

## **Minutes for the Community Open Forum, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

The meeting was opened with a reading from the Gospel of Luke where Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the  
captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

We then enjoyed listening to a short musical composition on the theme Laudato Si.

### **Updates from the previous meeting**

#### **Formation of a pastoral council**

The current feeling is that there isn’t enough committed interest to kick off a new council at this stage. However, this remains an aspirational goal. Meanwhile individuals will continue to champion their areas of interest. The intention is to encourage more community involvement from which a council can emerge.

#### **Christmas Bazaar**

Thank you to all the parishioners, especially the younger families, for their efforts to make the Christmas Bazaar so successful. We were able to raise £1160 from the sale of raffle tickets and an additional £1285 from stalls.

These funds have now been spent on causes within the local community: £320 towards the Christmas Lunch for senior parishioners (which was attended by around 40 people); £351 towards entertainment and food for the Children’s Christmas Party; £175 CAFOD donation and the remaining £1600 split between the Arthur Rank Hospice and Break Charity (who support vulnerable children, young people and families in East Anglia).

We intend to hold another Bazaar in 2025 with a date to be set shortly.

#### **First Communion / Confirmation**

We now have 8 candidates for First Communion and 10 for Confirmation in 2025 who will be led by a team of four volunteers.

### **Jubilee Year of Hope and Live Simply**

The main focus of the meeting was to agree how we might celebrate the Jubilee Year as a parish. We would like to celebrate with a number of connected events and activities. As such we have decided to adopt the CAFOD Live Simply award scheme, which encourages communities to care for God's creation and stand in solidarity with our global family.

Jane Crone from CAFOD will provide an overview of the project at both masses on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Some ideas were presented to the group for things we might do in relation to the Live Simply program. These focused around the themes of Sustainability and Food Poverty. It is anticipated that events will be organised by small flexible groups who assist where they can but without a long term commitment. Key ideas discussed include:

- Holding a short nature walk around the local area, starting and ending at the church, with participants enjoying a BBQ at the end of the walk. This is likely to take place in July with a date to be confirmed soon. Agathe volunteered to lead, with support.
- A retreat held at Buckden Towers. Further investigation into the availability will be done by Julie Ball. Due to the location, this would be an ideal opportunity to invite members from the Cambourne community to join us. Transport would likely be via car lift sharing.
- A car boot sale, combining recycling with fund raising.
- A small group could form to look after the church garden in a sustainable manner.
- Reintroduction of food donation at the church to collect items to be donated to the John Huntington's Charity – perhaps members of the parish could donate surplus items from supermarket BOGOF offers?
- The Hope Into Action group currently operate two houses in the village. It was felt that the group could possibly extend its reach to other isolated or vulnerable people within the community who would benefit from the companionship which could be offered by a befriender. This could be done through the recruitment of additional volunteers and will be discussed further at the next HIA meeting.
- Magda offered to create a poll in the parish WhatsApp group to gain insight from a wider group as to what activities the parish would like to support

## **AOB**

***We sincerely thank Norman and Julie for their many years of service managing the hall bookings and heating.*** They will be stepping down in March. New contact details for hall bookings will be posted when available

The group expressed its appreciation for Andrew's efforts to enable the two performances of the Children's Choir.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March is the World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) and this year it is hosted at the Free Church. There will be craft and snacks at 12.30pm with a service at 1pm. It will be hosted at OLOL next year and we would like as many people from OLOL to take part as possible.

It was noted that the parish would very likely be in need of a paid part time administrator.

The meeting was closed with a Final Prayer.

**The next meetings will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>**