

CTiB AGM Minutes

Tuesday 19th January 2016

Present: Paul Hunt, Richard Poyser, Phil Taylor, Dot Pipe, David Pipe, Barbara Wareing, Niels Richthof, Henry Ford, Eileen Hardy, Jen Scotchbrook, David Roome, Alison Roome, Diane Churchill, Yvonne Sewter, Pat Whetton, Andrew Baguley, Jonathan Page, Angela Thomas, Michael Kirkham, David Gough, Wendy Martin, Pam Bains, Anne Stratton, Jo Lambourne, Cath Hollywell, Amy Barnett.

Apologies: David Perry, Kay Hallam Black, Kate Gough, John Whiteman.

1. Meeting opened with worship and prayer.

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

- Chaplaincy – this has been set up with Andrew Baguley as the co-ordinator. There are now chaplains in St John's School, three care homes, Valiant and on King Street. Anyone who is interested in becoming a chaplain is welcome to go along to the training, please see Andrew for details. You are asked to commit a minimum of two hours a week.

4. Belper Community Church and New Life Church Belper were accepted into full membership of CTiB.

5. Secretary's Report: See attached.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

Accounts accepted by the meeting.

Subs for 2016 are now due. (£25 for a small church and £40 for large churches).

Wendy to send a reminder regarding subs.

7. Chairman's Report: See attached.

8. Election of Officers

- Chair:** Anne Stratton Proposed by Alison Roome, Seconded by Wendy Martin. Elected unanimously.

- Vice Chair:** Angela Thomas. Proposed by David Gough. Seconded by Pam Bains. Elected unanimously.

- Treasurer:** Wendy Martin. Proposed by Jo Lambourne. Seconded by Jonathan Page. Elected Unanimously.

- Secretary:** Proposed by Angela Thomas. Seconded by Diane Churchill. Elected unanimously.

9. What next?

- 12 hours of prayer during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Thursday 21st January at the Methodist Church, 8.00am – 8.00pm.

- Christian Mediation Course.

Michael expresses his gratitude to the Methodist Church and to St Swithun's for the use of their buildings for this course to run. The course itself was well attended but has become less well supported in an ecumenical sense following on from it.

There continues to be weekly meetings at Our Lady's Church House, 12 Gibfield Lane at 8pm on Thursdays and 10.15am on Wednesdays which all are welcome to attend and there is willingness to continue the course if people are keen.

- Angela highlighted that we are perhaps not crossing denominational boundaries when it comes to spending time together and suggested that we explore the possibility of bible studies across the churches.

Jo to put this suggestion on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Trace Taylor Band are doing a concert at St Peter's on the 19th Feb at 7.30pm to raise money for CAP. Help will be needed in the form of stewards and refreshments, please see Anne if you are able to help with this.

- Christ Church pantomime will be running from the 4th to the 6th Feb and 7.30pm with a Sat Matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are £5 (Children £3) available from Kalico on King Street or 01773 824974.

10. Presentation on the refugee situation.

Cath Hollywell (St John's in Derby) and Amy Barnett spoke to the meeting about their experiences of being part of Derbyshire Solidarity and East Midlands Solidarity which is seeking to bring aid to refugees.

This is the largest movement of people since WW2 and Cath suggested it was time to contend with the worry, anxiety and human fear which gets in the way of justice and mercy. People are now responding despite feeling overwhelmed and it is now time to get together and do something!

DE Solidarity collect donations, store them, sort through them, bag them up and then take them to the refugee camps in Dunkirk and Calais or put them on a convey for Syria.

Amy shared her experiences of being part of this process and visiting refugee camps. What can we do?

- Look on Facebook and the DE solidarity website for things to participate in or replicate locally.

- Host safe spaces in churches for those involved in this work.

- Become a Refugee Aid Collection Point and provide people with a list of what is most needed.

- Donate money (money is always useful but being a place of collection is valuable in terms of the mission of the church).

