

## **Churches Together in Cirencester**

### **Annual General Meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 7:30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Thomas Street

#### **Present:**

Anglican	
Ashcroft	Rev. James Taylor, Dinah Wise
Baptist	Matt Frost, Mo Jackson, Wendy Hewett
Community Church	Peter & Maggie Langman, Stephen Bentley
Holy Trinity	
New Life Church	
Religious Society of Friends	David & Jill Nash
Salvation Army	Envoy Michala Lancefield, Anne Harrison, John & Cherry Umasanthiram, Nicky Chatfield
St Peter's Stratton	Gill Keen, Mareen Ford
St Peter's R.C. Church	Adrian Snow
The Upper Room	Kathy Folkestad
Overcomers House RCC -	

**Welcome & Prayers.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the words of Jesus from John ch. 17 vs 20/21 as He prayed for the church. In particular James emphasised the need for unity in the church and the events that we are involved with to demonstrate to others that we collectively represent Christ until he returns in glory.

#### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cate Luck; Fiona Hocken; John Lawrence; Pastor Obaro; Keith & Wendy Hasler; Jill Wilkinsion and Joe Dunthorn.

#### **Previous Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by James Talyor.

#### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising that are not dealt with under the Agenda items.

#### **Acting Chairman's Report:**

Following the resignation of Sue Price earlier in the year James Taylor had been co-opted as Acting Chair and had agreed to be nominated as Chair for 2018/19. He gave a verbal report to the AGM. A written copy is attached to these minutes.

### **Reports on CTiC Activities**

These had been prepared in advance of the Meeting and were available as a printed booklet (copy attached with these Minutes). With regard to Thought for the Week submissions, Matt Frost will check with the paper that these are being co-ordinated by the Editor as there appear to have been some that have been omitted in favour of Stroud based correspondents.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Accounts for 2017/18 (copy attached) were presented by Adrian Snow, having been audited by Tony Swinson. Of concern to the Auditor was the fact that Cirencester Community Church had administrated the Christmas Day meal donations/costs as a matter of expediency which was accepted but that good practice would be to make sure that all income/expenditure in fact passed through the CTiC Bank Account.

The accounts closed with a credit balance of £8772.86 however, Adrian wanted to point out that, out of that balance, £1115.44 was the remainder donation for a future Christmas Day lunch. In addition, the costs for Alpha and Open the Book included "late" payment of invoices from the previous financial year. He was concerned that having reduced the subscriptions at the previous AGM and excluding the previous years Alpha, OtB costs and the Christmas Day meal funds, there had been a shortfall of £224.16, Expenditure over Income for the year. No decision was taken regarding subscriptions for 2018/19 (currently £200 for larger churches and £100 for smaller churches) so this will be taken to the September Forum for a final decision. CTiC activities remain relatively settled and accordingly there is no set budget. The money accumulated will remain to meet any exceptional needs that arise. In passing it should be noted that CTiC is a Local Partnership rather than a registered charity and is self accountable within the framework of the constitution.

### **Publicity**

There was a discussion regarding the minimal expenditure on printing/publicity costs and whether or not CTiC needed to be more pro-active in promoting it's activities to a wider audience. The suggestion was put forward regarding the use of a street banner to advertise joint activities. It was noted that this had been done in the past when the Alpha Courses were started but at present, apart from the Easter March of Witness and Carol Singing at Christmas there are very few occasions that CTiC comes together in what might be termed as an evangelistic endeavour. Although the discussion was inconclusive it did lead into a proposal that CTiC should consider setting up a dedicated Facebook page which would be an effective way of communicating with a younger generation.

### **Facebook**

Stephen Bentley had submitted his proposal prior to the meeting and a copy is attached with these minutes. Stephen offered to help set up the page with input from Nigel Price, who is the webmaster for the CTiC webpage. Ideally there would be two "tech savvy" Administrators who would be responsible for managing the Facebook page and controlling content. In principle those present thought that it was a good idea and Stephen was asked to take the idea forward and report progress to the September Forum.

### **Syrian Fund**

By agreement the Syrian Fund is administered by Cirencester Community Church on behalf of CtiC. The Fund holds a credit balance of £1404.23. In addition the Arabic/English Language Class holds £23.77 for materials and minor expenses. Transport to classes has been provided by T4 Taxis and paid for out of the Syrian Fund and since the start of the year the Fund has supported the setting up of the Damascus Falafal and Chemistry Tuition for Maya who is hoping to study medicine and become a doctor.

