

AGM Minutes
Churches Together in Leyland
Minutes of the meeting at St. Andrew's church hall
on 23th September 2014 at 7.30pm

Present

Mrs Teresa Smith	St. Mary's	Mrs Margaret Dixon	St. Andrew's
Mr Martin Smith	St Mary's	Mrs Edna Finch	St. Andrew's
Mr Mike Cowburn	St. Mary's	Mrs Ethel Barker	St Andrew's
Mr Eddie Reynolds	U.R.C.	Fr Duncan Clarke	St Ambrose
Mrs Linda Barnes	U.R.C	Robert Haydock	St. Ambrose (late)
Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley	Midge Hall	Mrs Nerys Brown	St. James'
Mrs Millie Worthington	Midge Hall	Mrs Maddy Parkinson	St James'
Mrs Eileen Cuerden	Midge Hall	Rev Alistair McHaffie	St John's
Mr John Mercer URC (to deliver TfSR report)		Mr Peter Fitton	St John's

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Mrs Margaret Dixon, as the Chair person, thanked everyone for coming.

Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Attendance and apologies

Fr Jonathan Cotton	St Mary's	Fr Dionysos Higgs	Greek Orthodox
Fr Stephen Wright	St Mary's	Mrs Rebecca Higgs	Greek Orthodox
Rev Marc Wolverson	St James'	Deacon Kathy Lamb	Leyland Methodist
Rev Graham Ashworth	St Ambrose	Rev Nick Procter	St John's
Mrs Lesley Raven	St Mary's		

3. Minutes of 2013 AGM

The minutes were read, Mr Peter Fitton's name is spelt incorrectly on page 2 point 9, this will be amended. The minutes were approved as being an accurate account of the meeting and will be signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

None – all matters are to be covered in the agenda

5. Election of officers: Secretary

Mrs Linda Barnes has stepped down from the role of secretary. No-one has volunteered to undertake this role. In the absence of volunteers Mrs Margaret Dixon advised that Mrs Rebecca Higgs will support this role in the interim.

Mrs Margaret Dixon thanked Linda for her hard work and for her continued involvement in CTL.

6. Chair's review

This year the Chair's review was split into 2 parts

1) Annual Review

Mrs Margaret Dixon read through her review of past events over the last year which consisted of Christmas with South Ribble; CTL was invited to speak on Radio Lancashire about our input into Christmas events and it was an opportunity to explain the true meaning of Christmas; week of prayer for Christian Unity, women's world day of prayer, annual Good Friday walk (that was a success despite the challenges it had presented); participating in the Leyland festival, in addition to our regular activities about which there will be more in the meeting.

For the first time a group sang carols at a local care home. The website has been improved and there have been a number of articles in the local paper about CTL.

2) 5 Year Review as required by the Constitution

A brochure was published giving details of the local churches and their services, and

one year information was produced about all the churches Christmas services, these were available to the community to let them know what we are about. At our meetings we welcomed many speakers who were interesting and informative. We have linked with Fusion on the park, enjoyed walks with Dr. David Hunt. The visits from the Children's African Choir were wonderful. In 2012 Preston Guild was a highlight for many. Representatives and Executive Officers were thanked, for their service during the past 5 years for their service to CTL.

The profile of CTL has been raised and a good relationship has been developed with the Leyland Guardian and Lancashire Evening Post. They have reported many of our events and have focussed articles on the Food Bank and Furniture Scheme. It was with pleasure that CTL were asked to write a Christmas message for the community in Leyland, alongside The Mayor, the MP and the Senior Police Officer for Leyland.

The work of CTL has been acknowledged by South Ribble Borough Council with runner up certificates in the last 2 years.

The next review will be in 2018/19 when CTL will celebrate 50 years since the first AGM of the Leyland Churches Fellowship (the forerunner of CTL). In the meantime we must seek to interest young people in CTL as well as giving thanks for all the loyal representatives from our churches who have served CTL over the years.

7. Past events

Christmas with South Ribble was a great success. Carols were sung by the indoor market and children dressed in nativity costumes. Following this CTL have been invited again to the event which this year would be taking place on Saturday 29th November from 2.00pm to 5.00pm, there will be a procession along Hough Lane with Sally the donkey; finishing with a Christingle service at the United Reformed church.

Linked to the South Ribble Christmas is a Messy nativity Sheep trail by the Methodist and Midge Hall churches. This begins with the Christmas Festival and continues for 2 weeks. A Messy nativity will be held on the 12th December .

A brochure is being produced by SRBC which will publicise Christmas church services and events. Contact Suzanne or Karen at SRBC before the deadline of 31st October 2014.

Women's World Day of Prayer - this was a successful evening at Midge Hall. Mr Mike Cowburn suggested that men miss out from this event because of the title. A discussion took place about how the event could be publicised to appeal to a wider audience.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – the change of date to May has been welcomed by most churches with increased numbers. St James' church comments were acknowledged however we need to go with the majority of churches views. It was suggested that maybe more services should be in the eveing to encourage working and young people to attend.

8. Brief reports

Food Bank - Mrs Lesley Raven sent the following report.

Food parcels continue to be given out with an increasing number of requests.

The food collection at Tesco's was a huge success, which meant that there remains £100 of the £1,000 SRBC grant remaining. A number of donations are given from various individuals, which helps with the shortfall. There is a lovely camaraderie built up by those of other churches who come to sort out and hand out the parcels.

There is another opportunity to collect from Tesco's in December.

