

Churches Together in Northampton - AGM - Minutes
The Abbey Centre Chapel – Overslade Close – Northampton NN4 0RQ
Sunday January 22nd 2017 4.30 – 5.15 p.m.

Amendments:

IN the original minutes Appendix 3 should have been the Spiritual Well-being Report. This was sent out via the website Friday 27th January following Niki Jenkins' report of the error.

Phyllis Thompson to be added to the apologies

Jon & Crystal to be replaced in the enabling group by James Yates

Opening Prayer – was offered by the Moderator, Adina Curtis, who then invited the meeting to share The Lord's Prayer

Apologies - Romeo Pedro, Colin Pye, David Chawmer, Jane Wade, George Sarmezzy, James Yates, Gillian Craig, Vic Winchcombe, Alan Chesney, Gillian Craig, Aideen Fogarty.

Attendees - 37 people signed an attendance sheet – see Appendix 1 for details.

Minutes of AGM Tuesday January 24th 2016 (had been previously circulated) agreed *nem com*,

Moderator's Reflections: see Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report

Annual subscription remains at £25

3 "New" churches joined CTN in 2016: Northampton Chinese Christian Church, Living Grace Church (change of name from Abington Christian Centre) and Redeemed Christian Church of God

Note: *The Northampton Chinese Evangelical Church* decided to disband.

The treasurer, Lesley Goulbourne, presented independently examined accounts; copies of which were available at the meeting.

If anyone unable to attend wishes to receive a copy, please contact the secretary

Other Reports

Written reports were received by the secretary as follows: 3. Spiritual Wellbeing (NHS Trust). 4. Globe Project.. 5. Pitsford School & Army Cadet Force. 6. Northampton General Hospital. 7. Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs. 8. Street Church. 9. Northants County Cricket Club

Christian Aid – new representative for Northamptonshire

Martin Gage, Regional Coordinator, introduced himself. He emphasised his willingness to provide churches with resources to encourage support for Christian Aid – including talking with churches or groups of churches. Martin's contact details are: -

Christian Aid Office, Upper Rooms, Loughborough Baptist Church, Baxter Gate, Loughborough, LE11 1TG
Tel: 01509 754767 or 01509 265013.

Impact Northamptonshire May 20th 2017

A brief update was given of amendments to plans. – See appendix 10

2017 500th anniversary of the Reformation

Organised by Rev. Roy Long of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and others, an ecumenical service of commemoration is to be held in Northampton Cathedral (Barrack Road) Saturday 4th November 2017 at 12 noon.

Introduction, recognition and prayers for new churches or ministers or officers

David Warrington (Abbey Centre Baptist), Herbert Yee (Northampton Chinese Christian Church), and Peter Angus (Impact Northamptonshire) were amongst those attending a CCTN AGM for the first time. Prayers were offered by the secretary for these and others.

Churches Together in All Northamptonshire (and in England)

Stuart Jenkins was appointed almost one year ago as the new County Ecumenical Officer for the Northamptonshire section of Churches Together in all Northamptonshire (formerly Shire & Soke now CTIAN) in 2017. Stuart can be contacted on 07985 108092. Stuart reflected on the changing ways in which Christians might be drawn together, work together, or express their unity.

Cyril Curtis replaced Joe Story (retired) as the Northampton (CTN) representative on CTIAN.

Churches Together in England (CTE) latest report can be found via the link
<http://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=178845>

CTE are also working on new guidelines for churches to work together locally. To contribute to their thinking, go to: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/465304/Home/News/Latest_news_articles/A_New_Framework.aspx
Simon Ellis drew attention to the value of the proposed new guidelines and recommended them for study.

Election of Officers: Moderator (Adina Curtis), Treasurer (Lesley Goulbourne), Secretary (Ted Hale), were re-elected unopposed.

For the past year CTN has functioned without a deputy moderator. The meeting was asked to look for suitable and willing candidates, and report any possibilities to the secretary.

