

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KETTERING AND DISTRICT

36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016 at 7.30pm

at Fuller Baptist Church Rooms

PRESENT: Deacon Fiona de Boltz, (President), Jane Attwood, Rev Tony de Boltz, Major Paul Doust, Jill Dove, Fr Andrew Dutton, Ruth Fitch, Ian Hames, Neil Humphrey, Prosper Kuveya, Sue Ogden, Eleanor Patrick, Sylvia Pitts, Pete Rogers, Andy Sipple, Rev Peter Strong, Steve Toseland and Derek Wade. (13 churches represented)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Rev Dr Rob Bewley, Jane Calcott, Gillian Court, Rachael Duthie, Janet Glover, Malcolm Glover, Adrian Horner, Canon John Koenig, Carol Milner, David Milner, Laura Staves, David Tinkler and Hilary Yates.

Welcome: Ruth, Derek and Pete were welcomed to their first meeting.

Devotions: Fiona began the meeting with reading Colossians 1:15-20 and with prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 2nd June 2015 were accepted as a correct record, subject to the addition of Sue Ogden's apologies.

Election of Officers etc **Co-options:** It was agreed to co-opt Jane Calcott onto the Council and to send her best wishes for a speedy recovery from her injury.

Next Vice President: It was reported that a potential nominee was considering the position and it was agreed to defer the appointment to the next meeting.

Treasurer: Sylvia Pitts was re-elected.

Secretary: Andy Sipple was re-elected.

Clergy Representatives: Major Paul Doust and Rev Peter Strong were re-elected. Fr Andrew reported that he was standing down in view of his retirement later in the year and it was agreed to approach Rev Rob Bewley about accepting the nomination.

Lay Representatives: Jill Dove, Janet Glover and Malcolm Glover were re-elected.

Ecumenical Affairs: David Tinkler was re-elected.

External Affairs: Jane Calcott was re-elected.

Women's World Day of Prayer Liaison: Sue Ogden was re-elected.

Churches Together in Northamptonshire & Peterborough: David Tinkler and Andy Sipple were re-elected.

Kettering Town Forum: Jane Calcott was re-elected.

East Kettering Liaison Forum: Merlyn Gray was re-elected.

Kettering Homeless Action Partnership: Jane Calcott was re-elected.

Prayer Co-ordinator: It was reported that a potential nominee was considering the position and it was agreed to defer the appointment to the next meeting. .

Publicity Officer: The post remained vacant.

Christian Aid Liaison: Carol and David Milner were re-elected.

Minutes Secretary: Andy Sipple was re-elected.

Appointment of the Executive: It was agreed that the Executive comprise the President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Clergy and Lay Representatives, the External Affairs officer, the Ecumenical Affairs Convenor and the Prayer Co-ordinator.

Reports of Officers

President: Fiona spoke about the joyful service at St Edward's for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity at which she had been inducted as President and Don and Jenny Spooner had been thanked for their years running the Oasis Christian Bookshop before its closure. She thanked those who had been involved in hosting and organising the service. She noted the hundreds of people who had attended the Good Friday witness and thanked all those who had contributed and participated. She also thanked Jane for chairing the previous meeting during her absence on sabbatical and the executive for its support. She reported that the EU Referendum Hustings had been a success and thanked Fr Andrew for organising it and Open Door church for hosting the event. She looked forward to the establishment of an Interfaith Forum, and noted its relevance and importance. She ended by thanking everyone who contributes in any way to the work of Churches Together.

Treasurer: Sylvia presented the independently inspected and certified Income and Expenditure Account for 2015/16 that had been circulated with the agenda. She noted that income for the year had been £83.13 higher than the expenditure and that the bank balance at year end had been £1565.02. Thanks were expressed to John McGrenaghan for examining the accounts.

Ecumenical Affairs: Jill noted that mention had already been made of the Good Friday and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity events, and that a Saturday afternoon had worked well for the latter. The Bible sharing held during Lent had also been a success, and in response to requests consideration would be given to a series during Advent. Thanks were expressed to David T for his continued enthusiasm as the Ecumenical Affairs Convenor.

Christian Aid: A report from Carol and David M was circulated at the meeting noting that

- the final total for the Christmas appeal had been almost £680,
- Quizaid had raised £407

- the running total for Christian Aid Week was £6423 with more receipts expected
- there was likely to be a reduction in house-to-house collections as a result both of difficulty in finding new and replacement collectors and increasing occurrences of 'no caller' notices at properties
- the collection at Tesco had raised £526

Giving a total for the year to date of £7,111, for which they thanked all who had supported the work.

Street Pastors: A report from Don Spooner, who had been appointed as the Coordinator in January, was circulated at the meeting noting that since being established in 2011 there had been Street Pastors in Kettering town centre every Saturday night. There was a need to recruit more Street Pastors to ensure that the service continued and anyone interested was welcome to go out with a team to see the work for themselves. More Prayer Pastors based at Central Methodist Church on a Saturday night to pray for those on patrol and the people they encounter were also needed. Anyone interested in either role was asked to contact Don via Andy or speak with Fiona.

St Jude's Community Project: A report from Jane C was circulated at the meeting noting that just fewer than 1,000 people had been fed by the foodbank during the year. The change in location to Praise Community Church on Alexandra Street had resulted in a drop in donations so there was an urgent need for more supplies, which could be dropped off at the church on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9:30 am – 12 noon and Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9 pm. There was also a donation point for the Kettering Foodbank in the Co-op on Stamford Road, with those in other stores being for the Trussell Trust Foodbank.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Fiona reported that Central Methodist Church had offered to host the service at 3 pm on Saturday, 21st January 2017.

