

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH

FORUM

Held on 17th September 2014

Those Present: Jeff Bonser, Jadz Bower, Mike Bowers, James Briggs, Deborah Chaloner, Nick Cook, Mary Daniels, Judith Devine, Maureen Douglas, Jo & John Farnsworth, Robert Knapp, Sue Macdonald, Keith Rugg, James Shakespeare, John Stride, Sandra Ward, Brien Wilde, Rose Williams, Angela Zemplak,

Apologies: Sheila Armstrong, Margaret Bowers, Mary & Phillip Danks, Lindy Kendell, Owen O'Neill, June Sperry, Alison & David Tomlin.

1. Opening Prayers

JS opened the meeting by reading Romans 12:9-18 referring to love one another. He then asked for a time of silent prayers.

2. Welcome from New Chair – Vision & Group Reflection

As the new Chairman JS welcomed everyone and asked for focus on vision and group reflections. It was generally felt from the Forum that there was a Christian unity within the town and that we were following God's agenda rather than our own with a collective knowledge across the churches within the town.

JS lit three candles at this point (i) for the people of Scotland during this uncertain time; (2) for the life of Market Harborough and (iii) for those who suffer in Iraq and Syria. JS recited the prayer of St Frances which starts:- Make me an instrument of your peace, etc.

JS introduced the new committee for CTH – JS as Chair; MD as Vice-Chair, RW as Secretary; SM as Treasurer and JB as Publicity Officer.

JS asked that our time be used wisely and to be committed to the CTH and to serve the vulnerable and the agencies within Harborough. Above all to be a strength and witness as the body of Christ.

3. Minutes of the AGM & Forum held on 22nd May 2014

a) JB – AGM Minutes - Harborough Mail would be thanked for their help and support.

The Minutes to include that the WW1 commemorative theme would be covered in all schools.

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes

NONE

5. **Bower House Report** – This was presented by DC

Appendix 1

6. Churches Together Leaflet

James Briggs handed out an amended version of the CTH Leaflet which had been worked upon together with all the CTH Offices. A majority vote accepted to adopt this for our town.

7. Review of Past Events

a) **Pentecost Praise** – NC reported that this had given the opportunity to 'show-case' the new Symington's Cube Youth Building. A Service, along with several others activities had been held on the day and this was felt that all had gone exceptionally well along with outreach into the community.

b) **Home Alone** – MB reported that the this event had gone very well. A summer tea had been held at Joules with 64 attendees. Plans are going ahead for another Christmas event this year.

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- c) **Holiday at Home** – KR reported that although this event was held at the Methodist Church this was a CTH Event. There had been approx 40/45 attendees per day with 4/5 activities arranged at a cost of £5. A Winter Day event was being arranged. Date to be advised.
- d) **Harborough By The Sea** – NC reported that the Baptist Church had taken on the opportunity to be involved in this event after being approached by the Council. A Service was arranged which included a band, Messy Church stalls and Starfish Puppets. JB reported that there had been a de-brief from the Council who were pleased with the CTH involvement. The Council had agreed to approach the CTH to do this again. NC asked that this be included as a CTH event and this was agreed.

8. Future Events

- a) Harvest – a request had been made for a stall at the Farmers Market in October for the Jubilee Foodbank to make people more aware of what is available and the services which they provide. JS would speak with the Council to find out if this is possible.
- b) Sing Christmas – JB reported that this was arranged by BBC Leicester and would be broadcast from clubs, pubs, etc on 22nd December at 7pm.
- c) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January 2015) with a United Service to be held at the Baptist Church on 25 January at 10:00.
- d) Week of Prayer – Date to be advised by The Cube.
- e) Peace Vigil – MD – this would normally be held on the first Friday of January (2nd) but would be reported back at the November meeting if it was going to occur or not. RK added that there had been new regulations introduced from the Council which would make it more difficult for events to take place on the square.

9. Any Other Business

- a) Sandra Ward was nominated and accepted for the position of Bower House Governing Body Representative.
- b) Christian Aid Feedback – RW reported that monies were slightly down on the previous years takings as follows:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
£7581	£7453	£7606	£9138	£8085

A new way of signing up for Street Collections was being worked on and details would follow at a later date.

- c) Torch Trust's Open Day on Saturday 10th September from 2 – 5pm – All Welcome
- d) Hothorpe Hall – Thursday 30th October at 7:30pm – a Service and Light Refreshments.
- e) Christian Praise – Tuesday 9th December at 7:30pm at Leicester Grammar School, London Rd, Great Glen, Leic. To book phone 0116 210 7400 - £5 per person.
- f) The Cube had been given £165.40 to support the Christian Young People Group
- g) Late Night Shopping – C/F to November Agenda to report whether this would be on or not.
- h) MS to send a new list of food which was required for the foodbank.

The meeting closed at 9 pm with prayers which was led by Maureen Douglas.