

Christians Together in Wrexham/ Cydweithio Gyda Crist yn Wrecsam

Agenda

Regent Street Methodist Church 7.30pm Thursday 26th January 2017

Present: Phil Arton (Community Church), Gareth Jones (Christchurch/Street Pastors), Pam Davies (Trinity Presbyterian), John Hodgkinson (Community Church), Sue Lumb (CAP/Community Church), Elizabeth Waddington (IPAC/Community Church), Rachel Noyes (Methodist), Naomi Squire (Methodist/Glyndwr University Chaplaincy), David Jones (PCW Wrexham Pastorate), Cathy Williams (Chaplaincy, Coleg Cambria), Sue Allen (Christchurch), Menna Davies (Capel y Groes), Gloria Davies (Trinity Presbyterian), Geraint Owens (Trinity Presbyterian/Wrexham Feeding the Roofless), Gwenan Brett (Capel y Groes), Rhian Jones (Capel y Groes), Robert Parry (Capel y Groes), John Williams (Brynteg - Salvation Army), Joan Winwood (Prison Fellowship), Michael Winwood (Prison Fellowship), Art Ellinson (St Marks, Caia Park), Paul Jeorrett (Quaker Meeting/Glyndwr), Bev Craddock (Quaker Meeting), Trish Earlam (Methodist), Sally Griffiths (Christchurch), Ruth Holden (Coleg Cambria Chaplaincy), Jonathan Smith (St Marks/St Margarets), Mark Vening (YWAM), Sam Erlandson (Holy Trinity, Rhostyllen/All Saints Poyser Street), Lynne Mort (Methodist), Richard Sharples (Methodist).

Apologies: Elizabeth Gauge (St Giles), Brian Matthews, Elwyn Williams (Capel y Groes), Sarah Errington (St James/St Johns), Jason Bray (St Giles)

1. Welcome:

- Devotion/Thought and Time of Creative Prayer/Dreaming (Gareth Jones)
- Introductions - welcome to new representatives/church workers/leaders Welcome to Paul Jeorrett who will be speaking about 'Prevent'

2. Updates & Reviews

- **United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (Robert Parry)
 - Positive feedback on the Service had been received. The linguistic balance was felt to be just right. Thanks to musicians and to Richard Sharples for his message. Next United Service May 14th.
- **International Fellowship** (John Hodgkinson)
 - David Fewster has gone to Thailand on ministry. God has provided new leaders, Paul and Jackie Harvey and Mike Norbury. Thanks to the Methodists for allowing the International Fellowship to use the room at Regent Street Methodist Church. 5 people baptised back in the autumn in Bradley Road Baptist church. Grateful for support from all churches financially and in terms of facilities. Richard Sharples very helpful and has made preparations for after he leaves. Have supported asylum seekers going up to court in Manchester including paying for interpreters etc. Capacity to grow and develop, connecting with international students in Glyndwr etc. Any financial donations to be sent to Richard and Lucy Fogg. Space in the leadership team for more people to meet and pray weekly. Before he left for Thailand David Fewster raised the matter of hospitality to international folk. David feels there is a need and potential for more hospitality to be offered.

- **Just Across** (Richard Sharples)
 - open to all faiths and non. Have benefited greatly through the Red Cross who have been handling the Syrian refugee families. Resettlement programme is for 5 families a year and these families are arriving. Veg scheme goes on week by week. Funding okay at present and 25 bags of fruit and veg being distributed per week. Up to 40 different nationalities seen in the course of a year.
- **Work on Caia Park** (Jonathan/Chris)
 - Things continue to evolve. Lots going on. A few more coming to St Marks on Sundays. Mark on the Park prayer continues. Kidz Klub run by Chris along with Lisa and YWAM has got around 25 plus children from Caia Park coming along. Tin Chapel project almost ready to start - using Rhosnesni Methodist Chapel as a drop in centre for youngsters attending Rhosnesni High School, linking in with school pastors work already in school. 'Me and my Dad' club is being held in St Giles Church on Saturday mornings. Josh and Sam to reconvene to arrange an inter-church football match. Josh working with Hafod y Wern on lunchtime football.
- **XLM Mentoring**
 - This is coordinated by Mike Lacey. This ministry is about mentoring young people, particularly those at risk of exclusion or struggling to maintain education in secondary school. Recruitment of mentors is a priority and a training course is running this weekend. Commitment involves 2 hours per week ongoing commitment to a young person for up to a year. Working with Rhosnesni High, Clweydog and Ysgol y Grango in Rhosllanerchrugog.