Women's World Day of Prayer: Sue reported that there had been a reasonable turnout at both the morning and evening services that had been held at Ss Peter and Paul Church. It may be that both services continue to be held in one location in future years. A major problem was ensuring that ladies in all churches were informed about the services. There had not been a study day this year as less than ten people would have attended. It was understood that Kay Short would continue as the organiser.

Churches Together in Northamptonshire & Peterborough: The report of the AGM that had been circulated with the agenda was noted.

Kettering Town Forum: A report from Jane C on her participation in the Forum was circulated at the meeting. It noted that although much of its work was of little relevance to churches, there were occasions when it was useful, for example with Kettfest. She had asked for homelessness and the lack of a drop-in facility to be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Kettering AlterNativity: A report had been circulated with the agenda. Its recommendation that the event not be held this year following two years of disappointing results and difficulties in securing enhancements requested by the participating charities was approved. It was noted that there were other opportunities for local charities to raise their profile and funds, such as the Christmas Fair at St Andrew's and community events at All Saints'. It was intended to relaunch an event in 2017.

Kettering Homeless Action Partnership: A report from Jane C was circulated at the meeting, noting that the first meeting of this new body established by Kettering Borough Council had been held on 26th May. The information that had been presented at the meeting included that:

- there had been a huge increase in homelessness on last year
- 56% of those were from the private rented sector
- there had been a 95.8% increase in the numbers placed in temporary accommodation, with some being placed in Peterborough and Leicester
- a significant problem was Housing Benefit in some cases being 30% less than the rents charged
- last year only 103 properties had been supplied by the Council and partner agencies such as Housing Associations.

In discussion the seriousness of the problem was recognised and the need for prayer. It was suggested that churches should lobby elected representatives on this issue.

**Subscriptions
2016/17**

It was agreed to maintain the subscriptions for 2016/17 at £30.

**Policies and
Initiatives:**

It was agreed to maintain support for all existing initiatives and to encourage attendance at the Impact Northamptonshire event at Sixfields Stadium with J John at Pentecost 2017.

**Kettfest Heritage
Quiz Trail:**

Eleanor reported that the Ecumenical Affairs Team had organised a Heritage Quiz Trail as the Churches Together contribution to Kettfest in addition to events being planned by individual churches. It would take place on Saturday, 2nd July starting with registration at Toller Meeting Rooms between 10 am and noon and ending at the Fuller Church Rooms by 12:30 pm. Those who register will be given a quiz sheet with 20 questions set by Delia Thomas from the Museum. The answers can be found in the town centre without the need to cross any roads and relate to both Christian and general heritage topics. The trail should take about 50 minutes to complete. Three supermarket gift vouchers would be awarded in a draw of those who answer all the questions correctly. There would be a small exhibition in the Toller Meeting Rooms and the Fuller Heritage Room would also be open. The possibility of providing refreshments was under consideration. Eleanor had a supply of leaflets available for collection at the meeting.

Review of Constitution: A report had been circulated with the agenda presenting a comparison between the existing constitution and a new model issued by Churches Together in England, a commentary on the differences and the views of the County Ecumenical Development Officer on possible changes together with a consultation draft of an amended constitution taking all these into account. In discussion it was noted that suggestions made as a result of the consultation would also be considered before any amendments were adopted. It was agreed to consult member churches on the draft amended constitution.

Interfaith Forum: A report had been circulated with the agenda presenting progress made in seeking to establish an Interfaith Forum for the Borough with a draft agenda and reports for an initial meeting of representatives from each faith group which was to be held on 25th July at which Fiona would represent Churches Together and Andy provide administrative support. It was agreed that the draft agenda and reports be circulated to member churches with suggested amendments to be provided by the date of the initial meeting.

New Housing – Ecumenical Welcome Leaflet: It was reported that a suggestion had been made for a Churches Together leaflet for new housing developments with details of local churches. The executive had asked Rob if there were any plans for a leaflet for Hanwood Park and his reply, including that although a leaflet on the church plant in the area was likely, the pace of construction meant that it was unlikely to happen in the near future, was circulated. In discussion it was recognised that account would need to be taken of parish boundaries and it was agreed that the advice of the County Ecumenical Development Officer and member churches be sought.

Appointment of Honorary Inspector It was agreed to appoint John McGrenaghan as the Honorary Inspector of the 2016/17 accounts, if he was available. .

Calendar of Meetings: Following a request from representatives of a potential member church, a recommendation had been made that meetings be held on Mondays. In discussion it was accepted that a move away from Tuesdays may result in a lower overall attendance and it was therefore agreed to continue to meet on Tuesdays, as follows

Council	Executive
15 th November 2016	25 th October 2016
4 th April 2017	14 th March 2017
13 th June 2017 AGM	23 rd May 2017

All meetings to be held at Fuller Baptist Church Rooms, if available, at 7:30 pm

Hope UK: An urgent request from Hope UK for more volunteer Drug Educators was circulated at the meeting to meet existing demand locally for this service.

Love Kettering: Rob had advised that the Love Kettering group of church leaders was continuing to meet for prayer and discussion. All leaders were invited although not all were able to attend. The next meeting was to be held at Christ the King at 1:30 pm on 4th July.

Kairos Prison Ministry: Paul and Andy reported an approach from the Chair of the charity currently operating at Whitemoor Prison and that was looking for volunteers to expand the project to Stocken Prison in Rutland. It was agreed to invite the charity to give a presentation at the next meeting.

Christians Against Poverty: It was noted that this charity had held a church leaders' breakfast meeting in Kettering to encourage the establishment of a local branch. It was agreed to invite the manager of the Northampton branch to the next meeting.

Close: The meeting closed at 8.50 pm with sharing the Grace.

Signed.....

Date.....