



**Churches Together in Farnham
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 17th October 2006
United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham
Minutes**

1. Rev. Michael Hopkins spoke briefly of the history of the URC Church over the last 150 years and its form of government. He read some verses from Hebrews and prayed.
2. 30 people were present and apologies were received from 16 people.
3. The Chairman read the Minutes of the last AGM meeting (October 2005) and a summary of the Council meeting in July held in the Marindin Hall.
4. There were no matters arising and both sets of Minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
5. REPORTS:-

Chairman - Mr. Roy Graham (report on file)

Treasurer - Mr. Richard Wimbush (report on file) He also added that further expenditure since the end of August Account had been given out. £19 for Website, £68 expenses to the Chaplain of University College of the Creative Arts and £15 for One World Week and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity material.

He would also be asking Churches later for their annual subscription of £15.

University College of the Creative Arts Chaplaincy: - The Chairman reported that Catherine Delve's name had been put forward, but she has since withdrawn. Nick Mills has been proposed and accepted for this post and he gave a short account of his qualifications. He said that he had been involved in many aspects of Church life dealing with Youth and had experience of prison visiting. His heart is to listen to people and he was greatly influenced by Rob Parson's book on The Return of the Prodigals. He wants to present Jesus whenever he can.

The Chairman then offered prayer for Nick and his work in the College.

Bible Society: - Dorothy North (report on file) This was read by Richard Wimbush.

Dates of future events were highlighted the details were 'A Supper evening is being planned at the new Church on the Heath on Friday, March 9th at which the main speaker will be David Landrum, Bible Society's National Parliamentary Officer. He is based at Westminster. This will give an opportunity to see inside one of the most exciting church developments in the area for many years. The Church on the Heath is at the centre of the new and vast Elvetham Heath development to the north of Fleet and is planned to be opened by the end of this year.

The Annual Sponsored Walk for 2007 will be on the morning of Saturday May 12th.

Jubilee Debt Campaign: - Ann Scrase (report on file)

Christian Aid - Sadie Blankley (report on file)

Two dates of future events were highlighted. These were an open meeting at 7.30pm on 30th October at St. Andrew's where Holly Elson will report on Christian Aid's latest campaigns and Carol Singing will be on Saturday 16th December at Sainsbury's, Water Lane.

Farnham Prayer - Ann Edwards

Ann reported that there were many opportunities to meet for prayer in several places in Farnham and was pleased that all these details are soon to be available on the new website www.networkfarnham.org.uk If anyone is not on E.mail she would be pleased to send them details and can be contacted at the The Priests House, Alma Lane, Hale.

FCCT:- - Jane Still. Jane spoke of the Dempster Trust set up 100 years ago to make money available for special events. In the same way FCCT is willing to assist any group whosw members were from more than one Church of any denomination who has a vision or call to do Christian service jointly in a particular area, but needs funds or administrative assistance. She listed many excellent services already given to Schools, the elderly etc. and how people have come forward being prompted to offer help in differing ways as needs arose. Mark Grasdell who currently leads the Youth work is going back to Canada and FCCT are waiting and trusting God to see what He will do now in the Youth work section.

Explore - Libby Craggs (report on file)

6. CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION:

The Chairman asked if those present had copies of the revised 2000 Constitution and Richard Wimbush gave these out where needed together with a copy of the proposed changes.

The Chairman told the meeting that in spite of many requests throughout the year for volunteers to come forward for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman and more people to serve on the Steering committee nobody has been forthcoming. It was therefore necessary to decide whether to close Churches Together in Farnham down completely or to change the Constitution with regards to the frequency of Meetings and also the rules governing the election of officers which would enable Churches Together in Farnham to continue.

There were several questions and comments from the floor after which the following proposals were read.

Replace para ii) a and b by - **Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by the Council for up to three years and be eligible to be re-elected (by the Council) for further terms of office.**

Amend para iii) - last sentence replace 'second term' by 'further terms'

MEETINGS;- replace para i) by - **The Council shall meet at least once a year. This meeting shall be the Annual General Meeting for the election of officers, presentation of accounts and to review the Council's work.**

Amend para iii) replace 'meetings' by 'meeting'

It was unanimously agreed by the meeting to accept these proposals. There were no objections and no abstentions. Thanks were expressed to the Committee for all the work and effort they had given.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following nominations were made:

Chairman, Roy Graham

Secretary Richard Wimbush

Treasurer Andy Marriott

There being no further nominations they were duly elected. The Chairman said he was only willing to continue for one more year only.

8. AOB:

ONE WORLD WEEK: A United Service has been arranged for Sunday October 22nd at St. Joan of Arc Church. The theme this year being 'Mind the Gap'.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: Farnham Vineyard Church have offered to organize this and would like volunteers to help in various capacities as described in a letter and form which has been sent to the Churches.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: This takes place between 18th -25th January 2007 and the Daily Prayer Meetings will be organized by Gwen Mansfield and the Sunday United Service is planned for January 21st at St. Peters, Wreclesham arranged by Jenny Floyer.

LIONS COMMUNITY STORE: Nina Carmen from The Society of Friends reported that this was based in Fleet serving people and families in need. At Christmas items are added to the Harvest gifts to make up hampers. Toys are needed for ages 10 years and over, baby bedding, clothes (mainly boys) 5 - 8yrs and car booster seats. These details can now be put on the Farnham website.

NEW WEBSITE: Richard Wimbush, one of the administrators of a new web-site 'Network Farnham', reported on this venture.

The address for the web-site is www.networkfarnham.org.uk and the aim is to provide a starting point for finding information on what is happening in the Christian Community in Farnham. The web-site uses the Church Insight software which allows a great deal of flexibility and interactivity. The hope was that each church would appoint a web-site champion to be the interface between their church and the web-site in terms of posting articles or information on events that would be of interest to other Christians in the area. It is possible to give access to groups who could then be able to keep their own area of the web-site up to date e.g The Local Christian Aid Group, or Bible Society Action Group. www.churchestogetherinfarnham.org.uk will be changed to point to an area on the Network Farnham site to give more flexible Calendars, discussion forums, on-line booking for events if needed.

Mr Wimbush encouraged people to have a look at the site and handed out flyers with the web address and contact information on it.

GIDEONS: The Chairman gave notice of their Annual meeting to be held on 28th October in Millmead Centre, Guildford. Further details could be obtained from him.

THE BRIDGE CAFÉ FRENHAM: Farnham Vineyard have arranged a Men's Day for Saturday, November 25th , with Eric Delve speaking on 'Echoes in Eternity' The cost is £15.75 per head for Lunch and refreshments.

9. NEXT MEETING: The next Annual General Meeting is planned for Tuesday 16th October 2007.

Bob Skinner on behalf of the meeting thanked Beryl Graham for standing in to write up the Minutes

10. The meeting closed with Grace said to each other.