

Churches Together in Harborough

Minutes of the AGM and the Forum Meeting on Thursday 20 May 2021

at 7.00 pm via Zoom

Attendees (23):

Janet Smith; Andy Murphy; Derek Williams; Rose Williams; Angela Zemlak; Keith Rugg; Mandy Gays; James Pickersgill; Andy Giles; Christopher Brown; Maureen Douglas; Peter Arnold; Chris O'Connell; David Nixon; Ceriann Kelly; Barry Hill; Alison Iliffe; Dawn O'Connell; Rob Leveritt; Elizabeth Tubb; Chris Davies; Stephen Haward; Jill Mann

Welcome and Opening Devotions:

Janet welcomed everyone to the AGM.

She led the devotions based on Day 8 of the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer initiative, which is about the fact that 'love is a person' i.e. God: reading a reflection about love and referring to Psalm 149 v 1 – 4 which calls us to praise, sing, rejoice, be glad, to make music because God takes delight in us and crowns the humble with victory.

Janet also spoke about Father Owen O'Neill's passing with words and thoughts from his friends and colleagues. She repeated the story of the mustard seed. Andy then led the meeting in a prayer of thanks for Owen's life, work, and witness.

Apologies for Absence (5):

Dave Tomlin; Liz Mills; Margaret Bonser; Dee Quinn; Theresa Kendrick

1) AGM Business

a) Minutes of AGM Monday 7 September 2020

The minutes had been circulated earlier. They were accepted as a true record and signed by Janet.

b) Reports

Rose was thanked for distributing the reports. There no questions asked. Janet was encouraged by the ongoing work being done during the ongoing situation of the COVID pandemic.

The Treasurer's report and accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions, and the accounts were accepted.

All the reports including the Treasurer's report are available as pdfs.

c) Election of Officers

i. Janet as Chair and Andy M as Vice Chair both have one more year in post, after which Andy M will become Chair. Both were prepared to continue, and the Forum accepted their offers to continue. Prayer was requested for a lay person to become Vice Chair at the 2022 AGM when Janet steps down and Andy M becomes the Chair.

ii. Rose Williams was prepared to continue as Treasurer and was re-elected.

iii. There had been no response to the request for a person to become Secretary. Rose was thanked for covering the bulk of the role, but the Executive cannot be expected to function at full capacity or to maximum effect without a Secretary. Prayer was again requested for someone to step forward.

iv. Derek was prepared to continue as Communications Officer and was re-elected.

v. Angela was prepared to continue as Minutes Secretary but will be stepping down after the 2022 AGM. She was re-elected.

vi. Rose was stepping down as Christian Aid Co-ordinator which was for the whole area around Market Harborough at Christmas. Again, prayer was requested in the search for a replacement.

vii. Katherine Bentley of ET Peirson had agreed to continue as the CTH Accounts Examiner and was re-appointed. Katherine was thanked for her on-going work.

Andy Murphy paid tribute to the lay Executive and other people who volunteer their time to work for CTH and across the region. **The AGM closed with prayer led by Janet**

2) Other Forum Business

a) Minutes of Forum 1st March 2021

The minutes had been circulated previously and were accepted by the meeting and signed by Janet.

b) Matters Arising: It's Your Move booklets

The booklets had been received and taken to the clergy and others for distribution to the Year 6 pupils of all the primary schools. Hopefully, Ministers may be allowed into the schools to distribute in person (Alison has already been invited into Little Bowden School at the end of June).

Ceriann and the Cube youth workers at The Cube were thanked for creating a video which is being distributed. Andy will send video out to the Ministers to see before they go into the schools.

c) Review of Churches Together in Harborough Constitution

Janet explained that a discussion is not to take place now but in Part 12 Review it states that a Review Group should be appointed every 5 years to review the constitution. The Executive are planning this review for the Summer and any volunteers to join this group should let Janet know by 20 June.

