



Working together as the Body of Christ

Minutes of the 99th Quarterly Meeting
Held on Thursday 18th May 2017 at Shrewsbury Baptist Church, Crowmoor

Opening Prayers were said by Rev. David Jones

1. Attendance / Apologies

There were 44 members present and 7 apologies.

2. Future events

Roofbreakers Course:

Phil Ramsbotham addressed the meeting and pointed out that church communities have to juggle many things within their priorities of pastoral care, outreach, worship environments, etc.

Disability Ministry is one priority and the Enabling Church course starting in September provides an opportunity and acts as a guide for churches in exploring disability and using it as an opportunity to engage with the local community. The course explores such topics as: physical disability, hearing and slight loss, mental health and dementia.

Flower Show:

A 9m by 3m stall (opposite the entrance to the food hall) has been booked for this year's show. Half the stall will be for hospitality and half for children's activities. It is hoped to give out balloons, children love them, however there is a problem in that the flower show have said that the balloons must be biodegradable.

100th Meeting of Churches Together:

The next meeting of Churches Together will be the 100th meeting. A celebratory cake will be cut at the next meeting and it is hoped to have a history of Churches Together for members on the night.

3. Any Other Business

Churches Together Hustings:

Rev Phil Cansdale addressed the meeting. The hustings are taking place on Wednesday 31st May, 7:30pm at Holy Trinity, Meole Brace. Posters promoting the event were given out as it is important that Christians turn up and show up. There is a different format this year in that at the beginning three people will tell their own personal story and how that impacts with the big issues of the day. The second half will be a traditional question and answer session.

Thy Kingdom Come:

Various events are planned around the county.

Police Day of Prayer:

Prayers for the Police will be said at Shrewsbury Crown Court: Thurs 25th May 8–9 am.

The Right Reverend Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield addressed the meeting.

Bishop Michael spoke about the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love and how as churches we should aspire to proclaim, share and model those virtues. He made the following observations:

Faith:

- Faith is gathered around scripture, the sacraments and Jesus.
- We all have one faith and what divides us, is much less than what unites us.
- Compared to 50 years ago, ecumenically Churches are more closer than they were. Bishop Michael hoped that in the next 50 years, churches will be even closer than they are today.
- In a world where people feel excluded, it is important for people to know that at church everyone is welcome and made to feel included.

Hope:

- The fact that Christ, after he had died and rose again spent time on this earth helping the disciples through what must have been turbulent times gives us hope that Christ is with us in our darkest time.
- The church needs to be a symbol of hope for those who have none. Small things, things that we do can make a huge difference and can give hope to those in despair.

Love:

- Love embraces justice, peace and mercy. They belong together.
- The church has a duty to speak for justice and against injustice, like the poverty that affect so many.
- Let us show peace, when we speak to others and one another.
- As a church we can show mercy by practical actions. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are told the Samaritan showed compassion and mercy.
- Ecumenically, churches are engaged in many practical areas of mercy: street pastors, help for refugees.
- It is important that as the state does less and less, churches do more and more. 15 years ago the state was the leading provider of youth provision, now it is the church.
- Let us show to all the same mercy that God shows to us, as we are all made in God's image.