

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KETTERING AND DISTRICT FULL COUNCIL

Meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at Fuller Church Rooms

- PRESENT:** Deacon Fiona de Boltz (Chair), Rev Dr Rob Bewley, Rev Tony de Boltz, Jane Calcott, Pam Chandler, Gillian Court, Ruth Fitch, Caroline Goddard, Rev Dave Goddard, Ian Hames, Lt Col Jack Hassard, Rev David Milner, Adrian Newman, Rev Samuel Silungwe, Andy Sipple, Rev Laura Staves, Rev Peter Strong, Steve Toseland and Derek Wade.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Rev Stuart Jenkins (County Ecumenical Development Officer), Suzi Glover from the Hub and Rita Skingle from the Kettering Street Pastors.
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Jane Attwood, Major Paul Doust, Jill Dove, Pat Edkins, Janet Glover, Malcolm Glover, Karan Harris, Adrian Horner, Neil Humphrey, Canon John Koenig, Rev Rob Parker-McGee, Sylvia Pitts, Eleanor Patrick, Pete Rogers, David Tinkler and Rev Helen Wakefield-Carr.
- Devotions:** Fiona opened the meeting by reading from Romans 8 on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with prayer.
- Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th March 2016 were accepted as a correct record and signed by Fiona.
- Matters Arising:** **EU Referendum Hustings:** It was noted that the hustings had been well attended and would be worth doing again for future elections or referenda.
- Impact Northamptonshire:** Garryl Willis, of NAYC and the Steering Group for the Sixfields Stadium event with Canon J John on 20 May 2017, was welcomed to the meeting. Garryl spoke of the vision of gathering together 3,500 Christians from all denominations and 3,500 other people for a celebration of unity, humility and prayer, and evangelism. He asked for the prayers of the churches in Kettering for the success of the event, and for consideration of becoming a Partner by making a contribution of £1,000 (either one lump sum of two payments of £500). The cost of the event was £110,000 to be recouped from the sale of 7,000 tickets at £10 and 40 Partners each contributing £1,000. In answer to questions, Garryl noted that prior to a recent event at which 63 churches had been represented and at which further churches may have come forward to sponsor the event, 20 Partners had been found. A final decision on whether or not to proceed would be taken on 15 December. If not enough Partners came forward, J John had indicated that he would put on an event himself in 2018. Garryl was thanked for his presentation.
- The Hub:** Suzi Glover was welcomed to the meeting. Suzi reported that the Hub, that currently provided free hot meals, a clothes bank and food parcels to homeless people and others in need on Monday evenings with volunteers from a number of churches, was hoping to expand to offer the service on an afternoon as well, if more volunteers could be recruited. The

organisers were also keen to assist any church wanting to offer additional venues, with support available from Tesco and Morrisons, with the aim of providing a hot meal somewhere on every day of the week. Open Door Church had also offered the Eden Centre as an emergency shelter during severe weather, and this was being assessed by Council officers. Suzi can be contacted at suziglover@hotmail.com or via the Open Door office (01536 484800).

Street Pastors:

Rita Skingle was welcomed to the meeting. Rita reported that a recruitment drive for both Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors would be launched in the new year. The number of Street Pastors had declined to just 16, so that it was no longer possible to put two teams of four onto the streets on Saturday nights, often there was just a single team of three, and there had been some nights without any Prayer Pastors at the base. Rita asked for the assistance of churches with recruiting new volunteers. The Street Pastors could be contacted at kettering@streetpastors.org.uk or by telephoning Don on 07956 054760.

New Housing Developments:

Presentation by Rev Stuart Jenkins: Stuart was welcomed to the meeting. He highlighted the plans for 10,400 new homes to be built in Kettering in the period 2011-2031. With 70% of these being one or two bedroomed and 30% three bedroomed that suggested an additional 15,000 people, of whom around 600 would regularly attend church. He noted that moving house could be a lonely experience and emphasised the need for an ecumenical approach to personal contact with people arriving in the area as well as providing them with information on churches. With congregations generally aging and younger people less likely to have a church affiliation, creative thinking was needed to engage with those new to the area. He suggested that approaches to planning officers by Churches Together were more likely to be fruitful than those by individual churches, although it was noted that Churches Together was represented on the Council's liaison forum for the largest local development at Hanwood Park.

Welcome Leaflet: It was noted that the draft of the leaflet circulated with the agenda had been updated to include the Hub as a volunteering opportunity. It was agreed to circulate the leaflet for factual correction, to print a reasonable supply and to seek volunteers to deliver them as new homes became occupied.