The CTN Enabling Group

Members as at January 2017 are: Adina Curtis (All Nations), Ted Hale (Baptist), Lesley Goulbourne (Baptist), Christine Walker (Methodist), Phyllis Thompson (NTCG), Simon Ellis (URC), Jason Snell (Salvation Army), Romeo Pedro (Methodist), Vic Winchcombe (Methodist), David Betts (NGH Chaplain), James Yates (NAYC), Paul Veitch (Jesus Fellowship Church), Glen Bowen (Roman Catholic)

The County Ecumenical officer &/or the Northampton representative (Cyril Curtis) attend meetings as an observer

Nominations of new members for the enabling group are always welcomed. Traditionally each denomination in membership with CTE has provided two representatives - usually one lay and one clergy. Currently needed are a Roman Catholic Clergy, Church of England lay-person, URC lay person. Representatives from other church traditions are also welcome (e.g. Pentecostal, Evangelical, Charismatic, House-church, etc.)

The Enabling group meets bi-monthly: - The first meeting in 2017 will be Thursday. 21st Feb. 7.30 in The Abbey Centre Committee Room

Communications:

The service provided by LOGOS was replaced by a semi-automated website and email service set up by Nick Amis. This service is edited by the secretary, with essential back up from Hilary & Brian Tunbridge and Nick.

PLEASE check that the details of your church/organisation are up to date on the CTN Website Churches List. If they are not, please let the secretary know what amendments are needed.

AOB

1. Offers by churches to the secretary to host the AGM and Annual Service in January 2018 will be warmly welcomed.
2. The Abbey Centre has a suite of rooms (including catering facilities for hire). Enquiries to 01604-767568 during office hours.
3. Pat Johnson advertised a Christian Aid Quiz evening *Knowledge & Nosh* at St. Mathews 6 p.m. Saturday 18th February. Tickets £7.50 (£4 children under 11). Cottage Pie or veggie option & Apple Crumble included. ALL WELCOME – especially church teams. Ring Pat 07736 254241 for further details or to register your church team.

The AGM, was followed by a service in The Abbey Centre for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Conducted by David Warrington; guest preacher: Hugh Osgood “The Benefits of Unity”

APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Joe Story (Mustard Seed Ministries), Catherine Story (Church on the Heath), Roger Clark (Worldwide Church of God), Clive Millman (Jesus Fellowship), Herbert Yee (Northampton Chinese Christian Church), Stuart Dennis (Carey Baptist); Jodie Dennis (Carey Baptist), Margaret Williams (Carey Baptist), Nikki Jenkins (Berrywood Chaplain/Kingsthorpe Baptist), Stuart Jenkins (St. Andrews Chaplaincy/County Ecumenical Officer), Martin Gage (Christian Aid), Mike & Joy Smither (Storehouse Church), Teresa Brown (Prayer & Praise), Colin Phillips (Storehouse Church), Ted Hale (Abbey Centre Baptist), Pat Johnson (Abbey Centre Baptist), Lesley & Robert Goulbourne (Abbey Centre Baptist), Paddy Bell (Abbey Centre Baptist), Barbara Isaac (Abbey Centre Baptist), David Warrington (Abbey Centre Baptist), Adina & Cyril Curtis (ANFI), Hilary & Brian Tunbridge (Park Avenue Methodist), Ted

Harding (St. Giles), Peter Angus (Impact Northants), David Lee (Hackleton Baptist), Simon Ellis (Duston URC), Glen Bowen (RC Cathedral), Roger Woods (Church on the Heath), Stephen Trott (Rural Dean – Brixworth), Barry Coles (Abington Avenue URC), Christine Walker (Queensgrove Methodist), Adeyinka Okude (RCCG, Jesus Sanctuary), Hugh Osgood (CTE President).

Appendix 2.

Moderators Report Churches Together Northampton (AGM 22/01/2017)

The diversity of Church life in Northampton has continued to increase as reflected by the different initiatives undertaken during the past year.

We would like to welcome new churches, New ministers.

CTN were delighted to follow up Vic Winchcombe's suggestion to invite Hugh Osgood to be this year's guest speaker. Thanks to Hugh for responding positively to our request and being here today.

The new email service which replaced LOGOS is proving quite popular. Some have commented that it is easier to navigate – though LOGOS is missed by those who are not on email or who prefer information in a hard copy.

The RENEW charity shop initiative sadly failed to elicit enough volunteers to staff it, so the venture was closed after a trial period.

In 2016, there has been better liaison between CTN and NAYC, thanks to the efforts of James Yates

Though small, Christmas 2015 saw the first real involvement of the church in Northampton Town Centre celebrations.

A better and bigger opportunity was offered in 2016. We are grateful to Steve Jones and the Town Centre Pastors who co-ordinated the town centre events after the initial negotiations had been made by CTN Secretary Ted Hales.

