

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held via Zoom.

on

Tuesday 1st June 2021

Present: Rev James Harratt - Co-Chairman, Jonathan Hutton – Treasurer, Rev Andrew McClellan – Worship co-ordinator, Rev Agnita Oyawale, Rev Elizabeth Davis, Ed Tree, Rev. Karen George, Rev Alan Keeler, Rev Alison Smith, Ann, Margaret Smith, Judy Davis.

James Harratt opened the meeting at 8:10pm with prayer.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Pastor Jonathan McGill, Valerie Saunders, Canon Victoria Pask and Anne Gardner

2. Minutes of zoom meeting held on 4th February 2021.

The minutes were agreed by the meeting.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Finance

Jonathan Hutton presented the accounts, with the caveat that the figures had not yet been signed off by Ian Rutherford, our independent examiner, and so remained provisional until that point.

The chaplaincy account income for the year was £11,030, slightly down on the previous year. Expenditure was £9,939, with a balance of £5,775 remaining. Invoices for the pledges received for the current year will be sent out in the next few weeks.

The ecumenical account received subscriptions from 16 churches totalling £1,200. Expenditure was £146 with a remaining balance of £5738 on the 31st January 2021.

Alan Keeler noted that the surplus and balances were quite healthy, and that this should be a call for action to encourage the work of CTCB.

5. Town Centre Chaplain's report

Agnita reflected that the last year had been hard for the chaplaincy. Contact had been largely through the shops and workplaces, when workers were furloughed contact was not possible in many cases as *Agnita* didn't have home details for many. Some people who valued contact with the chaplaincy are still yet to return to work. Nonetheless there appears to be a warm feeling generally towards the church in the town.

The chaplaincy team has been less active recently owing to two members being ill recently. However things are starting to resume. The team are starting a vlog to cover historic and interesting aspects of life in Bromley as a way of making links. The first video with Jane Kustner at Bromley and Sheppard's college, the second is to feature the Christian Union at Bromley Council; if anyone has any further ideas for videos, they are encouraged to get in touch with *Agnita*.

Bromley BID has been renewed again. Frances Forest continues to be extremely helpful and open to the work of CTCB.

Agnita hopes that soon it will be possible to restart healing on the streets.

She encouraged people to pray for

- The town over the next months (and also to support the shops and workers by shopping locally wherever possible)
- To pray for the chaplaincy team as it continues to develop.
- To pray for those whose mental health is suffering because of the effects of the pandemic.
- For the new Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Russell Mellor

Margaret Smith asked whether the market traders were getting enough support. *Agnita* replied that by in large they were doing OK in the circumstances.

6. Chairman's Report

James Harratt briefly summed up 2020 for CTCB, a year in which most activities were curtailed. The year started well, with the week of prayer for Christian Unity and the pulpit swap and united services. Another interesting lent course began and the ministers lunch was looking ahead to events for Pentecost, when the pandemic hit and stopped all in person activities.

CTCB relies heavily on in person contact meant that most of our activities became dormant or online only. Thanks must be given to the enabling committee who have adapted well to the demands of the year, with special thanks to Andrew McClellan for providing online worship so well over the year, and to Agnita for continuing the work of the chaplaincy in trying circumstances. Thanks were also give to Jonatan McGill and Roger Banister who come to the end of their term on the enabling committee and who have both supported CTCB magnificently during their tenure.

Many of our activities have been curtailed over 2020- James took the decision not to move the ministers lunches or other fellowship opportunities online, in order to avoid adding to the ongoing burden of online meetings. With hindsight it may well have been the wrong decision, but felt right at the time. As we look forward to things starting to reopen, James hopes we can begin to rebuild all that has been eroded over the last year. In each of our churches over the last year, we will all

seen the new ways we can use faith to make a difference to our community, we have seen the people become interested in our faith because of the hope it gives hope when their world changes. People have reassessed lives and given thought to claims of Christianity in ways they might not have previously. We have seen what we can do individually as churches, but know that more can be done together as CTCB.

7. Elections to the enabling committee.

There are vacancies on the enabling committee, with the role of secretary being particularly key to fill. With 3 CTCB meetings a year and 3 enabling committees, it is not demanding of time.

However no nominations had been received by the meeting. James indicated he is happy to cover the role for the time being, but that new members of the enabling committee would be very welcome to increase our representation of the various churches which constitute CTCB. Those present were asked to encourage others in their churches to consider joining the committee.

8. AOB

Jeni Rutherford sent a note of thanks for the gift CTCB bequeathed thanking her for the years of service she gave as secretary. She intends to buy a lovely tree for the garden, which will add interest and attract the birds.

James Harratt highlighted Ss. Peter & Paul's project to work with Hope into Action – a charity that acts to help home and support the homeless by providing accommodation and support for a time to enable them to be ready to move into more permanent housing. A church property in Bromley will be used to provide accommodation – the support however is hoped to be drawn from the wider churches of Bromley. There are three different teams envisaged to support the tenants – one offering prayer support, one befriending and helping the tenants and another offering practical support. Anyone who wants to be involved can contact James via vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org. More information about Hope into Action can be found at <https://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk>

Karen George asked whether anyone knew how the rules for worship may be changing in the near future. Nothing substantial had been heard by anyone present.

Judy Davis wanted to make a special mention of thanks to Alison Smith for the online Easter services she made available for a number of churches.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 8th October at 8:00pm – venue to be decided.

James Harratt closed the meeting with the grace at 8:57pm.