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**Annual General Meeting Wednesday 9th October 2019, 7:30pm  
at The Baptist Church, Station Hill, Chippenham**

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### **Welcome and Opening**

- Welcome** - Andy Gubbins welcomed all to the meeting.  
Stephen Cozens offered to be note taker and prepare a record for distribution
- Prayer** - Todd Nightingale (1 Col v 9 ff)

### **Attendance and Apologies for absence -**

- Attendance** - 19 attendees from 12 Christian worship centres
- Apologies** - Received from: Geoff Floyd, Simon Dunn, Paul Godwin, David Turnbull, David Gray, Ray Mobley, Catherine Courtney, Margaret Sadler, Jen Hart, Noreen Berry
- Chairperson** - Dick Spencer assumed chair.

### **Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 10th October 2018**

- Minutes** - Accepted by the meeting as read  
Michael Bosworth proposed, Dick Spencer seconded, motion passed nem con
- Matters arising** - None raised

### **President's Report - Andrew Gubbins**

Spoke of the need for all followers of Christ to be willing to minister to all in our town and not just to the members of congregations. We are called to share the good news of Jesus in thought and word and deed. Ezekiel 34, Mark 6 and Psalm 23

Commented how less time available from the parish dented his ability to co-ordinate any family fun-day in 2019. Shared how John 10:2-4 relevant - *One flock one shepherd* -

Not being able to turn ideas into plans and plans into actions limits our dynamic of service to a wider community. Confirmed the fun day 2020 is on the agenda let us hold this lightly and seek people to enable the event to take place from within our fellowship networks

Thanks offered for service rendered by:

*Rex Waghorne* for many years of service to CCT as treasurer a token of thanks given to Rex.

*Noreen Berry* in her absence for the sterling work Noreen has continued to carry out as secretary and as the hub for general communications. Her faith and the warmth of her ability in this role regardless of family circumstances deserves honour and huge thanks from us all.

*David Turnbull* for 25 years of service with Christian Aid in the town more in the CA report.

*Dick Spencer* continues to be our lay chair, and our thanks are shared with him too. He is planning to step down next year so all are asked to seek earnestly in their own congregations for men and women to come forward to be part of CCT in the years to come.

Our churches across the town offer diverse and practical assistance, as well as spiritual support. Our strengths and weaknesses are testimony to the Grace of our Lord day by day. The mission field of our town continues to be the subject of prayers and activity.

The Salvation Army presence in space open for the town, the food bank, support for homeless are just three examples in this one fellowship.

*The Women's World Day of Prayer* offers a different way of reaching out into our community - please consider attending in 2020.

*The Good Friday walk of witness* provides the broadest gathering of Christians in one place in the year. The ministers have come to respect the multi-purpose nature of this important event and we all engage in the joyous expression of Christ's good news in unity of the Holy Spirit.

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Chippenham Churches Together offers a fountain of compassion across the town, there is a genuine pulse of concern that unites us in many ways and continues to develop.

Andrew expressed his thanks to everyone for their patience and support in the two years of his time in post.

**Vice-President's Report - Dick Spencer**

Thanks to *Rex Waghorne* for his many years of service as treasurer reiterated.

As a church rep, Dick said that his role is to ensure that the work shared by the CCT secretary, is communicated throughout the church in appropriate ways. All within CCT are able to share the news and activities through face to face dialogue, as well as the pew sheets and notices on websites.

These methods of communication enable perceived barriers to continue to be removed and our faith to be expressed across town.

**Treasurer's Report - Rex Waghorne**

Chippenham Churches Together Financial Report

No formal written report was submitted

Income - none required this year 2018/19

Expenditure - for the year 2018/19

Subscription      £12:00

Expenses      £26:00

Insurance      £72:80

Balance

2017/18      1269.29

2018/19      1158.49

Actions Arising

The meeting agreed nem con to cancel the magazine sub.

A formal audit of the books via an independent examiner needs to be completed. In line with charitable best practice, CCT will work to the requirements of the Charity Commission.

**Christian Aid Financial Report**

David Turnbull was absent, his detailed report and accounts sheet had been distributed prior to the meeting.

A discussion led by AG noted:

the changing face of charitable giving generally across the UK

opportunities exist for electronic payment methods to be encouraged

*Alan Dixon* shared the need to be aware of the emotional legacy that many volunteers face from the rebuttals on the doorstep, Christ have mercy.

Churches that actively participated, increased their totals this year. St Peter's had even experienced a significant uplift in the total of the house-to-house collection, partly due to several large donations.

