



Minutes of Annual General Meeting Forum held on 7 October 2015

The meeting was attended by 45 members representing twelve churches.

Apologies were received from the following: - Rev David Gray, Rev Dave Halls, Maeve Opie, Noreen Berry, Valerie Chatterton, Rev Vaz Smith, Pastor Rufus Araoye

- 1. Opening Prayer:** - Rev Keith Wilson opened the meeting with a short service of worship.

The Vice-President Dick Spencer said he had been asked to the chair the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 1 October 2014:**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Jennifer Hart and seconded by Rev Rex Waghorne. Agreed by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

- 3 Annual General Meeting**

- 3.1 President's Report on last year.** Rev Keith Wilson began his report with a prayer.

He said that the population of Chippenham has grown enormously in recent years. There is a good working relationship amongst the Churches and our witness is increasing. He reported that the two evenings of carols had been a great success. On the Saturday there had been quite a crowd outside the Town Hall joining in the carol singing. On the Sunday the procession and carols at the Buttercross with the Nativity at St. Andrew's was also very well supported. In March we had a day of prayer with Dr Jonathan Oloyede from the National Day of Prayer and Worship. The Fun Day in July which took place in Monkton Park was a great success. Thanks to Dick Spencer and everyone else who worked hard for the event.

Keith read from Philippians chapter 2v2".....being one in spirit and of one mind"

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Chippenham Churches Financial Report:

Rex Waghorne presented the Financial Accounts for the year ending 7 October 2015. Although we made a loss this year of £377.80, the balance in the bank is £425.61.

Rex said that he has not asked churches for a subscription this year, but has to pay a subscription to Wiltshire Churches Together, so will now be asking each church for a subscription.

It was proposed by Major Alan Dixon and seconded by Rev Keith Wilson *"that the Treasurer has a Mandate to request a subscription from each church should this prove necessary."* Agreed by the meeting.

Christian Aid Financial Report: The total this year is £11,060.77 which is more than last year. Rev Andrew Gubbins said it showed an upward trend for Christian Aid. A Cheese and Wine is being held on 12 January 2016 in St Andrew's Hall to encourage new churches and people who have not been involved before.

Street Pastors Financial Report: The bank balance is £826.23. The Street Pastors are becoming a Trust in their own right.

3.3 Secretary's Report

Jenny Guy reported that she passes on information received from Wiltshire Churches Together to those on email. Wiltshire Churches Together Newsletters are passed on to each church. Jenny said she would like to thank Noreen Berry for standing in as secretary at the meetings in July for the Fun Day.

Also thanks go to Ray Mobley for the work he does on the Web Site and also thanks go to David Sandberg for his work with Facebook.

3.4 Election of President

Dick Spencer explained to the meeting that the Ministers' Meeting had nominated two candidates for President and voting had taken place. Rev Keith Wilson was declared President for a two year term.

3.5 Election of Honorary Secretary

Jenny Guy proposed by Rev Keith Wilson and seconded by Rex Waghorne and agreed by the meeting.

3.6 Election of Honorary Treasurer

Rex Waghorne proposed by Jenny Guy and seconded by Rev Andrew Gubbins and agreed by the meeting.

3.7 Election of Vice President

Dick Spencer proposed by Jenny Guy and seconded by Jennifer Hart and agreed by the meeting.

3.8 Election of the Executive

Discussion took place and it was agreed the Executive should have more lay representation. The Constitution needs to be re-examined and lay representatives should be involved in this. Jenny Guy said we only need to be at Ministers' Meetings when they discuss CCT matters. Major Alan Dixon said he has a copy of the Constitution drawn up by the Charities Commission which would be a useful guide for the CCT.

Rev Andrew Gubbins suggested having a Forum to discuss the changes in the Constitution. This will take place on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Salvation Army Citadel in Foghamshire, Chippenham.

4. Chaplaincy

Rev Keith Wilson said we cover the Chaplaincies of Chippenham Hospital, Wiltshire Council and the Police.

Rev Keith Wilson welcomed the two new ministers to Chippenham; Major Alan Dixon and his wife Jackie, Salvation Army and Rev David Miller of Sheldon Road Methodist Church.

