

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

Held on 9th March 2016

Present: Linda Begley, Jadz Bower, James Briggs, Jeannie Brightwell, Deborah Chaloner, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook, Mary Daniels, Mary Danks, Phillip Danks, Maureen Douglas, Susan Hammond, Brian Kennard, Jayne Lewis, Sue Macdonald, John Pearse, Richard Pickering, Andrew Quigley, Keith Rugg, James Shakespeare, Mel Stride, David Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Brian Wilde, Rose Williams

Apologies: Stephen Haward, Lindy Kendell, Clare Kennard, Jill Mann, Dawn O'Connell, Owen O'Neill, Alison Tomlin

1. **WELCOME:** James Shakespeare welcomed all to the Forum and thanked St Nicholas Church for hosting and the refreshments.
2. **WORSHIP:** Andrew Quigley opened the worship time with reference to the lent and a time of quietness and grace for people who suffer throughout the world with shortages of water. Prayers were said to end the suffering. This was followed by the Lord's Prayer.

3. **REPORTS:** Christian Aid – Richard Pickering
Bower House - Jadz Bower

APPENDIX 1
APPENDIX 2

James Shakespeare prayed for both the two areas.

4. **MINUTES OF FORUM HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2016** These were signed with an amendment to 'Future Events' 7 (I) This should read 10:30 and not 6pm.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES** There were no Matters Arising other than those to be reported upon later in the Forum.
7. **REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS:**
 - i) **Saving the Planet** - Andrew Quigley gave a report. There were representation from all Churches now within the town. The Eco Church Award is on line with different ratings (bronze, silver and gold) for different levels of involvement. There is to be an event in Leicester (to be advertised separately) on Thursday 24th June where there will be 150 places available. He reported that there is also to be an event at the Baptist Church on 15th April where there will be representation from the Council and also Edward Garnier will be available for questions. He encouraged people to attend this.
 - ii) **Bopal Funding** - Dave Tomlin reported that the event had raised £850 and he gave thanks for all who had supported this.
 - iii) **Budget** - Sue Macdonald issued a copy of the Budget for 2016/17 prior to the Forum. John Pearse asked about the accommodation for homeless people within the spends. James Shakespeare advised that this had been for discreet accommodation for a homeless person who the Street Pastors had come into contact with. A suggestion for £350 to be allocated to Holiday at Home out of the CTH funds. The Budget was approved unanimously. James thanked Sue for compilation of the budget.
 - iv) **Week for Christian Unity** - James Shakespeare recorded thanks for the Service at the Congregational Church and also for the individual prayer days which had been held during the week.
 - v) **Women's World Day of Prayer** - Rose Williams reported that there had been a good attendance for this Service. The theme had been 'Receive Children, Receive Me' which had been prepared by Cuban women. The offering had raised £170. Rose thanked the Committee and others who had been involved on the day.

7. FUTURE EVENTS

- i) **Lent Services & Lunches** – The Services are to be held at the Methodist Church with lunches provided by the Catholic Church. John Pearse reported that there had been approximately 70 each week. James thanked John for organising these services and to the Methodist & Catholic teams for facilitating.
- ii) **Easter Assemblies** - Nick Cook reported that there is to be Easter themed assemblies in four schools in Harborough for Key Stage 2. He asked for volunteers to read the meditation to the children in the schools on Wednesday 16th, Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th March.
- iii) **Good Friday Planning** – James asked for more volunteers for this event and reported that the Walk of Witness would start from the Welland Park Cafe at 10:45. The Open Air Service would start at 11:15. There will be gazebos for various groups. More publicity regarding further planning would follow.
- iv) **Christian Aid Service** – James advised that there would be a Commissioning Service held at St Hughes Church on Sunday 15th May at 6pm. Rose reported that all CA representatives had been approached for this years collections. A 'street database' had again been set up for collectors to sign up to specific streets but this was not compulsory and streets can be chosen by speaking with individual churches CA reps to do this and it was encouraged for the CTH reps to speak with them.
- v) **Cinnamon Project** - Sandra Ward asked about this which had been raised in a past Forum. Brian Kennard reported that this had been launched to access small grants for church related projects. Nick added that this was a social outreach and there was help available.
- vi) **Mission Shaped Ministry Course** – Brian Kennard asked if he could invite two speakers to the AGM to present a Mission Shaped Ministry Course. This was to encourage 20/30 people to attend a meet up at Costa (space already provided). This was agreed.
- vii) **Ecumenical Youth Group** – Nick Cook reported that this new group was to start on Sunday 20th March at 18:45 in Great Bowden. This is to encourage 14 – 18 year olds to attend. Volunteers are requested from all churches.
- viii) **Publicity Officer** – James asked for prayers as this post is still to be filled.
- ix) **Homelessness** – James Shakespeare reported that Erica Hall had produced a report regarding homelessness and that the Jubilee Foodbank had referrals from under 18 year olds. He felt that both these issues had not been fully dealt with so would add to the agenda at a later Forum. Sandra Ward asked why under 18s were considered to be homeless? James advised that a lot of these were 'Sofa Surfers' (stay at friends) but are still considered homeless so they still will get help from agencies. Jeannie Brightwell advised that if the Street Pastors find anybody who is homeless there are limitations as to what help can be provided. Keith Rugg asked whether the clergy discussed the homelessness within the town separately at all as it wasn't on the CTH agenda that often. James advised that this was discussed but due to these being isolated incidences then this information is communicated around the churches as quickly as possible and dealt with. It was reported that poverty is higher than what is actually thought in Harborough and the issue is constantly being worked upon. Brian Kennard asked if Street Pastors come across someone who is homeless then who do they refer them to? James asked Brian to ask his son to scan information onto the CTH website regarding the work of Street Pastors.

8. Any Other Business - None

9. Date & Venue of Future Forums:

Monday 16th May 2016 at Lady of Victories Catholic Church (Octagonal Hall)

10. Closing Prayers

James Shakespeare closed in prayer followed by the grace.