

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Report to St.Michael's APCM 2016

During the year Pat Crosby has become Chairman of CTBS, and Revd. John Walford, Vice Chairman.

The Member Churches are All Saints, Baptist, Christian Outreach Centre, Community Church, Havers Community Church, Holy Trinity, Methodist, St James, St Joseph's, Salvation Army, St Michael's, United Reformed Church, and The Vineyard Church.

The Associate Members are: Bible Society Action Group, Bishop's Stortford Money Advice Service, 'Choices' Crisis Pregnancy Centre, Christian Aid, Company at Christmas, Grow, Holiday Bible Week, Portland Child Contact Centre, Stort Valley Schools Trust, Street Pastors, Y.M.C.A., Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth and Thirst Café.

Representatives from the following organisations and initiatives have spoken at meetings during the year:

The Portland Road Contact Centre,
Christian Aid Hertfordshire,
The Royal British Legion,
Thirst Café,
Syrian Refugee appeal,
The Night Shelter.
Way Forward with New Housing Development.

Up-to-date information on all of these organisations and activities has been disseminated elsewhere.

The following comments refer to items discussed at the Forum held on Wednesday, 24th February, 2016 both notable events which have taken place and forthcoming ones, some of which are still in the planning stage.

It was noted that Holiday Bible Week, Carol Singing in Jackson Square, Distribution of the CTBS Christmas card and Company at Christmas had again all taken place happily and successfully.

United Service January 24th

Thanks were given to URC for hosting the event and to Roy Fowler, Megan Lowe, Chris Goddard and Derwyn Williams for preparing the service.

Lent Groups

Thanks were given to Jill Beardwood for coordinating the formation of these groups.

Good Friday Service and Walk of Witness

This will take place on March 25th at the URC at 10.00 a.m.

The Queen's Official 90th Birthday Sunday June 12th

This event will be six days before the Town Carnival and it was considered that Christians would engage in Street parties. Therefore, CTBS will not do anything specific for this event but will concentrate on the Carnival.

Town Carnival, Saturday June 18th

Discussion focused around three options, participation in the procession, having a stand on the field, or participation in both aspects of the event. After much consideration it was decided that the following groups would have a stand on the field, namely The Bible Society, Christian Aid and Street Pastors.

The issue of the procession was left in abeyance pending decisions by each church regarding a financial contribution towards costs and the formation of a team of people to plan the participation in the procession, create the float and attend on the day. A task group was to be formed.

Week of Prayer 8th-15th May

The theme will be 'Our Town, Our Country and Our World'. A request has been made to use the front vestry of the URC.

EU Referendum June 23rd Hustings

It is planned to hold this event at the Charis Centre, to be chaired by Tim Weeks and to invite two speakers thus representing both in and out of European Union arguments.

The undersigned will be happy to provide more information on any of the above or refer enquirers to an appropriate source.

Margaret Fox CTBS Representative, 06 March 2016