

Churches Together in Harborough
Minutes of the AGM and the Forum Meeting
on Thursday 23rd May 2019
at 7.15 for 7.30pm at St Nicholas, Little Bowden

Welcome and Opening Devotions

1) AGM Business

Attendees: Rev Stephen Haward, Janet Smith, Keith Rugg, Rev Barry Hill, Andy Giles, Rev Andy Murphy, John Pearse, Maureen Douglas, David Nixon, Father Owen O'Neill, Derek Williams, Sandra (Sandy) Ward, Chris Davies, Dawn O'Connell, Deirdre (Dee) Quinn, Theresa Kendrick, David Nixon, Jill Mann.

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Stephen welcomed everyone, including two new attendees, Dee Quinn and Chris Davies from St Di's and thanked St. Nicholas for hosting the meeting.

Devotions: Rev Barry Hill led devotions following the singing of the hymn, 'To God be the Glory.' Maureen read John 17 v. 20 – 26, part of the High Priestly Prayer and Barry then spoke about what **complete unity** might mean for us as Churches Together, suggesting common strands that have historically linked us as churches and denominations down the centuries. Namely: **theological unity, the lens of prayer, mission, structural unity (community) and relationships.** Barry then led us in prayer.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were noted on the attendance sheet and a record will be kept.

1. a) Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes of the last AGM, held on 24th May 2018, were accepted by the meeting and signed by Stephen.

b.) Reports – the reports received from the various organisations highlighting their work for the year 2018 – 19 were available for reading, and comments were invited. The meeting agreed that there was a great deal to celebrate and give thanks for over the past year. All reports were accepted and received unanimously (proposed by Barry Hill and seconded by Sandy Ward).

c.) Treasurer's Report and Accounts – Rose Williams' Treasurer's Report, the annual accounts to 31st March 2019 and the CTH budget to 31st March 2020 were available at the meeting and briefly presented by Stephen in Rose's absence.

Various comments were made, and questions asked concerning the above **(c)** including:

- A comment that churches in the town did not appear to be doing as much together as they had in the past, however it was acknowledged that much time and energy is put into the effective running of the service organisations/ministries associated with CTH. There are certain times in the year that each church has an opportunity to add to town – focused events with the Christmas Late Night Event and Classic Car Show being cited as cases in point.

- A comment and question about the current £3000 + surplus in the accounts prompted a response from Stephen, that whilst there were no agreed reserves, it was felt by the executive that there needed to be monies available to underwrite events in any given year e.g. The Purple Hulls Event and Good Friday 2020, but that there was no desire to build up a large surplus. The point was also made that with Holiday at Home for example there are expenses that must be met 'up front' – again requiring surplus funds to be available.
 - A question asking if any surplus funds could be put back into the three charities serviced by CTH was confirmed as being possible.
 - An Amendment was noted on **page 3 of the accounts** that the **Baptist Church** rather than the **Methodist Church** had hosted the United Christmas Day service in 2018. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and carried unanimously (Proposed by Maureen Douglas and seconded by Derek Williams.)
- Please Note:** The meeting's attention was drawn to the fact that the examiner had declined to verify and sign off the '**Homeless and Asking for Help Account**' due to the necessary paperwork being incomplete.

Action: Further meticulous accounting is required by those issuing vouchers in future (see also Jane White's report). Rose Williams has set up a new system of duplicating vouchers as they are issued. Currently vouchers are only available through Street Pastors and the Foodbank.

The rest of the CTH accounts were received unanimously by the meeting with one noted amendment (Proposed by Sandy Ward and seconded by Andy Giles).

Budget for next year 2019 – 2020

The budget was available electronically before the meeting.

At the last forum meeting there had been proposals which were now ratified:

1. Not to increase subs for next year.
2. To increase the Good Friday budget from £100 to £500 in order to underwrite plans for the further development of our annual event.

A lengthy discussion initiated by Andy Murphy centred around the questioning of a decision made two years ago at the AGM to remove the inclusion of 'anticipated donations' to CTH's charities from the budget. Andy reiterated that a complete removal of donations from the budget had NOT been his intention and asked why the charities could not be given what was proposed in the budget.

Various proposals offering potential solutions to this issue were suggested including:

- Adjourning the discussion and asking the treasurer to prepare a revised budget, thus delaying the passing of the budget until the next Forum.

- Giving each of the CTH charities £500 and for CTH to underwrite any shortfall (this, however, would be a change of practice).