### **Open the Book – Co-Ordinator**

Howard Gray took on the role of co-ordinator following the death of David Williams but would like to hand this over owing to personal circumstances requiring his attention elsewhere. We are therefore appealing through member churches for this need to be advertised so that a handover can be arranged. Howard can be contacted via the Parish Office or by email to [howardgray55@outlook.com](mailto:howardgray55@outlook.com)

### **International Cafe**

Sue Price has confirmed that she will need to step down from her involvement with the International Cafe. Although not strictly a CTiC initiative it is supported by several member churches and individuals. Matt Frost commented that if the Cafe is to continue, there is a need for a Leadership Role to be developed to work more closely with the different ethnic groups that are represented in the town. Again, can member churches please highlight this need to their congregations and feed back any suggestions via the Forum meetings.

### **Nominations for Officers**

Chairman – James Taylor (previously co-opted).

Vice Chairman –

Treasurer – Adrian Snow – willing to continue in post.

Administrator – Peter Langman – willing to remain for third year.

There were no other nominations received and we still lack a Vice Chairman who should be a lay representative to follow the established pattern. It is noted that there have been several resignations from Forum Members during the year raising some doubt as to its ability to fully represent the aspirations of the member churches.

David Nash proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers which was endorsed by those present and no objections were raised to the nominated Officers continuing in their roles.

## **Forum Meeting Dates & Venues**

2018

6<sup>th</sup> September – Cirencester Baptist Church, Midland Road

8<sup>th</sup> November – Ashcroft Church, Ashcroft Road

2019

10<sup>th</sup> January – Friends Meeting Room, Thomas Street

7<sup>th</sup> March – St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St Peter's Road

10<sup>th</sup> May – Churn Offices, The Waterloo

5<sup>th</sup> July – AGM – Salvation Army Hall, Thomas Street

## **Plans & Suggestions for 2016/17**

Hospital Grounds Community Day – final details still to be confirmed. Adrian apologised that he had not been able to take this forward as he had hoped owing to ill health. Kathy Folkestad had been in contact with Andre who leads the work there and she undertook to see if September 15<sup>th</sup> would be a suitable date.

Walk Through the Bible Course at the Salvation Army Hall - 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Following up last years course this one will focus on the New Testament. Further details and publicity material to follow.

Watermoor Community Group have asked if CTiC members would join with them on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November for a service commemorating the Armistice. In particular volunteers are needed to help serve tea and cakes in the Bingham Hall after the service. It was noted that this does conflict with the Bible Course already arranged for that day however it is an opportunity to be involved with the local community.

British Legion Commemoration Service Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Parish Church – Rev Katie Richardson has asked for volunteers (particularly church leaders) to be involved in the service which will be led by Bishop David Jennings.

Christmas Day Lunch It had been reported earlier that there had been very few guests (approx 25) attending the Christmas Day Lunch despite catering for 100 and having some 40 volunteer helpers. A different format will be needed if the meal is to be repeated again this year. There are clearly sufficient funds available but more thought needs to be given to how invitations are circulated. It was suggested that Sarah Garnell and Louise Smale, two of the Signpost volunteers, may be able to help in identifying those who would most benefit from an invitation. A small organising committee is needed and at this time it is not known if Pastor Obaro and his wife would be willing to organise the catering again. This will be a priority for discussion at the September Forum.

United Ecumenical Service – As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has had dwindling support particularly as it falls so soon after Christmas it is proposed that CTiC should instead organise a joint ecumenical service to be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. This would be an opportunity to profess unity of purpose and demonstrate churches working together. This will need the support of all the church leaders together with their congregations and will require vision, purpose, preparation and publicity.

## **AOB**

Stroud Women's Refuge – David Nash again highlighted the fact that this is the last refuge in Gloucestershire where women and children can escape from domestic abuse. He explained that owing to government cutbacks its finances are very vulnerable and depend on public donations, potentially up to £83k every year. He urged members to raise the profile of domestic abuse and the need for safe houses within the County.

Community Choir/Music Group – Mark Waters suggested the possibility of musicians from member churches getting together in preparation for joint services/activities so that there would be a wider resource available. Generally a good idea but would need someone to promote it and co-ordinate rehearsals etc. Do speak to your congregations to ask if there are any who might like to be involved.

## **Upcoming Events** –

Cirencester Baptist Church is hosting *Duggie Dug Dug's* Awesome Bubble Show on the afternoon of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 3 until 4:30pm. Principally for children and their parents – further details available from the Baptist Church.

Stuart Townend & Band – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets available from [cirencester-baptist.org/stuarttownend](http://cirencester-baptist.org/stuarttownend) or call 01285 643510.

## **Next Forum Meeting** –

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September at Cirencester Baptist Church, Midland Road starting at 7:30pm.

The AGM closed with the Grace at 9pm.