

Minutes of Churches Together in Chelmsford Annual General Meeting held on 31st May 2015 at St. Luke's Church, Gloucester Avenue

1 **Welcome and Opening worship**

Revd Canon Carol Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and led a time of worship, which was accompanied on the organ by Paul Selwood and Paul Greenland with his guitar.

2 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Nicholas Henshall, Ivor Moody, Elizabeth Marshall, Dan Glading, Peter Thomas, Robin Stevens, Stephanie Gillingham, David Gilbey, Richard and Judy Cecil.

3 **Minutes of 2014 AGM were agreed as a correct record.**

4 **Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.**

5 **Reports**

a **Chairman's report.**

Revd Canon Carol Smith explained that, as serving Vice Chair of CTiC, she had been called upon to accept the office of Chair when Revd Jon Sermon was called to a new pastorate in Camberley in October 2014.

Carol added to her written report a reference to the music concert held as part of the Changing Chelmsford Ideas Festival that CTiC organised as part of the 2014 Changing Chelmsford Initiative.

b **Treasurer's report.**

When accepting nomination as Treasurer in 2014, the Revd Paul Greenland had not anticipated resuming the role of Vice Chair and organiser of the Good Friday March of Witness event. However, with Jon Sermon's departure this became a priority.

Consequently the request for CTiC subscriptions had been sent out late and were recorded in the accounts as debts. Most churches had now paid their subs so the CTiC finances were now in a healthy state. A donation from the Rimshott Trust of £2000 towards the cost of the Good Friday event was an encouragement. Paul wished to resign as Treasurer and stand for election as Vice Chair.

c **Adoption of accounts for year ending 31 December 2014 – agreed.**

d **Approval of subscriptions**

(remaining the same as last year as detailed in the Treasurer's report) – agreed

e **Caroline Robinson (Chelmsford Cathedral)** was thanked for examining the CTiC accounts and reappointed as Independent Examiner.

f **Christian Aid** – No comments.

g **CHESS** – No comments.

h **Street Pastors** – No comments.

i **YMCA** – No comments.

j **Procession of Witness** – No comments,

It was reported that in 2016 there will be a Passion Play held in Chelmsford and the March of Witness event will be incorporated into the Good Friday planning.

k **Workplace Chaplaincy** – No comments, but Canon Carol emphasised the need for more workplace chaplains to be recruited.

l **Essex Mind and Spirit & Interfaith Forum** – No comments.

m **The CTiC Pre-election Hustings Event** held on 23rd April had been a worthwhile opportunity for the electorate to see the candidates in person and hear them answer questions. The meeting was well attended and thought to be a very useful exercise. The Revd Paul Greenland was thanked for organising this.

6 **Questions and observations (Members' Items)**

a **Beaulieu Estate** Revd Viv Gasteen spoke about the great opportunity for the church to get involved in the huge new development close to New Hall School. The Chelmsford Diocese and the Methodist Circuit had put up money and were working

with the developers, Countryside, and Springfield Parish Council to ensure that there would be a church presence in the Estate. There will not be a new church built, but there will be a Community Centre with a large hall for use as a church on Sundays. The Diocese has agreed that Revd Lee Batson should spend part of his time being the "face of the church at Beaulieu". Flyers had been distributed in the area to seek views on what people wanted from 'church' in the estate. It was a very exciting time for the church in Chelmsford and Viv was sorry that she would be leaving for the Wirral very soon and would be 'sitting down'.

- b **Homelessness** - David Hodgkinson spoke about the growing problem of homelessness in Chelmsford. This was a concern which Bishop Stephen took very seriously. His father, who had recently died, had also been much concerned with the plight of the homeless and Bishop Stephen was currently engaged in fund-raising for the homeless in memory of his father. To this end he had organised a dinner at Bishops court, Margaretting on 20th June for which David had tickets available. It would undoubtedly be a very enjoyable evening.

7 **Nominations and Elections of Officers and Standing Committee**

As previously mentioned, the Revd Canon Carol Smith had assumed the role of Chair after the departure of Jon Sermon in October 2014. She was willing to continue as Chair and this was proposed, seconded and agreed. It was proposed that Paul Greenland resume the role of Vice Chair and Robin Stevens accept the office of Treasurer. These proposals were seconded and agreed. The Secretary, Pat Bruguier, was standing down after 10 years' service and was presented with a gift and thanked for the work she had done. Unfortunately no replacement had come forward so the office of Secretary became vacant. Other current members willing to continue on the Committee are:

Ivor Moody, Vice Dean, of the Cathedral, Mark Sawyer from the Salvation Army, Peter Thomas from North Springfield Baptist Church and Pastor Ade Ajayi from the Redeemed Christian Church of God with Sue Gibson as Prayer Co-ordinator. It was proposed that Keith Jackson, Senior Leader of Life Church, be nominated to serve on the Committee. This was agreed and Keith was welcomed.

8 **Chelmsford 24/7 Prayer**

Unfortunately David Gilbey, the invited speaker, was unable to attend so Sue Gibson stepped in and spoke about the origins of 24/7 prayer worldwide and how she had been called to set up the Chelmsford Prayer Network which had been a precursor to Chelmsford 24/7 Prayer. In partnership with David Gilbey they had a vision of Christians standing together, celebrating what each other is doing, quoting Psalm 133, "How good and how pleasant it is to live together as brothers in unity.... for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." Sue enjoined that if we are in unity then God's hand is free to bless. The Week of Prayer in March to bless the City of Chelmsford had been organised by Revd Andy Griffiths and David Gilbey and had been very successful with participation by 53 churches and organisations.

The vision now is to set up a Prayer House in Chelmsford so there could be prayer at all times. Towards this end, Prayer Spaces have been arranged - the first being at the YMCA on 1st June 2015 from 7 – 10 pm. It was hoped that people would come along to pray, perhaps for the whole 3 hours or just drop in for a while as they were able. Another Prayer Space would be available at Cable House, Hall Street on 12th June.

If anyone would like to offer a Prayer Space, a church or room, then please get in touch with Sue or David. It is certainly an exciting time to 'Partner with God' in prayer.

9 **Closing worship was then led by Canon Carol.**

*Thanks go to **St Luke's Church** for their hospitality and for the tea, coffee and cakes following the meeting and the opportunity for fellowship and discussion of current activities and projects.*