

Churches Together in Leyland

Minutes of meeting 7th November 2012

7 Street Pastors

A very informative talk was given by Ellie Evans of the Preston Street Pastors team. She outlined their beginnings four years ago in Preston town centre, in co-operation with the Police, and the scheme's extension to Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge. Originally they were met with scepticism with their offers of warm drinks, flip flops and someone to talk to but they are now accepted as part of the late night scene. Ellie's wish is to set up a similar scheme for Leyland, particularly in the area around Tesco and the surrounding half dozen pubs.

The Street Pastors' aim is to make informal contact with night street people, engaging them in a dialogue not open to the police. The scheme is entirely dependent on unpaid volunteers who are given several months of training before taking to the streets in teams of four on a Friday night, - usually on a monthly rota. Ellie is looking to recruit at least 16 people with a view to having them operative by next Easter.

She showed what a great difference the scheme could make to the lives of the marginalised or people in difficulty, just by striking up conversations with them, - as well as it being a tool for informal evangelising. She invited people to come and take a walk with the police and trained Pastors to see what is involved. She also asked for Prayer support too. "Pray-ers" were an integral part of the scheme in leading prayers in the Centre before setting out on a round or supporting with regular prayer at home.

Ellie left cards for those who were interested to contact her and her Email address: ellie84evans@gmail.com.

Members took the contact cards for their reports back to their congregations

8 Furniture Scheme.

Peter reported that Mike Flynn, who currently masterminds the scheme, will need to step down by the year end and a replacement must be found. The job entails liaising with SRBC, Round Table (Provision of the van), SVP (Rent of storage), CTL (Van insurance) etc.; , fielding calls from donors of furniture; liaising with people who need furniture, through direct contact or through SVP; where necessary organising the sale of some pieces to create revenue; organising the use of the van to collect and distribute; looking to the upkeep of the van.

Agnes Chester suggested "guest visits" of the van to the various parishes to raise awareness of the work it does under the CTL umbrella, and Diane Barnard offered to get a DVD of the furniture scheme in action made to be shown at the time of the visit

Fr. Jonathan said that he would see if Julie Hunter might be able to help.

9 Rent Guarantee Scheme

In the absence of Christine Whittle no report was made.

10 Future events

I Christmas with South Ribble.

This will take place on or near the Market on the evening of Friday, 30th November from 3-30 to 7-30 and children and young people from local schools will be invited to take 10/15 minute slots of carols or Nativity activities. Hand bell ringers have also agreed to perform, the theme being Bells.

II Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This is being organised by the Clergy acting together. There will be services each day at noon on a rota of venues, from Friday, 18th January to Friday, 25th January (2013) except Sunday. Several proposals were made for the venue of the Main service on Sunday 20th. It was decided to take up URC's offer to host it at 1-30pm, and afterwards to have a shared lunch.

III Community Food Bank

This is based at St. Mary's with St Andrew's, Midge hall Methodists, URC, St John's, and Runshaw all taking part. Food parcels are made up and distributed to callers at the house door, averaging about 10 parcels a week. Some are distributed by the SVP to known needy clients. A record is kept of recipients.

IV The Web Site.

An appeal was made for someone to take over the Web Site from Malcolm Thompson. Martin Smith rose to the occasion and volunteered.

V The One Voice Choir

Robert Haydock outlined the many Concerts they had performed this summer, including a wedding at St. Mary's Brownedge, fund raising concerts at Longton and St Ambrose's, St Mary Leyland's Remembrance service for the lately dead, and URC's Harvest Praise.

New members are always welcome to the Choir. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings at St Mary Magdeleine's Church in Penwortham, conducted by Margaret Greer.

11 A.O.B.

The Rev _____ from the Greek Orthodox Church invited as many as wished to come to a study weekend, January 25-27th 2013 on the Gospel of St John.

Diane Barnard asked for the Youth Clubs to be reminded of "Bob's Café" at Leyland Methodist hall Friday evenings from 6.00 – 8.00 (Soup and sandwiches 50p!) She said Campbell's Caravans were supporting them in a venture to make the Café mobile in the town centre.

It was reported that there are plans to set up a CAPs centre (Christians against Poverty) offering money and debt management advice at Wellfield or St John's along the lines of one already started at St Andrew's

The School Children of South Ribble will give their annual Christmas concert in St Mary's Church on 14th December at 10-00am.

Margaret Dixon urged all who can to take part in the Radio Lancashire venture, "Lancashire Sings Christmas" in Hough Lane outside Bean Drinking at 7-00pm 20th December 2012.

12 Future meeting dates

Tuesday 12th February 2013

Greek Orthodox Church, Leyland lane.

Wednesday 15th May 2013

Leyland Methodist Church, Turpin Green

Thursday 4th July 2013

St Mary's Broadfield drive

The closing prayer was led by Fr. Jonathan

Meeting closed at 9-15pm

Minutes: Teresa Smith and Agnes Chester