



## Minutes of Forum meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2018 in The Unity Centre

### 1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting

**Present:** Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), Lindsay Cussons and Margaret Lord (Bahai), Sue Bownas and Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), Mark Rideal (Chester CND and Chester Friends of the Earth) Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Gerald Grant, Tony Walsh (Ellesmere Port CAFOD), Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Katy Rowe (Christian Aid, Stewart Shuttleworth and Vicki Jenner

- Prior apologies from Gill Miller, Tom Ormiston and John Tacon

### 2 **Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**

- Forum meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017: no matters arising
- Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017: Much of our committee meetings have centred round plans for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Wesley Methodist church has been provisionally booked for an event on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We're hoping to have a high profile speaker at that event - possibly Gyles Brandreth who was very supportive of the Forum whilst he was Chester's MP.

**Committee would urge members to complete the short questionnaire which was mailed round before Christmas. We are anxious to hear your ideas and we want to make sure we continue for another 25 years.**

### 3 **Finance/ Admin updates:**

- Treasurer's report: £391.78 and has £7.92 cash in hand as of end Dec  
No update on subs in JT's absence.
- Members' Questionnaire: No completed to date. See note above

### 4 **Debt Relief:** This refers to Jubilee Debt's Campaign for debt relief for hurricane-hit islands. Campaign Booklets entitled "The Debt Storms of 2017: Stories of Injustice and Fightback" were given to members present. Included in the information is a card to be signed and returned to JDC .

### 5 **Future events and activities, with reference to:**

- Marking CWDF's "25<sup>th</sup> Year" – 2 major events planned but still in early stages – one in June (see above) and one in October
- Session with Chris Matheson MP, **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** from 7 - 9pm, Best Building room CBB013. This is a joint meeting between University of Chester's Dept of International Studies, CWDF and the University's International Development Society. It's planned as an informal question time on "International Development issues in these turbulent times"
- Other events in the latest diary listing:  
SB: Heather Swainston hoping to attend tonight's meeting but unwell. 1 main event to be promoted in Fairtrade Fortnight which runs from 26 Feb – March 11<sup>th</sup>. The event – Fairtrade Family Fun Day from 10 – 3.00 in Storyhouse, Chester  
Please promote wherever possible. See diary for more details

LC: World Religion Day on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. The Baha'i community of Chester invite you to an event at 2.00pm in The Unity Centre.

BP: Churches Together in Cheshire – Ecumenical Service to end the week of prayer for Christian Unity in Chester Cathedral on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan from 3.30 – 5.00.

Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, will be preaching.

Reports from around the table:

TW: More questionnaires for CFoE and CND group to fill in as group

Tony W: Written a letter re use of plastics and in support of a deposit scheme.

Had a positive reply from DEFRA.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Talk by Eileen and Vin Brennan on recent visit to El Salvador – 6.30pm in Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port.

BR: CFoP – hoping to set up a stall in town on a regular basis and would look to CWDF to support. More information to follow

BP: Saw a very moving film at Storyhouse called “Human Flow” about refugees.

Well worth seeing. A crucial factor “people of different religions need to live peacefully together”.

Maybe we could show film at a CWDF meeting

**6 AOB: none**

**7 Arrangements for next full Forum meeting:**

- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre, speaker to be arranged