



Forum meeting Tuesday 14 November 2017

6.45 for 7.00pm, The Unity Centre

1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting

Present: Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), John Tacon, Vicki Jenner, Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons (Baha'i), Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Mark Rideal (Chester CND), Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD and Christian Aid), Kath Stephenson, Matthew Jessop (Quakers), Gerald Grant, Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine and Christian Aid), Colin Watson (Frack-Free Dee), Tom Ormiston and Tony Walsh (CAFOD Ellesmere Port), Elizabeth Bott (CHWRAC) and Linda Shuttleworth

Apologies: Peter Byrne, Jean Cornes, Gill Miller, Heather Swainston, Sue Bownas, Katie Rowe and Heather Lannin

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

- Forum meeting - 12th September 2017: No issues arising
- Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on 2nd October and 6th November 2017: Main issues discussed were organisation of meetings next year, chasing up subs, liaising with International Development Group at the university, formulation of questionnaire to members and ideas for possible events to mark CWDF's 25th Year.

3 **Financial update:**

JT reported - latest bank statement of 31st Oct - £418.78. Since then £30 paid out for room hire and £50 donation to CND for "Wrap-around" advert in local press. Present balance is £338. Also some more subs been paid and since the meeting one group has paid for next year as well.

4 **Future events and activities, with reference to:**

- Marking CWDF's "25th Year" - celebrations and making sure CWDF continues. Any suggestions welcome. Committee have arranged an extra meeting (29th Nov) specifically on this theme
- Session with Chris Matheson MP, **Friday 26th January** 7pm, Best Building
- Other events in the latest Diary listing (*Version of 8-11-17 circulated*)

Alison Challen asked CWDF to advertise Chester CND "Stop arming Saudi Vigil". Leaflets available for people to take away tonight

- Reports from around the table:
PP: Church Action on Poverty joining with Trussel Trust and Foodbank for Christmas.
TW: thanks on behalf of Chester CND to CWDF for the donation towards advert. Advert in paper on 9th Dec
MR: Raised the issue of use of plastic in food packaging. Greenpeace campaigning on reducing use of plastic and there are petitions on line for people to sign
TW: Ellesmere Port quizzes in aid of CAFOD continuing. There were over 70 people at last quiz which raised over £300

BR: Thanked us for advertising Christian Aid's Bible in a Day in the Cathedral which raised over £4000 to date.

BR: Re anniversary of Balfour Declaration - 12 people from Chester went to London for rally on 5th Nov.

BR: Commented on the very interesting talk/film on the subject of the Balfour Declaration held 20th Oct in the University.

BR urged members to lobby MPs on Palestine/Israel issue as there is to be a debate in Parliament soon

BR: Response to Christian Aid's "The Big Shift" campaign. Signatures had been collected on post-it notes urging the major banks to invest more in renewable energy and less in fossil fuels. The post-it notes were placed on the large poster of "Prudence Pig" accompanied by a letter to the banks' CEOs and general staff and then presented to banks in town on 26th Oct. by Trevor and Caroline Dennis, Brian and Katy Rowe, Ann McCarthy and Vicki Jenner. There appeared to be a favourable response from staff.

JT: Cheshire Pension Fund – a move to encourage local authorities to divest from those companies which invest in fossil fuels

AM: encouraged members to go and see the drama "The Bundle" An Asylum Seeker's story from 7.30 – 9.00 in St Mary's Creative Space on Friday 24th Nov

TG: Council done survey on air quality in CWaC and comments invited from general public. Go to cwac/lowemissionstrategy

TG also mentioned a report in The Guardian on 7 things we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint – eat less meat, investment in batteries, end use of coal, invest in renewable energy, buy electric cars, more efficient use of energy and care with forests.

6 Arrangements for next full Forum meeting:

Tuesday 9th January with Sarah Rowe (Katy and Brian Rowe's daughter) talking on Christian Aid's key campaign themes for 2018. 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre.