

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: James Briggs, Gary Brown, Deborah Chaloner, Rev. Nick Cook, Maureen Douglas, Trish Gibbard, Stephen Haward, Andrea Kenney, Patricia Kneale-Buxton, Philippa Oliva-Dee, Father Owen O'Neill, Rev. Colin John, John Pearse, Keith Rugg, Sandy Ward, Rose Williams, Angela Zemlak, Ady White, Brian Wilde, Susan Hammond, Paul Cooper, Jill Cooper, Jeff Bonser, Sylvia Saunders.

Apologies: Mary and Phillip Danks, Donald Clinton-Smith, Jill Mann, Rev. Andy Murphy
Rev. James Shakespeare, Mel Stride, Alison Tomlin, Jeannie Brightwell.

Welcome: Maureen Douglas welcomed all and thanked the Evangelical Church for hosting this evening Forum and for providing the refreshments.

Opening Prayers were led by James Briggs.

1. Review of Past Events

1.1. Christian Aid Week (Rose Williams)

There are 3 additional villages on our collection areas - Gaulby, Misterton and Great Easton. The overall results are good. The computerised system seems to be working well. Rose Williams thanked everyone involved in Street Collections, Big Breakfast and the Sponsored Walk to raise money for Christian Aid.

1.2. Harborough by the Sea

August 30th/31st in the Square and Memorial Gardens.

Organised by HDC. Thanks to Helen Nicholls.

Churches Together were involved: Jeff Bonser and Maureen Douglas met with Helen Nicholls to plan this event. The staging was excellent. Good crowd of people gathered for the Sunday Morning CTH Service Led by Rev. Brian Kennard. After the service singing was led by Rev. Nick Cook and 'helpers'. Messy Church and cream teas by M.U. in the afternoon. There was also a Prayer Tent.

1.3. Holidays at Home (Keith Rugg)

Thanks were given to the previous Team for all their hard work in making this event possible. During the week approx. 50 people attended each day. An outing to Lichfield was also arranged. This is a very popular event in our town. Thanks were given for Waitrose, CTH, and Christmas Meals for their support. The account is now in credit!

Advertising this year went out to residential areas before the Churches. It is aimed at 55yrs+. Each day there is an activity: local talents, crafts etc. taught all free of charge.

Thanks to Barry Osbourne and Keith Rugg.

1.4. Contributions from HDC (Helen Nicholls)

There is a good relationship with HDC and CTH. The first event to be organised was the Sunday Service at Harborough by the Sea a few years back. It worked really well. Thanks to John Pearse, Jeff Bonser and Barry Badger of HFM. The staging is excellent.

The Christmas Lights Switch on with the Lantern Parade will happen again this year. Lantern making 5/12/19th November. We work together for this town. The support given by HDC to CTH is excellent. The Town Events Meetings with Helen, CTH Reps + some others meet every couple of months to listen to suggestions, any group that needs help, GAP.

The Public Services are pressurised. Vulnerable people are a concern in our community. HDC have begun to recognise that volunteers, in many areas, are a good thing and a good help. They are to be thanked and encouraged in what they do. There is often a lack of volunteers. This year Harborough by the Sea had to be scaled down due to lack of volunteers. Thanks given to the Harborough in Bloom staff and volunteers for the excellent work they do.

1.5. Cinnamon Network (Nick Amis)

There are 30 church projects based nationally on the Cinnamon books. Support of £2000 grants for church projects available. They offer projects that have been tried and tested that are easy to replicate in context. Volunteer Leaders Training Courses countrywide, volunteers feel confident and supported.

All grants need to be 'match funded' either in cash or kind. Church Based projects supported, 4 categories:

1. Creating safe places for children and young people; 2. Supporting safer stronger families; 3. Building safer stronger communities; 4. Fighting poverty.

Cinnamon is making it as easy as possible for local Churches to serve these people most in need in their communities.

They encourage us to be bold, step in and be involved.

Booklets to take away.

Thanks given to Nick for coming to speak at The Forum.

1.6. Bower House (Trish Gibbard and Philippa Oliver-Dee)

Trish Gibbard and Philippa Oliver-Dee are the new Co-ordinators at Bower House Christian Counselling Services.

Last week's AGM was excellent - well attended and a presentation given to Jadz Bower and Christine Hodgson at their stepping down from duties at BH.

BH is growing – 40 counsellors and 50 support workers. Clients came from villages around MH as well as the town areas. There are waiting lists for people to be seen.

Training courses being looked at. A warm welcome is very important to clients. More support workers needed = 3 hr slots - welcoming clients, making tea, answering the phone.

BH relies on funding. Thanks given to CTH and The Cube for their support.

1.7. Homelessness Group (Rose Williams)

There are different types of homeless people in MH- those passing through, and those resident in MH.

A Sub Committee was set up in May 2016. A procedure is not in place yet - HDC approached to help with this.

Looking for donations. CTH? Winter is fast approaching.

More to report at the November Forum.

1.8. The Cube (Gary Brown)

The Carnival went to The Cube this year. 'Somewhere over Symington' Bands concert. Year 6 having Wednesday PM as a Drop in Centre (40/50 people). More help needed please - now 120 new members.

The Cube was broken into. The town people helped identify the person and someone has been arrested. Nick Cook is stepping down as a Trustee and Treasurer. Thanks given by Maureen Douglas on behalf of The Forum for all the hard work Nick has done. A Treasurer is now needed.

2. Future Events and Notices

2.1. ECCO Church

Saturday 1st October at the Methodist Church 9:30 to 12:30. See posters to hand around.

2.2. Prisons Week-A week of Prayer

9th-15th October.

2.3. Christmas Lights Switch on

Friday 25th November at 4:30-6pm.

Lantern Parade from Welland Park to the Square, walk around the Square with Lanterns, Carol Singing, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, possibly a Gospel Choir from De Montfort University. 12 Stewards needed - see Sandy if you can help.

2.4. Christmas Fair

2nd December. Organised by Juliette Maher.

Scaled down this year - more central with a real Christmas theme; shops - best dressed window prize; 2 groups of carol singers; Santa, reindeer and sleigh near the Old Grammar School.

Churches involved please, doors open as previous years.

The Forum agreed to donate £75 towards the costs of the Christmas Fair.

2.5. The Peace Vigil

6th January at 5- 5:30pm in the Square.

3. AOB

3.1. The Refugee Welcome Group (Andy Murphy)

Several areas, Market Harborough included, will be having 2 Syrian refugee families for the next 5 years. Churches in some areas have set up Welcoming Groups to offer practical and pastoral care - a warm welcome and on-going support. A suggestion was made via the Chair to the District Council to inform them of our intentions and offer our support when the families arrive. This was agreed.

3.2. First Aid Course (Angela Zemlak)

Angela is offering to organise training. The course is free - donation of £15 each. There should be a trained 1st Aider at every event.

E-mail with more information to be sent via The Forum list.

3.3. Fair Trade Town

Meeting 13th October at Methodist Church 7pm.

Donald Clinton-Smith is stepping down as Chairman.

3.4. Mumstop

A group designed for parents and carers of babies and pre-school children with special/ additional needs - leaflets given out.

Thursday morning 10-11:30am at The Cube.

3.5. Welcome

A welcome from the Chair, supported by all, to Rev. Colin John of the Elim Church.

Meeting closed with Prayers and Grace

*Date of next meeting - 14th November - 7:15pm for 7:30pm at St.
Dionysius Church*