

Trinity Community Church



CHURCH PARTNER MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at Trinity Community Church on **24th October 12.30pm**

Present	30 present	
Apologies	Pauline Bibby, Derek Bibby	
	Marguerite Smith	

Ref	Item	Notes	Action (what, who, when)
1	Welcome, opening reflection and prayer	Rev. Paul McNally welcomed everyone with a reminder that only Church Partners can vote at the meeting, but all may join in the discussions. Matthew Embra shared a reflection from James chapter 1. Hearing and doing the word	
2	Apologies for Absence	See above	
3	Previous Meeting	Minutes of the meeting from the 14 th July HR proposed the minutes were a correct record, seconded by Jo-anne O'Brien, 14 approved, 0 against and 2 abstentions	
4	Matters Arising	- Partnership with St. James covered under main agenda.	
5	Ministers update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All services are back and running safely, new families have joined us, new people are a blessing to the fellowship. - We will continue to split the seating with one side for social distancing. - Junior Church is on hold- but the creche is open, and a new Dot-to-Tot activity will begin. - Toddler group back for the last 2 week, thanks were expressed to the volunteers. 	

LIFE WITH JESUS. LIFE TOGETHER. LIFE FOR ALL.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generosity Project. This was well received and will be kept on the agenda - A question was raised about the Family Address being reintroduced. This will be discussed and considered at the ECC meeting. - Another question was raised. Is the offertory plate collection being reinstated? Again, this will be discussed at the ECC meeting. 	Action added to ECC agenda
6	Main Item 1 –	<p>St. James Partnership, Documents and Information were sent to Partners prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Questions Raised.</p> <p>Is St. James going to be a financial burden to Trinity? What is partnership with St. James's?</p> <p>In reply to the 2nd question, it is the reforming of parishes, as with St. Paul's and St. John's. St. James Church is at present in limbo. The partnership will become a friendship, a partnership, the current LEP remains as is. Legally, St. James parish is paired with Christ Church parish, forming a united parish.</p> <p>A question raised as to what the Mission /Vision for Trinity is?</p> <p>Reply. Life with Jesus, Life Together, Life for All. The Mission Action Plan on the noticeboard is being reviewed.</p> <p>As outlined in the attached document, the sub-group sees three main areas of focus: Community Action, Families and Worship/discipleship.</p> <p>St. James is in a prime location in the town Centre, and we are presented with an amazing opportunity to continue gospel work in the heart of Accrington.</p> <p>Question. Have St. James's agreed with the partnership?</p> <p>Reply. St James's have had conversations, they have agreed to pursue the partnership with great enthusiasm. A discussion took place as to what that means.</p>	MAP to be reviewed

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		<p>When Paul does leave, if we go with Baptist accreditation, St James accept that the Baptist minister would function as outlined in our constitution, fulfilling the roles of an Anglican Priest, with the permission of the Bishop.</p> <p>We recognise that there is a worshipping people at St James, and although this is a mission opportunity, we are wanting to grow the current congregation.</p> <p>It is exciting opportunity to do something different.</p> <p>Question asked, Are the congregation at St. James aware of the decisions and accept.</p> <p>A question was raised about the finances of St. James?</p> <p>This should be covered in the finance report.</p> <p>A finance report from St. James's is available.</p> <p>St. Clements and St. James will be one parish share. The parish share is calculated on regular attendance.</p> <p>There is an option to apply for a curate, max. 4 years min. 2. This would be a minimal cost to us, only cost council tax, water rates and expenses. This option wouldn't be available until 2023.</p> <p>Other options could be youth and children's worker, grants are available to help with the cost.</p> <p>These would help with the workload for Paul. Q. How he will manage his time?</p> <p>Finance for the Partnership.</p> <p>Andy our treasurer met with Natalie the treasurer from St. James's, St James meet the utility bills, the collection covers that. At present they are only paying part of the parish share.</p> <p>Our treasurer will approach the Diocese to discuss the Parish Share once the scheme is in place and the share request is made.</p> <p>St James have a restricted fund available to regenerate the building.</p> <p>They have spent £10,000 on repairs and a boiler.</p> <p>Paul explained there is a Transitional Relief Fund- a renewal programme for small congregations.</p>	
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		<p>Statement from the meeting, that the building is in very poor condition, that the money they have would not cover, it would fall short, and it would fall to us.</p> <p>What needs to be done can only happen once finance is available. A team to source grants will be formed and will seek the help of the diocesan support team.</p> <p>Question raised, If we go ahead we would be committed to look after the building? Paul replied, yes, the building would be our responsibility.</p> <p>We need to step out in Faith, we do realise that much work is needed, we need to put out trust in the Lord for provision.</p> <p>Paul told the meeting, 'We will do all we can with what's there'</p> <p>Question Raised, what is God saying?</p> <p>Hazel replied that at the ACT meetings, the vision for St. James's for the Foodbank, and for serving the Community with kitchen and café area, great excitement with all ACT members.</p> <p>The Diocese have a team of people to guide us through the process.</p> <p>The changes at St. James's will be part of the transforming of Accrington.</p> <p>The Discussion then closed.</p> <p>The meeting gathered into small groups to pray. A scripture was brought from John 4: 34-35.</p> <p>One member commented that it shouldn't be all about money, if God wants us to go forward, He will provide. It's a central location, local businesses may help, good central point for town events.</p> <p>Another member asked if closing Trinity had been mentioned.</p> <p>Paul replied that it had not gone beyond being mentioned.</p> <p>It was asked if the Baptist denomination had been underrepresented.</p>	
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		<p>Reply, Brian Drury from NWBA had been involved at all points of the process. He sees the partnering with St James's as exciting.</p> <p>It was explained that we are 1 congregation one church, just for legal reasons that the parishes of St. James's and Christ Church will legally be one parish.</p> <p>Two proposals were put forward.</p> <p>First proposal was for there to be a delay to seek more information.</p> <p>29 present. 8 for the proposal, 14 against 1 abstention</p> <p>2nd Proposal. To go ahead and pursue the partnership. 13 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions.</p> <p>So, we now go forward and pursue the partnership.</p>	
8	Finance Update	<p>The Gift Day raised £3,500, Deficit by year end of £5,000 Next year we will be looking at a deficit of £1,500. Information to be forwarded to partners this week Much to be thankful for, we should break even by the end of the year.</p>	Andy to send the information to partners.
9	Safeguarding	PM advised that the Safeguarding Officer vacancy needs to be filled, the ECC remain vigilant.	
10	A.O.B.	- The ECC meeting in October, Hazel Renton was co-opted onto the ECC filling in as secretary until the AGM in April.	
11	Confidential items	- Minutes of public minutes should not publish confidential items, discussed not published	

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12	Prayer and close	Meeting closed with the grace at 1.25pm Date of next meeting – TBC	
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