

**SHIRE & SOKE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6th October 2009 2.00p.m.**  
**Daventry URC, Sheaf Street, Daventry NN11 4AA**

**PRESENT:** Christine Allsopp, John Anderson, Teresa Brown, Cliff Faulkner, Malcolm Fife, Lynn Fowkes, Ted Hale, Séan Healy, Jean Levell, John Levell, Eleanor Patrick, Chris Pearson, Jay Phelps, Bob Purser, Peter Wilson, Glayne Worgan, Helen Wordsworth (and Helen Murphy as Minuting Secretary)

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

Lynn Fowkes (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting, thanked the Daventry URC for acting as host for the meeting, with a particular welcome to Jay, the new URC minister, and focused the prayer on unity.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Betty Chalmers, Adrian Coupe, Clive Fowle, Giles Godber, Pat Johnson, Charlie Nobbs, Terry Oakley, Andy Sipple, Janet Thomas, Maureen Timms, David Tinkler and John Warrington

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (AGM 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and MATTERS ARISING (if not already on Agenda)**

The minutes were accepted and signed by Lynn Fowkes. There were no matters arising.

**4. REVIEWS**

Teresa Brown reported that a review was currently underway at Westgate Church, a Methodist – URC LEP in Peterborough, with a report awaited.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Copies of the up-to-date financial report (showing actual figures for 2008, projected for 2009 and projected for 2010) were distributed and studied, noting that expenditure was on track so far and that, if necessary, adjustments could be made the following year. It was reported that some subscriptions were yet to be received and clarified that CONC stood for Churches Officer for New Communities (i.e. Bob Purser).

**6. COUNTY ECUMENICAL OFFICER'S REPORT (including CTE Forum)**

Teresa Brown reported on various activities she had attended or been involved in, since the AGM in May, as follows:

- Bishop Ian's funeral service (which he had planned himself) at Peterborough cathedral, followed later by the Service of Thanksgiving on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- The High Sherriff's Justice Service at the cathedral on 4<sup>th</sup> October (as an ecumenical representative) with the judges and civic dignitaries fo Cambridgeshire present – a spectacular event with ceremonial trumpets, clergy from both Ely and Peterborough dioceses. She had met the Police Chaplain from Cambridgeshire and noted the need for more volunteers to become chaplains to the Police Force.

- Faith Fest at Unity College in Northampton, organised by CT Northampton and Worship in Northampton, with music in many different styles from the different churches in the town.
- RC Ecumenical Commission meeting, with Major Jim Bryden, the National Ecumenical Officer for the Salvation Army, as the speaker.
- At the Hollowell Show, contributing musically to the service in the main arena, with more ecumenical presence this time.
- Shire & Soke News: There were copies available for those not on e-mail. Teresa had been to various welcome services, including three Methodist 'welcomes': to the new District Chair, Peter Hancock, to Trevor Sands in the Peterborough circuit, and to Philip Taylor's induction as Superintendent of the Northampton circuit. She had also attended the induction of Jay Phelps at Daventry URC, whose pastorate now included Bugby, Weedon and Flore.
- CTE Forum: Teresa and Adrian Coupe (vice chair) attended on behalf of Shire and Soke. Séan Healy also attended, as chair of CT Buckinghamshire. There were four presidents (including Anglican and Roman Catholic archbishops, in particular Archbishop Vincent Nicholls, who signed for the first time). There were presentations on various topics, including street pastors, climate change, inter-faith relations and the first Salvation Army LEP (with Anglicans, URC and Methodists) in the Forest of Dean. There was world music led by Muyiewa from Nigeria and also music for worship led by a small group co-ordinated by Teresa.
- To comply with new Charity Commission regulations requiring a standard Constitution, CTE had drawn up new governing documents with a model Constitution for immediate use by Single Congregation LEPs with over £100,000 annual income. This should speed up the process of obtaining approval. In addition, an Ecumenical Vision Statement now replaces the former Declaration of Intent, this being the place for creativity in any new documents.
- Looking ahead, Graham Kendrick was still booked for Pentecost 2010 (details to be finalised) and in 2011 there would be a Christian Resources Exhibition at the Peterborough Showground.

## **7. COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES ASSEMBLY AT LYONS (Archdeacon Christine Allsopp)**

After leading us in song in three different languages in order to share with us an experience of the assembly, Christine Allsopp explained the origins of CEC, founded 50 years ago, in a time of great tension, when the Christian Churches wanted to build bridges between different factions and areas. The early priorities were nuclear disarmament and the affirmation of human rights in the wake of the Second World War; since then things have moved on with an increase in the number of Churches involved (126) including close links with the Old Catholic Church. Although the Roman Catholic Church is not a member, it has a close relationship with CEC through its Council of European Bishops' Conferences.

