

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2010

Present: Denzil, Muriel, Oswald, Jean, Lara, Leah, Stephen

Peace Week 2010

The events had been well supported – particularly the weekday space for peace which saw more people than before spending time in the church.

Peace and Justice for Palestine

Over the past few months there had been a number of meetings between local church leaders and ministers at which this topic had been raised. Although an event had been planned it was clear that it was becoming more difficult to approach the issue with a fair balance of opinion and background. It is vital that the long view of the issues is taken and a good understanding of the many layers of cultural, religious and political issues are acknowledged. A long discussion took place after which the following two actions were agreed upon:

1. To hold a prayer vigil/event for Jerusalem. This would be an hour or so of prayer and creative reflection, possibly using Psalm 122, and taking as our impetus the comment that the church is called to be a 'house of prayer and not propaganda'. Sunday 25th July was suggested as a suitable time – immediately following the bring and share lunch. Lara and Stephen to put together a programme for the event and the group to work more on this at the next meeting.
2. Solidarity with Palestinian Christians: this is one area where the Church could concentrate its efforts and perhaps through our link with USPG and other mission and Christian agencies we can look into ways of showing support to our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine.

Almanac

At the next meeting we will look at a draft version and then set the September meeting aside for creating the content, dates etc for the 2011 almanac. The price at below £5 is ok but we need to make sure it is printed in time.

Election 2010

The Church of England Mission and Public Affairs department has produced information about the Church's approach to the growing presence of far right parties during election campaigns. In the past we have distributed Hope not Hate leaflets and we will look to see if these are available this year. If people receive disturbing campaign literature or have concerns about election issues we will encourage each other to share this.

Neighbours' Day

Last year we supported the Neighbours' Day project by holding a tea party for local residents. This year there will be a Hamilton Road Street Party on the same weekend (Sunday 30th May) and we are involved in the preparation and organisation of this alongside other local residents. More details soon.

Mosque-Church Twinning Agreements

Stephen has received information from the Christian Muslim Forum about twinning agreements between churches and mosques – we will look at this possibility in more detail at a later meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 11.30am