

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

Held on 18th March 2015

Those Present: Jeff Bonser, Mike Bowers, Deborah Chaloner, Ella Corbett, Mary Danks, Judith Devine, Phillip Danks, Maureen Douglas, Jo Farnsworth, Phillip Jones, Andrea Kenny, Jill Mann, Barry Osborne, Richard Pearce, John Pearce, Roy Pullen, Keith Rugg, James Shakespeare, Mel Stride, Brien Wilde,

Apologies: Sheila Armstrong, Margaret Bowers, James Briggs, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook, Mary Daniels, John Farnsworth, Sarah Hamilton, Brian Kennard, Sue Macdonald, Owen O'Neill, Sylvia Saunders, Tristan Styles, Alison Tomlin, Dave Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Mans Yousef, Angela Zemlak.

1. JS opened and welcomed all to the Forum especially our two speakers (Elaine Morton from Police Community Support Agency) and Philip Jones (Street Pastors).
2. Richard Pearce opened our worship time with a prayer and a talk regarding the appreciation and commitment for work with our communities.
3. **CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE TO CHURCHES** **See APPENDIX 1**
4. **REPORT: Street Pastors (Philip Jones)** **See APPENDIX 2**
5. **Minutes of Forum held on 22nd January 2015 - Accepted and signed by JS**
6. **Matters Arising from Minutes**
 - i) JS advised that levels of contact with the Council was still being maintained. JB said that Helen Nichols from the Council was very encouraging to CTH to become more actively involved within the community and this was thought to be a very positive break-through.
 - ii) **Budget** - In Sue Macdonald's absence JS referred to the budgets for 2015/2016. The allocating of one-off grants would be looked at closely during this coming year as quite large amounts had been distributed for various charities during the previous year. It was recommended that subscriptions were to remain the same. KR asked why it had been decided to keep the subscriptions the same as just a slight increase would mean more funds would be available to help charities in need of extra monies. JS agreed to feed this back to SMC. Approval of the budget was requested. JP recommended and MD seconded.
7. **STRATEGIC ITEMS**
 - i) **Homelessness** – BO reported that this had been mentioned in the November Forum and had been spoken about within a sub-committee (Jadz Bower, Father Owen and himself). There was a group (Rugby Devine) which looked at Homelessness in Rugby). He reported that he had made contact with the local police and authorities and at the moment there wasn't anybody on their records who was sleeping rough but could re-look at this later in the year during the winter months. JS expressed thanks to BO and the team for their work.
 - ii) **Holiday at Home** – JP reported that this had been running now for 7 years with a summer full week event and also a one day event for the last 3 years in January and this had become part of the CTH calendar. He said that new blood was required for this group as Brian Kennard is moving out of the area next year. A new co-ordinator is required and also others to join the team. There is to be a meeting on 24th April to discuss the summer event which will run from 10th – 14th August at the Methodist Church. BO reported that BK & JP and two others were due to step down to more volunteers are required. There are approx. 20 people on the team. £5 is paid per day

By attendees but a £50 shortfall of £50 is still required to break even. A presentation is available and this can be given at any of the churches or groups if requested. RW offered to circulate anything to promote this.

8. PAST EVENTS

- i) **Lent Services at Catholic Church** - It was reported that the 1st Service had approx 90 attendees and the 2nd & 3rd had approx 80. There were two more left and people were encouraged to support this.
- ii) **Lent Study** – JD reported that the study groups had now started with good attendance (180 across the town). These were all ecumenical groups and this was good for CTH fellowship. Thanks were expressed to all hosts and leaders for the groups.
- iii) **WWDP** – MD asked that this be encouraged more from the CTH and be added to the Agenda in January of each year. This is a service prepared by women of different countries each year but is for everybody. It is asked to promote this better within all groups. Publicity for this will be put out early next year.

9. FUTURE EVENTS

- i) **Good Friday Act of Witness** – JB reported that plans are being made for the largest event so far. There is to be the normal service in the square and in addition there is to be various stalls and also the Christian Aid Hunger Lunch will be served for the first time from one the stalls. The event will run from 11 a.m – 2pm. Tesco have agreed to donate 250 fresh hot-cross buns to be given out during this time. A request for more stewards is to be circulated for this event.
- ii) **Christian Aid** - RW gave a report and asked for prayers and encouragement. The new computerised system is to go ahead and a link to the website will be sent out to all the CA Reps within the churches. If any other groups or organisations would like to become involved within the street collections please contact Rose.
- ii) **Pentecost** - MD reported that The Cube are happy to host this event again like last year as it was seen as a good opportunity for outreach within the community. This was agreed upon.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) There is to be an Induction Service for the new Congregational Minister on Saturday 11/7/15 at 3pm with cream teas to follow.
- ii) There is to be a Hustings for the Elections at the Angel Hotel on 29/4/14. JS was concerned that the venue wouldn't be large enough. There would be a circulation sent out nearer the time and thoughts regarding what church involvement would be appreciated.
- iii) Brian Davies (part of the Anglican Clergy) is to host a day for Global Warming on 15/11/15. There is to be workshops on the day. A circulation to be issued later in the year.
- iv) The new Town Guide is now available which includes an advert for CTH.
- v) Mothers Union – a leaflet was issued and this would be circulated. This was regarding Chalet Holiday and was for people who wouldn't normally have a holiday.
- vi) Bag Packing on 4/4/15 was to be done at Waitrose – volunteers from the three charities (Cube, Bower House and Street Pastors) was required to raise funds.
- vii) A Local Charities Day' was to be held on 15th May at Waitrose - details to follow shortly.

JS closed the meeting with