

Churches Together Meeting 10/04/08

Held at the Quakers Meeting rooms no record of attendees kept.

Meeting opened by Sheila Riley and silent prayer gave all present time to reflect on the Lord and his wishes for the meeting.

1. Minutes accepted from previous meeting and signed by Stephen Wood.

2. Good Friday March of Witness.

Those present were asked for feedback.

- Thanks were given to Mary Bond, Robin McEwen and St. George's worship group for all their hard work in helping the walk of witness pass off exceedingly well.
- It was reported that 250 song sheets had been distributed very quickly and there was a need for more.
- Sheila commented that 864 Hot Cross Buns had been devoured.
- Comments: a good turn out, a good presence of Christians in the town, less threatening having people not turn to face those watching, singing was a little hit and miss.
- The appeal for people to carry their own crosses had not been responded to by many,
- It was mentioned how littered the town was prior to the walk and maybe we could have tidied it up prior to walk as a sign of service to the town.
- Could we have an Easter service in the Open Air it was discussed and comments were about how busy ministers are that time of year.
- Health and Safety have a new system an assessment needs to be completed and sent to the Police at least 2 months in advance for them to decide if they need to help and to grant permission for the meeting in public. Stephen asked for volunteers to form a small committee to furnish this report for Health and Safety. Vaughan Allen, Sheila Riley, Stephen Wood offered to do this.
- Stephen also mentioned the suggestion of starting at the Market Square in the Marlowes is safer as fewer road crossings are involved. To be looked at by the small committee.

3. Hope 08

Arno reported to the meeting some churches already have their plans made and are doing special weeks during the year marking Hope 08

Graham reported to the meeting that Haven House are inviting other churches to become involved in the preparation and distribution of deluxe hampers to those in need. This was discussed at length and the appropriate referral system was high lighted. The meeting voted that this was a good project and suggested feed back to churches and they can contact Haven House direct. Graham is to furnish the web site with information.

Vaughan raised the technicalities of the meeting adopting a project and it being under Churches Together banner, as opposed to a vote of acceptance that a church has a good project and inviting them to ask other churches to join them in it.

Claire and Phil, Urban Saints Representatives, presented to meeting the possibility of Hemel Hempstead being a site for a Fun Day July 28th or 29th, run by ReAct.

The day would start at 2pm -5pm as a free fun time in the open air with loads of different activities for all ages. After an half hour break it then turns into an Open Air Church Outdoors session

This would mean churches in the town banding together, finding a location,? Some funding up to £3000 although Urban Saints have offered to underwrite this. It needs local churches to provide 30 personnel to help on the day alongside the 60 strong team.

Accommodation and food for the team would be useful although they could stay at Harpenden.

It is an opportunity for the youth of local churches to go forward for the ReAct training, an 11 day experience, 3 days are spent training,6 days on the tour at 6 different locations and then 2 days feedback and debrief. They will have trained Youth work Team leaders. This will cost each individual £149.

Phil emphasised this is a brilliant opportunity y to reach out and bring Jesus to an everyday event and meet with people in their own environment, however this is not for Urban Saints to do on their own if the local churches are not interested then it is pointless to raise Christ awareness for a day if the town are not going to keep the contact going after the team disappear.

Meeting was asked for their opinions and asked whether it was thought a good idea. Meeting agreed it was and Haven House, St. Georges, Markyate Baptists, Sunrise Church, New Horizons and AFC have raised their hands to say they are interested and are willing to come to coordination meeting. Claire is to organise this and liaise with Urban Saints on behalf of the meeting. Web site is www.urbansaints.org/ReAct check this for more details.

Report was accepted by meeting

4. Discussion then pursued as to whether this could be linked to Churches Together web site and when putting information on web site, who okays it? Stephen said all information for web site needs to be sent through his office and then onto Vaughan for inclusion. Vaughan suggested that the web site could be used more widely by the local churches. Enabling group to discuss this.
5. Emailing if there is a problem please let Stephen know.
6. Directory update. You have until 19th April to inform Norman of change of information.
7. Enabling group to discuss about inclusion into Churches Together, of new churches in the town.
8. Christian theatre group has been cancelled due to much work for Stephen.

9. Poverty Action Sue Allen spoke to meeting about Dacorum's Poverty Awareness Group who are holding a week of events to publicize the issue. They are making a video of local people who are telling their stories and how poverty impacts on their lives. This video is going to be shown at 2 meetings of the council and can be used by churches to show their congregations. The message is poverty can happen to anyone. Andrew Liversidge told meeting about 2 books the Poverty bible and Entertaining Angels about the Watford New Home Trust these are available from the Mustard Seed Book Shop.
10. Graham from Haven House spoke about the town becoming registered as a Fair Trade town at the end of June. He encouraged people to use the coffee warehouse in Ebbw Vale Rd to buy their Fair-trade coffee beans direct.
11. Graham also spoke of his role on the Inter Faith Group that the Borough Council wants to run and he is putting his self forward for that. Arno mentioned there was another Interfaith group meeting in the town.
12. Eddie Nunes spoke to the meeting about the proposal of Sunrise Church to hold a monthly prayer meeting over night from 10.30pm 'til 3-4 am .He would like church worship teams to take part and the ministers could also give a short sermon during this time. Everyone is welcome. First meeting is on 25thApril at 206 Queensway. Report accepted.
13. Churches Together AGM is on the 17thJune at Haven House 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start. Everyone welcome: only church representatives allowed to vote.
14. Minutes of meeting will go on website.
15. On The Box Mission Helen and Tony Whitton gave a short presentation about the work of the charity [soon to be registered]. The organisation is there to help and facilitate individuals, churches and groups to go out on short term, medium term or long term mission placements in the developing world..
16. Stephen closed in prayer at 9 .40pm