

Harborough Churches Together 2017 AGM

Holiday at Home Report

We held a five-day programme during August 2016. It is aimed at older, retired people and especially any who might not normally get a good holiday. On four of the days the programme ran from the premises of the Methodist Church in Northampton Road. A typical day started with registration with refreshments provided by a team from one of the local churches. This was followed by a choice of activities (usually four) which varied on each day. These are led by volunteers with appropriate knowledge/skills and run for about an hour. After a brief coffee break and a chance to catch up with friends, the second session is an all-together time which might be in the form of a helpful talk, or entertainment. Finally, before providing an excellent two-course lunch, there is a brief "thought for the day", which is the only overt gospel input. On one day we provide an outing, and took people to a major garden Centre and Lichfield Cathedral in 2016.

We were oversubscribed with applications and had to create a waiting list. We charge attendees £6 per day. This does not cover all the costs. We were grateful to get a grant from Waitrose and the transfer from Christmas Alone. This, together with the balance in CTH funds at the start of the year, enabled us to make a small surplus. We have the offer of a further grant from Waitrose for 2017, which will mean we have sufficient funds at present. The 2017 event runs from 14 to 18 August. **Please note bookings will not be taken until 17th July and that announcements in churches should not be before 1st July.**

This excellent programme is an expression of Christian generosity and love towards older people in the community. It is made possible through the work of a team drawn from several – but not all -local churches. We would very much like to ensure that each church in the town is represented. The more on the team, the lighter the load.

Barry Osborne