

Christians Together in Jersey
Minutes of Meeting of Enabling Committee –
February 9th 2016 at Georgetown Methodist Church at 4pm

1. Present:

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| Rev Graeme Halls | President – | Methodist |
| Rev Martin Dryden | Ecumenical Officer | Anglican (St Cement) |
| Michael Ruskin | Treasurer | URC |
| Diarmuid Lynes | CTJ Housing Trust | Catholic |
| John Scally | Caritas | Catholic |
| Georgia Meikle | Unity Group | St Columba's Presbyterian |
| Elizabeth Mullane | Unity Group | Catholic |
| Cathy Eglington | | Quakers |
| Angela Le Sueur | Secretary | Catholic |

Apologies:

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|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rev Geoff Houghton | Anglican (Trinity) |
| Rev David Logan | St Columba |
| Lieutenant Melanie Scoulding | Salvation Army |

2. **Opening devotions** were led by Rev Halls who welcomed everyone.
3. **Minutes** of meeting of Feb 10th 2014 which had been circulated were signed.
4. **President's Report.** Rev Halls said that the Living Wage project was the main issue of the past year. The steering group would meet on Feb 25th.
5. **CTJ Housing Trust** was next item as Diarmuid had to leave early. Diarmuid Lynes – Chairman of the Trust – reported that the Scope building, I -2 Minden Place had been acquired by the Trust on 2/10/15. A development plan had been submitted to Planning. A diagram of the plans was shown. The development was planned to consist of 31 units:
 - 15 one-bed units for single occupancy
 - 11 one-bed units for two people
 - 5 two-bed units for three people

Three retail Units are included which will be rented. It was hoped that Planning would not enforce provision of parking as this would reduce the number of units, making the development financially unviable. The focus would be on the marginalised – some tenants would be taken from Shelter's half-way house and some from Probation. A recent visit to Salvation Army headquarters in London and one of their Lifehouses had been very instructive in how to support those re-entering mainstream society. The Trust was grateful to Lieutenant Steve Scoulding for making this possible. Some units may be available on a shared equity basis. There would be a caretaker living on site. The Housing Minister was supportive – the Trust awaits Planning's decision.

6. Review of document 'The Way Forward'- update attached

The Amos Group has ceased. With the departure from Jersey of Alison Fox, the Bullying and Harassment support Service has ceased too. Caritas was approached to take it on but, with no grant forthcoming, could not afford to do so. Caritas has been added to the list.

7. Treasurer's Report (updated report is attached)

Mike Ruskin commented that the Christian Aid collections were down in 2015. Fewer people were doing the door-to-door collections.

HSBC Banking Requirements

The meeting agreed that the following should be authorised to sign cheques (two signatures only needed) and other banking documents:

Reverend Graeme Halls (Chairman)
Mrs Angela Le Sueur (Secretary)
Mr Michael Ruskin (Treasurer)
Reverend Martin Dryden (Ecumenical Officer)

It was also agreed that the two CTJ Deposit Accounts be closed.

8. Christian Aid 2016

Rev. Martin Dryden reported that 71 Lent Lunches were to be held. He had talked about these on Radio Jersey earlier that day. Although proceeds from some lunches were in aid of CAFOD and other charities, most would be for Christian Aid and the money would go to the Bangladesh flooding protection scheme – especially for accommodation units at £250 each.

No-one had applied for the Jersey position Christian Aid had advertised.

Christian Aid Week 2016 is May 15-21st. Georgia asked if Christian Aid envelopes could be sent to the churches.

9. Caritas

a) Living Wage John Scally reported that Caritas would have a meeting with its advisory group on Feb 25th. Current members so far are:

Very Rev Bob Key
Rev. Graeme Halls
Deputy Andrew Lewis
Deputy Sam Mezec
Marina Mauger (Trade Unions)
Jim Hopley (Jersey Community and Voluntary Sector)
John Scally and Diana Richmond from Caritas Jersey will be in attendance.

There would be no publicity until a figure had been decided. The hourly rate for the Living Wage has yet to be agreed. John emphasised that the campaign was for a voluntary scheme (i.e. asking companies to consider paying a Living Wage) and not a compulsory scheme such as the States' imposed Minimum Wage.

John went on to say that this year's Caritas' Annual Lecture would be on the Living Wage at the end of June. The two speakers have yet to agree but he hoped to have the new Director of the Living Wage Fund, Katherine Chapman, and Jonathan Cox who is Deputy Director of Citizen UK. A date has yet to be fixed.

b) Prisoners' Families Scheme – this had not progressed very far as yet. Although the States were supportive of the principal there is no money forthcoming to fund the worker who was needed for the scheme. The idea was to visit families of prisoners to assess their needs; to ensure that schools knew which children had family members in prison in order to guard against bullying; to accompany family members to Social Security etc. etc.

Caritas has links with Brighter Futures and Social Services on this issue and has their support and that of the Prison Service. The scheme would be run under the auspices of the Prison Chaplains.

10. The Jersey Link

Rev Geoff Houghton who was unable to attend had sent a report. Two editions were published in 2015 – at Easter and Advent.

The editorial team requested:

- a) Forward-looking articles rather than reporting on past happenings as each edition has a long 'shelf-life'.
- b) That churches would respond to requests for news and features – and respect the deadlines.
- c) That churches should be proactive in distributing the 'Link' to their congregations.

Discussion followed, requesting forward notice of:

Deadline dates;

Publication dates;

A reminder sent to churches the week before the next edition was to be published.

11. The Salvation Army Project – Report attached

Lieutenant Melanie Scoulding was out of the Island. She had sent an update of the growing and café project, and the provision of offices for charities.

12. AOB.

- a) Cathy Eglington showed the letter of complaint sent around CTJ from a neighbour of the Housing Trust's Les Frères estate. John Scally said that the matter had been resolved.
- b) Rev Halls would attend the Reception and Briefing by the Army Engagement team to which several CTJ members had been invited.
- c) Angela Le Sueur advertised Women's World Day of Prayer on March 4th. The two services – 12.30 and 7 pm would be at the Portuguese Christian Mission in Halkett Place.

13. Date of Next meeting – to be arranged at a similar time in 2017.

14. Close - The meeting ended with the Grace.