CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH FORUM

held on 12 November 2018 at Harborough Community Church

Present: Stephen Haward (Chair), Janet Smith (Vice-Chair), Rose Williams (Treasurer), Angela Zemlak, Jeff Bonser, Lizzie Chadwick, Andy Giles, Marie Hill, Shirley Hales, Lindy Kendell, Maureen Douglas, Barry Hill, Jill Mann, Andy Murphy, David Nixon, Dawn O'Connell, John Pearse, David Tomlin, Sandy Ward, Ady White

Welcome:
Rev. Stephen Haward welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly those attending for the first time: Andy Giles the Anglican Curate, and David Nixon and Shirley Hales from the Methodist Church. Stephen thanked Lizzie Chadwick for hosting the meeting on behalf of Harborough Community Church and welcomed Barry Hill who had offered to lead the devotions in the absence of James Briggs.

Devotions: Barry read from Mark Ch 1 vv 1-6
Reflecting on the immediacy of passage, showing that Mark is holy impatient; the disciples dropped their nets and left their work and family.
In the 1st Century boys from 6-10 yrs learnt the first 5 books (the Torah), 11+ learnt the rest of the Old Testament, (both ages – off by heart), 14+ applied to be disciples of a travelling rabbi who had the pick of the boys.
Jesus had no application process, taking dropouts and uneducated. The existence of God was proved by dropouts and women.
Jesus chose them, offered them change, disruption, hope and purpose.

A time of open prayer followed.

1) **Apologies for Absence**
These were noted on the attendance register.

2) **Minutes of the last Meeting**
The minutes of the last meeting on 13 September were approved and signed by Stephen.

3) **Matters Arising**
   a) **Vacant positions on the CTH Executive**
   Following the last meeting Stephen had produced a recruitment report and proposal (attached)
   The Secretarial role has changed as Angela is now the Minutes Secretary and the other elements of the Secretary's role are being covered by Rose and Stephen
   Short job descriptions for the two vacancies ie Secretary and Publicity officer were also in the report
   In answer to a query, the Executive meet 6 times a year (usually every other month) and all appointments are for one year with re-appointment if appropriate at the AGM in May.
   Jeff Bonser stated that he agreed with the Publicity Officer job description

   Stephen explained to the meeting that we cannot be as ambitious as we would like to be and we cannot guarantee that we would thrive. At the January meeting, if no offers to take on these roles, then the Executive will produce a statement of what we can achieve.

Stephen proposed that the meeting adopted the report and job descriptions and this was approved unanimously

b) Material for our 2019 Lent Studies

Every two years, the CTH run ecumenical study groups and for 2019 Di Evans from the Baptist Church had offered to co-ordinate. It was suggested that we use the York Course material entitled 'Daring to see God now'. The cost will be £3.75 per booklet to be paid for by the attendee (there is a digital download for £3.10). The leaders' booklet has a separate cost to be covered by CTH funds.

The Co-ordinator will ask for people to host (hosts will offer a specific day and time) and for people to lead. The different groups will then be advertised and people wishing to attend will sign up for a group.

The events could be on church premises or in homes. The Anglican team had trained people for leadership in the past and other churches might want to do the same.

The meeting agreed to use the York Course material

c) Date of Peace Vigil

Janet Smith stated that the Peace Vigil, organised by Harborough Action for Justice and Peace will be on 11 January 2019 on the Square from 5 – 5.30 pm. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and bring a candle in a jar (or a torch). It will be a half hour of silence. There will be a banner and postcards quoting from Micah 6 v 8 to hand out. There will be audible prayer at the end.

4) Recent Events

a) Remembrance Sunday

All those that attended the Service of Remembrance on the square were moved by what took place and the numbers of people (est 2,000 +). HDC reported that there were significant numbers at all events in the area, villages and towns alike

Other comments about the day included:

- Over 700 people attended the Civic Service in St Dionysius
- The Baptist Church had a half hour moving service and personal remembrance, for those who died in WW1 or since and for those currently serving in the armed forces, before joining the people on the square
- The beautiful display of 8,000 poppies at Great Bowden falling like a cascade
- St Hugh's held a mass for peace with short biography of those from Little Bowden and Great Bowden who died
- Friday night in the memorial garden
- Community Church lady had brought to church a small very well used bible that had been in the possession of a WW1 soldier
- Excellent booklets provided by CTH were handed out on the Square and had been available in the NH Cafe; very good for evangelism and showing care for people
- Limitation in that it focussed on wars of the past when the cost of war goes on as in Yemen
- Spiritually significant in the life of the country

CT England have ideas about future Remembrance Days and how to move forward

b) Peace Tea

Hosted by the Methodist Church on the Sunday afternoon, this was a time for reflection, hymns and words followed by tea. Thanks were given to Stephen, Andy, Janet and Rose as well as the team who provided the excellent food.

c) Joint Youth Work

Ady reported that NCompass was taking place fortnightly on a Sunday evening for CTH young people between 11 and 18 yrs old

There had been the first of hopefully a series of Live in 3D held at St Hugh's in September. Another one is planned for 30 November 7-8.30 pm.

