

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARKET HARBOROUGH FORUM

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*HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 @ FULLNESS OF LIFE CHURCH*

Present: Jeff Bonser, James Chrtakunye, Rev. Brian Davies, Maureen Douglas (chair), Rachel Gledhill, Simon Gledhill, Rev. Stephen Haward, Rev. Pep Hill, Colin John, Theresa Kendrick, Jill Mann, Neil O'Brien MP, Dawn O'Connell, Fr. Owen O'Neill, Wendy Osborne, John Pearse, Rev. James Pickersgill, Barbara Reader, Dave Tomlin, Sandy Ward, Rose Williams, Adele Yousuf, Mans Yousuf, Nathanael Yousuf and Rachel Yousuf.

Apologies: Moya Callum, Dilys Few, Rev. Andy Murphy, Patricia Neale-Buxton, Rev. Barry Osborne, David Palmer, Keith Rugg and Angela Zemplak.

Welcome: Everyone and to our MP Neil O'Brien.

Devotions: Mans Yousef

## Previous Minutes

Previous Minutes: No comments from the Forum. Signed by Maureen Douglas.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. Christian Aid, Rose Williams: Shortfall again in collections this year. Does anyone have any ideas of where we can move forward on this? It's not just about money, it's about commitment.
2. Associate Members and Affiliated Members. Associate Members - no vote. Constitution: a fee to belong to be set by The Forum. Do they wish to be Affiliated Members?

## Review of Past Events

### Harborough by the Sea

Dave Tomlin reported that he had a few problems. Everything went well on the day. Thanks to all who took part - amazing volunteers on the day, a good Team Effort. Could churches arrange to have their services at a different time to the one on the square that day? Everyone needs to function together. Issues need to be raised and taken on board. Date should be in people's diaries. Thanks expressed to Dave for planning and organising the event.

### Holidays at Home

A week of activities for the elderly in our town. Run by Keith Rugg and Barry Osborne. All Churches should be involved, volunteers from each Church. Let's get the young people involved. It is a very successful week.

## Guest Speaker: Rev. Pep Hill - HOPE18

A most interesting and lively talk by Pep. HOPE 2018 is about 'Vision and Commitment'. Let us all take the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ out into the community. Talk about our Faith and how wonderful it is to have Jesus in our life. It is time for Action. We want to welcome thousands of

people into our churches. We need to give people opportunities to respond to Jesus and grow as his disciples.

Pray: Pray and ask God what this vision for growth looks like in your church. Be part of HOPE 2018. With God's help, as we work together in mission. Words and action. This vision can become a reality in every church, every community across the country. Sandy spoke passionately about making this happen. Roy Crowne of HOPE 2018 will be contacted by Sandy and invited to speak to the Forum. This needs to be planned well if we are going to go forward with it. Many positive comments from the floor. We should do it!

## **Interim Reports**

### **The Cube (Dawn O'Connell)**

Pray for the September Training. Recruitment. A new student from the Baptist Church starting soon. Christian presence in local schools.

### **Bower House**

A report given on a separate sheet and read out to The Forum.

### **Food Bank (Margaret Nash)**

July/ August very busy. July figures: total referrals 39. June 50. Number of people 77. June 107. Adults 49. June 67. Under 18's 28. June 40. Total meals based on food supplied per person for 3 meals per day 693. June 963.

### **Street Pastors**

Prayer Support - more needed.

### **Refugees**

Family coming to Mkt Harborough soon. Mary Ann Lund from Market Harborough Helping Refugees (MHHR) spoke on the Community Partnership Scheme. This is separate from the Council Scheme. The scheme is run by the government and supported by groups including Church Response to Refugee and Good Faith Partnership. Could this scheme be run in Harborough supported by local organisations and CTH involvement? This will need a further meeting of the Executive Body to discuss further with Mary Ann Lund.

### **Justice & Peace**

Has agreed to give their support to the Market Harborough Helping Refugees.

## **Future Events and Notices**

### **Prisons Week**

8th to 14th October 17. Leaflets given out with explanations. We must remember those in prison. Theme is Press On.

### **Homelessness**

With the approval of the Forum we have a co-ordinator, Jane White. Meetings and Training Sessions will take place for those people that have volunteered to be their Church first point of call for the Policies and Procedures File, sleeping bags. The carrier bags with food for the needy, supplied by the Food Bank, are kept in each church too.

## **Refugees**

MHHR collects many forms of clothing/ toys/ insect repellent etc. Collection point: St. Dionysius Church. Other churches can also be a collection point. Market Harborough will be getting a Syrian Family this September. We will then get one Syrian family from a refugee camp every year for 5 years.

Letter from Rev Andy Murphy read out about the family we are having. Two adults; 4 children ages: 13 years, 12 years, 9 years and a 6 month old baby.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Venue: Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church. Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 Service 10am.

*Date of next meetings – Mon 20<sup>th</sup> November - 7:15pm for 7:30pm – Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church*

*Meeting closed with Prayer given by Maureen Douglas*