Christmas:

Christmas Day Lunch: Adrian N reported that volunteers were now being sought for the Christmas Day lunch 12 noon – 2 pm at the Eden Centre (setting up on Christmas Eve, food preparation and service on Christmas Day). 65 guests had attended Eden Centre for the meal on Christmas day last year, with an additional 35 helpers also having been fed. Significant donations had been received from local businesses and others. Adrian H had reported that the possible expansion into delivering lunches to those unable to attend the event had not proved to be feasible for this year. The potential to double the number of meals provided was beyond the capacity of the Eden Centre and would require partnership with another church. It was not anticipated that additional funding would be necessary. Volunteers could contact the Open Door Church office on

01536 484800.

Publicity for Services: It was noted that while the number of people looking for Christmas service details on the website was increasing year-on-year, the number of churches providing the information was declining. Churches could have their details posted by providing them to Andy at andy.sipple@btinternet.com.

**Week of Prayer
for Christian
Unity:**

Main Unity Service: Fiona reminded everyone that the main service would be held on Saturday, 21st January at 3 pm at Central Methodist Church and would include the induction of Jane as the next Chair. A poster for the event (as attached) was available at the meeting for churches to use.

Bible Sharing: Peter having volunteered to lead, and Fuller having offered to host, it was agreed that this be held on Tuesday, 24th January at 7:30 pm.

Pulpit Swaps: Churches were asked to consider making arrangements for pulpit swaps among themselves.

**Time of Prayer:
Thy Kingdom
Come:**

Rob referred to plans by Love Kettering to promote participation in the time of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost 2017 called by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and supported by the Presidents of Churches Together in England. The plans were to hold joint prayer and worship services in different churches each evening in a style in keeping with the traditions of each host church; to hold an open air service, possibly in the Market Place, on the Saturday afternoon and to encourage 'Random Acts of Kindness' around the town. Churches were asked to contact Rob to participate.

Next Vice Chair:

Laura having accepted the nomination, it was agreed that she be appointed Vice Chair on Jane's becoming Chair in January.

**Clergy
Representative:**

It was noted that there was still a vacancy for a clergy representative on the Executive following Fr Andrew's retirement, and that denominational balance would be best served by the election of a Church of England minister. Enquiries would be made to see if one would be willing to accept the nomination.

**Christian Aid
update:**

David M reviewed the many fundraising events undertaken for Christian Aid in 2016. He noted the continuing significant contribution made by the house-to-house collections and how this could be improved further with more collectors. Carol singing would again take place on the steps of Toller Church on Saturday, 3rd December between 11 am and 12 noon and he appealed for more singers (especially sopranos) to take part in this enjoyable form of witness.

St Jude's update:

Dave noted that two Foodbanks were currently being provided and Nightlight would again be open in Corby 7 nights a week for 4 months over the winter period for 12 rough sleepers coming from both Corby and Kettering. Volunteers continued to be drawn mainly from churches and harvest services had resulted in a replenishment of food supplies. There was a pressing need for cash donations to cover the charity's operating costs. It was suggested that sponsoring a place a Nightlight for £75 would be a great Christmas gift. Dave also referred to their work with released

former prisoners, and in answer to a question confirmed that most, but not all, rough sleepers were male whereas most volunteers were female.

Review of the Constitution: With no objections to the proposed Constitution having been received during consultation, it was agreed that it be adopted.

Salvation Army: New Central East Divisional Headquarters: Jack reported that following a review in which the aim had been to rediscover their missional roots and reduce administration, a new division had been formed with its headquarters in Kettering. This was temporarily in place above the Salvation Army Trading charity shop on Gold Street but would relocate to premises on Kettering Venture Park.

Kettering Interfaith Forum update: A report had been circulated with the agenda on the Interfaith Forum committee's work and copies of the programme of visits to places of worship and the Interfaith Café were available at the meeting. It was noted that, once membership applications were invited, Churches Together would be able to appoint one representative to the committee and two further representatives to the Forum. It was agreed that the committee place be taken by the Chair and the additional Forum places by the Immediate Past Chair and Secretary, with any vacancy to be filled by the Vice Chair.

Kettering Futures Partnership: A report had been circulated with the agenda about a consortium of statutory and voluntary service providers formed to improve cooperation and which was interested in greater church participation in the project. It was agreed to invite a representative of the Partnership Board to meet with the Executive to discuss how this could be achieved.

Accommodation Concern: Prayers were asked for Accommodation Concern following the loss of significant funding.

Room Hire Caution: Laura reported she had some advice to offer any church that was approached by a choir seeking a regular room booking following the cessation of its use of Rockingham Road Baptist Church in September.

Vote of Thanks: As it was Fiona's final meeting as Chair, Jane proposed and it was unanimously agreed that thanks be recorded to Fiona for her time as President and Chair. Fiona responded by thanking the meeting for the honour of having been Chair and for the support that she had received.

Close: The meeting closed at 9.02 pm with sharing the Grace.

Signed..... Date.....