

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

Held on 21st January 2016

Present: Jeff Bonser, Jadz Bower, Mike Bowers, Arthur Burgess, Deborah Chaloner, Mary Danks, Donald Clinton-Smith, Phillip Danks, Maureen Douglas, Stephen Haward, Brian Kennard, Clare Kennard, Andrea Kenney, Jill Mann, Dawn O'Connell, Barry Osborne, John Pearse, Andrew, Quigley, David Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Rose Williams

Apologies: Margaret Bowers, Susan Hammond, Jeannie Brightwell, Rev O'Neill, Keith Rugg, Sylvia Saunders, James Shakespeare, Mel Stride, Alison Tomlin

1. **Welcome** MD welcomed all and thanked the Methodist Church for hosting this evenings Forum and for the refreshments.
2. **Opening Prayers** B.Kennard referred to the 'Week of Christian Unity'. Psalm 133:1 reads 'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!' He then referred to Matthew 20:23-24. He stated that we need to focus on what Jesus wants and not what our individual churches want? He continued with prayers for Christian Unity.
3. **Speaker: Brian Davies - Saving the Planet (Appendix 1)**
4. **MINUTES FROM 19th November 2015** – These were accepted as a true record with a small amendment to Don O'Connell's name under 9(i) in Any Other Business.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
To be discussed later in the Forum
6. **REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS**
 - i) **Christmas Lights Switch On (27/11/15)** – JB reported that this was organised by HD Council and sponsored by M.H Building Society, HFM and CTH. Thanks were extended to the Methodist Church for the organisation of the Lantern Parade. Thanks for all the help with stewarding and the distribution of the carols booklet where 200 – 300 were given out.
 - ii) **Christmas Fayre (4/12)** - The town council had produced a flyer inviting churches to be involved separately for this event. MD thanked JB for his continued commitment and his work with the council to build up relationships with CTH.
 - iii) MB reported on the Home Alone event on Christmas Day saying that it had been tremendous success with 92 people attending - 60 guests and 32 helpers. Thanks were also extended to Mel & John Stride for their help. Waitrose had provided food, etc. and the Congregational Church was thanked for providing their premises to host this event. He reported that this will happen again next year but a new committee has been formed who were eager to continue. MB gave out cheque donations to The Cube, The Bower House, Street Pastors and Holiday at Home. MB extended thanks to the committee for the past 3 years for their hard work and special thanks for Mike & Margaret Bowers for initiating this.
 - iv) Week of Christian Unity – a reminder to people that this started on 18th January with prayers in various churches across the week – this had been published elsewhere.

- v) **Peace Vigil (8/1/16)** - DT reported that over 30- people had turned up and that the banner had worked as a visual aid to let people know what was happening and a few people had joined in. Prayer cards had been given out. JP said that reminders had been circulated through the Secretary and he had put out a reminder shortly beforehand. MD reminded people to pray for the world, the community and our local churches. DT was thanked for all his work within the Justice & Peace Group.

7. FUTURE EVENTS

- i) **Christian Unity Service (24/1/16)** – to be held at the Congregational Church at 6pm which will be led by Rev Steve Haward and to include children's activities and also a farewell to Richard Brand who was also thanked for his contribution to CTH since being in the town.
- ii) **Women's World Day of Prayer (4/3/16)** - RW reported that this Service would be held at St Dionysius Church at 4pm. Although this was called WWDP RW stressed that the Service itself is written by women but **ALL** are invited to attend. The timing this year had specifically been changed to invite families with children along as the theme was "Receive Children, Receive Me"
- iii) **Lent Services (19th, 26th February and 4th, 11th & 18th March)** - all these services will be held at the Methodist Church with the theme of "Faith in Action". JP was coordinating this and he thanked the Catholics for arranging lunches. MD thanked JP for his work and for the lay people who will lead these from across the various churches.
- iv) **Good Friday (25/3/16)** - JB reported **(APPENDIX 2)**

8. Any Other Business

- i) **Jadz B** thanked all the support from CTH for the Bower House. She reported that there was to be a fund-raising coffee morning that Saturday. There is to be a new Bereavement Group starting and support volunteer workers are needed to meet and great members of this group.
- ii) BO reported that the Holiday at Home team was growing but not all the churches had reps within this group. Thanks was also extended to CTH and Waitrose for their gifts. BO advised that it had been decided not to have a winter event but the next event would be 8 - 12th August. A new way of encouraging people to come would be via the HFM first.
- iii) GM asked for help to promote the Holiday Scheme for families who don't normally get an annual holiday. RW asked for publications for this so it can be circulated with CTH. Also gave out a leaflet from Joan's Coach Outings.
- iv) DC advised that the local Mental Health Service in the town could possibly be closing and asked for prayers as people who need to travel to Wigston if this happened.
- v) A leaflet in aid of BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL was distributed. OLD FRIENDS Evening at the Methodist Church – Saturday 5th March at 7:30pm

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th March at St Nicholas Church at 7:15 pm

10. Prayers

MD closed the meeting with prayer and was thanked for stepping in as Chair for the evening.