

**Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead**  
**FORUM**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 11th March 2009**  
**at New Life Pentecostal Church**

**Present:** Graham Richardson, Norman Spink, Chris Jones, Vaughan Allen, David Chapman, Francis Graham-Brown, Frederica Graham-Brown, George Court, Denise Chennells, Chandy Perera, Simon Wright, Angela Such, Stuart Stafford, Jenny Wallington, Mollie Tite, Pat Marlow, Ian Williams, Janice Varney, Margaret Elwick.

**1. Welcome**

Graham Richardson welcomed everyone.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Stephen Wood, Stan Purbrick, Garry Jenkins and Laurretta Wilson

3. **DC led a short devotion** on the subject of teamwork.

4. **Matters Arising** from Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008

*Holocaust Remembrance Day.*

Those who attended had found it to be a moving and relevant time. It was suggested that this may be held again in 2010 led by John Neil and advertised as being "with the support of CTHH". It was also suggested that the inter-faith group might be approached to become involved.

*Publicity/Website/Public directory*

VA reported that the website is being regularly updated. The public directory is now on the website. Changes to entries should be e-mailed to VA (for the website) and to NS and CJ for the paper version. Churches were encouraged to include the CTHH web address on their newsletters ([www.hemelchurches.org.uk](http://www.hemelchurches.org.uk)).

**5. Election of Enabling Group Members**

There was a need for a new member of the EG. No nominations were received at the meeting. In order to try to ensure a balanced membership of the EG it was suggested that the Methodists and the Roman Catholics be approached to see if there was anyone that would be willing to serve on the Group.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

CJ reported that there was currently a balance of £888.06 in the account. In the current year 24 churches had paid their subscriptions. Renewal notices would be sent out at the beginning of April for the new year. The subscription rate is currently £40 per annum.

**7. Across Hemel 2009**

JT updated the meeting on the progress made in planning the event. It would now run to the Sunday evening (3<sup>rd</sup> May). So far 20 churches are involved with at least 10 committed to social action activities on the Friday and Saturday. It would be a weekend of Christian action in both words and deeds.

The finance required to run the event is now nearly all in place. There would be a joint church service on the Sunday morning which would cater for all traditions. It was important that follow up is in place for people contacted over the weekend. There would be a single leaflet given to people which would give details of follow up meetings and events at churches.

## **8. Town Centre Chaplaincy**

GR read a report from Garry Jenkins which highlighted progress made in developing the ministry. GR commented on the many positive relationships being built in the town centre. There is a need for further volunteers to expand the work. Need to include a link to the Chaplaincy website on the CTHH website.

## **9. Good Friday March of Witness**

VA reported that a project plan had been developed to aid future planning of the event. A meeting with the council will be held in two weeks time to finalise arrangements but at present the plan is to start from the Civic Centre at 11am (congregating at 10:45). Police marshals will be present. James Reveley will be preaching. Hot cross buns will be distributed. Publicity for the event needs to be in place by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. CTHH Prayer Diary**

To encourage churches to pray for each other DC will compile a weekly prayer diary to include each church and Christian organisation in Hemel Hempstead. The diary will also be on the website.

## **11. AOB**

### *Ecumenical Study Day*

There is an Ecumenical Study Day organised by Churches Together in Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire. It is entitled "What is the Spirit saying to the churches?" It is on 17<sup>th</sup> June in Hatfield.

### *Fair Trade*

GR is involved with the Fair Trade Committee. In order to support the campaign for Fair Trade status for the town they need at least 50% of churches to be users of Fair Trade products. Could churches let him know if they are using Fair Trade products.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next Forum meeting is the AGM would be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009, venue to be decided.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed in prayer.