



Minutes of Churches Together in Chelmsford

Annual General Meeting

held on 15th May 2016, 3:30 pm

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 wonderfully accompanied by a band from the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Carol spoke of being together in Jesus and thanked those who had led us to Jesus and called us to speak of Jesus to others.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Elizabeth Marshall, Revd Peter Thomas, Revd Mike Lewis and Revd Abe Konadu-Yoadom.

66 people were present at the meeting.

3 Minutes of 2015 AGM were agreed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

5 Reports

In general the reports had been circulated prior to, and in limited numbers at, the meeting and were not read out but formed a backdrop to the proceedings noted below.

a Chairman

Revd Canon Carol Smith added to her report that she had been exploring the constitutions of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and Churches Together in England (to which CTiC belongs). She had also been reviewing the results of a survey about three years ago of CTiC members. She explained how the role of the CTiC rep seemed inadequate and this is a reason the AGM has been made an event for the day of Pentecost. Carol had placed some flip charts at the back of church in which she asked that any with suggestions as to things they might like us to do together or how CTiC reps might make a more tangible contribution to our shared life and witness to Chelmsford City and District. Her key proposal was that henceforth, CTiC be taken as *Christians Together in Chelmsford* suggesting that this might relate to people more readily and also to those organisations that are currently providing a service in the area and/or registered as Associate members of CTiC. The meeting expressed support for Carol's proposal with folk from Writtle saying they are already doing something similar.

b Treasurer's report

Robin Stevens reviewed the account documents which he was proposing. There were no questions. His proposal that the Free Churches Committee monies of £165.02 be subsumed into the Current Account was seconded by Richard Cecil and adopted 'nem con'.

c Adoption of accounts for year ending 31st December 2015

To Robin's proposal, Rose Marshall seconded and the accounts were adopted 'nem con'.

d **Approval of subscriptions** – Robin proposed, Paul Greenland seconded and the meeting agreed 'nem con' that subscriptions remain the same as last year as detailed in the Treasurer's report.

e Independent Examiner

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

f **CHESS** – No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.



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g **Christian Aid** – No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

h **Foodbank** – Subsequently Alan Summers drew the meeting's attention to a need Foodbank has for carrier bags to facilitate recipients taking food to their homes. He asked for donations of these if possible.

i **Procession of Witness** - No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

j **City Passion** - No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

k **Street Pastors** – No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

l **Workplace Chaplaincy** - No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

m **YMCA** - No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

n **Chelmsford 24/7 Prayer** - No comments were added and the report was tacitly accepted.

o **Christian Book Aid**

Although no written report had been submitted, David Cushion spoke of the Christian Book Aid's work taking books and passing them on to places where there is a dearth and thirst for written Christian material. About 7000 books are sent to London annually and about 50 million worldwide. Because money is needed for containers to send books away some books are sold to fund their cost.

6 There were no further **Questions, Observations or Comments**.

7 **Elections of Officers and Standing Committee**

Thanks were expressed to Paul Greenland for all he had contributed as vice-chair, treasurer and organiser of the Procession of Witness as he stands down from the committee after 12 years and to Pat Bruguier for her 10 years in total as secretary. The following were proposed, seconded and elected to the following posts 'nem con'.

Role	Person	Proposer	Second
Chair	Carol Smith (Work Place)	Robin Stevens	Ade Ajayi
Vice-chair	Keith Jackson (Life Church)	Carol Smith	Rose Marshall
Treasurer	Robin Stevens (Christian Aid)	Carol Smith	Susan Iskander
Secretary	Richard Cecil (Street Pastors)	Carol Smith	Susan Iskander

Additionally it was agreed that the following remain on the committee: Ade Ajayi (Redeemed Christian Church of God), Ivor Moody (Chelmsford Cathedral), Sue Gibson (Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer), Rose Marshall (YMCA), Kevin Butler (Foodbank). Mike Lewis (Holy Trinity Methodist) also agreed, subsequent to the meeting to remain on the Standing Committee. Further an additional nomination had been received for Nicki Sims (Skylark) and she was duly elected to the committee.

Carol Smith proposed that **Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer**, and **Schools Youth Ministry** (SYM) become Associates which was agreed 'nem con' as was the continuation of **Essex Christian Healing Trust** as an Associate.

8 **Speakers**

a **Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer**

David Gilbey spoke of how he had been called to begin the Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer movement starting in August 2014 when he was at a conference when he heard God's call to this and his subsequent resignation from his job. In February



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he was separately approached by Andy Griffiths to organise a week of prayer around Easter 2015. In that summer he began the portable prayer room in various church venues including latterly the Cathedral. The previous week he had organised 24 hours of prayer in the Cathedral in response to the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Thy Kingdom come' initiative. Over the previous year 700 people have engaged with the quietness and encounter of these various prayer possibilities which David described as being about breathing God in and then out on to others.

David continued by illustrating how God appears to be working, telling how on 4th March he had drawn a spider's web to represent a web over the churches in Chelmsford. He finished it off by drawing a cross in the middle and put it down. When he looked back, there the cross was illuminated by a reflection of the sun in a brass plaque. He had been struck by the timing and location of these events as well as the purchase of some keys the day before. He said that he believes that God is seeking Christians and Churches to seek unity, love together and put the cross of Christ at the centre of their thinking and action.

He then contrasted *chronos*, χρόνος, time, referring to chronological or sequential time with *kairos*, καιρός, time, meaning the right or opportune moment (the 'supreme moment') suggesting that a *kairos* time has come for Chelmsford to demonstrate *agape* love.

David was thanked by the meeting for his talk.

b **CHESS**

Robb Saggs spoke of the Good news that is available since about 24 years ago Pearl Marriage had effectively begun CHESS. He reported that in 2015 46 people had been through CHESS of whom 9 had begun employment. He spoke of the new arrangement that enables CHESS to provide employment for the long-term unemployed and ex-offenders. One month last year there were 47 looking for over-night accommodation so the needs remain.

Rob then announced that they are very close to completing the purchase of 120 New London Road, the old Red Cross building which will address the bulk of their buildings needs. He suggested that folk might want to sponsor the refurbishment of its rooms.

Rob was thanked by the meeting for his talk.

9 There followed a time of **Singing and Worship**.

10 The meeting then **adjourned** for: -

- a Refreshments
- b Fellowship
- c Viewing of displays

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