

Minutes

Churches Together in Leyland

Minutes of the meeting at Leyland Methodist Church on 15th May 2013

Present

Margaret Dixon (Chair)	St. Andrew's	Eileen Haydock	St. Ambrose
Robert Haydock (Treasurer)	St. Ambrose	Rev. Pat Belshaw	St. Ambrose
Teresa Smith (minute sec.)	St. Mary's	Peter Fitton	St John's
Fr. Jonathan Cotton	St. Mary's	Eileen Cuerden	Midge Hall Methodist
Martin Smith	St. Mary's	Millie Worthington	Midge Hall Methodist
Edna Finch	St. Andrew's	Philip Weaver	Leyland Methodist
Mandy Parkinson	St. James'	Diane Barnard	Leyland Methodist
Nerys Brown	St. James'		

Apologies

Rebecca Higgs	Greek Orthodox	Linda Barnes	URC
Fr. Dionysios-James	Greek Orthodox	Rev. David Croaker	URC

Welcome

Mararet welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Rev. Pat Belshaw now at St. Ambrose.

Prayers were said especially remembering Linda recovering from surgery and Agnes Chester who is unwell.

A letter was read out from Agnes resigning as minute secretary, due to ongoing ill health. Teresa agreed to stand in as minute secretary for today's meeting. Teresa has agreed to be Vice Chair which will be formalised at the AGM.

Minutes – agreed and accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising – Correction - the name for Rent Guarantee Scheme should have read Christine Wilding.

Treasurers Report

Robert Haydock presented the meeting with a balance sheet. Current balance is £779.86. £100 received from all churches. Expenditure of £957 included Women's World day of Prayer, Easter Banners, furniture van insurance, hand bell ringers, artist work on float.

Robert highlighted the issue of ongoing maintenance versus replacement of the furniture van. Following discussion about which of these was the priority it was decided to concentrate on maintenance. Robert proposed setting up a savings account for van maintenance, seconded by Edna How to raise money for this account was discussed and included extra donations from churches, possible church sponsorship, advertising opportunities.

Private Fostering

Margaret welcomed Sam and Dina (social worker and trainee social worker) from the Leyland and Chorley Social Work offices, speaking about Private Fostering.

They asked that all CTL members can take this information back to their own churches and advise social services if they were aware of private fostering arrangements taking place, for two reasons one to ensure that the carers are supported and secondly to ensure that the child is appropriately cared for.

Private Fostering was explained as a child being looked after by someone else, full time for 28 days or more (or a series of shorter periods which together add up to 28 days). This applies where the child is under 16 years (unless they are disabled), cared for by someone who is not a close relative (grandparent, sister, uncle, or step-parent) and a Court has not agreed Parental responsibility, or been placed by the Local Authority.

The talk was to ensure that all present were aware that the safeguarding of children was everyone's business.

Past Events

Women's World Day of Prayer

This was organised by Agnes and held at St. Mary's. Many present had attended or participated and felt that the service was a good.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Martin was thanked for the photographs he had taken of the event, which were on display. The format of this year with the 'tableaux' was considered excellent. A suggestion for the future was to include a donkey.

The walk was organised in conjunction with the Police. This year for the first time the walkers had walked on the pavement at the request of the Police. This was discussed and it was noted that there were some events e.g. St. George's day parade that were policed and other events who had had to employ a private company to police their walk.

One Voice Choir

The choir sang at Dutton Hall to raise funds for choir robes at Blackburn Cathedral, two weddings at St. Mary's Brownedge and last week were invited to sing as Fr. Colin's friends at St. Mary's Brownedge as part of their Festival week .

It was suggested to ask Margaret Greer, choir mistress if the OVC could put on a concert to raise funds for the furniture van maintenance fund. ACTION OVC members

Furniture Scheme

The Furniture van visited Midge Hall Methodist. It was well received and there is a possibility of potential volunteers. The van is to visit St. Andrew's on 26/05/2013 the PowerPoint presentation was requested. St. Mary's and St. Ambrose also agreed to have the van visit with talks at church.

Julie Hunter has now taken over from Mike Flynn as co-ordinator for the scheme.

