

## **NORTH CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The AGM for the North Cambridge Council of Churches was held at St Andrews Church Hall, Chesterton at 7.45pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

### **Present:**

Arbury Community Church:	Dr Tony Males
Arbury Road Baptist:	Not represented
Chesterton Methodist:	Not represented
Church of the Good Shepherd:	Mr Michael Lovell, Dr John Lamont, Mrs Elizabeth Lamont
North Arbury Chapel:	Not represented
St Andrew's Chesterton:	Rev Nick Moir, Mrs Ruth Jones
St George's Chesterton:	Rev Ruth Adams
St Laurence's:	Rev Fr Tony Nwankwo
County Ecumenical Partnership:	Mrs Priscilla Barlow

### **Apologies for absence**

Deacon Ian Murray, Rev Dr Geoffrey Cook, Father Pat Cleary, Mrs Ruth Harding, Mrs Anne King, Rev David Maher, Dr John Robertshaw, Mrs Pat Hearn, Mrs `Anne Gawthrop.

### **Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated)**

The minutes of the last meeting, previously circulated, were signed as correct.

### **Matters arising**

John Lamont asked whether Dave Maher has contacted the local muslim community. Nick said he will contact Dave to find out.

Ruth Adams said she went to a baking bread event in London which was run with the aim of developing friendship with local muslims. She said she is interested in setting up something similar in Cambridge. She said that it is important for us to have relationships with other faith leaders so that we can give a united community response to local issues that may arise. Priscilla Barlow said she knows some people working in this area and would be able to pass these on.

Nick suggested we ask if there are people in our churches who are interested in working in the area of inter faith relationship building.

Ruth Adams said she is comfortable working with muslims as they have a shared belief in God and the bible which provides a platform for dialogue. Ruth Jones said speaking to local people of other faiths helps to build bridges. Ruth Adams said she will prepare a paper with suggestions for ways for us to get involved with local muslims.

Michael Lovell said the proposed NCCC Insurance will only cover events taking place outside of church. He said events in churches would be covered by the church hosting the event. Chesterton Festival and Action Days would be covered by the City Council insurance. The NCCC Insurance would cover social events such as barbecues, prayer walking and ecumenical groups in Arbury and Chesterton.

Tony Males said we need legal cover and insurance for over 100 people. Michael said he will agree a policy with an insurance company to include these.

Ruth Adams said insurance companies may need risk assessments to be done. Ruth said she will send Michael examples of a typical church event risk assessment.

Elizabeth Lamont gave an update on the ecumenical group and invited our churches to come along to the Charity Soup, Bread & Cheese Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015. A copy of the update and information on the Charity lunch is attached with these minutes.

### **Chairman's Report**

Michael said this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of his being chair. Michael said it has been a successful year for the churches in reaching out to the new developments around the North of Cambridge.

This year Fiona Lynch of the Church of the United Nations visited us. Elizabeth suggested we contact them again.

Michael welcomed Rev Fr Tony Nwankwo from St Laurences to the meeting.

Last year, there was a Community Action Day in Kings Hedges organised by the churches in that area. The City Council tried to organise an Arbury Action Day on their own this time but it was cancelled as there was not enough interest. Hopefully this year churches will have the opportunity to be more involved with the planning. Michael said Dave Maher will be liaising with the City Council about NCCC involvement.

Michael reported that the NCCC had supported the Palm Crosses for rural development in India. He said if churches would like Palm Crosses this year this can be added to the order.

Michael said he has valued the support of the NCCC churches this year.

### **Financial Report**

The treasurer, Dave Mahers was not present at the meeting to present his report. Michael said there was enough in the NCCC account to cover the cost of the group insurance.

### **Election of Officers**

Michael nominated Ruth Adams to stand for the position as Chair, John Lamont seconded and Ruth was elected unopposed.

Ruth nominated Nick Moir to continue in the position as Vice-Chair, Ruth Jones seconded and Nick was elected unopposed.

Nick Moir nominated Des Filby to continue as Secretary, Michael seconded and Des was elected unopposed.

Michael proposed Dave Maher to continue as Treasurer, Tony seconded and Dave was elected unopposed.

Michael thanked all officers for standing.

Michael was thanked for his service as chair this past year.

