

Churches Together in Harborough
MINUTES OF THE FORUM MEETING
Thursday 10 January 2019 at 7.15 for 7.30pm
at Congregational Church

Attendees:

Rev Stephen Haward, Angela Zemlak, Rev Andy Giles, Dawn O'Connell, Lin Ball, Jeff Bonser, Keith Rugg, Jane White, Rose Williams, Janet Smith, Di Evans, Marie Hill, Rev Barry Hill, Rev Andy Murphy, John Pearse, Maureen Douglas

Welcome

Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Devotions

Rev Stephen Haward

Stephen read from 1 Corinthians 1 v 10 – 17

Stephen reflected on the rivalry between different factions; ie Greeks and Romans, and those who believed in Christ but followed different leaders; using the comparison to rivalry in today's world eg football. He asked the meeting to think on the statements 'was it Paul who died' and 'is Christ divided'.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted on the attendance sheet and a record will be kept

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, 12 November 2018, were accepted by the meeting and signed by Stephen

3 Matters Arising

a) Lent lunchtime services - sign-up sheet

Janet had produced a sign-up sheet showing six dates from 8 March to 12 April inclusive. All services will be lay led in the Sanctuary at the Congregational Church from 12.30 pm to 12.50 pm. Lunch will be provided by a joint team from Our Lady of Victories and the Congregational Church.

b) Advance dates

Following on from the request that future Forum meeting dates be provided so that Churches can plan to attend, the Executive had set dates up to and including the 2020 AGM

4 Recent Events

a) Harborough Christmas Fayre

Stephen and Jeff had attended the planning meeting with HDC and CTH were actively welcomed.

Jeff reported that 250 children had taken part (with their families) in the Frozen trail through Manor Walk in conjunction with the traders. HOPE magazines were given away, craft activities for children including making their own snowman took place in the New Horizons Cafe. Conversations were very encouraging with many people using the prayer tree. Stephen reported that despite preparation concerns the Cribarama was well received.

Barry reported that St Dionysius had between 2000 and 3000 visitors and St Nicholas' prayer event earlier in December had more non-church visitors than ever with many lighting a candle and asking for prayer.

Stephen mentioned that CT England had asked churches to follow on from the Remembrance 100th Anniversary with looking beyond and looking forward and making an ongoing season of remembrance.

5 Reports

a) Report from the Executive

Following the last meeting and the report issued with the minutes to this meeting there had been no nominations for the two remaining posts on the Executive. As a result the three members of the Executive could not guarantee to cover the following areas:

- Production and distribution of What's On
- Booking of outside speakers for Forum meetings
- Publicising activities and events

During a good discussion, the following points / suggestions were mentioned:

- i. Not everyone understands what CTH do and how marvellous it is to be part of the Forum and the work
- ii. Inviting people to join should be the responsibility of the Churches not the Executive
- iii. Thanks were given to the Executive for their ongoing work
- iv. Should consider ensuring the 'job description' for a Forum Rep is less about attending meetings and more about sharing and working together
- v. The Forum need to encourage others to come to the Forum meetings before asking people to join the Executive. Personal invitations are very important
- vi. The churches are doing more outreach themselves so getting volunteers for working together is harder despite ministers and quite a lot of lay being keen to do activities as one
- vii. Should consider using the United Service to get the message across

b) Organisation reports

The CUBE

Dawn reported that since the last meeting they now have funding to appoint a full-time Youth Worker. She asked the churches use their contacts and networks to identify those who might be able to advertise this job and to let Dawn know.

Bower House

Maureen reported the continuing need for Support Workers who are a valuable asset in welcoming visitors and providing refreshments.

ECO team

Lin reported that several churches were working on ECO projects but there was also a CTH Eco team who are working on information sharing events, influencing opinion the community. They have been well supported and encouraged by HDC, who have masterminded and provided promotional material for the next event as well as provided a £500 grant for the Plastic Pledge event.

On 25 January 2019 from 11 am to 4 pm there will an event at the Market with four stalls combined as one big ECO stall. The stall is being decorated by school children and it will be an opportunity to talk about single-use plastic and asking people to sign the Plastic Pledge. The promotion will continue for several months; the HDC are producing 1000s of leaflets and

St Dionysius and the Market will have places for people to submit their pledges. This is an unashamedly CTH therefore Christian ECO event but with very good support from HDC. There are a lot of other issues but the ECO team felt called to go with Plastics at this time.