Priorities now included taking note of the effects of migration in Europe, supporting women (violence and trafficking in particular). Working with institutions in Europe was crucial, with a report on the Treaty of Lisbon undertaken from the point of view of the European Churches – considered on the whole all right but did not go far enough!

Although there had been a briefing in London beforehand, Christine was disappointed by the high political level of the conference; there were financial issues too, with some resentment that some did not pay as much as others, much voting in assembly, and much work in the various committees (with great effort expended on achieving the right 'balance'). Worship was led by a variety of different traditions. In

conclusion, she felt that there was much good about the CEC, but she was looking forward to better structures emerging from a review. It would also be helpful if more information about this were to be disseminated in advance of the next event, so that more people would know about it.

Lynn Fowkes thanked her for her interesting report.

## **8. REPORT FROM CHURCHES OFFICER FOR NEW COMMUNITIES (Bob Purser)**

Bob Purser delivered a presentation updating developments in the Daventry district, showing plans for new areas of growth planned around the town (leading to an estimated population increase to approx 40,000 by 2021). With five churches in Daventry, all in the centre, the new developments on the outskirts would be without provision. Although the proposed Monksmoor development would include a community centre and a primary school, this was less likely at the proposed Churchfields site. So the Daventry CT were concentrating on the northern estates, with a particular focus on mission and outreach to these new developments. However, there was a dilemma: whether to focus on planting a new church in the developing areas or to build on existing work with children and young families. Answering comments from the floor, Bob thought that community centre proposals could certainly double up as a church, and that the planned schools could include a church school. Regarding worship needs, it was noted that some people travelled to Rugby or Northampton.

Lynn Fowkes thanked Bob for his informative presentation and asked all to keep Daventry in the prayers.

## **9. WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY: THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Lynn Fowkes welcomed the two speakers, noting that workplace chaplaincy was becoming more recognised and accepted during the current period of uncertainty, particularly with regard to the growing appreciation of the vital work-life balance.

### **(i) Alison Maddox (Workplace Chaplain in Nottingham)**

After introducing herself and her background, Alison gave a whistle-stop tour through the theology of workplace chaplaincy in her powerpoint presentation, looking at: God and Work, God and the Worker and God and the Workplace. She talked about Faith at Work –

Spirituality at Work (experiencing God at work), Discipleship at Work (participating in God at work) and Chaplaincy at Work (working with God with people), and posed the question: 'Is work a curse or a blessing?' Noting the theological and biblical background, she analysed work and theology, examining aspects of this 'balance'. She emphasised that her work in Workplace Chaplaincy was underpinned by what she called redeeming vocation: What I do, Who I am, my unique 'name'. The main thrust of workplace chaplaincy she outlined as follows: Pastoral→ Vocational→ Prophetic→ Communal, with what she called a 'godly space' in the middle. In conclusion, she outlined a general overview (returning to her original headings):

- God and Work (the theological platform);
- God and the Worker (redeeming vocation);
- God and the Workplace (community)
- with, finally, Considering the Practical (discipleship).

### **(ii) Malcolm Fife**

#### **(Workplace Chaplain at DIRFT – Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal)**

Malcolm introduced himself as a URC minister from Lutterworth and as a practitioner

and developer of workplace chaplaincy. He talked of the history of workplace chaplaincy in the old 'industrial mission', an outreach to link the Church with working people; an early example of its modern incarnation being the South Yorkshire Workplace Chaplaincy in Sheffield, which became a pattern for others. Funding was always a problem; in the early days, the Church bore the cost and sometimes companies contributed.

He had just finished setting up a chaplaincy in a major supermarket chain, which required a promise that he would be available to those of all faiths or none. This posed no problems, either to Malcolm or to the representatives of other faiths he had consulted, to whom he would make any referrals as needed. However, it seemed that firms often had problems with this.

In his work as a development officer for the company Workcare (leaflets were available), he negotiated with companies about setting up a workplace chaplaincy (for which they were charged), talked to the Churches, looking for potential chaplains (who would be trained as part of 'ministry' and was currently setting up a town chaplaincy in Nuneaton. He was able to offer his services to any local church by speaking, preaching and running workshops. He also requested introductions to local firms and asked for support by prayers, giving particular thought about potential chaplains.

Lynn Fowkes thanked him for his presentation.

#### **10. NEWS FROM LEPs AND CHURCHES TOGETHER GROUPS**

- (1) **CT in Wellingborough:** Chris Pearson reported that two former members of CTiW, together with a third new member, had now transferred to the Earls Barton CT.
- (2) **Flore Christian Partnership:** Jean and John Levell reported that Flore now had a Youth Worker, financed by the partnership.
- (3) **CT in Kettering:** Leaflets were available advertising a forthcoming exhibition and sale in Toller Church – Art from Zimbabwe – including sculpture, jewellery, batik, paintings and beadwork.

#### **11. AOB**

There was no further business.

#### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 2.00pm at Toller URC, Gold Street, Kettering.

Signed.....Date.....