

Draft minutes of the AGM held on 9th May 2023 at the United Reformed Church.

**Present**

James Whately	URC (Chair)
Sue Hancock	St Michael's (Secretary)
Barbara Walton	St Michael's (Treasurer)
Dorothy Macro	URC
Julian Macro	URC & Verwood Town Council
Carolyn Johannesen	URC
Ken Lyndon	URC
Chris Lyndon	URC
Lynne Ings	Methodist
Nick Wood	Methodist
Stephen Walton	St Michael's
Paul Fox	VFC
Deborah Matthews	St Michael's
Elizabeth Ingram	St Michael's
Marius Potgieter	VFC
Russell White	St Michael's
Julia Palmer	St Michael's
Michael Eaton-Wells	St Michael's
Jenny Baxendale	St Michael's

**1. Introduction and prayer** led by James. As part of the Coronation service, King Charles pledged himself to serve, following Jesus who said that He came to serve and not be served. That is God's call on all our lives. Our role is to bring the good news of Jesus to all in Verwood. As the Eurovision Song Contest is about to take place, James reminded us that we are also called to be a people of worship and praise, who make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**2. Apologies**

Ann Bale  
Hank Hancock  
Danny Miller

**3. Minutes of the last meeting** The minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed by James.

**4. Election of Officers**

- a) Chair – James Whately (Proposed Barbara; Seconded Sue)
- b) Deputy Chair – position vacant
- c) Treasurer – Barbara (Proposed Deborah; Seconded Sue)
- d) Secretary – Sue (Proposed Julian; Seconded Barbara)

**5. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda** None

**6. Financial report from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023** Accounts attached. Barbara reported that all the churches have paid their subscription for the year except Bethel Chapel, but this was due to an oversight and will be paid straight away. A cheque to the British Legion has not yet been cashed. Chris offered to act as examiner of the accounts. James thanked Barbara for her work as Treasurer.  
**Action:** Chris to examine accounts and sign original; Sue to circulate via mailing list

## **7. Review of events**

**Christmas cards** The cards are appreciated by many who receive them. It will be good to meet early in November to divide up the cards between the churches so that households receive them before Christmas events begin from the start of December. New housing developments, such as Heather Gardens and part of Potters Wood, have already been included in the list of roads, while Anthea and Charlie Wassall delivered cards to as many houses as possible in the unfinished part of Potters Wood last year. Our thanks to all who deliver and to Barbara for organising the creation and delivery of the Christmas cards. She agreed to co-ordinate this for another year.

**Action:** Meet in early November to divide up cards for distribution

**United Christmas Day Service/Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** James expressed thanks to the Methodist Church for hosting both services and to all involved in the services.

**Lent Groups** James expressed thanks to the group leaders. It was noted that some groups were ecumenical but not all; the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Lent Course used – Opening the Scriptures was perhaps long on background material, but short on discussion questions. James' group met at the Hub, but this was not ideal as the venue was noisy and the group was not well attended. The Heritage Centre was suggested as a possible alternative if a group wants to meet in a public place. It would be good to start thinking about this in the Autumn, so that there is plenty of time to organise.

**Good Friday Service of Witness** This was much appreciated. The format used this year was a reflection by Nick Fawcett called No ordinary man. Nick expressed thanks to all who took part.

**Picnic in the Park** A team from the Methodist Church organised parachute games, but there were not enough volunteers to have a CTiV games area. It would be good to meet together to picnic as CTiV should another similar event take place.

## **8. Forthcoming events**

**Christian Aid week** Russell brought posters, giving envelopes and devotional booklets to the meeting for distribution around the churches. A link to the e-envelope was sent to the CTiV mailing list and to the church offices. Thanks were expressed to Russell for organising the collection. (Post meeting note: £947.92 was collected to support the work of Christian Aid)

**Pulpit Swap** This is a work in progress!

## **9. Other reports**

**Community Coach report** Paul told the meeting that ten young adults who attended the coach as teenagers recently took Julie Bradshaw out for a meal to thank her for all that the coach ministry had done for them. The coach has received a grant from Bournemouth Football Club. The ministers have decided that a donation should be given to support the coach ministry and the meeting agreed that a significant proportion of the Messy Church fund should be donated. Appreciation was expressed to Verwood Family Church for all the work they are doing through the coach.

**Action:** Ministers to decide on exact amount to be donated

**Ringwood Foodbank report** During the last financial year (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) the number of referrals to the Foodbank has continued to rise. A team of drivers, set up during the pandemic, continues to deliver parcels around the area. Verwood Distribution Centre has now

appointed someone in a signposting role – contacting people who have received food parcels to offer further help e.g. with fuel vouchers or with referrals to CAP (Christians against Poverty) or the CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau).

**Warm Space Initiative at URC** This was offered from October 2022 to the end of March 2023, hosted by a team put together from the churches, but no-one took advantage of it. The Town Council had the same experience. This may work better when tied to an existing activity.

**Fayre Share** The aims of the larder at Three Legged Cross are to make food available more cheaply, but also to lessen food waste. The amount of food available to distribute is diminishing as supply chains get tighter and supermarkets are more careful with ordering.

**Any other business** Julian informed the meeting that the Town Council are looking to co-opt a new member. Ministers need to resume Town Council prayers.

**Action:** James to find out the dates of Town Council meetings

#### **Dates and venues of future meetings**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> – St Michael's Church 7.30 pm**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – Bethel Chapel – 6.30 pm Christmas card distribution; 7.30 pm meeting**

**January 2024 – Methodist Church**

**May – United Reformed Church**