Street Pastors

Marie asked members to support the SP Coffee Morning at the Harborough Theatre on Saturday 2 February 9 am to 12 noon. She asked for help on the day, donations of cakes, or coming for coffee or tea.

Another date for the diaries is an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of SP in Market Harborough. An evening service will be held on Friday 13 September 2019 at the Methodist Church when the founder of SPs, Les Isaac will be taking part. All will be welcome.

Homeless

Jane reported that since May 2018 there had been 35 referrals, with 54 since August 2017 but only 18 sets of paperwork. The CTH finances are underwriting the cost of the vouchers and are currently £60 over budget.

Jane asked that daytime requests for help should be directed the Foodbank as they have funds to help. The Bower House and St Dionysius hand out the majority of vouchers. The food parcels available alongside the vouchers are being used and there are now supplies of toiletries.

It was agreed that we should consider some small fund-raising events and possibly consider a share in the United Service collection. It was also agreed that the Executive allocate the charities to receive a share but concern was expressed that some charities were relying on income from this source.

6 Coming Events

a) Peace Vigil – Friday 11 January at 5.00 pm on the Square

This is a time of silent prayer for peace. All are welcome; bringing a candle / torch. Harborough Mail takes photographs.

b) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Stephen thanked the churches for offering to host the Prayer events which will be from 12 noon to 12.30 pm.

Monday	14	Community Church, praying for Foodbank and poverty issues
Tuesday	15	Baptist Church, praying for Justice and Peace
Wednesday	16	St Nicholas Church, Little Bowden, praying for Street Pastors
Thursday	17	Methodist Church, praying for The CUBE / youth
Friday	18	Our Lady of Victories, praying for the Bower House

The Sunday service of Christian Unity will be at the Baptist Church from 10 am for no more than an hour. It will be an all-age service but a crèche will be available but parents are asked to go out with their babies / toddlers.

c) World Day of Prayer – Friday 1 March at 2.00 pm at the Baptist Church

Rose is hosting a planning meeting at her house on Saturday 19 January from 10.30 am. Anyone who would like to be part of the planning is welcome to join the team.

d) Lent Study Groups

After a discussion, it was agreed that Rose would distribute a form prepared by Di, asking everyone who wants to take part to reply by the end of February. The form will allow for people to offer to host, lead or provide transport. Accompanying notes would encourage people to lead as the materials provide all the information needed.

Di will order the materials based on numbers of attendees and number of groups.

e) Lent Lunchtime Services

See Matters Arising (3a).

Theme will be Mark 1 v 15: "The time has come" he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

f) Good Friday planning meetings – 28 January, 18 March

Barry Hill reported that several people had agreed to join the planning team and two meetings had been arranged; the first being to calibrate ideas and review last year; the second being the actual planning. Others were welcome to join the team.

As with last year, it is planned that it would be an event and not a service, and would be focussed on non-church people but needed Church members to attend to provide opportunities for conversations with others.

7 Proposed advance dates for Forum

The attendees offered venues for the date:

Thursday	23 May, including AGM	one of the Anglican Churches
Monday	2 September 2109	Baptist Church
Thursday	14 November 2019	Methodist Church
Thursday	9 January 2020	Congregational Church
Monday	2 March 2020	Our Lady of Victories
Monday	18 May 2020, including AGM	tba

8 Any other business

Holiday at Home

Keith reported that the next event will be held the second week in August but with Barry Osborne having pressures and Keith intending to step down, it needs the Ministers Fellowship for decide on how to move forward, and in needs new people to take a leadership role.

Keith mentioned that the event is usually over five days, 9/9.15 am until after lunch which is provided. Morning includes craft and activity events with usually five options to choose from. Local businesses have also provided good support.

It is aimed as outreach for people within the town and last year it was advertised to the town before to the churches.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Last year the event at the Methodist Church was well attended but this year 27 January 2019 is a Sunday. Andy asked that the individual churches include this date in their services. 2020 will be a Monday so maybe CTH could consider a joint event.

9 Date of next meeting

Monday 11 March 2019, at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church

The meeting finished with the Grace.