

**Churches Together in Winchester  
Annual General Meeting 17 May 2017  
Minutes**

**PRESENT** Nigel Hemming; Peter McManus; Roly Reim; Dorothy Lusmore; Andrew Rutter; Christine Smith; Brian Merriman; Kathy Fowler; Paul Townsend; Lin Brewer; Paul Tipple; Irene Ashby; Jane Carter; Philip Tutt-Leppard; Alan Cole; Mark Hibbert-Hingston; Jonathan Mutton; Katie Lawrence; Isobel Tutt-Leppard; Beth Taylor; Steve Taylor; Sue Broadbent, Ed Dines.

**APOLOGIES** Cliff Bannister, Debbie Veel, Ann Lee, Shelagh Clift, Jill Ingledow, Peter Seal, Mike Gardner, Rosemary Dunhill, Tim Searle, Richard Rogers.

**1 MINUTES** last year's AGM Minutes were accepted

**2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year the pilot project 'King's Christmas' was launched and an open air Carol Service held in conjunction with the Cathedral Lantern Parade, the Unity Service in January and the Good Friday walk and service was well attended. The anti-trafficking Gift Box event in the Cathedral grounds drew together interested people. A strategic half day will be held this year on 6 July to include Church Leaders and Champions as well as Executive Committee, to hear reports from Champions, and set an agenda for the year. Isobel Tutt-Leppard has been appointed as the new Communications Officer.

**3 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts for the year were circulated with the explanation that this year has been different from other years because of the need to raise funds for Syrian Refugee families coming to Winchester; the accounts show this figure recorded separately but inflating the total. Our normal income is only the amount received from subscriptions, the expenses for the Communications Officer will be about £1 000 more than the income.

**4 CONSTITUTION CHANGE**

The proposed changes to the Constitution were circulated to Churches more than two weeks prior to the meeting. These changes reflect change in the development of Churches Together:-

- The Chairman will usually serve for two years but may serve three if necessary
- Meetings change from four per year to three
- Executive members to be 'up to' two Catholics, 'up to' two Anglicans and 'up to' three Free Church and should be prepared to cover Treasurer or Secretary's roles if necessary.
- Add to the Constitution the role of Advocates, the number uncertain but probably ten and should come from a range of churches
- Add to the Constitution a Strategic oversight group including Advocates and church leaders to meet yearly.

These changes were passed by the meeting – proposed Ed Dines, seconded Mark Hibbert-Hingston.

**5 REPORTS** taken as read: Street Pastors, City Centre Chaplaincy, Christmas Project.

## **6 CHAMPION'S REPORTS**

### **6.1 Anti Trafficking**

Stop the Traffik (Southampton & Test Valley Group) have spent the last 4 months planning, co-ordinating, training and arranging Public Liability Insurances, volunteers, transport, drivers and a support team. For the UN Gift Box in conjunction with Stop The Traffik (Southampton & Test Valley Group). The Stop The Traffik team have truly appreciated the prayer support given by the Anti Trafficking & Slavery Prayer Group and all those associated with the group.

The UN Gift Box was finally assembled outside Winchester Cathedral on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Although there was inclement weather on Saturday morning, the rest of the weekend remained sunny and warm, which encouraged pedestrians walking past to stop and enquire what the Gift Box represented. For some visitors all they knew about trafficking is that 'it is a growing problem'. There were others whose employment brought them into contact with those who had been trafficked. The Gift Box was visited by Police Constable Bernadette Jones, who is our Special Point of Contact (SPOC) for Modern Slavery in this area. We made a good connection with PC Jones.

I spoke to many nationalities: Greek, Spanish, French, Canadian, American, Nepalese and I am sure the other volunteers would have spoken to other nationalities too. There were visitors from all around the UK, some who were able to recall cases that had come to light in their own counties. For many visitors they were shocked that human beings could abuse their own kind with such hostility. Most of the visitors were offered the 'Do you want to see the world and earn good money?' booklet, if we had a meaningful conversation the person was also offered the Stop The Traffik check list of significant signs and contact telephone numbers. Many people were pleased to take this leaflet in order to keep as a reminder and use the contact numbers to report anything suspicious.

Without doubt, the vision of the Stop The Traffik team was caught by the many willing volunteers. I was so blessed to work alongside like-minded people. Many visitors appreciated the presence of: Stop the Traffik (video), the Medaille Trust, Purple Teardrop and Love 146 who were present to inform and assist if needed. Major Anne Read, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator for The Salvation Army gave an address during the Eucharist service in the Cathedral.

The UN Gift Box has been in Southampton Precinct for the past 2 days and will be dismantled tonight to be assembled on Friday in the Cornmarket, Romsey ready for the weekend. I praise God for all the wonderful opportunities which have been made available to us during this time.

