

Churches Together in Derbyshire

A.G.M. October 13th 2011

Held at Ashbourne Road LEP Church, Derby

Personal notes (not the official minutes)

The meeting began with introductions from everyone present – who they were and where they came from. The outgoing chairperson Rev. Dianne Tidball then opened the proceedings with a bible reading and a quote from Mother Theresa – to paraphrase, be the best you can regardless of the consequences.

The Rev. Ian Kemp gave a summary of the life and work at Ashbourne Road LEP:- The church was built in 1996 and is a Methodist /URC partnership. It serves Ashbourne Road, Mickleover and the Dean Street area. This is a mixed use area having residential and light industrial sections together with university students and the School for the Deaf. The church has close links with the School for the Deaf and is building links with the university students living in the area – they are working with the students to carry out a survey on the needs and wants of the local citizens. The building is in constant use, for toddler groups both English and Chinese (taking over from the Queens Hall) and for open house gatherings of local people. Since the retirement of the Deacon all energies have been focussed on the church's own congregation and local residents, although this is already ecumenical by virtue of its LEP status.

Rev. Dianne Tidball then showed a DVD promoting Ecumenical initiatives in Mission and the linking of big events through our churches. Things such as Hope UK, Bible Fresh and now the possibilities around the Olympics. "The unity of Godhead shows the love of Christ".

Rev. Ian Kemp followed this up with a presentation on "More than Gold" <http://www.morethangold.org.uk/> the movement to get as many people involved in the Olympics as possible – to offer support to visitors and to athletes alike where the opportunity arises, and to be seen to be doing it together – ecumenically- to show hospitality, meet to share our faith and encourage others to do the same. It is a great opportunity to advertise the Olympic values of fairness and respect.

At the moment there is a shortfall of 1700 "Games Pastors".

There could be a 'prayer relay' to follow the torches as they make their way to London.

At present plans for when the torch comes through Derby are still incomplete but no doubt we will hear all about them when everything is organised!

City Vision are looking at the possibility of a prayer walk to follow the torch from Nottingham, via World Prayer Centre Birmingham to Derby.

Another useful web-site is <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/515>

Rev. Dianne Tidball announced the retirement of Mr Jeff Witts, the CTD treasurer and asked for a volunteer to take up the reins. No-one was forthcoming so the post remains unfilled.

Churches Together in Chesterfield reported that their Street Pastors have been working in the town centre since August 6th and it is going well. The group meet each night the Pastors are working, to hold a prayer vigil for their work and safety and to offer support if needed.

At this point Rev. Dianne Tidball stood down and the new Chairperson Rev. Lorraine Mellor was inducted – Rev. Lorraine is chair of the Notts and Derby Methodist District. She comes from a truly ecumenical background, with Anglian and Methodist parents and a Baptist grandmother! She believes that a better way of practising ecumenism is to tackle social issues together.

Bishop Humphreys reported on the progress of appointing a Christian Unity Facilitator to replace the post held by Rev. Philip Webb. There have been 10 applications, all of good quality and four have been shortlisted at a meeting of the Standing Committee earlier in the week. These four will be interviewed next week and the appointment should be soon after that.

Two other points that need to be addressed by the Standing committee –

- 1. The appointment of a vice-chair and of a treasurer.**
- 2. Advice made available regarding the financial assessment of each church.**

The appointment of Council Officers was ratified

In the absence of a treasurer there was no financial report although the secretary Mrs Helen Lidgett recorded that the account was in credit.

The minutes of February's Council meeting were signed off.

Two matters arose from these :

- 1. The proposed LEP conference has been postponed as it proved too difficult to set up – if anyone wants this it will be brought back to Council**
- 2. The CTD constitution has been amended as agreed**

Derby Church Net – Tim Gosling reported that 2000 copies are now produced monthly, with more advertising helping to pay the bills and more articles being offered for publishing. The new directory will shortly be available.

Mr John Hurfurt of Derbyshire Churches – Church of North India partnership presented a report on the activities of the last year.

Bishop Biswas of Calcutta visited London, Derby, Edinburgh and Perth during his stay in the UK.

Kasta Dip, CNI officer for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation visited the UK for three weeks and came to the RC church of Holy Family, Allestree where he held a talk/discussion on Dalits and Tribals

Rig David, director of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service has been visiting in support of the Bishop of Derby's Harvest appeal.

There are many partnerships between local churches and India, reports from some of these were also presented.

Mr Martin Gage then gave a presentation for Christian Aid and its importance.

Contributions are down this year in some areas, whilst in others records are being broken!

Will-aid brings in approx. £150,000 and legacies account for £10,000,000.

There will be a "Big Sing" at the Crooked Spire, Chesterfield Thursday 15th December starting at 6.30pm. tickets £5f from East Midlands office.

They will be running specialist training days for speaking and preaching on C/Aid;

Worship and C/Aid; going into your local school for C/Aid.

Industrial mission in Derbyshire has been renamed to better represent the different areas supported. As not only industry, but also agriculture, airports and retail concerns are included in the scope of the chaplaincy. The new title will be 'Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire'. There will also be a change of logo.

As the meeting came to close Rev. Lorraine thanked the outgoing chair, Rev. Dianne Tidball, on behalf of the council and Standing committee, for her hard work over the last twelve months and secretary Mrs Helen Lidgett presented Rev. Dianne with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting ended with a prayer from Ephesians 3

Next meeting will be 28th February 2012 - venue to be announced