



Annual Assembly Minutes for Churches Together in Caversham

Thursday 27th April 2017, 7.30pm at Church House

Welcome: Nigel Jones, Co-Chair welcomed everyone and held a show of hands to see which churches were represented. There were representatives from 9 of our 12 churches

Apologies: Helen Strong

Present: Nigel Jones (Co-Chair), Martyn Strong (Co-Chair), Stewart Bolton (Treasurer), Barbara Macrae (Secretary), Jenny Dowding, David Jenkins, Ken Macrae, Jane Borgeaud, Sue Cantwell, Margaret Dimmick, Robert Dimmick, Jenny Harrison, Joyce Resa, Derek Chandler, Mike Smith, Jonathan Edwards, Janet Offord, Margaret Ellison, Jan Talbot, Derek Chandler, Alison Johnston, John Dudley, K M Plank, Caroline Jenkins, Mark Porter, Jasmine Marsh, Lorna Levett, Regula Adams, Les Cooper, Diane Ellis, David Herbert, Jenny Darcy, James Grey, Christine Bradbury, Penny Cuthbert and Michael Penny (CTR)

Minutes of Assembly held on Thursday 14th April 2016 were accepted as read. They had been circulated and were on our website.

Finance: Stewart Bolton presented his financial report for 2016. This had been circulated with the agenda and a copy is filed with the minutes. Stewart added that he had paid our subscription to CtB which had been requested yesterday and that he would be sending out requests for CTC subscriptions at the same levels as last year.

Donations would be given to REinspired, CCA Drop in and the Holiday Club. The Holiday Club needed all their £1,000 this year for Liability Insurance and First Aid training.

The financial report was accepted

Finally, Stewart thanked Rainer Kubesch, independent examiner, for auditing the accounts. It was agreed that he would be asked to do them next year.

Reports

REinspired-Caversham - Caroline Jennings

Caroline Jennings and Helen Strong remain the project Managers and are building on the mission statement to reach 'every school, every year and every child.' They strived to give local schools access to education that was innovative and creative. Sessions were full of story telling, film clips, drama, craft and discussion. In the past 18 months they had visited every local state Primary school except St Martins and St Anne's, reaching well over 1,000 children

The project impacted on 3 key areas:

1. Positive experience of interacting with Christians from different denominations for children and teachers. The small group, interactive nature of the sessions with a Christian lead volunteer, enabled children to ask questions that they might never have had the opportunity to ask, and therefore opened doors for deep discussions of difficult subjects such as death and bullying.
2. Increased depth of knowledge of the Christian faith. By bringing Christians to the schools, the children gained a broader perspective of what Christians from different denominations believed and understood about their faith.
3. Higher level critical thinking. The locally agreed syllabus for RE requires children not only to know faith but to “investigate” faith and be able to give their own viewpoints, with evidence from the faith in a manner which was respectful to those who disagreed with them. These are vital skills that reach much wider than just discussing religious issues

Caroline then read two appreciative feed backs from teachers before moving on to talk about their publicity project to broaden schools and churches awareness of REinspired.

1. A prayer diary was going to be sent to Caversham churches each term to pray for up and coming sessions, events and the work of REinspired generally.
2. They were in the early stages of planning a website for REinspire Caversham
3. They were in the process of planning and creating videos to publicise their project on the website to give schools a better understanding of what they do. Another video could be used in churches to advertise for potential volunteers.

Caroline finished the report by thanking CtC for their support – financially and practically through prayers and volunteers.

Derek Chandler then thanked Caroline and Helen for all their hard work – in particular he was pleased that Caversham Park Village School had been visited for the first time in 7 years. He was now stepping down as Chairman and he was pleased that Nigel was taking over the reins

Holiday Club – Jane Borgeaud

Jane thanked all the volunteers, which included some older secondary school children, for helping make last year’s Holiday Club such a success. About 150 children had been given a positive experience of the Christian Faith through Bible stories, songs, discussions, various crafts and activities such as water play, fencing, archery, cookery, dancing and games.

Many children come from disadvantaged families and they all love it.

This year’s Holiday Club was to be held at St Anne’s School (July 31st to 4th August). The Club needed more money to cover the cost of First Aid training and public liability insurance and Jane was grateful for CtC’s generosity.

Lent Group Celebrations

Refreshments provided by CTM parish were enjoyed by everyone and brief reports from the different Lent Groups were given.

Over 100 people attended the groups that were organised by the clergy. Having a broad variety of courses to choose from was appreciated

Below is a list of the seven groups:

Monday am: **Just 10. Discussions on Video presentation by Canon J John.** Led by Revd David Vail and Revd John Dudley

Tuesday pm: **Receiving Christ – in five different ways.** Hosted by St John's Mothers Union and led by Revd John Dudley

Tuesday evening: **Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths.** Led by Revd Jenny Dowding and Steve Barden

Wednesday am: **Inspired: Sharing the Bible Together. A Mother's Union Bible Study series** Led by St Andrew's Mothers' Union

Wednesday evening: **The Happiness Course** Led by Revd Nigel Jones and Lesley Boardley

Wednesday evening: **Contemplating Lent – An hour of gentle reflection using music, silence and prayer.** Led by Revd Marion Pyke

Thursday evening: **The Lent Film Club – Contemporary Film followed by discussion.** Led by Revd Derek Chandler and Revd Judith Ryder

There was no Chairman's report

Charity for 2017-8 Martyn Strong

Last year's charity had been Hope Asia and money had been raised at the annual picnic in August and the Photos of Caversham quiz organised by Nigel. It was agreed we continue our support and that people looked up Hope Asia on Google.

Election of Co-Chairpersons, Secretary and Treasurer

Martyn, Barbara and Stewart were all prepared to stand again. David Jenkins had agreed to be Co –Chairman. Everyone was in favour of them to be elected
Jonathon thanked Nigel for all his hard work and also David for agreeing to take over from him.

AOB

Website: Cavershamchurch.org.uk. This was being re-designed and would include a content page, a map showing where each church is and links to their websites.

Christmas Decorations: Martyn, being a chap who loved Christmas time, thought that Caversham looked rather dull during the Christmas season. He proposed that Christmas lights based on a nativity theme should be erected annually. The Reading Community Interest Company were interested as were the Caversham Traders. Also the Woodley

Traders were keen to help. Two gateways were needed – by the mini roundabout and another opposite the garage. The lights could either be bought or rented – the latter might be best as the suppliers would then look after them. People were interested so Martyn would find out more.

Michael Penny said he was impressed with the work of the Caversham Churches and that other Churches were doing things all over Reading.

Robert Dimmick mentioned the Dusseldorf exchange during the last week in August and asked if people could volunteer to have some of them to stay.

Annual Gathering Worship - Led by Mike Smith

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Dwelling in the Word: Corinthians 4: 1 – 12

This key part of Partnership for Missional Church was done in pairs with people listening to what each other had heard in the passage that was read twice

Mike led a short session of singing and prayers culminating with all sharing The Peace