

# **Churches Together in Derbyshire**

**A.G.M. October 19<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Held at The Haven Christian Centre, Littleover, Derby.**

**Personal notes (not the official minutes)**

**The meeting opened with music led by Rev. Roger Gray the minister at The Haven Centre. Fr. Alan Burbidge then led the prayers and finished with a quote from Blessed Cardinal Newman..**

**“I have my mission; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place...”**

**Before the meeting began in earnest Fr. Alan thanked Philip Webb, Ecumenical Development Officer for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, for his work over the last ten years in advising and helping our communities in their work for ecumenism. Philip has taken up a post in the West Midlands and the Black Country is already finding his way around his new ‘parish’. He thanked all those he had worked closely with and said he has made a lot of good friends. His experience in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire has enabled him to move on and take up this new position. Fr. Alan then presented Philip with a book token for £215 and wished him well in his new life, Philip left the meeting and business continued.**

**Fr. Alan as Catholic member of the commission formally handed the chairmanship, on behalf of Fr. Gerry Murphy, to the Rev. Diane Tidball. - Revd Dianne is Regional Minister for the East Midlands Baptist Association. She was appointed in 2009 and is therefore just starting her second year in this post. She is the Team Leader and has particular responsibility for Derbyshire and Leicestershire.**

**Commission members were then ratified without change.**

**Jeff Witts then presented the finance report for the year: £1694 subs. from sponsors, LEP’s and various other groups: £826 various expenses which left £3718 in the bank.**

**The Rev. Roger Gray then talked about the Haven Centre and his role there. Roger moved from London to Derby in June 2009. The centre was opened in 1999 and grew from the development of Heatherton. It is an LEP of four partners and has approximately 70 members from all ages. There is a part time youth worker attached to the church and there are many weekly groups meeting in the building. At the moment finances are not good but the hope is to expand the building in the future, especially as there are plans for new housing out towards Findern, which would put the church physically in the centre of the community.**

The minutes from the Buxton meeting were agreed and signed-off.  
One matter arising was discussed – A half-day conference for LEP's.  
Comments were invited by the chairman and Rev. Lindsay Hughes ( The Church on Oakwood (Anglican, Methodist, URC /LEP & RC covenant) said it would be a useful exercise as she felt isolated as an LEP and would like to meet with members of other LEP's.

Tim Gossling said that we should have a part-time Ecumenical Officer by September 2011, and shouldn't we wait until he/she is in post before arranging this. The feeling was 'the sooner the better'.

Lindsay and Rev Ian Kemp (Ashbourne Rd Church - Methodist/ URC LEP) agreed to arrange a date for a conference at The Church on Oakwood, sometime in January 2011.

The chairman reported that Church leaders response to the request for an ecumenical officer/facilitator was positive. Funding is in place for a part-time post in Derbyshire. At the moment Nottinghamshire have not got anything planned, so the post could not be expanded to a full time one. The post will be available with a revised brief - that of concentrating on enabling ecumenism at the grass roots level rather than on structures - also is 20hours enough? Etc. The job description will then be checked for accuracy and efficacy, and finance streams- contributions from around the county- clarified. The post should be ready to advertise by the time of the February meeting.

Now that Philip has finished there will no longer be a monthly Newsletter. The focus will be on the web site. Tim Gossling will manage the site with voluntary support from Philip Webb ( as a senior friend!). Any information for the web-site should be sent to [jeffwitts@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffwitts@hotmail.com) who will edit content to avoid duplication. Tim felt that there is a need for some admin support – this will be looked at when the new officer is in post.

The constitution for Churches Together in Derbyshire has gone missing. Philip has drafted one but it was felt by the commission that it isn't right for the present situation, so it was agreed to refer this to the standing committee to draft a new one and bring to the commission for discussion.

The meeting was closed by Fr. Alan who led us in a short prayer.

Dates to remember: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 last Two Counties Service  
To be held at Queen's Hall, Derby.  
(Details at a later date)

Further meetings: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 )  
@ 7.30pm 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 ) Venues to be arranged  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – AGM )