

**DRAFT MINUTES OF
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM AGM
ON 12th OCTOBER 2009**

1. Canon Andrew Tuck opened the meeting with prayer and reflections. In his opening devotions Canon Tuck mentioned three different people, the anniversary of whose death we were celebrating that day. St. Wilfrid, Bishop of York died in 709AD, Elizabeth Fry died in 1845 and Nurse Edith Cavell in 1915. All these worthy people came from different traditions and Canon Tuck likened this gathering of Churches Together in Farnham to them, saying that all of us here come from very different Christian traditions and different backgrounds.

APOLOGIES for absence were received and the attendance book was passed around.

2. MINUTES of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were adopted and signed.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. MINUTES of the Council Meeting on 30th April 2009 were adopted and signed

5. MATTERS ARISING: The main subject was the visit of Sue Loveday, Coordinator for Churches Together in Surrey and her recommendations.

Arising from the meeting, she had sent the Chairman a proposed Plan of Action for Churches Together in Farnham. Andy Marriott led a discussion about this.

He said that there were 21 churches in CTF for a population of 38,000. Activities sponsored by CTF included the Christmas Lunch, Prayer for Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness, 'Friday Focus' in the Farnham Herald, Chaplaincy at UCA, Farnham, and One World Week.

He also gave examples of ways in which a few churches were working together in various activities (not organised by CTF). He presented a Questionnaire prepared in response to the Proposed Plan of Action, which was to be circulated with the Plan to all member churches. He then introduced a time of prayer in groups to seek guidance in tackling all this

6. REPORTS

Reports were given by the Chairman. The Secretary and the Treasurer (see Appendix). These were followed by reports of Friday Focus, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness, Christmas Day Lunch, Christmas Crib, Christian Aid, Jubilee Debt Campaign, UCA Chaplaincy, "Explore", Farnham Christian Community Trust and Chaplaincy to the Trading Estate. See Appendix for reports that are available.

In his report on the Christmas Day Lunch Michael McDonnell said volunteers for the organisation of the lunch were needed. Also in his report on the Christmas Crib at Farnham Library Michael emphasised that it was very important to express to the library staff how well the crib looked.

In his report on 'Explore' Canon Jeffrey Bell listed the many events that had been held since Explore was formed in 2005, including educational courses, seminars, quiet days and workshops. It was now winding up and there was a surplus in the accounts of £172.63 . The meeting agreed that this sum should be divided between Christian Aid and CTF for the Christmas Lunch. (A cheque for £85.63 was handed to the CTF Treasurer after the meeting). Canon Bell's full report is in the Appendix.

7. ONE WORLD WEEK EVENT to be held at St Andrew's Church on 25th October, 2009. The theme is Hungry for One World. Many voluntary organisations are exhibiting. The local food initiative is involved. The Revd. Jonathan Still is giving a talk and children from local schools are taking part. The Muslim Community at Tilford have also been invited to come along and take part.

8. LENT 2010

Several years ago our Lent Study involved visiting other churches and the question was asked whether we should do the same again next year. It was agreed to take up this suggestion.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman, Jenny Floyer; Secretary Mary Clarke; and Treasurer Andy Marriott had not yet completed their three year terms of office and Gwen Mansfield was prepared to continue for another year. The Revd Desmond Parsons (Vice Chairman) felt the time had come to retire from the Steering Committee. Pastor Michael Hall, Leader of Farnham Pentecostal Church, had offered to join the Steering Committee and his nomination was accepted with thanks. It was agreed that the Steering Committee should be re-elected en bloc.

Mary Clarke thanked Desmond for all he had done over the years for CTF going back to the time of its foundation and proposed a Vote of Thanks which was unanimously agreed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alistair Emblem had suggested a March for Jesus for young people next year.

Alistair Murdoch mentioned the General Election next year and asked if CTF had thought of inviting the candidates to take part in a joint political meeting, as CTF had done at general elections in the past.

Ione Carver mentioned the Olympic Games and wondered if we should open our homes for hosting possible visitors.

The meeting ended by our saying together the Lord's Prayer.