

**Churches Together in Cranleigh**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on May 22, 2012 at 8.00pm in the Baptist Church.**

1. **Present:** Robert Isherwood-Crook (R.I-C) (Chair), Canon Nigel Nicholson (N.N.), Fr David Osborne (D.O.), Rev Jonathan Thomas (J.T.), Rev Marie Greenwood (M.G.) Messrs Keith Field (K.F.), Allan Forster (A.F.), Jason Stedman (J.S.), Mesdames Gerry Williams (G.W.), Georgie Hendy (G.H.), Diana Trent (D.T.) and Glenda Sewell (G.S.) (Secretary).
2. **Apologies for absence:** Rev Declan Flanagan, Dr Colin Connolly, Mesdames Sheila Smith, Chris Greenwood, Roz Graham-Smith.
3. **Opening prayers** were offered by M.G.
4. **The minutes** of January 10 were signed as correct.
5. **Matters arising:** Community volunteering event (Item11). There was no further information about this but it was thought that churches (and other groups) already help the elderly and disabled. G.H. mentioned a similar idea she was involved with in Guildford, but it was 'one big blitz', not a regular commitment, though the title of the event was 'Ready for Action': Young people took part in this.
6. **Correspondence:** G.S. had received a letter from Win Bracking thanking CTC for the events of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. (in records).
7. **Treasurer's Report:** D.T. reported a present balance of £514.78. Details of expenditure are in the records. A substantial loss on the film 'The Passion of the Christ' was noted. It was decided however that no further subscriptions from the churches were needed, though these have not been paid since October 2010.
8. **Review of past events:**
  - a) **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** The various meetings in different churches were successful and well-attended, though D.T. did not approve of non-Catholics being barred from taking Mass in the Catholic Church.  
All churches had been open for prayer at some time during the week and many took advantage of this. The young people's 'sleep in' at St Nicolas was undertaken with enthusiasm.  
The planning for the whole week should perhaps be done earlier – in September/October?
  - b) **Vespers at St John's Seminary on March 14** were well-attended and much appreciated by most people, though M.G. thought Brian Treharne's sermon was too much directed at students. Members would like this service to be repeated next year.
  - c) The celebration of the Stations of the Cross, led by N.N. on March 24, was attended almost exclusively by Anglicans, but it was felt more people would come if it were not held on a Saturday. Those who attended felt it worthwhile.
  - d) The open air service on Good Friday morning was very well attended and well received. Staff and students from the Seminary were present, the band, organised by Norman Every, was much appreciated, as was the hospitality given afterwards by the Baptist Church.
  - e) The film shown in the Arts Centre on Good Friday evening (The Passion of the Christ) was not well attended but it was thought a worthwhile thing to have done. No discussion followed, as it seemed inappropriate after a film with such a powerful impact.

(There seemed to be general agreement when D.O. said that no one in Cranleigh could have missed the true meaning of Lent and Easter, as there were so many events happening: however, the publicity should begin earlier, so that more people might be free, and perhaps Saturdays should be generally avoided, particularly because of sports players. On the other hand D.O. felt that when prayer opportunities, for example, are offered someone may come. He hoped however that more people would share the Catholic Easter Saturday Vigil next year. This is open to all.)

9. **Youth Report:** G.H. reported on two items.
  - a) Over fifty 11-18 year olds from the Baptist and CE churches met on March 25 in St Nicolas Church Rooms and enjoyed games, food and a quiz. This was a great success.
  - b) G.H. introduced members to a new initiative 'Open the Book', which aims to bring Bible stories to children in Primary Schools. Church volunteers are needed to become story tellers at school assemblies. There is a three year planned programme of stories prepared by Christian professionals. There is little expense involved for volunteers, but it is hoped financial support may be given by local churches. CTC agreed to support this initiative.
10. **Jubilee**
  - a) There will be a Civic Service at 10.00am in St Nicolas Church. G.S. felt that members of others churches might have been more able to support this, if it had been in the afternoon.
  - b) There will be a village picnic on Snoxhall Fields at lunch-time, when people will bring their own food
11. **Website:** this has been set up by J.T. and R.I-C.. Each church will have its own log in and password and will contribute its own news and future events. The website should be publicised to all congregations and each should have a member responsible for updating the information. J.T. showed the layout to CTC members.
12. **Paper on same-sex marriage:** Dr Connolly will present his paper at a future meeting.
13. **Farewell service for M.G.:** As reported at the last meeting M.G. is leaving the area in August, and her last service will be at the Methodist Church on July 29 at 6.30pm. There will be tea at 5.00pm. It is hoped that as many members as possible from other churches will attend this service.
14. **Any other business:** K.F. announced plans for an Advent Nativity Trail around the village, and distributed a sheet with preliminary ideas (copy in records). Saturday December 8 is a suggested date.
15. **The next meeting** will be on Tuesday October 2 at 8.00pm in the Methodist Church.

Thanks were expressed to the Baptist Church for their hospitality at this meeting

The chairman thanked both M.G. and N.N. for their contributions to CTC and the meeting closed with prayer offered by N.N. and with the Grace shared by everyone.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.