5. Youth Report

Becky Meilton, Youth Leader gave an enthusiastic insight into her role as youth and schools worker and said how she visited schools in Chippenham and different churches. How the young people are very often open and receptive to the Christian message and the good work continues especially in the secondary schools.

Rachel Neate of the Virtual Baby Programme spoke of her involvement with the youth in Chippenham and how the Virtual Baby Programme helped teenagers become aware of the difficulties when becoming a mother. The teenagers take the babies home and these babies are programmed to behave just like a real baby. Hopefully this will deter teenage pregnancies. Rachel said more volunteers are needed.

6. Chippenham Food Bank

Major Alan Dixon said the Food Bank is specific to Chippenham and has been running since 2010. It is mainly for emergencies and gives out an average of 20 food parcels per month. Mostly people receive just one, but sometimes more often. They welcome donations from all churches for which they are very grateful.

7. Chippenham Street Pastors

Michael Weeks gave an enthusiastic report on the work of the Street Pastors. Most churches are involved with the Street Pastors. Due to illness there are only twenty Street Pastors at the moment, but they have six new volunteers who are going through training. To date they have carried out two hundred patrols. Their presence is welcomed by the Clubs and Police and they are engaging more

with people and becoming more accepted as Christians.

The Street Pastors were asked to attend a New Year's Eve Boxing Event at the Olympiad. Although that event was quiet one life was saved by their presence. The Street Pastors were nominated for a Town Council Civic Award. They have become a Charitable organisation in their own right and Rev David Gray is Chairman of the Trustees.

There will be a Prayer Gathering for Street Pastors and the Town of Chippenham at St Paul's Church on Saturday 24 October 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Rev Andrew Gubbins said prayers for the volunteers in the community.

8. Presentation from Olive Branch Counselling

Geoffrey Wheeler gave a report on the work of Olive Branch Counselling. Geoffrey said they were busier than ever. They have fifteen counsellors and several volunteers who pray and also stay on the premises while counselling sessions are taking place. It takes three years to qualify as a counsellor at a cost of £3/4000. Eighty-four people have been counselled this year and there are 17 on the waiting list. Geoffrey said that with the Mental Health collapsing in the county Olive Branch is having to deal with these people. No-one is excluded. Grateful thanks to all those who give their time to help people who are in a bad place.

9. Presentation from SAT7

Trevor Dunstan spoke of the work of SAT7 - Christian Satellite Television by and for people of the Middle East and North Africa. There are five channels and one for children. It is in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish. It is greatly valued by the Christians in these countries where it is not safe to be a Christian. Trevor showed a short film of a child being interviewed about her religion which was very touching. Trevor is very happy to go to any church to explain about the work of SAT7. It is really encouraging that the Chippenham Church has a part to play in this international ministry.

10. Future Dates

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November - Carol Singing in Chippenham (Saturday 6 p.m. and Sunday 4.30 p.m. - to be confirmed)

Sunday 24 January 2016 6 p.m. - Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Baptist Church. Week of prayer 17-24 Jan.

Friday 25 March 2016 - 10 a.m. Service at Central Methodist and Good Friday March of Witness through Chippenham and Buttercross to St Andrew's Church.

Sunday 22 May 2016 - Christian Aid Service TBA. 15-22 May

Saturday 16 July 2016 - Family Fun Day in Monkton Park. 10-3 p.m.

October 2016 7.30 p.m. - CCT Annual Meeting (date and venue TBA)

11. Any Other Business

(i) The Prayer Cafe at the Baptist Church needs welcomers, intercessors for an hour on the fourth Saturday of the month 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(ii) Christian Fellowship Church holds a Prayer Meeting for Chippenham on the first Friday of the month from 9 p.m. All welcome!

(iii) Rev Simon Dunn is planning a coach trip in May to the Western Front.

(iv) Inge MacInnes (Open Doors) is holding a Prayer Evening at the Chippenham Christian Fellowship Church on Thursday 26 November at 7.30 p.m. for the families suffering in Syria.

12. Closing Prayer - Rev Keith Wilson thanked all the speakers for coming to the meeting and for all the work they do. The meeting closed with prayers.

Chairman

Rev K.L. Wilson.....