

Churches Together in Harborough (CTH)
Forum Meeting, 24th November 2022,
7.15pm (refreshments) for 7.30pm start
at St. Nicholas Church, Little Bowden



CTH is part of *Churches Together in England*, and has the following objectives:

- To be a visible sign of the churches' commitment to one another.
- To facilitate common witness to Christ.
- To respond to the needs of the community in shared service and outreach where this is possible.

Chair's note: CTH is made up of member and associate churches and organisations. Member churches should have nominated representatives, according to our constitution. We also welcome members of all local churches and Christian organisations, whether or not they are reps, so that they can hear and be part of the ecumenical work of Market Harborough. However, only recognised church leaders and representatives of member churches present at the meeting are entitled to vote.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Opening Devotions
3. Guest Speaker: Mary Ann Lund – helping refugees
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Financial update
6. Matters Arising:
 - a. Revisiting plans for Good Friday act of witness on the Square (7 Apr 2023)
 - b. Action for Justice & Peace group – *no further news at this time*;
 - c. Social action / mission on the streets – *no ideas have been suggested at the time of writing*;
 - d. Jubilee Foodbank – *update if available*;
 - e. Cost of living crisis – communicating and co-ordinating our efforts;
7. Developing the Website – see **NOTE A**
8. Communications – *nothing new to report*
9. Making sure our list of reps is up to date
10. Any news from churches or associated organisations?
11. Future Events:
 - a. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: - see **NOTE B**
 - b. Lent 2023 – see **NOTE C**
12. Date of next meetings (venues to be confirmed):
 - a. Thursday 2nd February 2023
 - b. Monday 22nd May 2023 (AGM)
 - c. Thursday 14th September 2023
 - d. Monday 27th November 2023
13. Any other business
14. Closing prayer

NOTES:

A) CTH Website

Some observations (feel free to disagree):

- certain things seem out of date (e.g. Hothorpe Hall should no longer be listed as an affiliated organisation as it now has no Christian basis);
- links to village churches seem irrelevant when the said churches have little connection with CTH;
- It would be very useful to make a user-friendly directory, with links, of regular things going on through our churches you are happy to publicise, open to the public – in categories such as this:
 - REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
 - CHRISTMAS SERVICES (or other specials at appropriate times of year)
 - WARM SPACES (could include coffee mornings and other regular things)
 - CAFES AND COFFEE MORNINGS
 - TODDLER GROUPS
 - CHILDREN'S WORK
 - YOUTH GROUPS
 - ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
 - FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP
 - ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICULAR GROUPS (e.g. Renew Wellbeing, Ukraine Café, etc)
 - CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND NURTURE (including for young people)
 - SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY (e.g. any services in care homes, etc.)
 - **Some things may happily fall under more than one category.**

This could then be a useful resource for the local council and others to refer people to. Obviously this would require the co-operation of the churches to build this up. Could be evolved over time.

B) Suggested Arrangements for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

- a. **Wed 18th January** – prayer meeting at 7.00pm at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church;
- b. **Friday 20th January** – prayer meeting at 12.30pm at the Congregational Church;
- c. **Sunday 22nd Jan – United service at the Baptist Church at 3.00pm.**
- d. **Tuesday 24th January** – Zoom prayer meeting organised by Harborough Anglican Team at *either* 12.30 or 7.00pm.

C) Suggested Arrangements for Lent 2023:

Soup-and-cake lunches at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, preceded by 30-minute service prepared by the following churches:

- a. **3rd March** – Harborough Anglican Team;
- b. **10th March** – Baptist Church;
- c. **17th March** – Congregational Church;
- d. **24th March** – Harborough Community Church;
- e. **31st March** – Methodist Church.