

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023 at St Michael's Church

Present

James Whately	URC (Chair)
Sue Hancock	St Michael's (Secretary)
Barbara Walton	St Michael's (Treasurer)
Hank Hancock	St Michael's
Lynne Ings	Methodist
Nick Wood	Methodist
Stephen Walton	St Michael's
Paul Fox	NLCC-New Life Community Church (Formerly Verwood Family Church)
Elizabeth Ingram	St Michael's
Marius Potgieter	NLCC
Julia Palmer	St Michael's
Ann Bale	St Michael's

1. Introduction and prayer led by James. He reminded us of the wonder of the natural world in this Harvest season. The Church is also a fruit of creation, where in some years there is abundance and less so in other years. James reminded us not to overlook seemingly small seeds – God may be bringing something to fruition through them.

2. Apologies

Danny Miller; Julian Macro; Chris & Ken Lyndon; Carolyn Johannesen; Jenny Baxendale; Deborah Matthews; Paul Williams (NLCC – Fordingbridge), Val Smith

3. Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the AGM on 9th May 2023 were approved by the meeting and signed by James.

4. Matters arising

- **Community coach** Ministers to meet to agree amount to donate from Children/Youth Work fund.
- **Town Council prayers** Ministers lead prayers at most sessions. Julian Macro has offered to lead prayers if no other minister is available.
- **Elizabeth Ingram** has been co-opted onto the Town Council.

5. Correspondence Sue has circulated details of two courses.

- Nick is running the Digging Deeper Course at Holtwood Methodist Church fortnightly from 7.30 – 9 pm on a Monday evening. Starting on 2nd October, this course consists of 5 sessions exploring the Jewish roots of Christianity. All welcome.
- Exploring 'Creative Christianity' at Verwood URC. This is an opportunity on the last Friday of each month (except December) to explore creative ways to celebrate our Christian faith. Each session runs from 2-4 pm and gives opportunities for quiet reflection, both individually and with others, and to learn the art of Bible journalling. All welcome.

6. Financial update and church subscriptions for 2023/4

Barbara reported that Bethel Chapel have now paid subs from last year and she has received £6 for Lent Study books. A cheque for £25 that was sent to the British Legion last year has not been cashed. This leaves £338.93 in the general fund and £1512 in the reserved children/youth account.

It was agreed to raise the level of subscription for each church to £180 p.a. though Barbara will come back to the meeting if this is not enough. This is to cover the annual insurance (due at the end of October) and the costs of the Christmas card, which totalled £589.24 last year. It was agreed that the value of the book tokens given to the two children whose designs are used on the Christmas cards should be raised to £15 each. It was also agreed that Barbara will request wreath C for Remembrance Sunday and donate £30.

7. Forthcoming events

- **Christmas cards** Barbara has visited Trinity School to invite children to design a Christmas picture for the cards. She requested that the ministers get the information about their Christmas services to her as soon as possible.
Action: Meet on November 7th at Bethel Chapel at 6.30 pm to divide up cards for distribution
- **Remembrance Sunday** Barbara will lay the wreath at the Civic Service on behalf of CTiV. She will print out the Churches Together boat logo to add to the wreath.
- **Christmas Day Service** This will be led by James at 10 am at the Methodist Church.
- **Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** To be held at the URC on 21st January 2024. Resources from Burkino Faso based on the story of the Good Samaritan are becoming available on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website.
- (P.M. note - Sue and Paul have offered to lead worship at this service)
- **Lent Groups** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 14th February and groups and material need to be planned in good time before Lent. There was discussion about how to make sure participants from the different churches are mixed up. It is important that regular bible study groups stop during Lent and that people are actively encouraged to go to a different group to the one they would normally attend. There is a problem of hosts/leaders not wanting their addresses made public, which makes it difficult for people to decide which group to attend.
Nick offered to lead a Tuesday afternoon or evening group for 4 sessions.
Action: James to request leaders and hosts in October 2023; ministers to decide on course materials in time for the November meeting

8. A.O.B

Prayer for healing Marius is very encouraged that people from all the churches have attended the monthly prayer time and thanked the churches for hosting the group. Each month there are testimonies of healings.

Sue has had a go at updating the **CTiV website**. While she has succeeded in changing some details e.g. names of the officers, she has struggled to change other areas, such as updating minutes of meetings. Nick has experience of using Word Press and offered help if the website uses this.

Action: Sue to send Nick log-in details

Light Party at St Michael's Thursday 26th October from 3 – 5 pm. If you would like to bring a child to this event, please email Marina at stmichaels.childrensworker@gmail.com by Thursday 19th October.

9. Dates and venues of future meetings

November 7th – Bethel Chapel – 6.30 pm Christmas card distribution; 7.30 pm meeting

January 10th 2024 – Methodist Church - 7.30 pm; May meeting at United Reformed Church