3. Mission

- **'Prevent'**
 - Paul Jeorratt, local Quaker and Chaplain at Glyndwr University explored the implications for the mission-minded Christian community of the Government's anti-terrorism strategy.

Paul is a member of staff at the university.

Hospitals/Universities/prisons/schools have to now be seen to be working with this policy to prevent terrorism. People of faith sometimes feel side-lined or concerned about speaking about their spiritual journey outside of their mosque/church etc. The 'Prevent' policy Started 10 years ago after 9/11 and 7/7 attacks, but did not become law until sometime later. When the coalition government ended in 2015 the first move of the new government was to bring this in as legislation and it is now enshrined in law.

Paul talked about co-existence and the need to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremism. People need to talk and debate to learn to live together and to co-exist. However, people who encourage people to harm themselves and to harm others are those we wish to deter.

In university and college there are a lot of people who are younger and are learning. It is a vulnerable time and people who recruit to organisations may wish to exploit people's vulnerabilities. 'Prevent' is about safeguarding not

spying. Sharing concerns about people who are vulnerable and people with strong and violent views.

On 5th Feb 11am – 3pm there is an invitation to the mosque.

- **Prison Update** (Michael Winward)

- We had an instructive and helpful day at the prison when invited on the prayer walk – joint between church leaders fellowship and prison fellowship, people of many different traditions of the church praying together. Chaplain of prison (Alan) anxious that at least 2 people every Sunday go along and worship in the prison chapel with the service there. Michael is coordinating this. He has produced a sheet including guidelines as to how you need to prepare yourself for going in and visit the prison. People to let Michael know if they are interested in going and what Sunday's they are free. Michael will draw up a list and circulate it to check that people are still available. 7 day run in to arrange passes etc before a service. The prisoners start arriving on 27th Feb and the first service is on the 25th March. No men will leave the prison for 18 months. Ideally this could be on the agenda for every church's meeting so that all are aware of this opportunity.

Alan is keen for people to help out in any capacity they can with the chaplaincy team to free them up (e.g. admin work).

A follow up to the prison forum held last May is planned. This follow up will be held in the prison and information will come out about this.

Training package being developed by Gweini in collaboration with the Salvation Army offering 9 or 10 sessions of training for people to be fully equipped for prison ministry.

There is a need to plug the gap in terms of follow up care in terms of people leaving the prison but there is time to put this in place.

The chaplaincy at Glyndwr will be having a debate on 16th Feb 1-2pm in the library block in the university regarding conditions at the prison. The public are welcome to come along.

Also a series of lectures is currently taking place at the university (see the CTW information bulletin for further details).

4. Youth & Children

- **Methodist Circuit youth worker and ecumenical youth group** (Trish Erlam)

- 2 events so far, Halloween Event attended by 2 young people and a Christmas Ceilidh attended by 2 young people and a number of older people. Now looking at doing something art related on the first Saturday in March. Trish is aiming at 10 – 16 year olds but any age are welcome.

Potential for an activity day out.

- **Banana Club** (Jonathan Smith)
 - new leaders have been found and this is going forward.
 - **Other** (Jonathan Smith)
 - The Diocese is currently looking at the possibility of someone else working with youth in Wrexham financed by the Parochial Trust Fund money. Currently exploring the options. Could coordinate work amongst Anglicans and will work in cooperation with other churches.
5. Worship and Prayer
- **Oasis of Silence**
 - Tuesdays 12.30pm from Jan 17th at the Methodist Church - this is ongoing.
 - **Lent Course/Groups**
 - Lent starts on March 1st. CTW will circulate a link to a whole host of ideas which are on the Evangelical Alliance website. Gareth is encouraging his church to do a Daniel fast – giving up luxury items and praying for God’s kingdom to come. Bethel and St Margaret’s will be doing something together based on a film – Casa Blanca? Sam - All Saints and HT Rhostyllen are doing a Lent Course led by Revd Keith Ellis.
 - **North Wales Women’s Conference**
 - 25th March, Memorial Hall.
 - **Good Friday 14th April**
 - Methodist Church Regent St 10.00am with walk of witness to follow. Let Richard Sharples know if you are interested in participating in the drama.
 - **Easter morning 7.00am**
 - Sunrise Ecumenical Communion, (Roof of) Methodist Church, Regent Street followed by a shared breakfast. Gareth’s church will be doing baptisms in the afternoon of Easter Sunday, other churches welcome to join with this.
 - **United services**
 - 2017 14th May (beginning of Christian Aid week). Venue TBA
 - 2017 26th Nov, Rev’d Elfed ap Nefydd Roberts at Trinity Presbyterian
 - **Reminder about Town Prayer Diaries** (bilingual)
 - **Pilgrimage in June**
 - Richard Sharples is doing a pilgrimage finishing on Caia Park between June 7th and June 10th. Details are in the CTW Bulletin.
 - **YWAM**
 - 28th – 30th Jan, prayer for Wrexham at Gaer Y Gwyn, 25 Hightown Road.

