a choice of hot main courses and all refreshments, with guests bringing puddings. Limited to 40 people. Sarah happy to organise a team to prepare the main courses. The evening might include some entertainment [?].

**Action: *Robin*** *to seek the approval of the Ministry Team.* ***Sarah*** *to arrange catering.*

**8. A.O.B.**

Welcome news that the **Men’s Night Out,** organised by Paddy Mendham, is restarting on Thursday 23rd September and the **Men’s Breakfast** on 25th September, convened by Tim Codling. **Alton walking Church for Men** continues to flourish with the next walk on Friday 10th September.

**8. Date of next meeting**

Monday 4th October at 10.30a.m. prompt. Andrew Micklefield is invited.

*R.Kemp*