

# CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER ON PORTLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm In the Weston Room, Easton Methodist Church.

Attendees Dave Farmer, Rosemarie Husain, Tracy Stagg, Ruth Lownsborough, Gisela Smith, Neil Cruickshank, Carole Cruickshank, Dave Mells, Dilys Ralston, Peter Wells, Rob Vincent, Sara Farmer

Apologies: Sandy Cave, Geoff Lucas, Ian Urmston, Helen Urmston, Jon Bayliff

Dave Welcomed those present and said Prayers.

Minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were agreed.

### Election of Officers

The meeting agreed that the current officers should remain in post; it suggested noted that a description of the officer's roles could be circulated prior to next year's AGM.

The current officers are Dave Farmer (chair), Rosemarie Husain (deputy chair), Sandy Cave (secretary) and Tracy Stagg (treasurer).

### Finances

Tracy shared a document detailing the current finances for Christians Working Together.

- Some Churches paid their membership just before Christmas. While the suggested membership is £40 per annum it was noted that some churches gave more than this and others may be unable to pay this amount.  
**Action: DF to write to Churches for donations.**
- It was agreed to release the funds held for Prospects and Our House to other organisations helping those with a disability or working with children.
  - Prospects was a group of people with learning difficulties who meet monthly to Praise and worship Jesus
  - Our House was an after school Christian club at St Georges Primary School.
- CWTOP also holds funds for:
  - Café R; a recovery Café for those suffering from isolation, addiction, and loneliness.
  - Hardship Fund; for those within the church community in need. It is easy to pay into this to support others and to ask for help for oneself or others.

### Christians Together on Portland

Christians together on Portland is people from all the churches on Portland who form a group to promote unity; anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and events.

## Christmas Events Review

A big thanks to Dave Mells and all those who took part in the Christmas events, the Nativity was a big success. Dave asked for comments to be written on post-its, summarised here:

Good Comments	Things to Improve
<p>People Came.            Children enjoyed taking part.            People enjoyed it.            Costumes were good.            Delivery in gardens and school very well received.            Great participation and extra angels/people in gardens.            Good idea.            Gospel shared.            Well attended Christmas Eve.            Great to see crowds moving at Sues comments.            Leadership.            The Script.            The planning.            Good numbers involved.            People's willingness to be flexible in roles.            The performance.            Number of people who came to watch.            I had friends that attended the nativity in Easton gardens and thoroughly enjoyed it as it was very well done.            Expert witness gave a new perspective on the nativity            Mission achieved. Well received generally by public.            Message fairly clear.</p>	<p>Electric point moved late in the day.            Singers and band together.            More ages represented.            Better funded.            More help setting up.            Some venues not worth doing as not well attended.            Kimberlin Club – maybe more advertising to get more people in.</p>

## What happens next

### Easter

The group discussed the possibility of holding a walk of witness and an outreach event in Easton Gardens on Easter Saturday. DM asked if this could be a three-day event, but the meeting felt it may be better to do a single event this year and review next year. There will be a meeting at Open Arms on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7pm to discuss Easter.

- Passover Meal at on Maundy Thursday at Easton Methodist
- Tenebrae Service on Good Friday at Easton Methodist
- Easter Sunday breakfast at Easton Methodist Hall following Sunrise Service (TBC)
- Easter morning Services (TBC)

Action: Contact Portland Town Council for permission to use the square on Easter Saturday - Dave Farmer

### Summer

The group would like to consider running a series of outreach events at Portland Bill again this summer. It was agreed to look at this in more detail after the Easter event has been completed.

Action: Contact Court Leet for permission for the Bill services during the summer- Dave Farmer

### Any Other News

- Dilys Ralston: Freedom Church, Portland Firestarters have started a new parent and toddler group on Tuesdays from 10 - 12.00 at the Kimberlin Club.
- Gisela Smith: Open Arms are open Friday evenings at 7pm for youth and will open on Saturdays after February. Prayers needed for new chair and volunteers.
- Rosemarie Husain: Apologetics Course Starts 30<sup>th</sup> January, Monday evening 7.30 in C2000

### Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7pm in the Open Arms to discuss Easter Event.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm in the Weston Room at Easton Methodist Church Hall.

The meeting closed in prayer.

