

# Churches Together in Harborough

## FORUM

Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

**Those Present:** Jeff Bonser, Donald Clinton-Smith, Nick Cook, Mary Daniels, Judith Devine, Maureen Douglas, Jo & John Farnsworth, Christine Hodgson, Robert Knapp, Lindy Kendell, Brian Kennard, Sue MacDonald, James Briggs, Suzanne Nockels, Owen O'Neill, John Pearse, Sylvia Saunders, James Shakespeare, John Sparks, John Stride, David Tomlin, Peppy Ulyett, Sandra Ward, Rose Williams, Angela Zmlak,

**Apologies:** Sheila Armstrong, Jadz Bower, Margaret & Mike Bowers, Richard Brand, Deborah Chaloner, Mary & Phillip Danks, Kimberley Ford, Clare Kennard, Keith Nockels, Erica Hall, Wendy Osborne, Andrew Quigley, Keith Rugg, June Sperry, Alison Tomlin

Continued after the AGM - James Shakespeare (as the new Chair)

### 1. Minutes of Forum held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Item 10** to be changed to: Commemorate the Centenary of the start of World War 1.

**Item 12** to be changed to: The Cube project was approximately £50,000 short on funding for future plans.

### 2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

A.Zmlak referred to item 4 regarding Homelessness. She reported that people can self-refer to the Kennedy House in Wigston where they can stay for up to two years.

A.Zmlak referred to item 12(b). £189.30 has been raised from the bag packing at Waitrose which will be divided equally between the three charities (Bower House, Street Pastors and The Cube).

### 3. Review of Lent and Good Friday Events

J.Bonser reported that the events had gone very well with good testimonies with varying subjects throughout. This had also been ecumenically supported. Although it was sad due to the cancellation on the square for Good Friday, the walk through all the churches had been a great success. J.Briggs also reported that 500 cards and hot cross buns, etc. had been distributed on the square regarding the Stations of the Cross within the churches to let people in the town know where and what was happening. B.Kennard thanked N.Cook for organising this.

### 4. a) Pentecost at The Cube, Symington's Recreation Ground (8<sup>th</sup> June afternoon)

N.Cook reported that a global invitation would be sent out as all are invited. This is to be a CTH event for all ages.

### b) CTH Prayer Event at the Cube in June

J.Pearse reported that it had been suggested to do this from 08:00 to 20:00. The Cube Board would be asked for a date and if this is considered to go ahead then the information would be circulated. N.Cook to arrange a prayer event – maybe a prayer and share – TBA.

### c) Harvest - Should there be a CTH Event this Year?

J.Bonser asked us to focus on what was the purpose of this event. It was thought that it was a celebration and thanksgiving of produce. J.Shakespeare to ask Mike & Margaret Bowers if they would like organise this with a view to outreach.

**d) Other - WW1 (4<sup>th</sup> August)**

R.Knapp reported that the Library, Museum and the District Council weren't doing anything to commemorate the start of WW1. Harborough Improvement are doing something on the square on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> August (details to follow. Kibworth Congregational Church are staging a drama. Also J.Shakespeare reported the special events happening, centred on St Dionysius on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August: 7pm act of remembrance at Cottage Hospital (where a list of names of those involved in WW1 is recorded), 7.30pm new memorial plaque unveiled in town's memorial gardens, 7.45pm service at St Dionysius. All welcome. Minor alterations may be needed.

**5. Christian Aid**

R.Williams reported that £85.02 had been donated at the Commissioning Service on 11<sup>th</sup> May and £275 had been donated from the Hunger Lunches on Good Friday. Discussion was held on whether to computerise the allocated of streets for each church. This was agreed upon as potentially the way forward for this and would be worked upon for next years collections. An apology was made to the Congregational Church for the confusion this year with not obtaining the necessary license for the street collection.

**6. Hope 2014 - Churches Together in Harborough Leaflet**

J. Briggs issued the leaflet 'Is The Church Relevant Today?' After discussion this was agreed that it was a good publication and it was accepted the the Forum to order and circulate within the town which should be ready by the end of June 2014. S.McDonald advised that the budget for this was already in place. J.Shakespeare reported that the idea regarding issuing this leaflet had come from the speaker from Hope in September 2013. Thanks were expressed to J.Briggs for the production of this leaflet.

**7. Any Other Business**

- i) S.McDonald reported that she had received an e-mail from Richard Lowellyn from Justice & Peace regarding Tent of Nations in Bethlehem. Properties were being bulldozed down and prayers were being asked for this area.
- ii) J.Shakespeare passed a message on from Father Owen to be vigilant and mindful as people were stealing items from churches.
- iii) R.Knapp asked if it would be possible for the CTH to donate a token amount of money to help fund the Muslims who meet in the town. After discussion this was decided against, although it was pointed out that individuals could do this.
- iv) Expressions of thanks were extended to Suzanne Nockels for all the years of service in the town. A signed card was presented to her and Best Wishes were given to her and her family as she leaves to start a new placement in Sheffield. Suzanne thanked the Forum and asked for prayers for the Congregational Church during the interregnum.

**8. Date & Venue of Next Forum**

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7:15 pm - Venue: St Nicholas, Little Bowden

**9. Closing Prayers**

James said prayers for the continued hard work which was being done in Market Harborough, for Suzanne and her family as they leave the town, for the Cube and the Pentecost event in June, for all the churches in the town and for the Forum. The Forum closed by sharing the Grace.