

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARKET HARBOURGH FORUM

HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2017 @ TORCH HOUSE

Present: Linda Begley, Jeannie Brightwell, Deborah Chaloner, Rev. Nick Cook, Rev. Brian Davies, Judith Devine, Maureen Douglas, Dilys Few, Susan Hammond, Rev. Stephen Haward, Colin John, Jill Mann, Fr. Owen O'Neill, John Pearse, Keith Rugg, Sylvia Saunders, Rev. James Shakespeare, Gordon Temple, Rev. David Tomlin, Sandy Ward and Rose Williams.

Apologies: James Briggs, Gary Brown, Moya Callum, Donald Clinton-Smith, Mary Danks, Phillip Danks, Rev. Andy Murphy, Patricia Neale-Buxton, Dawn O'Connell, Rev Barry Osborne, Alison Tomlin and Angela Zemplak.

Welcome: Maureen Douglas.

Devotions: Gordon Temple, CEO Torch Trust

Previous Minutes

Minutes of The Forum from 14th November approved and signed.

Matters Arising from the minutes:

1. Implement Homeless Report. Thanks expressed to Angela Zemplak and Rose Williams.
2. Refugee Welcome Support Group will be discussed at the next Justice and Peace meeting 22/2/17. This will become their project. Not certain if Mkt. Harb will get a Refugee Family yet.

Review of Past Events

Christmas Lights Switch On.

This went very well. Bigger, better and more Lanterns / parade than previous year. Gospel Choir was a huge success. Thanks given to everyone involved. HDC reported that Lantern Making Workshops were well supported, more participants than last year.

Christmas Fair

2nd December 2016. Very successful.

Home Alone at Christmas

Not as well organised as previous years it was organised by The Rotary. It went well on the day but very little evidence of CTH involvement with The Rotary.

Peace Vigil

6th January 2017. Held as usual in The Square. Better placed than other years. 20+ people attended. A very good write up and pictures in the Harborough Mail. David from Justice and Peace suggested maybe a daytime event another year. Saturday a.m. or p.m. More impact? Engage with people more? What does everyone think? Discussion at the next Forum. Thanks given to our Publicity Officer.

Interim Reports

Justice and Peace

Next meeting 2/2/17. Food Bank. Credit Union. Fair Trade. Street Pastors. Bower House now have a waiting list.

The Cube (Dawn O'Connell)

Lots of Projects proposed for the coming year. Gary Brown is resigning at the end of May this year. A new Treasurer is needed. Rev. Stephen Haward has offered to fill this post. Thank you to Stephen for that. Several people including Gary Brown are off sick right now. Where does the future lie for the Cube? It is at a crisis point. Prayers were offered during the meeting for the work of the Cube.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thanks expressed for all our Churches open for Prayer Times this week.

Future Events and Notices

Lent

Begins 01/03/17.

Friday Lunch Time Talks. Short Lay Led Meetings with talks, prayers and hymns. Baptist Church to Host. In the past lunches provided by the ladies from the Catholic Church.

Lent Study Groups. Rev Brian Davies wrote his own theme "Caring for Creation" for a possible Lent Group Course on Climate change and issues surrounding that. This was voted for. Brian will write all the booklets. It was thought that each Church could buy their supply of Booklets then suggest each participant could pay £2 towards the costs of printing? The 5 weeks of Booklets will be ready by 1/3/17. Thanks given to Canon Davies for all his hard work with this.

Woman's World Day of Prayer

03/03/17 at St. Hugh's Church. Theme this year is 'Am I Being Unfair to You'. Service written by the women of the Philippines. Time of Service to be arranged and circulated.

Christian Aid

Briefing meeting 11/3/17. 9.30-11.30am at the Methodist Church.

The Living Rock Church

Applied for Associate Membership to CTH. A 'Yes' by the Forum.

Holiday at Home 2017

14th to 19th August.

Thanks was expressed to Gordon and Pat Temple for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Date of next meetings -

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

Thurs 25th May - 7:15pm for 7:30pm - Congregational Church (AGM)

Meeting closed with Prayer given by Maureen Douglas