

## **Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead**

### **FORUM**

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Salvation Army**

Present: Stephen Wood, Graham Richardson, Norman Spink, Chris Jones, Vaughan Allen, David Chapman, Francis Graham-Brown, George Court, Denise Chennells, James Reveley, Laretta Wilson, Justin Thacker, Tim Johnson, Neil Harden

#### 1. Welcome

Tim Johnson welcomed everyone.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Frederica Graham-Brown, Sheila Riley, Angela Such and Peter Cotton.

Peter Cotton will be retiring in February 2009. Secretary to write to him to thank him for his hard work over the years and to send warm regards for the future

Sheila Riley had also written to advise that she was stepping down from the EG. Secretary to write to her to thank her for her efforts over the years and to send warm regards for her work in the future.

#### 3. SW led a short time of prayer.

#### 4. Minutes of last Forum Meeting held in April will be confirmed at the next Forum Meeting.

#### 5. Matters Arising

The Hope08 event in Gadebridge Park was considered to have been a success. There had not been a post event review meeting. A cheque for £893.75 had been sent to Urban Saints as the balance of monies received via CTHH after expenses had been deducted. SW thanked all who had been involved.

FG-B reported on the closure of the Mustard Seed. Draft accounts to the end of May 2008 had shown that sales were below a level that could sustain the continued operation of the shop. A well attended Thanksgiving Service had been held at St Mary's. At present there were still a few outstanding accounts to settle but it is anticipated that there the company will be closed and any remaining funds would be distributed at the Trustees discretion.

GR reported that the Hampers to Bless scheme was continuing but should now be removed as an Agenda item.

#### 6. Election of EG Members

There was a need for two new members of the EG. Denise Chennells was proposed by GR and seconded by JR. She was duly elected.

#### 7. Membership Request

New Life Pentecostal Church had applied for membership. DC affirmed that they would abide by the Constitution and work together with member

churches in furthering the aims of CTHH. Their membership was proposed by NS and seconded by CJ. Over 75% of those attending and entitled vote supported the application. S formally accepted the church into membership.

The latest update has been sent out to the churches.

#### 8. Town Centre Chaplaincy

GR reported that good contacts were continuing with the retail community. More help is needed to ensure that the ministry continues. EG to discuss how to move the ministry forward. Funds were no longer available to pay Robin on a part-time basis. He is willing to carry on in a voluntary capacity.

The meeting was pleased to hear that he is recovering from his accident. The Secretary was instructed to send him a message of encouragement.

#### 9. Christmas Plans

The Town Centre chaplaincy will be offering a gift-wrapping service on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Jean Garner is co-ordinating this.

The Salvation Army has its annual present appeal launching shortly. They will also be providing meals on Christmas Day for the old, cold and lonely. If anyone knows anyone in need please refer them to the Salvation Army office. Their annual Carol Service will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Sunrise Church will be holding a music event in the Marlowes on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Adeyfield Free church will be holding services in a number of sheltered accommodation schemes.

#### 10. Holocaust Day Service

We have been asked if we would consider holding a Holocaust Day Service as a CTHH event (probably on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009). The event would be at Carey Baptist Church. The meeting welcomed the idea and felt that it was important that we should invite representatives of the Jewish community. SW to look into this.

It was noted that this coincided with the Christian Unity Prayer Week. The EG would discuss how we could celebrate this week in the town from 2010.

#### 11. Launch of Public Church Directory

After much hard work we now had a public version of the Church Directory that complied with the Data Protection Act. SW presented the first copy to Councillor Neil Harden who received it on behalf of Mike Penning MP. Cllr Harden expressed gratitude for the Directory and for the hard work and contribution made by the Church to the life of our town. Further copies would be given to the libraries, Volunteer Centre and Information Centre.

#### 12. Across Hemel 2009

Justin Thacker made a presentation to bring people up to date with the ideas and planning that had been made to date. A draft Programme of Events was distributed. A DVD would be made available by mid December to encourage churches and people to get involved. Already it was believed that 18 churches were willing to be involved in the event. JT was willing to speak at any church that wanted to know more. The cost of the event was currently estimated at between £15 – 20,000. A wide ranging discussion ensued regarding the

relationship between the organisers and CTHH and how CTHH could help facilitate inter-church events. A motion was proposed by JR and seconded by GR that publicity for the event should, where possible, include the wording "Across 09 supported by Churches Together Hemel Hempstead." The motion was carried.

The need for the organisers to build relationships with Dacorum Council was emphasised. JT and GR to meet.

### 13. AOB

There would be a meeting entitled "The future shape of Hemel" on 4<sup>th</sup> December from 9.45 a.m. to 2p.m. GR was already attending and NS volunteered to represent CTHH.

Adeyfield Free Church were hoping to run Alpha Courses on Maylands Industrial Estate and would shortly be contacting churches for help with Publicity/

Good Friday March of Witness – the sub committee would meet before the end of November to finalise plans.

### 14. Next Meeting

The next Forum meeting would be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at NLPC.

### 15. Close

The meeting closed in prayer.