- Explore how we can change people's hearts and minds regarding the refugees. Churches are ideally placed for these conversations.
- Search on Facebook for DE Solidarity and EM Solidarity or www.EMsolidarity.or.uk

11. DONM

Tuesday 1st March, 7.30pm at Christ Church (in the Church building rather than the hall)

Annual Accounts for Belper Churches Together 31st December 2015

Income		Expenditure	
Gesture from Coop Bank	25		
Badges	0	Christmas posters	138.5
Badges Christ Church	0	Total	138.5
Badge Sale AGM	0		
Christ Church	40	Balance Opening balance 1/1/15	707.52
Our Lady	40	Income	325
Baptists	40	Expenditure	138.5
Congregational	25	Closing balance	894.02
Methodist Central	40		
*St Swithun's	50		
St Peter's	40		
ST Mark's	25		
Total	325	closing balance at bank 31/12/15	894.02

Notes

* St Swithun's paid for 2016 in advance

Balance at RBS Bank transferred 27/10/15 732.52

Chairman's remarks Churches Together in Belper 2016

Once again CTiB has been busy during the year.

At our annual meeting last January we had Paul Morris talking about Chaplaincy and from that has been launched Chaplaincy here in Belper which is being Co-ordinated by Andrew Baguley. A number of people have volunteered to be Chaplains in different settings.

The 24 hour vigil at St Swithuns was excellent and many thanks offered to those who attended – especially those from Our Lady's who did much of the night shift ensuring the prayer was not broken.

A Christians Against Poverty centre has also been launched with the support of both Churches Together and Hope for Belper. We will hear more about this during the forthcoming year – but it will need financial support to make it happen and continue to happen. People are also needed to act as befrienders to walk alongside people as they make the journey back from debt, which can often be a lonely place.

Easter saw a version of the resurrection performed at St Peter's. This was preceded by the exciting singing and dancing in town many thanks to Alex Lamb for organising that. Wendy proved that being in a wheelchair is no bar to joining in singing and praising.

We need to work out better ways of informing people what is actually going on and the link we had thought was going to happen at the end didn't quite work out. However around 250 people came up to St Peter's to watch the drama performance. Many thanks to George Gunby for the work he put in and the challenge he gave us.

The autumn saw our annual service, this year a choral evensong at Christ Church. This was followed by the naming of the sheep. Two varied events put together that were really enjoyed by many. Thank you to the team at Christ Church for hosting it.

We welcomed Andrew Miles among us as the new Minister in charge of the Baptist Church. And Paul Hunt at New Life.

It is great to have New Life and Belper Community Church working actively with Churches Together and today to welcome them as they sign the Covenant that we have together. We covenant that we work together to proclaim the love of Jesus and to work together wherever we can and support each other in events and outreach.

Lighting up evening – weather was dreadful – but we still gave away over 200 mince pies and launched the 'Sheep in the Shops' Advent family activity before the rain and the cold drove us home. Reports from the shopkeepers as the sheep were retrieved said that they were aware of quite a number of families coming into their shops to look for the sheep. 18 completed entries were submitted and 3 prize winners drawn at ST Peter's Christingle service.

I sense a real drawing together of the Churches here in Belper. The range of activities we carry out and our support for each other seems to be continually growing. I used to dread coming to the meeting – but now I look forwards with excitement to see what ideas people come up with and how they can be carried out. How we can work together and use each other's gifts talents and facilities to enable things to happen that wouldn't otherwise.

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Secretary's Report

2015 was a busy year in the life of Churches Together in Belper with six meetings spread throughout the year. It began this time last year at St Swithun's with a twenty four hour prayer vigil during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. This was followed by the Resurrection event on Easter Saturday which included some drama and the flash mob on King Street, the walk of witness up towards St Peter's and the re-telling of the resurrection. The joint service was held in October last year at Christ Church and over Christmas churches together was again present at the towns lighting up event where there was the stall giving away chocolates and mice pies, offering crafts for children and the opportunity to hunt down twenty four sheep hidden in various shops in the town centre.

Alongside these events which have been organised by churches together there has been much support for other cross denominational projects such as supporting Duffield Christian Council with their Election Forum and The Christian Meditation Course run by Our Lady's as well as other ongoing projects like The Cornerstone Cafe, The Basic Idea, Belper Town Chaplaincy and the setting up of a Christians against Poverty debt advice centre.

A busy year and we look forward to all that God has planned for us in 2016.