Soul Survivor held over the Summer had seen 30 youth and leaders (from different churches) attend.

An alternative Halloween in the form of a Light Party including UV lights, face-painting and Hope goody bags had been held with over 100 youngsters attending

5) Reports from our organisations

a) Bower House

Maureen reported that they were, as always, very busy; short of support workers and looking for a general maintenance person

b) Street Pastors

As Marie was at another meeting, Angela reported that the handover between her and Marie had gone really well. We are short of Street Pastors.

c) HYACT – The CUBE

Dawn thanked CTH for inviting Melissa to give a presentation about the work of the CUBE and the donations received from Churches and CTH.

There is a vacancy following Tony's resignation and the Trustees are working on how to move forward.

The volunteers are all excellent. Ady has been a gem, leading NCompass and the Youth Services.

HYACT are looking for more trustees to join the team.

Ady is doing a questionnaire as part of his research for Youth Minister in Training on how the CUBE can help CTH

d) Justice & Peace

I. Naseby Square redevelopment is still causing concern but seems to have gone quiet recently. Alison is keeping a watch on any planning or movement on this.

II. The Refugee Awareness South Leicestershire Group are waiting for Home Office approval but have funding approved (it costs around £9,000 per family.
There are three groups / areas (1) accommodation, (2) welcome, (3) life in UK
Marianne is to talk at the next Youth Service

6) Coming Events

a) Harborough Christmas Fayre

Jeff and Stephen had met with HDC rep, Juliet. The event is on 7 December from 6 pm to 9.00 pm. Activities include

i) A band outside the Angel
ii) A winter wonderland
iii) Carol singing from sound stage 8.30 – 9.30 pm
iv) Congregational Church are having a pop-up nativity panorama
v) St Dionysius will have a quiet corner, a festival of plastic Christmas trees and Cards for Good Causes
vi) Baptist Church and traders from Manor walk will have a theme based on the film Frozen, with Olaf, the Queen and Princess all attending (!). There will characters in the shop windows to find, a craft factory in the New Horizons Cafe, a Frozen corridor down to the Church for hunt the Angel and goody bags

b) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – prayer meetings, United Service

i) The week is from Monday 14 January to Saturday 19 January with the united service on 20 January 2019 from 10.00 am at the Baptist Church

ii) Prayer sessions will be held at 12.00 noon at different churches. There was a form to fill in to offer to host a prayer session for the six days (Monday – Saturday) and choose a different group within town to pray for.

c) Lent Lunchtime Services

The Congregational Church is hosting on every Friday in Lent. The Catholic group have offered to provide the soup. Each service is led by two lay people from each church.

d) Good Friday planning

A first planning meeting is needed in January at the latest, will need at least two meetings in total each around 90 minutes long. The new format last year worked well as an event aimed at non-Christians. The Executive will meet with Barry after this meeting. If anyone wants to be involved then please contact Stephen

7) Presentation by Alison Chapman on Dementia

Unfortunately, Alison Chapman was not well and was unable to attend. It was agree that we would welcome her on another date to be confirmed by the Executive.

8) Any other business

a) World Day of Prayer will be on Friday 1 March 2019 from 2pm at the Baptist Church. The material has been provided by Christians in Slovenia. The committee has met and will be meeting once more before the event.

b) Barry Hill gave the meeting information about the Big Weekend which will be from 21-24 February 2019. It is comedy festival that is part of the Leicester Comedy festival that has been running for 24 year. Planning for 2020 will start after Christmas and be completed by Easter 2019 so if anyone is interested in taking part they need to contact the committee. Barry has details

c) Dates and Venues for future meetings

Andy Murphy asked that dates for the future CTH Forum meetings be set at least a year to 18 months in advance to allow people to put them in their diaries and prioritise. It was agreed that the CTH Executive would look at this.

9) Date of next meeting

Thursday 10 January 2019, at MH Congregational Church
Monday 11 March 2019, at Catholic Church, Maureen will confirm

Stephen closed by reading 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 verse 58
Then the meeting closed with Open Prayer