A specific request has been made for items which are very short – tinned meat – meatballs, corned beef, stewing steak. Also puddings – rice pudding, custard and tinned fruit. Pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes are also needed.

Furniture Scheme

Mr Peter Fitton reported that the scheme continued to have volunteers to collect and deliver furniture every Tuesday now that holidays are over. The furniture store is being emptied as the floor needs repairing. The scheme remains very successful and some money has been given to the scheme by grateful users..

Tools for Self Reliance – Mr John Mercer attended to give this report.

A band of 7 volunteers meet every week in the URC cellar to refurbish tools and 1 volunteer collector; they produce 2 tons of tools per year and 18 sewing machines.

Tools for Self Reliance (TfSR) want less tools and more specialised tools of better quality than most of us buy. TfSR head quarters are overstocked with tools and they can pick the best , this means that tools refurbished in Leyland may not go to Africa or be sold for a few pence. The volunteers want to continue refurbishing tools to a high standard.

The answer may be to refurbish tools for other charities e.g. Tools for a Mission, Work Aid and International Aid. The volunteers in Leyland will discuss this situation and decide what they want to do. Discussions need to take place with other charities and with Glynn Eatock who brought TfSR to Leyland.

Credit Union

Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley reported that the credit union is going well. There are many volunteers and many people saving. However the number of people borrowing is low. There are plans to publicise that the credit union is a better option for borrowing to avoid reliance on pay day loan companies.

In conjunction with Unify the Credit Union are going to go into schools to teach about saving money.

Mrs Linda Barnes reminded the group that the URC holds a free Luncheon Club on the first Tuesday of every month.

One Voice Choir

Mrs Millie Worthington provided the feedback to the group. The One Voice Choir gave a concert at St James' church Bretherton in July.

On Saturday the annual Harvest Service will take place at URC Leyland.

The annual remembrance of the dead of the year will take place at St Mary's in November. Sadly the One Voice Choir Mistress' husband who has been ill for a year died on Sunday.

Mrs Margaret Dixon thanked all for their reports.

9. Treasurer's report

Mr Robert Haydock advised the group that the books had been audited.

Balance sheets were distributed which confirmed that there was a current balance of £357.60. The savings account used for all CTL activities currently stands at £1250.35

Mr Robert Haydock informed CTL that the furniture scheme van needed money to get the floor fixed. He proposed that each church be asked for a £50 donation towards the cost of the repair and the ongoing maintenance of the van. This donation would be asked for in the annual subscription or churches may fund raise to get the extra £50

10. Future events

- Good Friday walk of witness – this to be discussed at the November meeting.
- CTL reps are supporting school assemblies and events in St Andrew's, Balshaw's and Little Mites who are all collecting tins for the Food Bank.
- Following a recent article in the Leyland Guardian about supporting those in food poverty, schemes are invited to contact Lancashire County Council to submit an application for a

grant. £150,000 is available across the county with bids £2,000 to £10,000 available, the closing date is 17/10/14. Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley is to make enquiries despite the tight timetable, to see if the idea to teach people to budget and batch cook can be realised.

- Lancashire Sings Christmas 18th December – discussions are to be held and the group will be advised about the suggested venue where the community can participate in the carols.
- Fr Duncan Clarke advised the group that he has a visiting vicar from South Africa staying who is a clown. There will be an opportunity for people to learn more about Clown Ministry at a workshop in St Ambrose church hall on 9/11/14 between 2-6 pm. Those attending must bring their own washable (children's) face paints. The following Sunday 10/11/14 at 10.30 am at St Ambrose there will be a Clown Service. Posters to be forwarded to Mrs Teresa Smith for distribution.

11. Vote on Constitution

The 3 individual points were highlighted and agreed

- 1 e) to highlight the need to publicise the work of CTL was accepted
- 2 The section in brackets to have one post help by a member of the lay or clergy can be removed
- 3 The new section on the role of Executive Officer was accepted. The grammatical error was pointed out.

The constitution was voted on and was passed unanimously.

12. Group work

Teresa had prepared group work to be undertaken by the group following on from the groups agreement to have someone to help with publicity at the July meeting. Teresa explained that the group work was the beginning of the process of determining what CTL needs to do in terms of deciding what messages need to be given to 4 groups of people. These are Adult – Christian, Adult – Secular, Youth – Christian and Youth – Secular. Then we need to determine how these messages need to be delivered.

There was a feeling in the group that as it was late the group work should not be undertaken now; it was also felt that the low attendance meant that it was not the best time to undertake the group work. It was agreed that the group work should be undertaken at the meeting in November.

Attendees were provided with the sheet for the group work with a plea to consider them, discuss them in their churches and to come back to the meeting in November with ideas for the group work. The group work sheet will be circulated with the minutes.

There was a brief discussion about attendance and Fr Duncan Clarke suggested that if reps could not attend they could co-opt someone to attend on their behalf. This idea was felt to be a possible solution to the low attendance numbers.

13. Any other business

Deacon Kathy Lamb has asked CTL for money to cover the cost of a speaker for HMP Wymott where she works. The meeting agreed this expenditure.

14. Dates of future meetings

NB change of date	Thursday 6 th November 2014	venue St Mary's
	Tuesday 10 th February 2015	venue United Reformed
	Wednesday 13 th May 2015	venue Midge Hall Methodist
	Thursday 2 nd July 2015	venue St Johns'
	AGM Tuesday 22 nd September	venue St Ambrose

15. Closing prayer - Rev Alistair McHaffie closed in prayer.