*Anne Sherwin* asked that we share our ideas across the churches so that variety and flexibility of good practice may be part of the CA cause going forward. This was agreed nem con and will be brought to the next appropriate Executive or Christian Aid meeting.

**Secretary's Report - Communications and Correspondence**

**Website -**

AG thanked *Ray Mobley* our webmaster for the years of support, and confirmed the service remains available.

AG stated new younger volunteers are requested to step forward and assist the current webmaster with a view to handover soon. Executive to create a formal advertisement.

**A CCT newsletter**

A draft paper had been received on 03/10/2019 prior to the meeting from *Brian Sherwin*, seeking discussion on the idea of the CCT creating a periodical publication for broad circulation that will raise the Christian

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message across the town in an accessible format. This idea will be discussed at one of the Forum meetings in 2020.

### **The role of the secretary going forward**

Noreen has explained that she needs to be able to step back from meetings and minute taking. Noreen reports she is willing to continue as the communications hub coordinator. The meeting agreed nem con that this was a suitable way forward. A minute taker is now sought going forward.

### **Election of Officers**

#### President

This sits in the gift of the ministers of religion who are members of the CCT.

The ministers have agreed to one additional year for AG to be caretaker, with support from *David Gray*.

#### Honorary Secretary

*Noreen Berry* will continue

A minute/note taker is sought to support *Noreen Berry*

#### Honorary Treasurer

*Rex Waghorne* has retired and is willing to mentor a new person.

#### Vice-President

*Dick Spencer* wishes to retire and will stay in post for one more year

#### Executive Members

No election was held this year

**Executive** - is found from the officers and other member church volunteers, new committee members are most welcome and are asked to speak with their church and then offer themselves forward. A review of the compliance status with Charity Commission guidance is sensible best practice for 2019/2020.

### **Initiatives supported by members of CCT**

Chippenham Foodbank (SA), Café Spero, Food Box, Counselling: Olive Branch, Chippenham Street Pastors, The Turning, Activity in Schools and College

### **Guest Speakers and written reports supplied - Written reports received:**

#### **Miriam Dann re Salvation Army food bank:**

Headlines are as follows:

Parcels given out, up over 100 compared to same period last year Nov 2017/Oct 2018

All categories of parcels are up (singles, couples and families) on same period

Increase in children affected by food poverty in Chippenham

Main reason for referrals is delay/changes to benefits

Trussell Trust is running a campaign to end the five week wait on Universal Credit, a major factor in the increase on people accessing Foodbanks.

Salvation Army is to launch a campaign in coming months if people want to support these.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and to please continue, thanks to the kind donations from individuals, churches and organisations Chippenham Foodbank is continuing to be able to offer support to people who need it.

#### **The Turning in Chippenham is led by Sue and Neil Hutton**

The Turning formed a three year plan to work with local churches to launch and develop the project to take the message "the love of Jesus for you today".

Launched across Wiltshire with a ten day mission starting on 21st June 2018 which operated from 3 'hubs' (centres for training and outreach: Chippenham, Salisbury and Westbury)

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The Turning went out to 11 different towns across the county. During the launch we went out on the streets for one hour on eight days, 418 people prayed a prayer of commitment/recommitment and provided details so that they could be followed-up and disciplined.

A weeklong follow-up outreach was held this year 16th to 22nd June 2019 and a further 178 people prayed a prayer of commitment/recommitment on the streets.

Key features include:

Churches working together.

An 'encounter meeting' on the evening before going out on the streets.

An 'equipping meeting' for training and worship immediately before 'going out' on the streets.

Obtaining contact details from those who make a commitment/recommitment, following them up and discipling them, one-to-one.

The Wiltshire Turning's Facebook has good testimony and further information.

The vision of the Wiltshire Turning is for every believer in Wiltshire to be equipped to share the Gospel and to be able to disciple those who respond.

To this end in Chippenham

- 1 A Hub is working to provide training and equipping.
- 2 We are working to plant and then release new hubs in nearby towns.
- 3 Prayer and worship events are held regularly
- 4 Wiltshire will participate in a national 10 day Turning campaign in 2020
- 5 We have a small team of Evangelists who represent three churches in Chippenham, and a prayer mailing lists of 50 Christians who receive a regular report.

To find out more about sharing the wonderful reality of The Gospel in our own community here in Chippenham please contact Sue or Neil Hutton.

### **Report on Chippenham Street Pastors for the CCT 2019 AGM**

Chippenham Street Pastors have continued over the last year to provide support to both staff and revellers engaged in the Saturday night economy of Chippenham town centre. Their support consists of giving out water, sweets, flip flops, a friendly word, ensuring lifts home are provided or even calling the emergency services to anyone requiring them.

