

Churches Together in Harborough Chair Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to express my gratitude to the Executive Committee, Ministers and Church Representatives from CTH for all the support and encouragement I have received over the past year.

Looking back over the past 12 months, CTH has continued to support the work of the various groups and organisations that have strong links to CTH: The Bower House, The Cube, Street Pastors, Justice & Peace, and the Foodbank; as well as supporting ecumenical activities, such as Holiday @ Home, Peace Vigil, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent Study Groups & Lunches, Good Friday Service on the Square, and Christian Aid. In recent times CTH has also been invited by Harborough District Council to be involved in Town Events, such as Christmas Lights Switch On in November and Harborough by the Sea in July.

At the last AGM and Forum meeting in May 2016, I asked for a working group to be set up to look into the problem of Homelessness. Initially this was to address the itinerant homeless persons passing through the town. Since then, a Policy and Standard Operating Procedure has been put in place, this was agreed upon by the Forum and distributed to the various Churches and Agencies for implementation. As we discovered, homelessness is a complex issue and one that will need to be reviewed at intervals. My thanks goes to all those who have made contributions to the working group.

During the year, we have welcomed the new minister to the Methodist Church, Rev. Andy Murphy. Andy has brought to our attention at CTH the need to welcome and support Syrian Refugee families when they arrive in the Town. CTH has been in contact with Harborough District Council to let them know we are willing to offer help and support.

We have also welcomed David Lyon Pastor to Living Rock Church as new Associate member to CTH, Colin John- Elim Pentecostal Minister, and at the next Forum meeting in May 2017, Mans Yousuf Pastor of The Fathers House.

More recently, a further warm welcome has been extended from CTH to Barry Hill Team Rector at St. Dionysius, James Pickersgill, Associate Rector and Pep Hill Associate for Evangelism Development at St. Dionysius. The ministers from the various churches in the Town and myself were invited to attend their Licencing Service which was presided over by the Bishop of Leicester.

As we look to the future it is my hope and desire for CTH that we will continue to grow in our love and respect for one another expressed through our times of shared prayer and fellowship and working together in building up the Kingdom of God in our Town, thus helping in answering the prayer of Jesus - "that they may all be one". John 17 v 21

God bless you,

In Christ service,

Maureen