

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH
FORUM
HELD 23rd SEPTEMBER 2015.

PRESENT. Sue MacDonald. Jill Mann. Jeannie Brightwell. Maureen Douglas. John Pearce. Mike Bowers. Rev. Nick Cook. Sylvia Saunders. Keith Rugg. Dave Tomlin. Margaret Nash. Mel stride. Susan Hammond. Jeff Bonser. David Palmer. Gordon Temple. Pat. Barry Osborne. Clare Kennard. Brian Kennard. John Farnsworth. Jo Farnsworth. Mary Daniels. Christine Hodgson. Sandra Ward. Rev. James Shakespeare.

APOLOGIES

1. JS opened and welcomed all to the Forum especially our speaker Margaret Nash of the Jubilee Food Bank.

2. Opening Prayers led by Gordon Temple

3. JUBILEE FOOD BANK.

A separate paper was circulated. Briefly Margaret Nash talked of the present situation of the Food Bank activities. Up to the end of August 145 referrals. During August, school summer holidays, 42 boxes were made up and delivered to The Cube ready to be collected by families referred by the schools. School Holidays bring an extra strain on family resources as often the children get free school meals. At holiday times more food is needed. Thanks was given to the dedicated team of volunteers (more are needed). Food and money donations are good. If referral request fresh fruit and veg then a £2.50 voucher is given with the food parcel, families £5 voucher. Frutus Fruit and veg shop on the High St. MH is where the vouchers have to be spent.

4. Minutes of AGM and Forum held on 12th May 2015 -agreed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING from the minutes.- The Peace Vigil will be on 8th January in The Square MH. It is hoped that more people will attend than on previous years.

CHRISTIAN AID. A paper was distributed at the meeting. The new system, put into place this year, enabled volunteers (via individual Church Facilitators) to be able to sign up for roads where they were happy to collect from. As a result of this new system collection total increased by £2000 in 2015. An excellent result!

Rose Williams thanked everyone who helped.

7. HARBOROUGH BY THE SEA. Very successful. Positive feedback. Harborough Council were thanked for their involvement in this. Sponsored by Jarvis Business.

The Ch. Tog Sunday Service went well. Many people there. Food, activities and hot sunshine. It is hoped that next year more Churches can get involved on the Sunday. Songs of Praise well attended, positive feedback

8. HOLIDAYS AT HOME. Reaches out to the over 60's to provide something of quality for a week in August. It is well attended. Lots of activities, a hot meal and a trip. Dates of meetings to follow. Next Planning Meeting 7th Dec.

Thanks given to Brian Kennard for his hard work in this, he has now stepped down. There is now a new team. Various suggestions for sponsorship. Next year

it will be 8-12th August. A volunteer (s) from each Church needed on the Planning Group + 5 refreshment teams, one for each day.

9. ARTS FRESCO- Great success

10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON-27/11/2015 at 6pm. From 4-7pm Carol Singing. There will be a stage set up in the Square. A procession of school children holding lanterns that they have made will make their way to the square, climb onto the stage , turn on their lanterns (LED) and sing carols. There will be a screen and projector.Ch.Tog Stewards needed on the night.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE- last year this was excellent. Some Churches were open. Some had displays, mulled wine and mince pies, singing. Ch Tog want to see more Churches involved.Publicise . Do something creative. This is a great opportunity to get involved. Posters will be displayed around and about. Harb Mail , Harb FM. Great publicity.

SING CHRISTMAS- 21/12/2015. BBC Radio Leicester 7pm-8pm.Song sheets can be downloaded off the web site. Turn on your radio and sing. Pubs/Clubs/ Retirement Homes etc.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY.-17th-25th January 2016.Payers all week at various agencies, venues etc. Sunday Combined Service at St.Dionysius Church Mkt Harb.

[TEA@THREE.-Naseby](#) Square Community Centre, off Stuart Rd.Mkt Harb.- David Palmer Pioneer Minister. We need to relast to Solo People, old and young. On the last Sunday of every month from 27th Sept. Tea,cakes,light entertainment. Aimed at Non Church People. Mainly serving the Southern Estate. Flyers distributed around Churches etc.

HOMELESSNESS- An excellent booklet circulated . Information of many organisations around the Leicester areas that deal with this problem. It was suggested that this info should also be available on the web site.Report compiled by Erica Hall. Thanks to Smile Dental Practice, Northampton Road for there kind £50 donation.

CHURCHES TOGETHER FORUM-significant vacancies coming up at the next AGM. The positions becoming vacant are- Secretary. Publicity Officer. Treasurer. Spread the word and Pray about this.

COSTA COFFEE FREE EXPRESSIONS GROUP- help and ideas needed.

LEAFLET.-James Briggs produced a booklet telling of the work of Ch. Tog. in Harb.-Witness in our town. This should go out to agencies etc.

COMMUNITY OF ANSELM formed Archbishop's Office in London. ECU and International. Community of Prayer - Study-reconciliation.

DATES and VENUES of FUTURE EVENTS-

- 1 Thurs 19/11/15 Venue TBA
- 2 Tues 19/1/16 Venue TBA
- 3 Weds 9/3/16 Venue TBA
- 4 Mon 16/5/16 Venue TBA

Meeting closed with Prayers.