

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

Held on 19th November 2015

Present: Jadz Bower, Mike Bowers, Richard Brand, Deborah Chaloner, Mary Danks, Phillip Danks, Maureen Douglas, Susan Hammond, Stephen Hayward, Andrea Kenny, Jayne Lewis, Sue Macdonald, Owen O'Neill, John Pearse, James Shakespeare, David Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Rose Williams

Apologies: Margaret Bowers, Jeff Bonser, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook, Jo & John Farnsworth, Brian Kennard, Jill Mann, Silvia Saunders, Mel Stride, Alison Tomlin

1. **Welcome** JS welcomed Rev Stephen Hayward & Rev Jayne Lewis to their first CTH Forum. He also announced that Rev Richard Brand will be leaving in January 2016.
2. **Opening Prayers** S.Haywood referred to the recent Paris terrorist attacks. He read 2 Corinthians 4 – For God, who said “Let light shine out of darkness, he made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed.* Prayers were said for the Forum and to set apart treasures and clay. He asked for love to shine brightly within our town and to fill us all with the love of Christ.
3. **Group Talk – Justice & Peace – SPEAKER: Dave Tomlin (Appendix 1)**
4. **MINUTES FROM 23 September 2015** – These were accepted as a true record.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - i) **Homelessness Report** – JS reported that a full report had been done and sent out with the last set of Minutes. Thanks were expressed to Erica Hall for compiling this.
6. **REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS**

JS reported that both the **Baked Alaska** and the **Climate Change (Saving the Planet) Conference** events had been excellent and had been well attended. Edward Garner had sent out e-mails to all attendees. A letter of thank would be sent to Brian Davies for organising the Saving the Planet event.
7. **Future Events**
 - i) **Christmas Lights Switch On – The Square 4 – 7 pm 27/11/15** – Stewards are required for this and RW to send a request for this to all CTH contacts for circulation. MD acknowledged that the Council are contacting us for help and support for various events during the year and it is good that we are responding.
 - ii) **Christmas Fayre – 4 – 9pm 4/12/15** - Individual churches involvement
Sing Christmas Broadcasts - 7 – 8pm Monday 21/12/15
 - iii) **Home Alone Christmas Event – Congregational Church 25/12/15** – Mike Bowers reported that there was enough money for this event with thanks to Waitrose for their

support. There were also enough volunteers and a list of extra willing people if needed. There will hopefully be approximately 100 people attending and a refundable donation of £5 is required for booking. Mike advised that another group of people in the town are being asked to run this for next year. Thanks to the team of Mel & John Stride and Mike & Margaret Bowers.

- iv) **Peace Vigil – 4:30pm – The Square – 8/1/16** – encouraged to attend as a witness to peace within our town. A poster will be circulated regarding this event.
- v) **Week of Christian Unity** – starts 18/1/16 – JS suggested that this week could be like we did last year when a ½ hour would be spent in individual churches across the week. This was agreed to do. Publicity would be circulated nearer the time regarding this.
- vi) **Week of Christian Unity Service - 10:30am - Congregational Church – 24/1/16** – please note change in venue (previously due to be held at St Dionysus Church. This Service will include children rather than being separate like in previous years.
- vii) a) **Lent Lunches - 19th, 26th February, 4th, 11th & 18th March** – the ladies at the Catholic Church agreed to provide food for the lunches. The Methodist Church would be asked if they would host these Services? **Action: Methodists**
- b) **Good Friday - 25/3/16** – JS offered to be responsible for the Worship but a volunteer is required to chair the planning and logistics for the day. It is hoped to have different stalls again and as many of our groups in the town involved with this event. RB added to keep to familiar songs and message for the service and try and ensure that the sound is loud enough to hear on the out-skirts of the gathering of people on the square. The cost of the hire of the bandstand which was used for another event would be looked into. SH asked if the event was bigger than us. Father Owen said that the Good Friday event was a good CTH witness in the town and should continue. RB said that we maybe should look at what is desirable and what is possible and that the worship should be at the heart when planning for 2016. JS added that this whole event needed prayers and would be taken to the next Minister's meeting **ACTION: LEADER required**

The stopping of traffic within our town and other towns would be looked into

ACTION: Rose

8. **Strategic Items:**

- i) **Officers Successors from May:** Sandra Ward Secretary, Rose Williams Treasurer. A new Publicity Officer and Vice-Chair are still being sought.
- ii) **Urgent Matters from Groups:** YB advised that there was to be a Bereavement Course lasting 8 weeks starting in January 2016. Mary Danks advised that Holiday at Home had a box in Waitrose to put tokens into JS – an update for things required from the Foodbank was requested.

9. **Any Other Business**

- i) Children & Families representative (Dan O'Connell) was put forward to join the CTH membership. Phillip Danks proposed and Maureen Douglas Seconded and carried.
- ii) MD reported that Leicestershire Solidarity were due to carry out a delivery to the Calais & Dunkirk refugee camps at the end of November and items had been asked for.

10. Date of the Next Meeting Thursday 21st January – Methodist Lounge at 7:15pm

11. **Prayers**

JS read from Isaiah 2.1-5 and followed this with the Anglican prayer for Peace.