Debbie Dymott

### **6.2 Refugees**

Peter McManus began by recognising Jo Pellatt, the Refugee Champion, and Dorothy who have been heavily involved for the last eighteen months.. The initiative started in October 2015 with a meeting to discuss how we could respond to the refugees crisis. The Government announced its scheme for bringing in 20,000 people who had fled Syria. Hampshire County Council is responsible for the scheme locally and they contract to the Red Cross, supported by volunteers. In December 2015 the first refugee family arrived in Winchester and we needed to respond quickly. A house for them was found through the church network and support was very much 'learning on the job'. They were re housed in Summer 2016, making the house available for a second family, another house was also

found through the church network and two more families arrived in September. Two more families arrived in early 2017, one of which is housed in a church house. We now have five families locally, four of which are in Winchester, and the initial HCC commitment has been fulfilled, however, there is no restriction on number of families who may be welcomed provided accommodation is forthcoming.

It was a steep learning curve for us but the families are now well settled, supportive of each other and all the children have settled into schools very quickly. The main problem has been lack of English language and in some cases basic literacy – classes are supplied by the Council but we have sourced extra. The Government, through the Red Cross, supplies all basic necessities but often these have been sourced through our 'core group'. Jo has accompanied adults as well as children to hospital appointments, provided help with understanding correspondence and general befriending in a range of ways. CTW has funded shoes and clothing on arrival and many household items including warm bedding and second hand bikes. We also source the best deals in wifi access and fund this for them for six months. The main challenge for the future is to help with finding employment for the husbands and we are currently looking at ways to support this.

## 7 CINNAMON NETWORK

Guest speaker Paul Garrett spoke about his role and the working of the Cinnamon Network which serves the nation by making it as easy as possible for local churches to help those most at need in their communities. Paul is the advisor for Hampshire. The grounding of the Cinnamon Network lies in the realisation that the agenda of the Church in helping those in need is shared by local strategic partnerships – MPs, Councillors, Police, etc.

- **Impact** – to help churches impact their communities by connecting churches to each other in order to enable projects. There are many 'off the shelf' models that churches may use with the help of advisors and a micro-grant of £2000, as well as help to connect with civic authorities.
- **Incubation** – new situations and needs may arise that have no previous model – churches may promote their project to the Cinnamon Network who may take it on and expand it to be effective.
- **Influence** – selling the opinion of the local church and producing a value document of faith sector projects to show the monetary value to statutory bodies and schools etc.
- **Demand Reduction Partnership** – Cinnamon Network partners with Police Authorities and crime prevention funds are filtered to local churches to make a difference in street crime. A report has been published entitled 'Police and Church Partnership Working' which shows that demand on Police and Council resources has been reduced. Hants Police has invited HCC join in and we now have the first tri-partnership on a two year contract with funding given to start ten new projects.
- **Mobilise** – equip churches and monitor outcomes, projects started with help are accountable to Cinnamon Network and not the police or council.

The network usually works with individual churches but may work with an ecumenical group if there is proper structure and a constitution. Churches may also identify their own strengths and offer them to be used for a project. Money is usually only given for projects that Cinnamon offer but they can sometimes be adapted. Help and training can be offered. The Hampshire stream can be found on the website and application for funding and support may be made there. A Leadership Training Course will be held in Winchester on 7 October and is open to all but places are limited so please apply soon.

Full details and information <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/>

## 8 PENTECOST WEEKEND UPDATE

Many churches are taking part in 'Thy Kingdom Come' - a Prayer Novena leading up to the weekend and they will be organising prayer stations and events between Ascension and Pentecost. On Saturday and Sunday there will be 'Tents on the Green' in the Cathedral Outer Close – the main worship tent being organised by 'Burn Winchester'. Many Churches will be erecting 'tents', each with a different focus. The weekend will culminate in a Beacon event for 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the Cathedral on Sunday evening where the preacher will be the Archbishop of Canterbury. For more details see <http://www.winchester.anglican.org/about-us/thy-kingdom-come/>

## 9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected, proposed Katie Lawrence, seconded Mark Hibbert-Hingston

**Chairman:** Nigel Hemming

**Vice Chairman:** Tim Searle

**Treasurer:** Peter McManus

**Secretary:** Dorothy Lusmore

**Committee members:** Roly Reim, Sue Broadbent

## 10 AOB

**10.1 Christian Kitchen** has now ceased to function, if any church would like to take this on or find out more please speak to Dorothy.

**10.2 Celebration of recovery** During the August Bank Holiday there will be a 'Celebration of Recovery' in the Cathedral Close (recovery from any sort of addiction or traumatic event). Please contact Roly Reim if you would like to take part.

**10.3 'Starfish'** - remembering teenage suicide. An installation will be erected outside the Cathedral and if any church would like to do anything around this please let Roly know.

Roly thanked Nigel, Dorothy and Peter. Nigel thanked Paul and closed the meeting at 9pm.

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