

Meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2016 at Christ Church, East Greenwich

Notes

There was a Prayer time from 12 - 12.30pm

1. Welcome, Introduction and apologies:

Apologies: Susan Blackall, Joseph Boadu, Patrick Egglestone, Tina Jones, Sybil King, Liz Oglesby, Paul Rogers, Brett Ward

Present: Clement Adebisi, Herbert Aparanga, Rebecca Bickley, Margaret Cave, David Chick, Tim Cross, Steve Froud, Kim Hitch, Mike Leader, Tim Linkens, Marva Millwood, Chris Moody, Michael Obasuyi, Israel Olafinjara, Richard Priest, Christine Ridgwell, Eddie Scrace-Field, David Sherratt, John Twidale, Abi Willetts

2. Matters arising from last meeting (which are not agenda items)

Excess death plan - the Roman Catholic Deanery have now designated churches to be used for services in the event of the plan being called out.

3. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) - Marva Millwood from Ichthus New Life gave an overview of CAP's work in Greenwich. They have helped 189 clients since their start in 2011 and are getting 3 new clients per month. Current they are booked to the end of May. Clients call the central freephone number (0800 328 0006) and are referred to a local branch. A home visit is usually made to gather information which is passed to CAP head office in Bradford. Experts then work out the best advice and action and pass it back to the local branch to do a return visit. Marva offers to pray with clients and invites them to church. Ichthus New Life are covering running costs.

Needs: Most important - prayer. Financial contribution also welcome.

Contact: Marva Millwood - marva.millwood@capuk.org

Thamesmead & Erith have recently open a CAP Centre which is being supported by a group of churches.

4. Updates & reviews:

Borough Deans have recently been in discussion with Matt Reason of Cedar Trust looking at possible projects around unemployment and benefits. Small working party has been established to explore possibilities

London Churches (the 'overseer' of Borough Deans) recently held a conference in Harlesden on Domestic Violence. Mike will provide further information as it becomes available.

Education:

Prayer for schools (next meeting Thursday 3rd March, 11am at St Nicholas, Kidbrooke)

Margaret Cave reported on the planned expansion of St Mary Magdalene CE School. Currently there are some classes in temporary accommodation on Greenwich Peninsula. The secondary phase will open in temporary buildings in Old Dover Road, admitting 180 year 7 pupils in September. Planning permission for the new building on the Peninsula has been granted.

Mike drew attention to the Evangelical Alliance booklet "You're not alone - guide for the Christian family in Education" which was launched recently.

<http://education.eauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/EA-Education-Booklet-FINAL.pdf>

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter: Kim Hitch gave an update on Greenwich Winter Night Shelter. It was well under way and averaging 10 to 15 clients per night. It would be closing on 23 March. It is important that volunteers undergo training, even if they have volunteered in the past. Recruiting for volunteers next year will start in the Summer to facilitate this.

Foodbank: National Collection this Summer. Saturday 2nd July. 9am to 5pm Tesco Woolwich. Volunteers needed. Contact: alan@greenwichfoodbank.co.uk

5. Area round -up: Opportunity to report on current projects and share forthcoming events & initiatives

GYFC (Greenwich Youth for Christ): GYFC are launching a new termly youth event called "Pulse". The first one is on **Saturday 12 March 18:00-20:00 @ St John's, Blackheath** for young people aged 11-14. Joe (GYFC Director of Operations) writes:

"The event will be lots of fun, high energy, with a message and table led discussion/reflection. It is aimed at bringing those who are part of church youth groups together, but will also be suitable for those hearing a Gospel message for the first time, we would encourage you to invite those you have been working with through outreach and community programmes as well as the young people from your church families. If you could think about young people to invite, let parents know and get something in the church notices that would be great.

We really believe this is an awesome opportunity to bring young people together to be reached in an exciting and relevant way with the power of the Gospel.

If you have any questions please do contact Joe on joseph@greenwichyfc.org.uk"

Rebecca Bickley (GYFC's Director of Strategic Development): Planning for the next year's placements is in hand and expressions of interest are invited from church who might want to have a Youth work placement or had someone in their own church who might be interested in a gap year with GYFC. Contact: rebecca@greenwichyfc.org.uk

WSUP: Israel Olafinjara spoke about the WSUP group that meets every Saturday at Woolwich Central Baptist Church from 10am to 3pm offering a drop-in for homeless and lonely people. Details:

Weekend Service Users Project (WSUP): This group for homeless and lonely people meet at our church (Woolwich Central Baptist Church) every Saturdays

Need something to do at the weekend?

Then why not get involved in our weekend service user's project (WSUP) every saturday!

WSUP is a weekly drop-in run by volunteers that provides a friendly and welcoming service for people in treatment or dependent on drugs or alcohol. It's a place where everyone is welcome and where they can relax and forget about the outside world for a few hours.

Opening Times WSUP is open every Saturday from **10am-3pm**

What you can get from the service Come in and have a cuppa and a bite to eat, have a shower and enjoy others company and friendship as well play table tennis!

The project is entirely staffed by volunteers, many of whom have direct experience of drug and alcohol issues as well as local treatment services. They can provide a friendly ear or give you advice on what services are available to you if you need them. You won't have to fill in any forms or be assessed, it's just somewhere to come and be accepted without judgement.

WSUP offer the following facilities - all free of charge to any resident of the borough who is in treatment or just looking for support.

- Relax in the hall with others
- DVDs, board games or cards
- Sandwiches, snacks or fruit
- Tea, coffee or fruit juice
- Shower facilities
- Information and support around drug and alcohol use and treatment options

Please visit WSUP's website - www.wsupwoolwich.org"

Israel also mentioned that after Easter there will be English Classes taught by a professional teacher at Woolwich Central Baptist Church from 10am to 12noon on Wednesdays.

Contact: isreal2us@yahoo.com

Hospice: Herbert Aparanga (Hospice Chaplain) appealed for volunteers to get involved in chaplaincy work at the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice. Contact: h.o.okot@gmail.com

CFT: Clement Adebisi announced a meeting at Christ Faith Tabernacle, Woolwich, for leaders on 28 March. Contact: c.adebisi@btinternet.com

6. A.O.B: Website: www.churchgreenwich.org.uk
Date of next meeting: **12 noon on Tuesday 19 April 2016. Offer for venue?**