

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FORUM HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2017
AT THE SALVATION ARMY, FOGHAMSHIRE**

1. Opening Prayers & Worship

Dick Spencer chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming everyone and inviting Dawn McGarvey to lead a short time of worship, which she followed with a bible reading from Philippians Ch 1 (referring to thankfulness for partnership in the Gospel) and a prayer for blessing on the meeting.

2. Apologies and attendance

The AGM was attended by 38 members, representing at least 11 churches, as well as other organisations.

Apologies were received from the following:

Valerie Chatterton, Liz Nelson, Major Alan Dixon, Lisa Lewis, Rev David Miller, Steve Hardy, Margaret Sadler, David Turnbull, Catherine Courtney, Rachel Neate, Becky Meilton, Rev Adam Beaumont

3. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 5th October 2016

Acceptance of last year's Minutes was proposed by Rev Andrew Gubbins and seconded by Jennifer Hart. This was agreed by the Meeting and signed by the Vice-President.

4. President's Report

As the out-going President, Rev Keith Wilson began by welcoming everyone and thanking everyone for their support during his Presidency over the last four years. He reported that good progress had been made working together in the

town. 15 Churches belong to Chippenham Churches Together out of approximately 20 Churches in total in Chippenham.

Keith thanked the other Officers - Dick, Noreen and Rex, for all their hard work and support given. Also thanks to all the other Ministers and Churches for their support, prayers and encouragement.

Keith showed slides and photos, of events throughout the last year - Christmas Carols at the Train Station, Town Centre Carols, Good Friday March of Witness, Service and Outreach at the Buttercross (thanks to Liam Berry for his video work and streaming to Facebook which resulted in outreaching to around 1,600 people online, going worldwide), and the Noah's Ark Fun Day.

The Fun Day, held at Monkton Park, attracted an estimated 1,000 plus people, who enjoyed a packed day of free activities and fun, with lots of different stalls ranging from a bouncy castle to a popcorn machine. Keith expressed thanks to Chippenham Street Pastors for their presence and help on the day, also a big well done go to all who helped in so many ways to make this day such a success, great outreach, and witness of our churches working together in unity. Keith quoted from John Ch 10 v16 referring to one flock & one shepherd. He said that these events were great outreaches - the public want to see the church, not hiding behind our church walls.

Keith gave us this thought: 1/4 of Good News is "Go", 1/3 of Gospel is "Go", 2/3 of God is "Go", so God wants us to Go and share the good news of the love of God.

Keith reported the Ministers prayer meeting, which started two years ago and meets every Wednesday morning, has been prayer walking the streets of Chippenham, but there is still more to be done and he emphasised to all present, the great need for prayer for working in unity and for God's blessings on our town. Keith finished by reiterating his thanks to everyone.

5. Vice-President's Report

Dick Spencer expressed a very big thank you to Keith, on behalf of everyone, for his hard work as President over the last four years, for going the extra mile, for his vision and great enthusiasm, and for leading the progression of CCT with new ideas. Dick quoted from Isaiah, referring to where there is no vision, the people perish. Dick presented Keith with a gift, on behalf of CCT, as a token of appreciation for his service as President.

6. Treasurer's Report

Chippenham Churches Together:

Rex Waghorne provided a Financial Statement. He said that there has been no requirement to charge the churches any subscriptions, as there is an excess of £341 over expenditure in the year, the total income was £1,610, mainly from donations for the Fun Day, and from Chippenham BID, plus the Good Friday Service collection was a significant contributor. The January 'Hope 08' Unity Week Service, at Sheldon Road Methodist Church, raised £283, which went against expenses.

The current balance is £741.

Christian Aid:

Financial information regarding Christian Aid was not available, however Rev Andrew Gubbins (Chair of Chippenham's Christian Aid) gave an update. He said that the previous year was harder than other years, with less willingness from supermarkets etc to host collections. Andrew thanked all involved for their endeavours and gave special mention to Roger Hammond for his incredible efforts, which resulted in the re-establishment of collections eg at Morrisons and other venues. Andrew also thanked the churches for their help in raising the total, which was over £1,000 more this year than the previous year. The total raised in 2016 was £8,594 and £9,319 in 2017.

