

Churches Together in Farnham  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 14th October 2008  
Held in the Lantern, St Thomas-on-the-Bourne

**1. Welcome**

Mrs Liz Powell represented St Thomas-on-the-Bourne and welcomed members of Churches Together to the meeting. The welcome was followed by a reading and a prayer.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received and the attendance book passed round  
23 people recorded their presence at the meeting and there were 16 apologies.

**3. Minutes of AGM 16th October 2007**

The Minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved and signed.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Annual reports**

Jenny Floyer (Chair) combined the Chairman's and Secretary's report. Jenny began by saying that at the last AGM it seemed as if CTF might cease to exist with no nominations for key posts on the steering committee. However a suggestion was made that those interested in keeping CTF going should have an initial meeting and consider the way forward. This new steering committee comprised the Revd Desmond Parsons, Mary Clarke, Gwen Mansfield, Jenny Floyer and Benedict Parsons, together with Andy Marriott already in post as treasurer. These appointments were ratified at the April Council meeting. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January went well with an excellent attendance at the centenary service for WPCU, held at Tilford. At this service a leaflet with details of various churches' Lent courses was distributed, resulting in some healthy 'cross-fertilisation' of folk participating in other church's courses. The April Council Meeting at the new St Joan's Centre was inspired by a visiting speaker, Kenton Sparks. The title of Kenton's talk was *One Church in the Community* and he urged co-operation between the churches. Enlarging on this vision for Farnham Kenton said we were on a journey relating to one another; the world does not make sense of our disunity and tribalism. In addition the church needs to have more of a 'Be among them' rather than a 'Come to us' mentality – we need to be out there in the community, 'being the church' where we are, seven days a week. Farnham needs to know that there is a united Christian presence here among them and that everyone in Farnham can be part of this.

Continuing her report Jenny said that in previous years there had been a newsletter every so often and it was hoped to do this again.

Andy Marriott presented the Treasurer's report. Thank to the £20 contribution from a number of churches which amounted to £300 we were able to pay for the insurance for the Walk of Witness in March. There is still money in the bank but we might have to ask for more contributions next year. There is a separate account for the Christmas Day lunch.

Annual reports were also presented for Friday Focus, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Walk of Witness. Christmas Day Lunch, UCA Chaplaincy, Christian Aid, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Farnham Christian Community Trust and Explore. In his report on the Christmas Day Lunch Michael McDonnell said that arrangements were going well but there was a need for a co-ordinator for the volunteers. In her report on the FCCT Jane Still emphasized that it would be good to have more people to help with their work in schools.

## **6. Election of Officers**

Two clergy persons and two lay officers were required to join the Steering Committee but there were no volunteers and no nominations. Benedict Parsons no longer felt able to be on the Steering Committee and he was warmly thanked for all his hard work as secretary during the past year. In the absence of any other nominations Mary Clarke had agreed to stand as Secretary and this was agreed.

7. The date of the next AGM provisionally is Wednesday 14th October 2009

**NB – Please note this is now Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. 7pm refreshments for 7.30 start – venue St Andrew's.**

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM  
HELD AT ST. THOMAS-ON-THE BOURNE ON 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008

Minutes of the Council Meeting on 24th April were approved and signed. It was remarked that a good attendance at the meeting was appreciated and gave support to the invited speaker, Kenton Sparks. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Future Events

**One World Week.** Jenny Floyer spoke of the coming event on the 19th October which was being hosted by the Parish Church and asked for prayer and support and for volunteers to help on the day. Organisations exhibiting would be Amnesty International, Catholic Association for Racial Justice, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Human Rights Watch, Refugee Council and Quakers for Peace. The programme of events will include poetry and drama by young people from the Church of the Holy Family and a talk by Natalie Samarasinghe from United Nations. It will conclude with a short period of informal worship followed by tea.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009.** Gwen Mansfield spoke about the Week of Prayer in January 2009 and the daily bible study groups and asked for volunteers to lead these groups. She also mentioned her hope of getting a speaker from St Ethelburga's Church for the United Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christmas Crib** Michael McDonnell spoke about the Christmas Crib in Farnham Library. He emphasized that church people who visited the library and liked the crib should comment about it to the library staff. This was important and would help permission continuing for the Christmas Crib.

**Lent 2009 and 2010** - Mary Clarke reported that thanks to an excellent response to the Steering Committee's appeal for early information; it had been possible to produce a leaflet containing details of the various Lent Courses for 2008 in time for distribution at the United Service last January. She appealed to members to submit details of their Lent Studies for 2009 as early as possible so that a similar leaflet could be prepared. Several years ago CTF members joined in a Lent venture in which each church took it in turn to host visitors for a single evening of shared worship and fellowship. This was well supported and greatly appreciated by all who took part. The committee hoped it might be possible to arrange a similar project in 2010.

**A.O.B.** The musical 'Spirit' was being rehearsed at the United Reformed Church but due to lack of numbers this has had to be cancelled.

**Date of next council meeting.** It was agreed to have the next Council Meeting in late spring. The Revd Desmond Parsons (Vice-Chair) had made contact with Sue Loveday, the Co-ordinator of Churches Together in Surrey and she would be pleased to address the meeting and talk about recent developments in the ecumenical sphere

The Revd Desmond Parsons closed the meeting with a prayer and a blessing.

The meeting concluded with Fairtrade refreshments and fellowship.