The Constitution is not long or over-complicated. It was agreed that the Objectives (Part 2) should be looked at and the question asked, 'are we meeting our objectives?' It was felt that the Objectives should be re-affirmed every time we meet.

d) Recent events: Christian Aid Week – report by Rose

- For the second year there were no Door-to-Door collections. Details had been circulated to all the CA Reps within the Harborough area with suggestions as to what they could do during the pandemic and how to make any donations.
- A Big Brekkie with a difference was arranged by the Congregational Church who, due to the Covid restrictions, decided to box up the breakfast and make deliveries to keep within Covid restrictions and monies were raised via donations, which amounted to over £600. Thanks were given to Sharron and her team.
- The Methodist Church ran a Quiz evening and invited people across the town to join in via zoom. Volunteer donations were asked for joining the event and I understand this went very well.
- Churches had also been asked to raise the awareness of CA Week and ways to donate had been circulated out.
- A report will be given at the September meeting of the amounts which have been raised in the area.

e) Communications

Derek encouraged people to look at the CTH website and asked that information sent out by Rose to the Forum members be forwarded to the church families. It is one of the roles of the Forum Church Reps that they communicate the CTH work to all.

f) Brief Headlines from our organisations

- I. The Cube – Ceriann reported that they had been going into Welland Park Academy to offer grief support to the students following the death of Jim McCann.
- II. The Street Pastors - Peter reported that following the board meeting on Wednesday this week they are re-starting Saturday evening patrols from this weekend. The SP AGM is being held on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at the Methodist Youth Centre from 7.00 pm (time tbc). All are welcome to attend.

g) Coming Events

- i. World Day of Prayer – Rose reported that many had joined an online World Day of Prayer Service on 5 March. The committee are meeting next Tuesday evening to decide, depending upon the Government guidelines, whether we can hold an actual local service on Friday 2 July at Our Lady of Victories. Details will be circulated.
- ii. Thy Kingdom Come – Janet reported that there will be a Service this Sunday (Pentecost) 23 May via the Anglican Zoom. Link details will be on the Anglican Website. A password will be needed which Janet or Alison will provide on request.
- iii. Fairtrade Stall at the Eco Village on St Mary's Road on Saturday 29 May 9.00 am to 4.00 p.m.
- iv. Wave of Hope Action event is being organised in June by the Eco Church group at St Di's to coincide with the G7 Summit on June 11th. Further details of how to support the campaign can be found at <https://crackthecrises.org/wave/>
- v. Jubilee Foodbank are holding their AGM on Tuesday 22 June by Zoom from 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Newsletter is being distributed in the next few days as a pdf.
- vi. The Cube are holding their AGM on Wednesday 7 July. More details to follow and all welcome to attend.

h) Any other Business

There was no other business notified to Janet prior to the meeting.

i) Dates and Venues of Future meetings: see below.

Janet thanked everyone for attending, with special thanks to James for arranging and hosting the meeting on ZOOM.

The meeting closed with Janet leading prayer and the meeting saying the Grace together

List of dates:

Events noted in Minutes:

Thy Kingdom Come	Sunday	23 May 2021	5.00 pm	ZOOM
Fairtrade stall	Saturday	29 May 2021	9.00 am to 4.00 pm	Eco Village
Wave of Hope Action	Friday	11 June 2021	tba	https://crackthecrises.org/wave/
Street Pastor AGM	Wednesday	16 June 2021	7.00 pm tbc	Methodist Youth Centre
Jubilee Foodbank AGM	Tuesday	22 June 2021	7.30 pm	ZOOM
World Day of Prayer	Friday	2 July 2021	date & time tbc	Our Lady of Victories
The Cube AGM	Wednesday	7 July 2021	tba	The Cube

Forum meetings:

	Monday	6 September 2021	7.15 for 7.30 pm	Baptist Church
	Thursday	18 November 2021	7.15 for 7.30 pm	tba
	Monday	10 January 2022	7.15 for 7.30 pm	tba
	Thursday	10 March 2022	7.15 for 7.30 pm	tba
AGM:	Monday	16 May 2022	7.15 for 7.30 pm	tba