

## Churches Together In Harborough

# FORUM – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 - MINUTES

**Those Present (30)** : Jeff Bonser, Mike Bowers, Richard Brand, James Briggs, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook, Mary Daniels, Mary Danks, Maureen Douglas, Jo & John Farnsworth, Lindy Kendell, Brian & Clare Kennard, Rob Knapp, Sue Macdonald, Jill Mann, Keith Nockels, Wendy Osborne, John Pearse, Keith Rugg, James Shakespeare, June Sperry, John Stride, Dave Tomlin, Peppy Ulyett, Sandra Ward, Brien Wilde, Rose Williams & Angela Zemplak

**Apologies for Absence (9):** Jadz Bower, Margaret Bowers, Deborah Chaloner, Phillip Danks, Sally Jones, Andrea Kenny, Suzanne Nockels, Owen O'Neill & Alison Tomlin

1. A warm welcome was given by John Pearse to the January Forum to all those in attendance .
2. Worship was led by Richard Brand. A reading was given from Matthew 19:27 regarding what it feels like to leave everything and everybody to follow Jesus. There was a time of sharing to ask what this passage meant for people, which was followed by a time of prayer. He went on to say that as we are going into the week for Christian Unity to think about putting Jesus first over and above everything else.
3. The Minutes were accepted and signed with an alteration to item 5(a) – to read that it is hoped to prevent people getting into financial difficulty. The Minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

#### 4. Matters Arising

- a) Christian Aid Facilitator – Rose Williams was proposed by John Pearse and Angela Zemplak seconded this. The service for 2014 would be held on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at St Peter's & St Paul's Church in Great Bowden at 6pm.**
- b) Mike Bowers reported that the Christmas 'Home Alone' Lunch had exceeded all expectations and the CTH had worked fantastically well together to make it such a success. He thanked specifically Margaret Bowers and John & Mel Stride for their help. It is planned to do this again for Christmas 2014 and the local shops are offering their help already. Approximately 60 guests were in attendance and also 32 helpers with entertainment in the form of carols, folk singing, strictly come dancing and Father Christmas – he thanked all the volunteers. A cheque was presented from the proceedings for £300 to be donated to the Bower House.
- c) Mike Bowers advised that there is a Summer 2014 event being planned.

#### 5. Lent Lunch Time Services

Services are to be held at the Congregational Church with the Catholic Catering Team helping to provide lunches and it is asked that volunteers help with setting up for lunches owing to a small overlap with another booking for the Jubilee Hall.. There is to be a meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February for those involved with the services.

Services will on the six Fridays of Lent beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for the services is: Hearing God Speak to us through the Bible” and services will start at 12:30pm at the Congregational Church. Speakers are encouraged to share their own experiences of “What the Bible means to me.”

#### 6. Good Friday Open-Air Witness

Discussions were held regarding the problem of having the town market on the square at the moment. Although it was reported that the market is due to be moved back from Good Friday it was felt that this could not be relied upon. Alternative ideas were shared - crosses filled with daffodils paraded into the town; Messy Church in the town on either Good Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday. Nick offered to lead the event. Angela Zemplak advised the Forum that, although there was a procession last year for the Cross which was stewarded by the Street Pastors, they should not legally have done this for safety to the general public and also there had not been any insurance to cover this so this would not be done again.

#### 7. a) HOPE 2014 - Prayer Focuses During Lent

- i) **Prayer Walk** - Clare Kennard agreed to arrange a prayer walk and this would be on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 10 to 12 noon. Brien Wilde also spoke of his vision for this. Clare to advertise this to encourage people to become involved in this. **ACTION: CLARE KENNARD**
- ii) **Prayer Point in Town Centre** – Previously organised by Suzanne Nockels and so Nick Cook would approach her to ask if she would like to organise one in the summer. **ACTION: NICK COOK**

- iii) **Prayer Boxes in Supermarkets** – Supermarkets to be asked to have a box and prayer cards in the stores which would then be emptied on a regular basis and then prayers would be said for the item on the card. Jeff Bonser, Rose Williams and Mike and Margaret Bowers to facilitate this. This would be an ongoing initiative beyond Lent. **ACTION: JEFF BONSER**

**b) HOPE 2014 - Churches Together in Harborough Leaflet**

James Briggs spoke about the production of a Community Leaflet to try to encourage people to think about church in a different way. He would look into funding to do this and asked the Forum if it was thought that this was worth doing? He added that a 'drip-feed' of information into the Harborough Mail at intervals could be included. After discussions and various ideas to add into the leaflet this was agreed and the Chairman asked James to feed back on this at the next Forum. Jo Farnsworth asked that 'Market' be dropped from the title as this would not include surrounding areas covered by Churches Together in Harborough. **ACTION: JAMES BRIGGS**

**c) HOPE 2014 - Other Outreach into Community**

- i) Keith Rugg advised that over 100 people who had either not been in church before or had not been in church for many years had attended the Baptist Church over the Christmas season.
- ii) Dave Tomlin reported that a 'Welcome Pack' was being produced for the new residents of the apartments which were being built next to the Methodist Church.
- iii) Mike Bowers reported that over the past 7 – 8 months he had been doing Chaplaincy work with local businesses and market traders within the town. He advised that barriers had been broken down during this time and he would continue with this work.
- iv) The Baptist Church had set up a 'Messy Church' which was held monthly and members from the Fun & Friends mid-week Group had been invited along with other friends.
- v) Christianity Explored Courses were being run from the Baptist Church from 9<sup>th</sup> February for 7 weeks. Anybody was welcome and various days and times were available.
- vi) The 'Easter Experience' was to be done again in the Baptist Church – details to follow.
- vii) The Methodist Church was to run an introductory Money Management Course during June.

**8. Pro-Life – Loving Life, Offering Hope**

Maureen Douglas gave a brief report and gave out leaflets regarding an event which was to be held at the Catholic Church on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. at which there would be a speaker.

**9. Foodbank**

Keith Nockels reported that food was still required for the Foodbank. He also advised that a new voucher scheme was being trialled whereby clients are given vouchers of £2.50 to purchase fruit and vegetables at Fruitas in the town. To enable the scheme to continue, donations of about £250 a month from Churches and individuals would be needed. The leaflet circulated detailed how donations could be made. James Shakespeare asked if the Foodbank would like to become another charity of the CTH. Keith to take to the next meeting and report back. **ACTION: KEITH NOCKELS**

**10. Any Other Business**

- i) Fairtrade Fortnight - 24<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March
- ii) Tradecraft – Big Brew - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at St Dionysius from 10 – 12 noon
- iii) Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Catholic Church at 2pm
- iv) Paul Mallard in Fleckney - 28<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March – Nick Cook to circulate details.
- iv) Rob Knapp brought several matters to the attention of the Forum and he was encouraged to inform the Secretary or Chairman in advance so that they can be included on future Forum agenda.

**11. Dates and Venues for the next two Forums:**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7:15 pm at the Baptist Church

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7:15 pm at the Congregational Church - AGM

**12. The Forum closed by sharing the Grace.**