

**Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2017
Christ Church, East Greenwich**

There was a Prayer time from 12 - 12.30pm

Present: Clement Adebisi (Christ Faith Tabernacle); Raphael Amoako-Atia (East Plumstead Baptist Church); Joseph Boadu (Christian Life Fellowship); Paul Buckley & Rebecca Bickley (Trinity Vineyard); Margaret Cave (East Greenwich Team Ministry); David Chick (New Wine Church, Woolwich & Borough Dean); Joe Crisp-Hihn (Greenwich Youth for Christ); Stu Gibbs (Emmanuel Church, London); Kim Hitch (St James, Kidbrooke & Area C of E Dean); Andrew Latimer (Grace Church, Greenwich); Mike Leader (Charlton & Blackheath Christian Fellowship & Borough Dean); Tim Linkens (St Nicholas, Kidbrooke); Pat Mann (Old Royal Naval College); Chris Moody (St Alfege, Greenwich); Israel Olofinjana (Woolwich Central Baptist Church & Borough Dean); Christine Ridgwell (St John's, Blackheath); John Twidale (URC Borough Dean); Andrew Willett (Charlton URC); Sally Willett (West Thamesmead Church); Abi Willetts (Ichthus New Life, Greenwich); Dave Williams (Avery Hill Christian Fellowship)

Apologies: Susan Boorman (Charlton URC); James Bryson (St John's Eltham & C of E Borough Dean); Sandy Christie (St Michael's, Blackheath); Tim Cross (Eltham Green Community Church); May Salami (Europe for Christ Mission); Eddie Scrace-Field (St John's, Blackheath) Andrew White (HMP Thameside)

Updates & reviews:

Education:

Prayer for schools (next meeting Thursday 23 March, 11am at St Nicholas, Kidbrooke)

Greenwich Youth for Christ:

Joe Crisp-Hihn spoke about opportunities to partner with GYFC and the 'Pulse' event.

Foodbank:

There were now 9 Welcome Centres in Greenwich.

NB Since this meeting one of the Foodbank Delivery Vans has been stolen.

Winter Night Shelter:

The "Cold, Homeless & Hungry" leaflet had been updated and information about WSUP included (attached). GWNS has gone well and was coming to the end of this year's run.

Street Pastors:

A new leaflet for Church Leaders giving information about Street Pastors was handed out (attached). There was still a big need for more volunteers to train as Street Pastors. It was becoming increasingly difficult to run the regular Friday evening patrols. Church Leaders were asked to consider whether there were people in their congregations who could train as Street Pastors. Training was 8 Saturdays and began in March and September. The cost was £300 and churches were encouraged to sponsor their volunteers where possible.

Project Mosaic:

This project was the main way that Met Police connected with Faith groups in Greenwich. Steering group meets 2nd Thursday of month at the Warspite Road Patrol Base. Next event: "Safeguarding Adults" 25 May 11am to 2.30pm in association with GAVS.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: (Paul Bickley, Greenwich Vineyard Church)

Refugee Welcome Greenwich is a community organisation, made up of residents from Greenwich and the neighbouring area, set up in response to the Mediterranean refugee crisis of 2015/16, and who stand in solidarity with those fleeing their home and requiring to seek asylum in the UK. A number of churches are already involved in the group.

The group will be meeting next on **Wednesday 19th April, 9:30am at St George's Church Westcombe Park** to discuss further action. If you, or anyone in your congregation, is interested in working to support the arrival of refugees in the borough then you would be welcome to attend.

If you'd like further information or a discussion ahead of time, please feel free to contact Paul Bickley at Trinity Vineyard Church - paul@trinityvineyard.org.uk or 07779727707.

London Churches Social Action:

London Churches Social Action met in February to consider Dementia. These gathering seek to find a common voice from the churches. Some useful resources (attached) that came from the meeting:

FaithAction.net - *Building Dementia Friendly Faith Communities*

Livability.org.uk - *Developing a Dementia Friendly Church*

One example of a simple, yet effective protect was described by Rev Steve Morrise from St Cuthbert's, North Wembly. They run a Memory Café, which involved a few volunteers providing tea and biscuits and being prepared to listen. Further information: www.stcuths.org .

Borough Deans Update:

Mike introduced Israel Olofinjana, who has replaced Paul as Baptist Borough Dean and District Minister. Mike reported that Richard Priest, Chaplain at Woolwich Barracks, had moved on and that Andrew White was covering until a replacement Chaplain arrived.

Future dates for 2017:

Thurs 18 May; Wed 19 July; Tues 19 Sept. **November meeting changed from 23 to 30 November.**

Thanks to Margaret Cave and Christ Church, East Greenwich for hosting us.