The resulting programme ran over most of the Advent Season and was well supported by a number of Northampton Churches and their ministers. It was good to have the opportunity to put the Lord CHRIST at the centre of Christmas, and share the good news with shoppers in the market square and beyond.

CTN has been pleased to provide support and publicity for *Impact Northamptonshire* and would continue to support any initiative that encourages and facilitates churches working together. We look forward to the numerous initiatives throughout the year ahead urging and encouraging churches to work together. *Thy Kingdom Come* - 25th May - 4th June, is a week of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost 2017 for the witness of Christians in this country.

This has the support of Churches Together England, and all major Christian groups nationally. The aim is:-

- To join in prayer with the whole family of God
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit
- That we may be effective witness to God the Son Jesus Christ

Other celebrations are planned to acknowledge the 500 anniversary of the **Reformation**

In 2016, there has been better liaison between CTN and NAYC, thanks to the efforts of James Yates

There is some concern about the low attendance at enabling group meetings. Apologies when given show legitimate reasons (eg long term sickness). David Wiseman and David McConkey who were committed regular attenders are sadly missed.

2016 has not been without its difficulties as well as its successes, but CTN continues to enable churches and Christian organisations in Northampton to communicate with one another and to support and pray for one another, To help new churches find a place or feel at home within the wider Christian and civic community

To act as a medium for local churches to relate to wider church structures and to the changing ethno-religious mix within which we are called to share the good news of the gospel.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank colleagues on the Enabling Group for faithfully attending meetings, even when it seems an effort. Special thanks must go to Ted Hales, who in his capacity as Secretary, really holds CTN together and to Lesley Goulbourne for her stalwart work as treasurer. Please continue to pray for the work of CTN. It would be good to welcome new members, particularly anyone wishing to work in any capacity. There are a number of vacancies open.

Adina Curtis
Moderator

Appendix 3

Report from the Spiritual Wellbeing Team
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
January 2017

We continue to provide spiritual care for staff, patients and their carers across our Trust. Our work is primarily but not exclusively in mental health and is broad ranging. Most of the time is spent listening and affirming people either individually or in groups. Our two main hospitals are Berrywood in Northampton and St Mary's in Kettering together

with the community hospitals of Corby, Wellingborough and Danetre. Please do let us know if you have a member of your congregation in one of these hospitals that you would like us to support. Referrals can also include people living at home who may need some support but please appreciate that our resources are not extensive.

We are starting this New Year with some changes to our team. Judith Gilbert continues to be based at St Mary's Hospital and Nikki Jenkins has joined us at Berrywood. We are also assisted by Odette Douglas and occasional help from Philip Nash, together with a number of volunteers.

Judith Gilbert (Chaplain)
Tel: 01536 452290

Nikki Jenkins (Chaplain)
Tel: 01604 685420

Appendix 4

The Globe Project

This was launched just a year ago at the CTN annual service and our eight-strong ecumenical group had little idea where it would take us. It has been an exciting adventure! The aim was to start conversations about global issues that would challenge the often negative attitudes prevalent in the media, especially in relation to refugee and migration issues. It has largely been a case of responding to invitations, and these have come from a variety of sources. Churches have invited us to café-style and traditional services, and midweek meetings. We've also taken it to inter-faith and other faith groups – a Muslim women's group, workshops at a NIFF conference and an inter-faith gathering convened by Northampton's Lord Lieutenant. There have been secular events too such as residents' association groups. It has taken centre-stage at a village flower festival. We have become involved with Northampton Town of Sanctuary and the Globe has had a role in their public events, and on one occasion was taken to meet Borough Council leaders. It has been to conferences and gatherings of church leaders.

We initiated two events. The first was a 255th birthday garden party for William Carey hosted by the Quaker Meeting House. We celebrated diversity in different ways, and Carey came too! Well – his successor as Minister at Carey Baptist Church Moulton. His wife had made him a Carey costume enabling him to get into character. He also appeared at a Black History Month evening which we organised and which was hosted by the New Testament Church of God in College Street. 'Carey' stood behind the old pulpit from which he had preached long ago.

It was, of course, Carey's world view and vision that inspired our Globe Project. His leather globe is long gone, but the reconstruction has survived much touching and turning. No writing on it; no borders. Conversations have evoked anxieties and negative ideas at times, but overwhelmingly it has revealed compassion and a desire to embrace a culture of help for those in need and a welcome for the stranger, whatever the cost. We've listened to many stories and seen something of the rich diversity in our community and within every group we've visited.