Proposal: it was proposed by Andy Giles and seconded by Father Owen that the treasurer be instructed by the meeting to prepare a response/report reflecting the desire of the meeting to ensure that our charities are more reliably supported.

All were in favour of this proposal.

The budget was not adopted.

Action: Stephen to talk to Rose about this.

A question concerning Good Friday expenses was answered by Stephen.

d.) Election of Officers

No new nominations had been received for any of the positions where re - election was due, so those named on the agenda were put to the meeting, (see table below). There had been no nominations received for the position of secretary which remains vacant. The meeting was asked to prayerfully consider who could fulfil the role. There is a job role description on the CTH website. Currently, Rose Williams continues to fulfil aspects of the secretary's role.

Position	Name	Appointment
Chair	Rev Stephen Haward	In post for two years
Vice Chair	Janet Smith	In post for two years
Treasurer	Rose Williams	Re-elected
Secretary	Vacant	Position remains vacant
Communications Officer	Derek Williams	Re-elected
Minutes Secretary	Angela Zemlak	Re-elected
Christian Aid Co-ordinator	Rose Williams	Re-elected
Accounts Examiner	K.E. Bentley	Re – appointed (proposed by Stephen Haward and seconded by Andy Giles).

Date of next Annual Meeting was confirmed as being on 18th May 2020 – venue to be decided.

2.) Other Forum Business

a) Minutes of Forum 11th March 2019: Minutes of the last CTH Forum held on 11th March were accepted as a true record of that meeting and signed by Stephen.

b) Matters Arising: 'It's Your Move' booklets - At the last forum, the meeting agreed not to purchase the booklets until the value of CTH purchasing them had been reviewed. However, on further investigation by Stephen, it was established that sessions and the accompanying booklets had already been promised to several schools for this year, therefore, it could not be changed at such short notice.

Action: Stephen ordered the booklets for this year and has asked those using them to review their value and report back to the September Forum. They were available from Stephen at the meeting for distribution.

c) Recent Events: Good Friday 2019 – It was a successful event and feedback has been presented by the planning group, who have had some initial thoughts about next year's event, which will once again be an outreach to the town rather than a traditional service. Barry thanked everyone who had been involved under his direction of the event in its new format over the past two years. Stephen too expressed his thanks to all involved. It was suggested that to communicate on a flyer (or similar) to the community all the town's church services over the Easter weekend would be helpful.

Lent lunchtime services – the services and lunches that followed were well attended. The monies raised from the lunches, some £1360 have been shared between the Catholic Church's Third World Group, the Congregational Church, (this year's hosts), and the remainder across CTH's charities.

Christian Aid Week – activities like the Big Brekkie, a morning service at the Baptist Church alongside the traditional street collections had taken place. It was noted that the CTH evening service of previous years had not really been missed.

Street Pastors – Peter Arnold, co – chair of Street Pastors was welcomed to the meeting. Peter spoke about the approaching 10 - year anniversary of Street Pastors in Market Harborough. There will be a special celebratory service on 13th September at 7.30 at the Methodist Church to which everyone is welcome. Les Isaacs will be present. There is a current need for three more Street Pastors. Anyone is welcome to observe Street Pastors on patrol and to prayerfully consider training. There will soon be a need for a paid administrator (10 hours a week). Further details to follow.

d) Brief Headlines from our organisations: The Bower House – The BH has just celebrated its 20th birthday, for which thanks to God is given. There is a current need for more workers. Counselling work with young people is a new and much needed development. Thanks, were expressed for the ongoing prayer and other support for its work.

The Cube – The Cube is looking forward to welcoming its new Youth Worker.

e) Coming Events: 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer event 30th May – 9th June. Churches hosting events were invited to give Derek the details for inclusion on the CTH website.

f) Any other Business: Attendees - Theresa Kendrick (rep for OLOV) reported that she had been missed off the attendees' sheet for the last Forum Meeting. Will ensure that she is added. Sandy Ward to let Rose know that she is rep for St. Hugh's. Those attendees who were new to the forum were asked to leave their email details.

Distribution of Homeless Vouchers – Andy Murphy was unsure of the present procedure to

distribute vouchers when someone recently presented to him as homeless. There is a current procedure in place. It was suggested that Andy speak to Jane White the administrator of the scheme. Andy Giles spoke to Andy M after the meeting.

g) Date and Venue of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd September, Baptist Church.

Stephen closed the meeting in prayer.