

## Churches Together in Saddleworth

### Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Sacred Heart Centre

#### **Present**

S Adams, G Andrews, Rev B Christopher, R Comer, J Dix, S Gibson, M Hindson, H Johnson, Rev K McNally, D Roberts, Rev J Rosedale, S Titmuss

#### **1) Apologies for Absence**

M Barber, Y Carson, R Knotts, J Ratcliffe, M Taylor

#### **2) Minutes of Previous Meetings: 8<sup>th</sup> February & 30<sup>th</sup> April**

The Minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed to be a correct record; also the Notes on the Open CTIS Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Both were duly signed and dated.

#### **3) Matters Arising**

##### **i) WhatsApp Group for CTIS.**

This had been suggested and agreed at the February Meeting as a means of communicating quickly and immediately when necessary or at short notice – also for reminders etc. While email is useful it's not as immediate. It is not envisaged to use this for light chitchat.

Sarah Adams had offered to set this up, but has had little response. However, Susan Gibson offered to take this on from here.

**Could all reps and clergy who would wish to, please send your mobile phone number to Susan Gibson at 07778 856089 as soon as possible, or email their mobile phone number to Susan at suegibson999@yahoo.co.uk. She cannot add you to the list unless you first contact her. The more people who join, the more successful this will be as a method of more immediate communication in bad weather, change of venues, or other late notices.**

#### **4) Treasurer's Report**

We spent £15.50p on the Lent Course

Today we have £966.14p shown on the latest Bank Statement.

We have an outstanding:

income of £40 (church subscription)

outgoing of £255.55p (printing costs)

I anticipate seeing a balance of £740.59p on our next Bank Statement

#### **5) Lent Course 2024 – Review**

*St Anne's Lydgate Group* felt that there was good discussion material but needed an extra Bible hook. It was said to be different and helpful.

*Greenfield Methodists Group* had enjoyed the course overall.

*Delph Methodist Group* consisted of 10 people who had thoroughly enjoyed the course. People spoke freely and deeply on the topics which came up.

*Ebenezer Group* had a regular 7 attendees including a non church-goer who joined in comfortably. The group gelled quickly with free flowing discussion.

*The Uppermill Methodist Group* of 17 were from St Chad's, UMC, Kilngreen and Sacred Heart. The course was well received. There was plenty of wide ranging discussion. The group liked the material, apart from the actions but that wasn't a problem

John Rosedale will email Nine Steps with feedback on this course.

As it was felt to be vital to select appropriate material to try to suit a range of styles and needs, it was agreed to put the Lent Course 2025 on the September Agenda to give plenty of time to source appropriate material.

## **6) Holy Week Review**

### **i) Good Friday Walk of Witness**

All went well. There was a good turnout and everyone behaved on the road.

Many thanks to those taking part and to those who organised behind the scenes both on the day and beforehand.

### **ii) Easter Sunday Banner on the Cross.**

For the last few years a wooden banner to celebrate that Christ is Risen has been fixed to the Cross in the Museum Car Park on Easter Sunday and removed on Ascension Day.

This year the banner was put up but some seven days or so later was noticed to have disappeared. It has not been found abandoned nearby. It would seem that some person(s) have removed it deliberately and taken it away.

We need to decide if we wish to reinstate this action and, if so, arrange for another banner to be made ready for Easter 2025.

### **iii) Ascension Day**

The 8am short Service was held on a lovely sunny spring morning with some 12 people attending. Thanks were expressed to Barbara Christopher for leading and to Sacred Heart for tea and toast afterwards.

## **7) Green Issues**

### **i) Plastic Free July**

Heidi Johnson informed the meeting of a message from the World Wildlife Fund that July is to be designated as a plastic free month and has a list of ways plus other information on ways to reduce our use of plastics. Heidi will forward the email to Dorothy Roberts for circulation to all our churches asap. **ii)**

### **ii) Repair Café.**

A new neighbourhood initiative is being planned for a Repair Café to open once a month at Uppermill Methodist Church, as an alternative to tossing things out.

*Volunteers are needed with different skills who can be repair experts during the sessions, particularly those who are experienced in clothing/textiles, electrical appliances, bicycles, furniture, wooden objects, or any other useful speciality.*

*In addition volunteers are needed to act as hosts at the sessions and for those with computer skills who could help to set up a website and work to promote the Repair Café Uppermill on social media.*

The international website [www.repaircafe.org/en](http://www.repaircafe.org/en) gives more information.

To express an interest, ask questions or volunteer please send an email to [repairuppermill@gmail.com](mailto:repairuppermill@gmail.com)

*Please spread the word.*

## **8) Christianity In Saddleworth**

It was agreed to take the Notes and further thoughts expressed by email to the next CTIS Working Party for discussion.

## **9) Using “Christians Together in Saddleworth” informally as our title.**

Some strong feelings were expressed about this possible change and to where it might lead. The concern was that anyone of any or no persuasion can say that they are a Christian while possibly holding wide ranging or even heretical thoughts, but that we are representing the actual churches and recognised mainstream views.

It was pointed out that our CTIS Constitution precludes the actual involvement of those outside mainstream churches to be on the CTIS Committee as representatives and that this new idea was merely to be used when advertising our events to the general public as it felt to be more outward facing.

In the light of conflicting views it was decided to defer any further discussion to the Working Party.

## **10) Future Dates: Please put in Church Diaries now**

**CTIS Meetings: Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> at St Mary’s, Greenfield**

**Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> – venue to be decided**

**Prayer Breakfasts: Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Centre Leader - J Rosedale  
8, 30 – 10am**

**Working Party: Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at 3 Greenbank Avenue, Uppermill**

**Other Dates: Carols Round the Tree – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at Uppermill Con Club Gardens**

**11) Any Other Business**

**i) Prayer Breakfasts**

It was suggested that we might consider themed Prayer Breakfasts and advertise them with the theme named, but also to have Prayer Gatherings on a different day and time.

**ii) Oldham Council Toolkit**

Information has been received from Steve Flowers about the Oldham Council Toolkit. Michael Hindson suggested that he and Dorothy Roberts might meet him on behalf of CTIS.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm with The Grace