6. Salt and Light Ministries:

- Local Established ministries – brief verbal reports:
 - IPAC** (Elizabeth Waddington) – Registered with Pregnancy Centres Network and Elizabeth went to an annual conference in Birmingham. Elizabeth will distribute prayer pointers after the meeting.
 - Wrexham Feeding the Roofless** (Geraint Owens) – uncertain about the future. Having to move from Market St car park because of building works. Brian has had considerable contact with a couple of people in the local

authority but are having difficulties finding an alternative venue. Couple of alternative venues – Trinity (back door), could be used in the short term. Difficult to see the way forward. Geraint asking for prayers and for the Local Authority to look kindly on this. Other agencies also under a lot of pressure. In a report published this week we heard that numbers of homeless are going up nationally rather than down. New legislation – The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 places a stronger duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness.

Foodbank now in new premises round the back of St James.

Street Pastors entering 2nd decade of operation. Need a new generation of Street Pastors. Ideally need an influx of Street Pastors under 50. Have the funding for 10 street pastors. If every church supplies one volunteer then that quota is easily met. Recruitment day March 18th. Training course starting in Chester in February.

Ruth Holden – wanting to thank God for **Christian Union** at Yale. About 8 students meeting regularly, chaplaincy team growing and there is a staff prayer group. Hope in time to connect more with churches locally.

Mental Wellbeing Art Project – ‘In our minds are many rooms’ (Richard). Thursday March 9th 1-4pm and Saturday March 11th 10am – 1pm, Regent Street Methodist Church (further details in CTW Information Bulletin).

7. Sharing of News:

- **Report from Church Leader’s Fellowship** – more people involved than for many years. Doing new things ,e.g. visiting prison. Recently did pulpit exchange.
- **YWAM** – |Our prayers and good wishes are with Sarah and Bob who have a new baby - Quin. The 3 trainees on the Discipleship Training Course at YWAM have been working through the lecture programme and are planning to spend time abroad working with refugees. New member of staff coming to YWAM before our next meeting. Also look out for Pot Luck suppers as advertised in CTW Information Bulletin.
- **Church/Congregation News** – including appointment of Rev Richard Parkes to Methodist Circuit from Sept 2017. Rev’d Will Marshall, new Anglican vicar in Pentre Broughton. David Jones, Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- **Women’s World Day of Prayer** Friday 3rd March in Acton Community Centre, 11am followed by a shared lunch of soup and bread. Planning meeting next Friday 3rd Feb also in Acton.

8. Business

- **Minutes of Last Meeting** (13th October 2016). Have been widely circulated.
- **Elaine Smith and Sally Griffiths** now joint Communications Officers (Elaine for Bulletin and meeting administration, Sally for Facebook, Twitter and website)
- **New co-chair** – **Jonathan** Smith is willing, provided there is another co-chair (not Anglican!). Everybody happy with this. Richard Sharples invited thoughts about someone to co-chair.
- **Finances** – balance £1,130. Good offering at united service Sunday 22nd Jan.

9. Future Open Meetings:

- **Open Meeting, April 27th**, need a venue offer – Capel Y Groes
- **Open Meeting, July 6th** (AGM)

- **We Gather** – gathering in London in the autumn. Would anybody like to go on CTW's behalf in autumn. Possibility of expenses to help.

- **Proposed dates for United Services in 2018** – Jan 21st, May 13th , Nov 25th?

10. Closing Prayers