

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH

Minutes from 10th March 2014 Forum

Those Present: Sheila Armstrong, Lin Ball, Jadz Bower, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook,, Mary Daniels, Mary Danks, Judith Devine, Maureen Douglas, John Farnsworth, James Hallam, Lindy Kendell, Brian Kennard, Clare Kennard, Robert Knapp, Sue MacDonald, James Briggs, Owen O'Neill, Wendy Osborne, David Palmer, John Pearse, Andrew Quigley, Cathy Roach, Trevor Roach, Sylvia Saunders, John Sparks, Dave Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Brien Wilde, Rose Williams, Angela Zemplak

Apologies: Jeff Bonser, Margaret Bowers, Mike Bowers, Philip Danks, Jo Farnsworth, Sarah Hamilton, Jean Molcher, Keith Rugg, James Shakespeare, June Sperry, Gordon Temple

1. John Pearse warmly welcomed all those in attendance at the Forum.
2. Worship was led by Nick Cook. He read from Matthew 25:34-40 which referred to 'by their fruit I will know them'. Reference was made to prisoners, foodbank, homelessness and to strive to see and work within the Kingdom. This was followed by prayer.
3. James Hallam and Tom Day from Harborough District Council were introduced to the Forum (see APPENDIX 1). Thanks were expressed to them both for attending the Forum.
4. **Homelessness - Sleeping Rough in Market Harborough**
Father Owen reported that on nine different occasions over the past year homeless people had knocked on his door late at night. Although this does not seem many, he stressed that this was the most he had ever had in one year. It was reported that the Street Pastors had never encountered anybody sleeping rough on the streets but the Bower House had known of people actually sleeping infrequently underneath the archway of the building. It was suggested that CTH contribute to a shared budget to help with requests from homeless people and that a coordinated response be set up. Forum to discuss further after consideration of Justice and Peace Group.
5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** – These were accepted as a true record and consequently signed.
6. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising which will not be covered later in the Agenda
7. **Good Friday Open Air Witness**
Nick reported that CTH had decided to run an 'Easter Exploration. This will be instead of the normal Good Friday witness, which cannot be done due to the current situation on the town square of the market sheds being there. There will be seven locations which people will be invited to walk around – each will be themed on one of the seven words of Jesus on the cross. Hot cross buns will be handed out on the square with instructions regarding where to find each of the seven locations.

A Christian Aid Lunch will take place from 12 noon at the Baptist Church.

Leaflets for our Churches and the town were to be ordered. Nick to collate nos. and Sue to order these.

8. Prayer Initiatives

- a) Clare Kennard reported that a Prayer walk had been done in March which had started at St Luke's Hospital and ended at St Di's and had lasted for approximately 1 ½ hours. This would be repeated again later in the year doing an alternative route.
- b) Jeff, Rose, Mike & Margaret had met to discuss Prayer Boxes in the town. Waitrose had been approached but they had decided against this. A photo has been requested from Penkridge CT of their prayer box (where the idea had come from). The Co-Op will be approached next. The Signs of Life Prayer Group have been approached and they are willing to pray for any requests.

9. Pentecost

See 12 (a) below for The Cube & Pentecost combined report.

10. Commemoration of Centenary of Start of World War 1

John Pearse asked if any of the Churches were doing anything to Celebrate the Centenary. The Anglican Churches were doing something within their services and the Choral Society were celebrating in November.

11. CTH Budget

Sue Macdonald had circulated the budget prior to the meeting. Agreed that subscriptions to remain the same for 2014 / 15.. The Living Rock would be approached to see if they would like to join CTH. There was £560 in hand from last year's Holiday at Home. Agreed to donate £200 to each of HYACT (Cube), Street Pastors and the Bower House. £100 donation also agreed to support the fund to replace the Community Bus. Funds in the deposit account money are to be transferred into the current account.

12. Reports From Groups

- a) The Cube Youth Report** – Nick reported that the new Cube Youth building should be finished by Good Friday. It is planned to officially open the building at Pentecost (as a CTH event) on 8th June. This will include activities for all ages. Publicity to go out at a later date.

Further funding has just been secured for Jenny (Youth Worker) but more money needs to be generated via the new Cube building. There are ongoing plans for landscaping the area to include basketball areas. Prayers are needed for the Harborough Screen. This was approximately £50,000 short. Please see Nick if anybody would like to donate.

- b) Street Pastors Report** – Angela reported that two teams had been entered in the SwiMarathon for the Rotary Club. After the swim the Rotary Club will be looking at donating money to local charities – including the CTH.

Street Pastors, the Bower House and the Cube have been offered the fundraising opportunity of bag packing at Waitrose on Easter Saturday (19th April from 10 am to 5pm. The money raised will be shared equally between these charities. Contact Angela if anyone could offer their time to help.

- c) Justice & Peace** - Donald reported that he would be stepping down as chairman of the J & P Group after the next meeting in July, 2014. Volunteer requested.

Dave Tomlin made available booklet 'The Lies We Tell Ourselves' about welfare benefits.

13. Any Other Business

- a)** Jadz thanked the Forum for all the Financial Support and prayers for the Bower House.
- b)** Rob Knapp asked how to put an item on the CTH agenda. The Chair or the Secretary can be asked, preferably a month before the next Forum and the Officers would then decide whether it can be included.
- c)** Harborough Improvement Team have organised a Community Litter Pick on Saturday, May 10th at 9:30 – 12:30pm starting at the Catholic Church – refreshments to be served – volunteers required.
- d)** The Christian Aid Service will be held at St Peter's & St Paul's Church in Great Bowden on 11th May at 6pm.

- 14. Date of Next Forum (AGM)** - Thursday 22nd May 2014 at Congregational Church at 7:15p.

- 15. Closing Prayers** – The Meeting closed by sharing the Grace