Street Pastors contribution to making the town center a safe, hospitable place on Saturday nights and so helping Chippenham gain a Purple Flag has been recognized by all the other organisations involved.

Although their core witness is during Saturday night, they have recently started patrolling on Friday mornings during the street market and have a growing ministry to the homeless, lonely people and anyone who just needs to talk.

The Street Pastors have also provided safe zones for such events as the Christmas Lights Switch On and support at national events such as the Summer Solstice at Stonehenge.

Chippenham Street Pastors is an excellent example of ecumenical cooperation and epitomises the best of CCT at work; they do however need more volunteers as they are currently unable to meet all of their commitments.

For more information on training courses or if any church would like someone to come and speak about their work, they are asked to contact Area Coordinator, Michael Weeks, on [chippenham@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:chippenham@streetpastors.org.uk)

### **Guest Speakers:**

*Jan Durston* - spoke passionately about the opportunity provided by Eco-Church: Started by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity, this is an online survey and supporting resources designed to equip churches to express their care for God's world in their worship and teaching; in how they look after their buildings and land; in how they engage with their local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of their congregations.

The survey is free, but donations are encouraged to keep the scheme going. Now is a really good time for local churches to make a Christian voice heard in the current climate change awareness and this scheme is one way of doing that. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

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*Ruth Ranger* shared news from the Pilgrim Friends Society projects and local initiatives:  
Huge thank you to all churches and their leaders for the many events that they run for the elderly and other age groups in the town by way of community engagement. This has been noticed and appreciated both by the local services (medical & social etc) and by the county council area workers. This list is available on their sister project [www.faithinlaterlife.org/inspire/directory](http://www.faithinlaterlife.org/inspire/directory) All are invited to add any more activities that they wish via the website or forward them to Ruth.

The new PFS Care Home land has been purchased from the council (behind Lidl & the new social housing being built at the moment) due to open in April 2021 with the diggers moving in after Christmas. Community space also planned for church use etc.

Attached 'Time for Care?' information booklet (can also be printed – contact Ruth with numbers) covering making a will, adult care, care needs assessment, power of attorney etc).

Ruth also mentioned Jennifer Bute's website [www.gloriousopportunity.org.uk](http://www.gloriousopportunity.org.uk) with plenty of free information about dementia awareness and her YouTube talks.

There will be a "Looking Forward" event (see attached flyer) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Emmanuel Church 10am – 2pm (free entry) booking at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/looking-forward-registration-69700005593> for anyone over 50 (or younger) who wants to make preparations for getting older. Practical financial, spiritual, legal, social, relational, physical, & Care advice. Contact Ruth if anyone would like to book, rather than doing it online themselves.

*Trevor Durston* Spoke for the nationwide Tearfund Big Quiz Night on 16th November at 7.30pm. It should be lots of fun as well as raising funds for Tearfund's important work. Anyone wishing to partake, can bring a team of up to 8 people, or come on their own and join in the fun. Refreshments will be served.  
Suggested donation to Tearfund £5 - Sheldon Road Methodist Church

*Stephen Cozens* Spoke about the need for mental health well-being and understanding across our communities, as highlighted in last year's AGM. A new opportunity is to be launched in Chippenham in 2020 under the support of Kintsugi Hope <https://www.kintsugihope.com/>

Teams from Station Hill Baptist and Greenways Benefice churches are to attend training in October.

A public concert of live music and discussions will come to Station Hill Baptist Church on 17 November at 18:00

### **Future dates**

*Chippenham Christmas Lights Switch-On* - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (Top 10 Carols please send individual church's top 10 by 01/11/2019)

*CCT Carol Singing* at Chippenham Railway Station - Wednesday 18th December, 5:30 pm

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service* - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Sheldon Rd Methodist Church

*Women's World Day of Prayer Service* - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 2pm

*Good Friday United Service* - Friday 10th April 2020, 10am, at Central Methodist Church, followed by March of Witness

*Christian Aid Week Service* - Sunday 10th May 2020

*Thy Kingdom Come* (21-31<sup>st</sup> May - 9th June) - Events TBA

*CCT Family Fun Day 2020 – provisionally 20<sup>th</sup> June 10-3pm* (TBC)

**CCT Forum Meeting Dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> Oct AGM

**Ministers' Meetings:** 1.30pm – 13/11/19; 15/1/20; 11/3; 6/5; 1/7; 9/9; 11/11

**Any Other Business:** None

**Closing Prayer** at 21:10 with those present sharing an agape meal together

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We bless our town in Jesus' name - to be a place of peace and prosperity, where all who will, may find faith and journey together to the glory of God.