Job Centre

Lesley Raven is to speak to staff at the Job Centre about the furniture van scheme and the Food Bank to enable them to better advise their clients.

Food Bank

A lot of food is donated and goes out to those in need; 54 parcels every 2 weeks are provided and this number is increasing. A parcel is 6 items including if necessary items for children. It is now recognised that 1/3 million people across the country now receive food parcels.

The system is administered by St. Mary's St. Vincent De Paul (SVP) group, who take the names of those who receive food parcels. If it was felt necessary the SVP would visit those receiving parcels to offer help and support.

It was suggested that people may have pets and the inclusion of items for pets was made as pets can contribute to improving people's emotional wellbeing.

The visiting social workers reiterated that the furniture scheme and the food bank are of immense importance to their clients.

Rent Guarantee Scheme

Margaret read out a letter from South Ribble Borough Council advising that the Borough Council has been working with Methodist Action to support homelessness prevention. It has been agreed that the Rent Guarantee Scheme charity will no longer be operating.

Churches Together in Leyland were thanked for their support of this scheme. This item will in future appear under the heading Methodist Action.

Contact details – Stephen Hetherington, Howick House, Howick Park Avenue, Penwortham. Tel. 01772751000 / 07545985242, [email:- Stephen.hetherington@methodistaction.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.hetherington@methodistaction.co.uk)

Tools For Self Reliance

The group require more volunteers and particularly old tools and sewing machines including electric sewing machines. Fabric can also be taken by the group. It was explained that new tools were not able to be refurbished. Talks and updates can be provided. At St. Mary's Garden party in June there will be a Tools Challenge to both raise money for the church and increase the profile of the TfSR group.

Some churches asked for leaflets Martin to provide these

ACTION Martin

African Children's Choir

The choir have contacted Margaret and asked if they can come again. The choir has been twice before and performed at St. Mary's.

If there was agreement that they should come again, there would need to be volunteers from the churches who would provide accommodation. Margaret advised that it involves a lot of work, volunteers to organise accommodation and tickets are required. Fr. Jonathan asked the group to consider the blessings of having the choir attend again.

Teresa agreed to co-ordinate a group of those interested in helping

Margaret to advise that there is interest to have the choir again.

ACTION Margaret

Future Events

Leyland Festival on Saturday 15/06/13, the float and banner are being reused from the Guild. The theme is America and the music has been changed. All interested people to contact Margaret. Churches are asked to publicise this and request for volunteers to walk behind the float. ACTION Church reps.

Publicity

CTL has an improved website, thank s to Martin. Martin asked that all churches send him information to include on the website e.g. one off events in their own churches that may be of interest to others ACTION church reps

An article has been written about CTL to be forwarded to the Leyland Guardian for the 'Your Society' section. The article includes all aspects of the work of CTL. It is now waiting for photos to accompany the article e.g. One Voice Choir and Guild float. ACTION Teresa

Margaret asked if there were any volunteers to become publicity officer for CTL. No-one volunteered so all were asked to consider this request. ACTION church reps

AOB

A request from a Lancashire County Council Youth Worker to provide information from all churches to support a directory of information that is being developed.

The request is for groups run by churches for young people,

what is the group called?

who is it aimed at?

where is it held?

what is the cost?

who is the contact person for the group?

Please send all information to Teresa who will collate it and advise the youth worker about church youth provision. ACTION church reps

Pat asked what provision is there in Leyland for sufferers of Dementia and their carers, e.g. cafes? Members of the Methodist church provide a fair-trade cafe on Wednesdays 10am-1pm, a book club from 10am (attended by members of the church, Lisieux Hall and their carers) and an art group from 9.30am. These do not run in the holidays. Dementia will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting in July.

Next Meeting

Margaret asked the group about having a shortened agenda at the next meeting combined with a social event. Those in attendance felt this was a good idea. Fr Jonathan agreed that the meeting could be held at St. Mary's in the narthex. Several people offered to bring food but Margaret advised that CTL will provide food for the social event on this occasion.

The AGM is to be held at the URC church in September.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Pat

Don't forget the next meeting 4th July at St. Mary's church for a short meeting and social