

Minutes

Churches Together in Leyland.

Minutes of the meeting at the Greek Orthodox Church on 12th February 2013 at 7-30pm

Present

Fr Jonathan Cotton	St. Mary's	Mrs Agnes Chester	St. Mary's
Fr Paul Brown	St. Mary's	Mrs Teresa Smith	St. Mary's
Mrs Margaret Dixon	St. Andrew's	Mrs Edna Finch	St. Andrew's
Mrs Ethel Barker	St. Andrew's	Rev David Coaker	U.R.C.
Mr Eddie Reynolds	U.R.C.	Mrs Linda Barnes	U.R.C.
Rev Barbara Wilson	St. John's	Rev Nick Procter	St. John's
Mrs. Maddy Parkinson	St. James'	Mrs Nerys Brown	St. James'
Mr Robert Haydock	St. Ambrose	Mrs Eileen Haydock	St. Ambrose
Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley			
	Midge Hall	Mrs Eileen Cuerden	Midge Hall
Mrs Millie Worthington	Midge Hall	Mr Malcolm Thomson	Leyland Meths
Mr Philip Weaver	Leyland Methodist	Ms Diane Barnard	Leyland Meths
Fr Christodoulos	Greek Orthodox	Fr Dionysios-James	Greek Orthodox
Mrs Rebecca Higgs	Greek Orthodox		

Apologies

Mrs Lesley Raven	St. Mary's	Fr Stephen Wright	St. Mary's
Mr Martin Smith	St. Mary's	Rev A McHaffie	St. John's
Mr Gregory Baker	Greek Orthodox		

Welcome

Mrs Margaret Dixon, as the new Chair person, opened the meeting with a prayer and a short introduction.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th November were approved.

Matters arising

News of the Street Pastors' Scheme had been taken back to the various churches but as yet there was nothing definite to report.

Deacon Ellen Monk Winstanley asked to be placed on the e-mail list so that she could receive Minutes etc.

Treasurer's Report

Mr Robert Haydock, as the new treasurer, presented an up to date account of the finances. The special Guild account has now been closed and the remaining balance of £18-03 transferred back into the general account. He reported that all due subscriptions have been paid.

Past events.

“Christmas with South Ribble”, in Hough Lane in December, (the highlight of which had been the live donkey,) was reckoned a great success despite weather and logistical difficulties. South Ribble Borough Council are keen to repeat the event next Christmas. The Chris Tingle event in the U.R.C. Church that followed, was also a success.

“Lancashire Sings Christmas” which was a collaboration between local carol singers all over the county and BBC Radio Lancashire, was broadcast locally from “Bean Drinking” and voted a great success

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was affected by poor weather, though it was agreed by the faithful core of followers that the reflections from each service were well put and thought-provoking. This led to a discussion as to whether holding the event later in the year, nearer Pentecost or before the late May bank holiday would be better. The general feeling of the meeting was to favour this.

The One Voice Choir reported continuing success with concerts at St. Ambrose and an invitation to sing with Radio Lancashire. Future events include St. Mary's Brownedge's Celebrations at the beginning of May, and a project to bring together as many as possible of the church choirs from Lancashire Churches Together for a “Big Sing” event.

The Furniture Scheme

Mike Flynn, who currently directs the Furniture Scheme but is due to retire, addressed the meeting. He outlined the Furniture scheme which has been run for several years under the aegis of C.T.L. He showed that there is great need for it in the borough. Up to 750 items a year are collected by volunteers, from addresses across Leyland, Penwortham and Preston. The items are assessed for suitability and stored in the lock-up at Bannister Drive, currently provided by South Ribble Borough Council at a reduced rate. These are then distributed where needed using the van donated by Rotary whose diesel costs were being covered by a book sale scheme at St. Mary's. Mike said he worked between 12 and 16 hours a week co-ordinating the volunteers and these operations and working with the various recycling agencies, as well as overseeing the maintaining of the van and being fully accountable to L.C.C.

Mike also pointed out that as well as a new director, there was a great need also for volunteer helpers, as none of his crew were getting any younger. He asked reps to take his requests back to their churches.

Several people said that they had not heard of the Furniture scheme before. It was suggested that the Van make guest appearances at the various Parishes to raise awareness. This could be combined with Peter Fitton's power point presentation made to be shown on the occasion of the visit.

Midge Hall Methodists offered to be the first hosts to the Van's guest appearance.

Robert Haydock said he would liaise with Rev David Coaker to place a piece in the Lancashire Evening Post's “Your Community” about the scheme.

Mrs Teresa Smith said she would enquire at the Job Centre to see if there was any possibility of volunteer help.

A Poster was given to reps to take back to their congregations.

Rent Guarantee Scheme

In the absence of Chris Whittle no report was made.

Tools for self Reliance

This scheme which is run from the basement of the U.R.C. Church, continues to need volunteers and donations of tools. There is shortly to be a talk at U.R.C. by a person who has been to Africa and seen the immense effect the scheme has had..

A Poster and leaflet about the scheme were given to reps to take back to their congregations.

Community Food Bank

The Community Food Bank is hosted by St. Mary's with support and contributions of food from many churches in Leyland. St. Mary's S.V.P. support and administer the scheme with approximately 40 parcels a week being distributed.

All "clients" are social referrals, and more volunteers to help make up the parcels as well as donations of tinned and packet goods are always very welcome. Please contact Lesley Raven at St. Mary's

Future events

World Women's Day of Prayer

This will be held on Friday, 1st March at 2-00pm in St. Mary's Church, Broadfield Drive. The theme is set by the women of France. All are welcome, not just the ladies. If so desired the national colours of France, red, white and blue, may be worn.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

This will be held on Good Friday, 29th March 2013 and set out from St. Mary's Church, Broadfield Drive, at 9-30 to arrive at U.R.C. At about 10-30.

The Drama Groups of various churches have been asked to provide tableaux along the route.

1. At St. Mary's; In the Garden at Gethsemane, the taking of Jesus.
2. On the Court House steps; Pilate condemns Jesus to his Cross.
3. At the Gables corner; The women of Jerusalem with His mother and Veronica, meet Jesus. Simon of Cyrene is made to help carry the Cross.
4. At the U.R.C. Church; Crucifixion

The walk will be lead by the C.T.L. Banner and the tableau players at the front of the procession as it resumes walking.

There will be hymn singing along the way and a short service at the end before dispersing.

The Police still have to be contacted by Margaret Dixon and Linda Barnes, (the new Secretary) re timing and traffic issues.

The Website

Teresa Smith reported that Martin is working on revamping the website. A lot of work needs doing to bring it up to speed. It needs as much material as possible from member churches to make it interesting, ~~ and as soon as possible to be in for Easter. Email Martin at jmartinsmith@blueyonder.co.uk. The more hits the website gets, the faster it works. Malcolm Thomson said that Leysa Kopkiowski would also help Martin.

A.O.B.

The Rev David Croaker proposed "Preacher Swaps"

It was requested that Minutes be sent out as soon as possible after meetings with Agendas to be sent a fortnight before the next meeting.

It was mentioned that volunteers would be needed for the float at Leyland Festival time, and that it would be decorated the same as the Guild float last year.

Fusion's Summer Fun Day run by Andy Prosser and the Baptist church was mentioned, but the feeling of the meeting was that given a choice they would rather expend the necessary money on maintaining the Furniture Scheme.

Future Dates

Wednesday, 15 th May 2013	Leyland Methodist Church.	7-30pm
Thursday, 4 th July 2013	United Reformed Church	7-30pm
A.G.M. 24 th September	St. Mary's Church	7-30pm

Fr Christodoulos closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving.