

Churches Together in Cirencester

Forum Meeting

6th September 2018 at 7:30pm at Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane

Present:

Anglican	-
Ashcroft	Rev James Taylor (Chair),
Baptist	Matt Frost, Mo Jackson
Community Church	Keith Hasler, Peter Langman (Administrator)
Holy Trinity	Jill Wilkinson
New Life Church	-
Overcommers House	-
Religious Society of Friends	-
Salvation Army	Envoy Michala Lancefield, Mark Waters
St Peter's Stratton	Gill Keen, Mareen Ford
St Peter's R.C. Church	Ann Birkett, Adrian Snow (Treasurer)
The Upper Room	-
Others	-

Welcome & Prayers. - James Taylor welcomed everyone and read from Galatians 3 vs 26 – 29 emphasising that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Apologies: - Apologies were received from David & Jill Nash; Kathy Folkstad; John Lawrence, Cate Luck; Jean Colburn; Dinah Wise; Rev. Kim Brown.

Previous Minutes: - The minutes of the previous Forum held on 10^h May 2018 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by James Taylor. It was noted that there is still a vacancy for a Deputy Chair who should be a lay representative pending nomination to be Chair in due course. Members were asked to canvass their respective congregations for volunteers.

Subscriptions & Open the Book Costs: Following the Treasurers Report to the AGM in July, Adrian reiterated that Expenditure for the year 2017/18 had exceeded the Income from subscriptions and that he was concerned that a large part of the expenditure (£1067.77) had funded the purchase of Bibles for the local primary school leavers. He pointed out that not all of the member churches subscribed to Open the Book and that in the longer term such expenditure was not sustainable. He proposed that annual subscriptions should be raised to £260 for larger churches and £130 for smaller churches and that the supply of Bibles for school leavers should be supported in part from fundraising by the Open the Book teams.

There followed some discussion regarding the surplus of funds currently held in the bank which included £1115.44 held in reserve towards a future Christmas Day lunch as well as accrued funds. On balance, Forum members agreed that the provision of Bibles for school leavers was worthwhile but should be reviewed on an annual basis. Similarly, the annual subscriptions would also be subject to review whereupon it was agreed that the current rate (£200 for larger churches and £100 for smaller churches) would be maintained for 2018/19.

Facebook Page – Peter Langman reported that Stephen Bentley had spoken with Nigel Price the CTiC Webmaster and that together they were working with Corinne Waters to design a Facebook Page which

would potentially be accessible to a wider audience. The key to its success however would be regular updating and Forum members were asked to encourage dissemination of information so that it could be posted on both the CTiC webpage and the new Facebook page. Peter Langman offered to be the conduit through which information could be passed to Nigel Price and to whoever the Administrator is for the Facebook Page in due course. It was pointed out that the website currently has links to individual church websites and that the Town Council website also contains similar links. It was also suggested that a copy of the Minutes could be published on the website.

Syrian Fund Finances – Peter Langman reported that there had been little change since the account summary was presented at the AGM. There had been a request from the English Tutors for additional funds to meet their expenses for the coming year, particularly as there were two additional families from Oaksey who would be attending to improve their language skills. Forum members approved a further advance of £200 from the fund.

International Cafe Update - Keith Hasler reported that since Sue Price had stepped down from leading this initiative a group of volunteers had met together to propose that the Cafe should be relaunched on 19th September and to ask the Syrian families (and any other ethnic groups) what they would want from the Cafe. It was clearly an opportunity to build relationships with different cultures/faiths but with the limited resources available would be restricted to once a month. The relaunch would be in the Time Out Cafe at the Baptist Church but again the venue would be open for discussion depending on how families would be able to gain access.

Hospital Grounds Working Party – Kathy Folkestad had contacted Andre Curtis (the Grounds Manager for the NHS) to discuss what might be appropriate and a provisional date of 15th September had been agreed. However there had been no feedback as to availability of volunteers and Peter Langman informed the meeting that the working party would need to be postponed if there were no takers after the weekend. Adrian Snow suggested that if he was in better health come the Spring he would be prepared to promote the idea once again and commented that volunteers would receive a good supply of tea and cakes on the day.

Induction of Rev. Cannon Graham Morris - It was noted that Graham and his family had moved to Cirencester and that his Institution by the Bishop of Tewkesbury and Induction by the Archdeacon of Cheltenham will take place on Saturday 22nd September at 4pm. It was unclear as to whether or not this service is open to anyone to attend as invitations had been distributed to clergy and other officers. Matt Frost said that he would be attending and as James Taylor will not be available Matt will welcome Graham on behalf of CTiC. An invitation would be extended to Rev. Cannon Morris to attend the November Forum.

Post Meeting Note: Further details have now been requested from Rev. Katie and will be distributed as and when they become available.

Stuart Townend & Band Matt Frost reported that ticket sales had been going very well and that a full house was anticipated. Tickets cost £12 in advance and £14 on the door and the date is Saturday 29th September – doors open at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Walk Through the Bible Course – Saturday 3rd November 9:30 (for registration) until 4pm. Michala confirmed that Graham Mizon would again be leading the course which was open to anyone to attend regardless of their Bible knowledge. The cost is £14 per person for the day with tea and coffee provided. Bring a packed lunch. Graham has been a tour guide at the garden tomb and is likely to offer insight into

the history and context of the writings that collectively we regard as the New Testament. Posters and Invitations were given out and will be distributed to Member Churches in the next few weeks. Please contact Michala for any other information. (Notice attached)

Watermoor Community Group Remembrance Service - It was confirmed that this will take place at Watermoor Corner on Saturday 3rd November starting at 11:00. CTiC has been asked for volunteers to help with serving tea and cakes to those attending after the service. Teas will be in the Bingham Hall after 11:30. Please contact Jenny Hincks (jennyhincksdiprsa@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Post Meeting Note: Jenny Hincks confirmed that there would be a short service as well as an act of remembrance. She is hoping to enlist the support of local school children and the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. The date has been chosen simply to avoid other remembrance events taking place to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice.

RBL Commemoration Concert & Service – Friday 9th November – Parish Church – As there was no representative from the Parish Church we were unable to confirm whether or not this was an open service.

Post Meeting Note: Further details have now been requested from Rev. Katie and will be distributed as and when they become available.

Christmas Day Lunch - There is currently no consensus as to how this should be organised, if indeed it is to be repeated again this year. The lunch which was provided in 2017 was well supported by volunteers, sponsorship and administrative organisation but was poorly attended. Invitations were given out by member churches and were distributed to Bromford Housing, Citizens Advice, P3, Foodbank, Hope Cirencester and Signpost however there was some confusion regarding who was eligible to be given an invite. If the event is to be repeated again this year it will need clear direction as to its purpose and would benefit from improved publicity. Forum members were asked to canvass their respective congregations for ideas and suggestions and in particular to ask for volunteers to form an organising committee.

AOB

CTiC Music Group/Choir Mark Waters asked if there would be any support for organising a joint CTiC music group to provide for shared events. On balance it was felt that such a group would be underutilised and that it would be better to bring such a group together for specific events. For example the singing of carols (particularly in St Michael's Park and at Watermoor House) and in preparation for the joint Pentecost service that had been proposed for 2019. It was suggested that the music leaders from the different churches should network their contacts/resources with a view to collaborating as and when the opportunity arose.

Thought for the Week - Matt explained that he was in contact with the new editor at the Wilts & Glos who was keen to include the column within the Community News section rather than the Letters page as had been the practice up until now.

Next Forum – Thursday 8th November 2018 - 7:30pm at Ashcroft Church, Ashcroft Road

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 8:50pm.