7. Secretary's Report

Noreen Berry said that nearly 70 people now receive communications via the CCT email contacts list and requested that anyone who would like to receive these updates, leave their contact details.

Noreen thanked those involved in regularly keeping the CCT Facebook page updated - David Sandberg, David Miller and others.

Noreen encouraged everyone to join the CCT Facebook page, as she said that liking and sharing Facebook posts has been an extremely successful free way of advertising and outreaching to others outside the churches, e.g. the Facebook poster for the Fun Day reached 3,776, as well as posters around town - and 5.5k hard copies of the Fun Day leaflet, most were handed out to the public in town, to

shops, schools, nurseries, businesses etc; thanks to Liam and team for all their efforts in successfully distributing these leaflets.

Noreen thanked Ray Mobley for all his help with the CCT Website.

She also expressed a big thank you to Ruth Ranger, Beatrice Moore and all at Revelation Christian Resource Centre, which will be closing at the end of January, after 33 years in Chippenham. Noreen requested that everyone support them in these last few months, including the Christmas and New Year periods. She then read a report from Revelation CRC, in which they thanked all who have been involved or supported the shop, and for their prayers over the years.

Noreen also read out an update from Rachel Neate, the Virtual Baby Co-Ordinator, who was unable to attend the AGM. Rachel stated that the Virtual babies programme is as busy as ever, the Virtual babies are booked up in all 3 Chippenham secondary schools, for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018. The teen pregnancy lessons also continue with the Year 11's (15 & 16 year olds).

Noreen said that she has had a request from David Turnbull, Christian Aid Treasurer, for a Christian Aid Representative from each church. She also asked for each church to confirm their Lay CCT Representatives (maximum of two per church).

She thanked everyone for their support over the last year.

8. Election of Officers

Election of President

Rev Andrew Gubbins was nominated by the Ministers meeting and unanimously accepted at the AGM as the new President for a two year period.

Andrew expressed his thanks and gratitude to Keith, whose ferrari style, undaunted face, spiritual focus, with love and acceptance and hard work, would be a very hard act to follow. Andrew said our call is to love Chippenham, as in St. John's Gospel - we love one another as a way to release love to others. He said that Keith was also a great encourager with his pastoral care.

Andrew asked anyone to let him know if they have any thoughts or suggestions for the future of CCT.

He also said that there will be a Forum meeting on the evening of 24th January, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Election of Honorary Secretary

Noreen Berry was proposed by Rex Waghorne and seconded by Keith Wilson.

Election of Honorary Treasurer

Rex Waghorne was proposed by Michael Bosworth and seconded by Dawn McGarvey (for a one year period as requested by Rex).

Election of Vice-President

Dick Spencer was proposed by Rex Waghorne and seconded by Jennifer Hart.

9. Election of Executive

Those appointed were:

The 4 Officers of the Executive (Andrew, Dick, Rex, Noreen)

Plus 3 Lay Representatives agreed to stand, namely:

Brian Sherwin
Jennifer Hart
Michael Bosworth

These were unanimously accepted by the Forum.

10. Group Reports

Foodbank:

Miriam Dann, Community Assistant at the Salvation Army, reported that Foodbank was initially set up by CCT, but is now run by the Salvation Army. She said that between January and October this year, Foodbank had handed out 221 food parcels. The highest cause for the increase in using Foodbank is delays and changes in benefits. Also when schools are closed, there is a higher demand.

Over the next year, Foodbank is hoping to maintain its provision and looking at ways to make donating easier eg they are hoping to have drop-off points at supermarkets and churches. They are developing grab bags, as food parcels are

not appropriate for the homeless. Christmas hampers are also being prepared and are suggesting each church donates a specific item for the hampers. Miriam also said that they are developing a website and increasing their social media presence.

Chippenham Street Pastors:

Michael Weeks, Chippenham Street Pastors Co-Ordinator, said that they are out every Saturday night in town (10:30pm to 4am), where they are having contact with a generation who have no experience of going to church. The Street Pastors also had a presence at this year's Chippenham Carnival, the CCT Fun Day, and the Council Fun Day. Michael said that in his role he is constantly networking and building partnerships. They are working with Chippenham BID, eg with the Christmas lights switch-on, offering Safe Zones and acting as a lost child point at BID events, Chippenham SP's are also Chippenham BID's chosen charity for this year.

