POTR Alton

**Community and Outreach Committee Meeting – Notes 4thOctober 21**

*Present: Robin Kemp, Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver, Sarah Neish, Revd Bruce Nicole*

*Apologies: Revd Andrew Micklefield, Helen Walters*

**1. Prayer**

**2. Welcome**

Bruce welcomed to the committee.

**3 & 4. Notes of last meeting [6th September] and matters arising**

Robin has investigated the cost of a suitable gazebo [6m x 3m] loaned to Holy Rood for a garden event, which was in the £400+ region.

**Action: *Robin & Bruce*** *to get down the existing larger gazebo from the Parish Centre loft. Purchase of a new gazebo to be deferred until the Spring.*

**5. Alpha**

Alpha invitation cards now produced. Bruce reported that 3 or 4 names had been given to Andrew and that 3 more expressed interest on Sunday morning. Inaugural meal event on Tuesday 12th October. Course starts in earnest on November 2nd. If numbers modest, Bruce & Jane will host course in their own home. Robin reported that he believes this is the only Alpha course in Alton this Autumn. John Rooke of COGS has withdrawn from leadership of a joint Alpha course.

**6. Pastoral Developments**

Sarah is a member of Wendy’s team. The system is designed to be fluid and organic, making use of existing group membership. In the first instance Wendy will be setting up a Bereavement Café.

**7. Parish Lunch 31st October**

A room at the Maltings has been booked for a “Bring and Share” meal. Andrew is approaching certain parish members to make the necessary arrangements.

**8. Tearfund COP26 evening service 7th November**

Eco church group and ACAN have this in hand. Weather permitting, the service will be projected onto the off-white outer wall of St Lawrence.

**9. Yuletide mini-fair Saturday 20th November**

Robin has the gazebo. Leaflets of service programme in the parish need to be ready for distribution along with flyers for the Christmas Tree Festival and carols around the tree in Market Square. Keith, Bruce, Sarah & Robin are available to staff the stall for an hour (+) between 10a.m. and 2.00p.m.

**Action: *Robin*** *to liaise with Andrew & Ellie re publicity and order the wooden decorations in plenty of time for them to be decorated.*

**10. Fish and Chip Supper & Quiz**

In the light of the moving of the parish lunch to the end of October it was decided to postpone this event until the end of January next year: suggested date Friday 28th January. Keith indicated that Rosemary might be happy to organise the quiz.

**11. Christmas Tree Festival 11th/12th December**

Elaine, Carol and Jenny have this in hand.

**12. Lent Course**

Ministers of town churches have this in hand. Suggestions of the Assembly Rooms as a neutral venue, sitting in interchurch groups and the possibility of a combined worship band.

**13. Lay Alton Ecumenical Group**

Ministers would prefer this to be on an ad hoc basis focused on a specific event or strategy. Agreed first task is the leafletting of the whole town and Holybourne to advertise all the churches’ activities. This would need to be professionally produced and then the town divided into distinct areas for teams of leafletters from each church to distribute.

**Action: *Robin*** *to seek an invitation to the ministers fraternal group to submit a clear proposal, having run it past the Ministry Team.*

**14. A.O.B.**

a] Keith questioned why there is no crib service scheduled for Holy Rood this Christmas eve. Query to be put to Andrew.

b] Lent lunches will return at Holy Rood, with the final one in Easter week.

c] Inter-church carol singing is being discussed by the ministers fraternal.

d] Suggestion that New Wine, next July, be promoted with a view to taking a sizeable group.

e] Parish away day. Suggestion that this is scheduled for next September. Avington Park proved to be an excellent venue.

f] Proposal for a Reach Out to Alton Week in June 2023, in conjunction with all the other churches, involving events in schools and the college, midweek meetings and a climactic weekend, music and invitations to meals, with a visiting evangelist such as J.John [with whom Robin has some contact].

**15. Next meeting**

**4.40p.m. Monday 1st November 2021**