

Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District

Report to the AV Churches April 2020

In February 2019, an **Events Team** was formed, comprising Dave Kratzke, and Ros Bradbury (New Life) David and Marguerite Williams (Poulner Baptist/Hyde), Jan Brian (RC) and myself (Anglican). The meetings were chaired by Paul Williams (New Life) and Chair of CTFD.

New Life organised the **Walk of Witness** on Good Friday, with help from others, particularly Ian Newman. Well attended by all the churches, and attracting others to join in the Service at the Market Place at 12 noon.

A **Big Church Litter Pick** took place in March, with equipment from New Forest District Council, and helpful advice from Mike Harley, FB resident. A surprising amount of rubbish was collected by young and old, and it was fun working together and getting to know each other better.

A delicious **Hog Roast** was held at Burgate School on the first warm day of the year, in May. Well attended by all churches, and many young families. Churches supported with salads and puddings.

A plan to hold a **Family Fun Run** did not materialise due to lack of manpower.

In October, the excellent film **“Breakthrough”** was held as a FREE event in the Town Hall, with free juice and popcorn. A haunting film which demonstrated the power of prayer.

Efforts have been made to source a replacement **Churches Together Tree**, a White Poplar, from Sweet Scentsations, to replace one planted to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee, which is in a sorry state. At time of writing this, a larger tree has been ordered, and so has a new plaque. The Town Council have been very helpful in giving advice, and will plant and stake the tree for us with no charge. It is hoped that some church representatives might come together to mark the occasion of the planting of the new tree at some point soon, and that it will enhance the Recreation Ground.

New Life opened “The Branch” at 1, High Street at Easter, and all the churches were invited to drop in. It offers space for Workshops (CAP Money, CAP Life Skills) sells Christian books and goods, and is much welcomed.

Sadly, no Chair or Vice Chair was found at the AGM in October 2019. Roz Bradbury kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Julian Sims has offered to take on the Chair in the Autumn of 2020. In the meantime, Canon Gary and Rev Nicky have kept things going.

A **Church Unity Service** was held in St Mary’s FB on 26 January 2020. Joyful and well attended.

Future plans: a **Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service on 10 April, Fordingbridge.**
Kite Flying at the Breamore Mizmaze on Pentecost Sunday 31 May 2020.

Pat Bloomfield, Anglican Rep 12/2/20