### **North Cambridge Youth Worker Project**

It was reported that Romsey Mill is not currently running the School Transition Project in North Cambridge.

Michael said that government funding had not covered Christian projects, camps and 'Its Your Move' so this is something the NCCC have been able to help with in the past. It was suggested we contact Romsey Mill for an update on their situation.

Tony Males reported that the two Youth For Christ youth workers started in October. Mark is shared between Arbury Community Church and Arbury Road Baptist Church. Jax shares time between the Church of the Good Shepherd and Youth For Christ. They go into schools to meet young people, are developing an after school club and are involved with social and outreach activities. They have signed up for one year.

Nick Moir reported that St Andrews are appointing a youth worker from Ridley. He hopes there will be liaison with the YFC workers.

Ruth Adams said St Georges have opportunities for young people to be involved with circus training on Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Contact Ruth for more information.

John Lamont said it would be good if we can share our different church youth sessions events. Nick Moir said it is more difficult for young people to mix with others but thought it was good to explore options.

Nick Moir said the 6<sup>th</sup> Form international school are moving into Elizabeth House. They want to talk to Nick about St Andrews Church and its facilities. He hoped there would be opportunities to work with them and to provide chaplaincy in the school.

Ruth Adams said has made a good connection with the lady developing Mitcham's Corner. Ruth said there are no churches in the area and that she and Nick Moir are thinking how they can be involved with community building in the area, perhaps with shared church events being held there. There is to be a radical reorganisation of the roads around Mitcham's Corner that would create a central piazza. This could be a place to congregate around local shops and to develop community.

### **Update from the County Ecumenical Officer (Priscilla Barlow).**

Priscilla said Churches Together in England are holding their third Forum for young people and are keen to encourage local young people to be involved. She said that if we have any people in our churches that would like to go she would like to hear from us as there is a free place available for a young person who wants to network with others. Contact Priscilla for more information.

Priscilla said Theresa Bateman, the co-ordinator the City Council's 'Living Wage campaign', would be pleased to speak to churches. Priscilla also said there is an email newsletter that people can sign up to. Theresa Bateman's email is [theresa.bateman@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:theresa.bateman@cambridge.gov.uk).

Priscilla said the City Council has held an Anti poverty group meeting for faith groups to share what they are doing in this area. They were surprised by the extent of what the churches are doing. The City Council now has a

long list of what churches are doing although they were told this is not a complete list. They saw that there was a huge resource in churches.

Priscilla said the Cinnamon Trust is doing an audit of what churches are doing. Information about the Cinnamon Trust audit is attached with these minutes.

Priscilla reported that the North West Quadrant developments are going ahead with a new school being opened this year. She said there is currently no idea when community facilities will be built in Darwin Green.

Priscilla said initiatives like the YFC youth work and CB4 group are how ecumenical work is developing in many places in the UK. It is not constrained by formal structures. She said there is a tension in ecumenism between the existing organised formal structures and the newer 'informal' initiatives.

#### **Update on the shared events.**

Nick said the Pentecost Event was not widely attended but a number of churches were represented and there was positive feedback. Nick apologised for late advertising.

Michael said churches plan their calendars a year ahead and it is then difficult to commit to NCCC events. Nick Moir said we should bring our calendars to the meetings and book events that do not conflict and we can all get behind.

Tony Males suggested that an 'international evening' may work well as a Pentecost event.

Ruth Adams said the 'Chesterton News' magazine is serving the communities of East and West Chesterton. It came out of the former 'Chesterton Times' and 'Challenge'. Ruth said they are pleased to put in other church information.

Ruth Adams said an important way people communicate is through social media and she is seeking to embed this into the St Georges web site.

#### **Coming Events. What is happening in your Church?**

No coming events were reported.

#### **Correspondence**

Michael had a letter from the Salvation Army about their 'Kids Alive' weekly Christian comic. Samples of these were handed out at the meeting with sign up sheets to take back to our churches.

#### **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **Future Meetings**

Ruth Adams cannot make September 8<sup>th</sup> so will send out a 'Doodle' poll to the NCCC to choose a date all churches can make. The venue will be St Georges.

#### **Closing Prayers**

The meeting was closed with the NCCC prayer at 9:30pm.