What of the future? We still have one event in the diary and will still respond to any invitations that we receive, but the Globe will find a permanent home in the Carey Cottage Museum at Moulton. It has already had a significant impact on The Carey Experience (www.thecareyexperience.co.uk), bringing more visitors, especially to Moulton, and reinforcing the challenge to consider how we can tune in to God's vision for our world today.

Appendix 5

From Rev. Stephen Trott (Rector of Pitsford with Boughton & Rural Dean of Brixworth)
The Rectory, Boughton, Northampton, NN2 8RQ
revstephentrott@gmail.com

Chaplaincies in Northants – January 2017

I serve in two chaplaincies in the county (as well as my own ministry as Rector of Pitsford with Boughton). I am Chaplain at Pitsford School in Pitsford, which was founded in 1989 for students from 3-18. It is co-educational and is open to children from every background.

I am also Chaplain (“Padre”) to the Army Cadet Force in Northamptonshire, part of the Leicester, Northants and Rutland ACF, which has some 1400 cadets aged 12-18 and some 300 adult leaders in the three counties. There are some 27 detachments in Northants alone, in Northampton and in larger towns throughout the county. The work of the Royal Army Chaplains Department is a vital part of army life for regular, reserve and cadet forces, as it has been for more than 350 years.

I would be very happy to provide more information about the work of these organisations and their chaplaincies. My contact details are given above.

Appendix 6

Northampton General Hospital Chaplaincy Report

January 2017

The Hospital Chaplaincy Department at Northampton General Hospital seeks to provide for the religious, spiritual and pastoral well-being of all who pass through our doors, whether patients, relatives or staff. Like many other hospitals throughout the country we are experiencing financial pressures, as well as an increased demand for our services. This winter has now become one of the worst the hospital Trust has ever experienced.

The Chaplaincy Department continues to be well supported by the Hospital Trust. The Department will be undergoing change this coming year with the retirement of Revd. David Betts in April who has been here for just over 4 years. He has been a much valued colleague in the department. The Hospital Trust has made a continuing financial commitment to having him replaced. The department continues to be well supported by our Locum Chaplains who provide cover when there are ‘gaps’ in the service, and by our Chaplaincy Visitors from local churches.

Over this last year we appointed our first Humanist Chaplaincy Visitor accredited by the British Humanist Association to provide pastoral care to non-religious patients and staff.

Please keep the Hospital Trust and the Chaplaincy Department, in your prayers, this coming year in what could be a very challenging year. The Hospital Chapel is always open, please feel free to drop in if you are passing by.

With every blessing,

Revd. George Sarmezey - Senior Hospital Chaplain, Northampton General Hospital.

Appendix 7

As the Counties leading **Christian Youth Charity NAYC** has had a busy year. James Yates has been employed as our new Church Youth Group Coordinator and has seen huge demand for his services among over 75 member churches.

Working in towns and villages throughout Northamptonshire he has been setting up new youth groups and supporting existing youth work in Churches while attending events and leading training sessions.

His work is interdenominational and includes a large number of Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and independent churches. He is working closely with Becky and Chad who are employed by the Diocese of Peterborough and this relationship has enabled them to partner together effectively.

Highlights this year include:

- 12 new groups set up and another dozen in the pipeline.
- 47 events supported including a full summer programme running activities for holiday clubs.
- 97 visits to groups to run themed activities with a Christian message including Bible studies.
- An awards event where a number of church youth group leaders were celebrated for their contribution.
- Helping to run Golden Ticket events that support young people during their transition from primary to secondary school resulting in new youth groups.
- Supporting Youth Gatherings in Wellingborough, Corby, Kettering, Northampton, Daventry, East Northants and South Northants.
- Part of the planning committee for the 2018 Soul Survivor event in Peterborough.
- Participating in the new online youth worship gatherings.

- Running an Emerging Leaders residential experience for Church youth.
- Any Churches that would like support with youth work either within their own congregation or as an outreach to their community are invited to contact James on 07432 615710

Appendix 8

Dear Church Leaders

Many of your congregations will already be supporting the work of **StreetChurch** and I would ask you to pass on our heartfelt thanks for their support throughout 2016. Without their generosity both financially, in kind and in their time we would not be able to be a family to the homeless and severely disadvantaged in Northampton. The love our caterers and volunteers pour out makes an enormous difference to the lives of those who are unloved by society.

