

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARKET HARBOUROUGH FORUM

HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2016 @ ST. DIONYSIUS CHURCH

Present: Linda Begley, Jeff Bonser, Donald Clinton-Smith, Moya Cullum, Maureen Douglas, Rev. Stephen Haward, Rev. Jane Lewis, Jill Mann, Rev. Andy Murphy, Dawn O'Connell, Father Owen O'Neill, Rev. Barry Osborne, John Pearce, Keith Rugg, Rev. James Shakespeare, David Tomlin, Sandra Ward, Rose Williams, Angela Zemplak, Brien Wilde.

Apologies: James Briggs, Trish Gibbard, Patricia Kneale-Buxton and Alison Tomlin.

Welcome: Maureen Douglas.

Devotions: Rev. James Shakespeare.

Welcome to Moya Cullum and Rev. Andy Murphy.

1. Previous Minutes

Minutes of The Forum from 22nd September 2016 approved and signed.

Maureen Douglas and HDC would like to know if any Homeless People are seen in Market Harbourough.

2. Refugee Welcome Group

Helen Nichols HDC advised that we will be receiving a refugee family very shortly. Maureen will advise when she is told when they will arrive. A Welcome Group needs to be set up ASAP. There is a small group in Market Harbourough that has been collecting supplies to give to refugees in the camps, Calais etc.

3. Justice and Peace Group

Agreed we should set up a group to welcome the refugees ASAP. Names of volunteers to Maureen. HDC advised that we have agreed to accept 2 families every year for 5 years.

4. Homelessness Group

A small working party has been working on this since May. Thanks, given to John Pearce, Angela Zemplak, Rose Williams, Dilys Frew and Rev. Stephen Haward.

How do we respond to this? Stephen and Rose presented to The Forum an excellent Resources Pack.

What are the Councils obligations and services?

Report given to the meeting needs approval. Copies given out to organisations.

What are we doing for the homeless? Some need immediate help, within the hour.

Where do they present themselves? Churches, Street Pastors. Father Owen has had a few people present themselves.

Please respond to this Paper by 28th November with any problems or issues. ChTog need to approve this.

HDC do have some elements of care. We should be sure that these people are genuine and homeless. We need to be mindful of who they are and where they are going. A last resort they are given a Hotel room for the night. Paid for by ChTog. Mkt Harb. does not want to be a magnet for them because we hand out vouchers etc. Receive the report and establish a small budget, subject to the approval of ChTog an amount of £200? The report was received and approved.

5. Review of Past Events

5.1. ECCO Church

It was held on the 1st October at the Methodist Church. It went well and it was a good event.

5.2. Prisons and Prisoners Week

9th-15th October. Prayers were said across the Churches. There was a good feedback from the Prison Fellowship.

5.3. Fair Trade Town

13th October. There is interest there. A small group are working around the town. Thanks, given to Donald Clinton-Smith for his hard work with the group. A new chairman is needed.

6. Interim Reports

6.1. The Cube (Dawn O'Connell)

The Cube is a safe space for young people The Vision is to 'Thrive' relationships and problems in the world.

Primary Schools -Work over the summer months with the Cube. Over 100 now belong to the Youth Club. Help needed now with this from adults. Admin needs sorting. How do they restructure? More Trustees needed. Every second Sunday there is a group for 9yrs + 7-8.30pm.

Please pray for the Cube. The open Youth Club on Wed and Fri needs volunteers help.

6.2. Justice and Peace

A meeting on 27th Oct discussed the presentation that was given by Sr. Helen. Outreach to travellers. Prayer and Bible Study on line. A group of Travellers went to Rome and met with The Holy Father. Work being done by the Cube with a group of travellers.

Peace Vigil-6th January 2017. 5-5.30pm in The Square. Prayers Cards being produced.

New projects in due course. Food. Poverty. Climate Change. Food Bank, Refugees.

6.3. Credit Union

Sponsored by ChTog. There is a need but not many people are aware of The Credit Union in Mkt Harb. Meet in Methodist Church Youth wing Friday 10-12noon.

6.4. 1st Aid Course

Angela Zemlak apologised for the planned 1st Aid course being cancelled due to not enough applicants. There will be another one offered.

7. Future Events and Notices

7.1. Missing People

The Royal Mail encourage people that have left home to contact families/friends just to say that they are safe and well. Cards to be left in Churches and venues around the town for the missing persons to do this.

Christmas Lights Switch on

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

Everything going to plan. Lantern Parade, EAGA Gospel Choir to perform. Gazebos. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

7.2. Christmas Fayre

2nd December 6-9pm.

Planning well underway. Funds needed.

Best Dressed Shop Window. Raffle. Smaller and more Christmassy.

7.3. Food Bank

Report by Rev. Stephen Haward. The summer months depleted much of the stock. The suggestion that the Harvest Festival Gifts this year be given to the Food Bank was well received by the Churches and schools. The Food Bank shelves have filled up nicely.

Prayers said by Maureen for all of these organisations in our town.

7.4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

15th/22nd January 2017.

Prayer Places. To be arranged by the Ministers. The joint service to be held at St. Dionysius Church 22nd January at 10.45am.

7.5. Lent

Ash Wednesday 1st March 2017.

It has been suggested that instead of the York Course this year could we do something on the ECCO Church topic/ Keep up to date with Judith Devine, Bower House.

7.6. Good Friday

Angela Zemplak will still organise a Working Group this time. A committee is formed from several members from each Church and usually The Chair of ChTog. Maureen agreed to Chair the committee for 2017.

7.7. The Methodist Church

Andy Murphy reported there will be an Art Competition on The Christmas Fayre by the children.

7.8. Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March 2017.

7.9. Home alone for Christmas

Gabrielle needs volunteers to help on the day.

Meeting closed with Prayer given by Maureen Douglas at 9pm

Date of next meetings – Wed 18th January - 7:15pm for 7:30pm - Torch Trust

Mon 20th March - 7:15pm for 7:30pm - Methodist Church