

## **Discipleship Team Meeting - Tuesday 24th September 2024**

Present: - Heather McManus (Convener), Ian Lawson, Jean Meek, Marion Graham, George Mann

Apologies: - Donald/ Rachel Meek, Tom Nimmo, Scott Burton

Heather shared Matthew 6:25-34 and a Bible Project video which gave some further insight into the passage. This video explained that we have a tendency to worry (or be concerned) about things we can't control and that this just eats away at us, robbing us of the joy we should be experiencing. Jesus teaches us to focus on Him and His trustworthiness. This passage is relevant to us all as we prepare for the union. We may be worried about many things that are outwith our control, but we need to remember that God will provide all that we need.

Followed by Prayer.

The minute of 7th May 2024 was approved.

### **Alpha (Tom shared an update prior to the meeting)**

- At the time of the meeting there were 4 attendees at the first Alpha
- There had been more interest initially but numbers were lower than expected.
- Tom asked for prayer that others may come.
- Ian said that he was not involved in leading this time and asked where the meetings were taking place.

### **Fellowship Groups (Tom shared an update with the convener, listing the groups and attendees for each Fellowship group)**

- Everyone agreed that Carolyn/ Ali, Nadia and Jim Hope's groups should be added to the list of Fellowship groups.
- Carolyn and Ali's group had evolved out of a young mothers group and developed into a book group during Covid. They now felt they are more like a Fellowship group. Heather to let Carolyn know and get details to add to the list Tom shared.
- Nadia leads a women's book group who meet once a month on a Wednesday and Jim Hope leads a men's book group once a month on a Monday. Heather will get names of those attending and add to Tom's list.
- Item missed from agenda- How to share recommendations on website- Heather to share more on this at next meeting.
- Scott's Holy Spirit workshops taking place 5th, 12th and 19th. Some groups planning to continue through this and others are taking a break.
- It was suggested that it might be worthwhile sharing some information about the Fellowship groups that are running and letting people know what to do if they are interested in joining. Heather to discuss with Scott after union.

### **Community Evangelism (Donald and George shared an update with the convener)**

- Donald continues to try and connect with those who have recently come back to church and those he is aware have stopped coming. George shared the importance of prayer in community evangelism. but neither are sure that advice and guidance can be distilled down into a book. The group talked about ways to support the congregation with this. Marion suggested get together meals to help build relationships and inviting people along to community outreach events like the litter pick. Heather hasn't been able to arrange a meeting yet with Donald, George and Rachel yet but will try again before the next meeting to discuss the ideas booklet which was started.
- It was noted that the Found Church were hosting some events that some members of our congregation were considering going to- Confident Christianity. It would be good to find out if anyone went and whether these were useful.

- Heather shared the possibility of funding for a joint discipleship and community outreach project. More information may be available at the next meeting.

#### **Friends of Jesus (Rachel shared an update prior to the meeting)**

- Rachel is continuing to stand in for Wendy, but it was noted that Wendy is planning to attend when she feels able.
- Two new volunteers have started helping.
- Rachel noted that their main concern is that Prospects Across Scotland are in a difficult financial situation and have had to cut back the hours employees work. They are needing regular monthly but finding this difficult in the current climate.

#### **Huddle**

- Previous Huddle participants continue to meet regularly.

#### **Safar**

- Meeting planned to gather feedback on 27th October after church.

#### **Friendship Plus (Jessie gave an update prior to the meeting)**

- The Friendship Plus group had just started back with their first meeting on the 18th September. Invites were being sent to the other three congregations to join in November for the St Andrew's Day celebrations.
- It was noted that Blackbraes and Shieldhill have a group called Rendezvous which is similar to Friendship Plus.
- Questions raised were: Will this just continue in Blackbraes and Shieldhill after the union? Does everything have to be centred in Brightons? Can groups move to different centres?
- A concern was also raised about transport as there do not seem to be enough drivers for current groups in Brightons- Will we need to look at funding for lifts etc. Minibus?

#### **Guild (Anne shared a written report prior to the meeting)**

- The Brightons Guild are now meeting during the day.
- They noted a new member had joined from Laurieston and was delighted to be welcomed in.
- Heather shared that Blackbraes and Shieldhill Guild will remain separate this session as the syllabus for both has already been arranged. They will have chats about joining for 2025-2026 onwards. There will be issues to overcome, especially around transport.

#### **Gender Based Violence (Kay shared a report at the meeting)**

- The main item for noting is that the group is thinking about ways to raise awareness and how to sustain it. They have been considering social media posts to mark Domestic Abuse Awareness Month (October). Thursdays in black is also a campaign organised by the World Council of Churches. Lesley Mann is going to find out more about pins, sourcing of these and find out how they can be used to raise awareness. There are also 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence taking place Nov 25th to 10th Dec.
- The last meeting was in June and they are not meeting again until October 8th.
- Future training has been postponed until after the union.

#### **Prayer**

- Marion shared that the Thursday prayer Zoom room has been quiet recently. Sunday morning sessions are full and very encouraging.

- It was noted that prayer shawls are made at Slamannan and that they also have a prayer meeting. Prayer shawls also made at Brightons- Is this through the Guild?
- Previous item on agenda- carried forward. *Peter Costello has approached Scott to discuss the possibility of setting up a 24-7 prayer room. He is planning to speak with Carolyn and Keith about this.*

#### **Daily Reading Notes**

- 7 copies issued regularly- no change.

#### **Charities**

- Missionary Partners (Rachel)- New email update to be prepared for sharing
- Scottish Bible Society (Rachel)- No update
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide (Heather M) Carried forward Heather *still to contact Fellowship groups re prayer points.*

#### **AOCB**

- Book stall approval- Session agreed that this could come through discipleship group in future

#### **Date of next meeting**

- Proposal- 18th February 2025