Michael spoke about how he had coordinated the summer solstice at Stonehenge, and how they are also wanted for the winter solstice. They deal with a lot of secular organisations. Michael and Becky O'Brien are also now trained Response Pastors and they both travelled to help at the Manchester tragedy.

Michael said that he had also recently qualified as an Ascension Trust Representative and he can now deliver Response Pastor training.

He is also working on a project liaising with the council and the police, with a view to having Street Pastors out in the town in the daytime on market days. Michael has asked for prayers for this project and would like to go around to talk to about this to the churches.

Dave Thompson - Deputy Chair of Trustees of Chippenham Street Pastors, also thanked the Churches for their financial support, which has enabled them to give Michael Weeks an honorarium, as a token of all his hard work.

Dick Spencer also made a request for more people to become Street Pastors.

SAT-7:

Bronwen Heaton explained that SAT-7 is a Ministry broadcasting Christian television across North Africa and the Middle East, programmes are made by and for the people of the area. They are reaching parts of the world that others cannot reach with the Christian message.

She thanked all who came to the SAT-7 event at St Andrew's in March and told of plans for another event next year.

Bronwen spoke about the new launch of Academy, SAT-7's new children's education channel - there are 13 million children in the SAT-7 broadcast area who have no hope of education- SAT-7 are reaching many of them through their tv kids programmes. The children find it positive and it's turning lives around. They also do Women's bible study abroad and have bedtime stories in Arabic.

SAT-7 are happy to be invited to our churches and church events, they are looking for a venue for a movie night.

Olive Branch:

As no Olive Branch representative was available, Dick said that they offer a free Christian professional counselling service, based in Chippenham, no fee, but donations welcome. It is a good service to recommend to others.

11. Future Dates

CCT Carol Singing - Monday 18th December, 5pm, at Chippenham Railway Station

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th - 25th Jan) - Sunday 21st January 2018, 4pm, at the Salvation Army

CCT Forum Meeting, January 24th (evening) TBA

Women's World Day of Prayer Service - Friday 2nd March 2018, 2pm, at St. Mary's RC Church

Good Friday United Service, Friday 30th March 2018, 10am, at Central Methodist Church, followed by March of Witness and Community Outreach

Christian Aid Week Service, Sunday 13th May 2018, 6pm - venue TBC

CCT Family Fun Day, Saturday 30th June 2018, 11am - 3pm, at Monkton Park Island (by the Town Bridge)

CCT Annual General Meeting October 2018 - TBA

12. Any Other Business

Simon Dunn said that he is arranging a Holy Land trip, anyone interested is requested to ask him for more information.

The Turning - Simon also spoke about The Turning, which he said started at The Gate, Reading. It is all about the churches working together evangelising. He invited everyone to look it up, to think and pray about it, to see if it might be something for next year in Chippenham, as part of a move in Wiltshire.

Elizabeth Everett spoke about Carol Services in Pewsham, which started 2 years ago, this year's will be at King's Lodge school on 9th December.

Elizabeth also talked about Mission shaped ministry, which has grown from Fresh Expression, it is an ecumenical initiative about trying to find new ways to reach non- Christians, showing god's love in the community. All interested were asked to come along to St. Peter's Church for a taster Day on 11th November.

Caroline Stevens asked for prayers for our country.

Brian Sherwin, new Executive member, introduced himself, he said that he had been inspired by all the Outreach initiatives, he is delighted by the huge range within our Churches - and glad to have the opportunities for the churches to engage with young people eg through the Fun Day.

13. Closing Prayer

Rev Keith Wilson closed the meeting in prayer, he thanked everyone for their contributions, and encouraged a spirit of unity. He emphasised the need to continue working together - Keith shared a vision that all the people in Chippenham were in the town centre & all the Ministers were united around them in prayer. He said God loves Chippenham and He wants to use everyone, not just the ordained Ministers.

Refreshments were then served.