Whilst StreetChurch does need ongoing financial support what we urgently need in 2017 is a few more committed volunteers to join our core team (volunteers must be at least 18 years old). If you have members of your congregation with a heart for the disadvantaged who are seeking a way to serve, Streetchurch offers them a way to test out their calling. Not everyone has the ability to connect with those living rough or with drug or alcohol addictions; giving them unconditional love. Volunteering with StreetChurch gives someone the opportunity to test out their calling without making a long term commitment. Volunteering could even be part of a discipleship programme.

We are looking for individuals who can connect with our friends and who can commit to attending for 3 Sundays every 5-6 weeks. This could even be for a short period of a couple of months. The key is a period of consistency of attending 2 or 3 Sundays in a row to build up trust with the friends. If you know members of your congregation who either have the heart or the potential to develop Christian love for the disadvantaged please put them in touch with us. We are happy for individuals to come and see if it is for them before they commit. Please ask them to contact one of the following to discuss the opportunities:
Rev Jennie Crane, Castle Hill URC, jenniecrane1967@hotmail.co.uk, mobile 07976 979791
Paul Edwards, Mount Zion Church, pedwards611@gmail.com, mobile 07541 625324
Maj Jason Snell, Salvation Army, jason.snell@salvationarmy.org.uk, mobile 07532 088105
I have attached a copy of our 2016 annual report which outlines our achievements and challenges in 2016.
Many thanks, God bless

Allan Chesney - Chair of StreetChurch - Allan_chesney@btinternet.com

Appendix 9

Report on Chaplaincy at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club

The chaplaincy at Northants continues to be well received and used by players and staff alike. Over the past 12 months as well as informal and formal pastoral conversations there has been the opportunity to be an integral part of a player welfare and well being group consisting of coaches, sports psychologists and myself. This offers a more integrated approach to player support.

In addition I have a close relationship with the supporters club attending their monthly lunches during the winter and offering pastoral support where needed. I was also privileged to have a minor role in the funeral of one of the supporters' club members.

I thank God for the opportunities this role presents to share God's love in a practical way within the world of sport.

David Chawner

January 2017

Appendix 10

The Impact Northamptonshire report is as follows:

Impact Northamptonshire is a stadium gospel proclamation event.

Our vision is to enable and motivate churches of all sizes and denominations in Northamptonshire for evangelism

We are currently planning the stadium event which will be held at the Northampton Sixfields football stadium and will take place on Pentecost Sunday 20th May 2018.

This event is intended to support the church in its aim to win souls for the Kingdom of God.

It is designed to attract and encourage people to come who would be reluctant to attend a normal church event

Why a stadium event?

God has given dreams and visions to many local Christians showing Sixfields stadium full of people worshipping Him

More recently God has called the International Evangelist Revd Canon J. John to step up and gather people in large stadiums to hear the gospel and personally encounter Jesus Christ

The event will be ticket only with prices set at £10 each.

The programme will run from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and will be headlined by J. John who will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There will also be local musicians leading worship, testimonies from local sporting celebrities and an ecumenical gospel choir.

Our aim is to have 3,500 Christians to each invite and accompany a non-Christian on the day.

The short term priority for the project team is to liaise with and engage local churches across the county in becoming Church Partners for the event.

Partner churches will have direct involvement in contributing to the event planning, they will have access to regular prayer events covering this year and next year, and post event discipleship programmes.

J. John and the team will also help Partner Church congregations in evangelism training using the Natural Evangelism course.

We have a special day set aside on 20th May this year which will involve J. John and also Jonathan Oloyede presenting and leading workshop sessions covering Evangelism and Prayer.

The 2017 event will be free of charge with priority given to attending Pastors and Evangelists

The event is planned to take place at the Kings Park Centre in Northampton starting at 10.00am and finishing at 3.00pm

The numbers are strictly limited and access will be by pre-booked ticket only.

Details will be available on the Impact Northamptonshire web site once the detailed planning has been completed.

This is a major opportunity for local churches to recognise and get involved with what God is already doing.

For the church to be one just as the Jesus said in John 17 – as I and the Father are one

For us to reach the lost and the fallen for the Kingdom of God

To integrate respondents into Partner churches so that it's not just a one-off day but involves ongoing support and discipleship.

Blessings, Peter Angus