

NEW NEW SEPT 24

MINUTE OF MEETING OF **COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM** Wednesday 11th September 2024

1. **Present:** Rev Scott Burton, Jill Dickson, Roy Graham, Margaret Scott, and Maralyn Stirling **Apologies:** Cammy Dick

2. **Pre5s:** *Rachel* – reported a very successful start to the new session. 28 children plus parents/ carers/grandparents. Happy to welcome new Mums and babies! Delighted Jim Dick is back every alternate Tuesday. Great team of volunteers.

3. **BELONG Social – Event - Cammy - Pizza and Praise Night** – held on 7th September. Over 70 people attended. Superb evening of Praise interspersed with linked bible verses. Food and fellowship good too! Well done Cammy! Next Praise Night TBC Pudding and Praise?

4. **BELONG Social - Ceilidh** – *Jill* – Proposed date – 31st December 2024 – Hogmanay. Jill had approached many fine musicians to check on their availability to provide music. More details to follow. Keep this date free!

5. **BELONG Fun days** – *Rachel* Forthcoming events and dates: Settled on 3 Fun days plus Church BBQ (TBA). Rachel seeing seeds of growth, children going onto SU at School. Pray for extra help.

Light Party – 2nd November - 4.30-6pm

Nativity Fun Day – 21st December 2-4pm

Easter Fun Day – 19th April 2025 2-4pm

6. **Banners** to promote/publicise BELONG events to be obtained.

7. **ASN Support Group** – *Rachel* leads this group once a month, on a Friday. Opportunity for tea/ coffee/chat and support. Proving helpful.

8. **Thursday Coffee Morning** – *Margaret* – the group enjoy coffee/tea/cake and fellowship. A group of 16 children, plus staff from **Wallacestone Nursery** will visit in January 2025. These visits always prove uplifting for all!

9. **Charity Giving** – *Polmont YOI/HMP* – Christmas gifts of chocolate plus Christmas card gifted to all inmates. Congregation invited to donate towards this. Intimated in church news-sheet.

Prison Chaplain Hillary Nyikha will attend a special Prison Outreach service at the end of November.

10. **Falkirk Foodbank** need additional volunteers / new manager in place / Increased demand on services but donations down. They receive regular donations from our church. Pre5s donate food the last week of the month instead of paying their subs.

11. **Martha's Pantry** – *Slamannan – volunteers* – Roy Graham, Ian Lawson, Lesley Mann work closely with Monica. Numbers using the pantry have increased to 23 since new session. Recent leaflet drop may have contributed to rise in numbers. Monica introduced cooking demonstrations – highlighting use of fresh vegetables and fruit. These proving popular and constructive.

Please turn over

12. **CAP – Christians Against Poverty - Roy – Money Coaching Courses.** Roy successfully run trial course over 4 nights in May which proved successful and helpful. New courses for Autumn to be confirmed. Roy to approach Braes High School for input there. Volunteers from our church include: Befrienders - Heather O’Neil and Edna Oliver; Prayer Support – Rachel Meek. Please ask Roy for fuller details of the work of CAP in Forth Valley.

13. **Braes Union – Scott**

Brightons Parish Church will be known as Upper Braes Parish Church as from 3 November 2024. There will be 2 Ministry Centres – one Brightons Ministry Centre and another Slamannan Ministry Centre.

Surveys re Transport to Centres and Elders’ surveys to be issued. Scott and Monica to work closely with Scripture Union Group links.

Brightons Property and Finance Teams already working hard on the union. Other teams will probably continue as at present. New members from Shieldhill/Blackbraes and Muiravonside will be invited to offer their services. Our calendar and news-sheet will be shared with Slamannan Ministry Centre.

The Upper Braes church area covers 26 sq miles and has a population of 18,000 folk. A big increase – a challenge for mission and outreach.

14. **AOCB – Roy – Rear foyer Notice Board**

Communications Committee recommended this Notice Board should be used solely by the Community Outreach Team to publicise forthcoming events. This “Outreach” notice board to be launched on Monday 28th October.

Games Night Social – 16th November 6pm. This will be organised by our **Young Adult Group.**

Access to **Facebook** – *Jill* agreed to undertake this. **Posters/Banners** – should show church contact details **Welcome pack** being updated

15. **Date of next meeting** – to be confirmed.

16. *Scott* closed the meeting with a prayer