

## Churches Together in Headington

### Annual Report for 2016-2017

After five years of service as the chairperson of Churches Together in Headington Rosemary Davies stepped down in May 2016. Her work has been much appreciated, and we wish her well as she begins her sabbatical.

She has left a gap it has been difficult to fill. Thanks are due to all those who have continued to lead and support our regular activities. Thanks, too, to those who have chaired the committee meetings on a rota basis, providing valuable continuity.

The annual **Fun Day** in July in Bury Knowle Park was once again a visible sign of the churches working together, and a very enjoyable event. We are grateful to the Fun Day Committee for their work in planning and overseeing the day. It was well attended and appreciation was expressed for this gift to the community.

The **Christian Unity service** in January was hosted by All Saints Church in Lime Walk. The guest speaker was Martin Wellings, Superintendent Minister of the Oxford Methodist Circuit.

We were not able to organise ecumenical activities in Advent and Lent but our other regular activities have continued.

The monthly **Priory Prayers** attracts a small but faithful group of people who pray for the needs of our community and world. We appreciate the opportunity to experience prayers led by different churches each month. We are very grateful to Sister Marie Ann for her generous hospitality.

**The clergy** have continued to hold their regular lunch time meetings.

The **Christmas & Easter cards** demonstrate the witness of the churches working together in Headington. Many thanks to Darren McFarland & Christine Tucker for making the arrangements, and to church members who distribute the cards around our neighbourhoods.

The **website** is another medium for making the churches visible and communicating what we do. We appreciate Christine's work in maintaining our **website**.

The **REInspired project** led by a small team of volunteers from various Churches, once again involved the participation of ordinands from St Stephen's House. There is positive feedback from staff and pupils at the three primary schools involved in the project. A word of thanks to Nick Jackson who co-ordinates the team and liaises with the schools.

#### Thoughts for the future

At our meeting in March we asked what should be the way forward without a permanent chairperson and in the light of proposals to reduce the number of meetings. Some joint activities such as the Funday and the REInspired project are able to run fairly smoothly and independently, and the Christian Unity service is well attended. However, we have dropped ecumenical events in Lent and Advent, and attendance at Priory Prayers has diminished. We felt we should look more deeply at the vision and purpose of Churches Together in Headington. There is a real and current need for church unity. How can we together represent Christianity in the modern age to the world around us?

We agreed that these issues should be the focus of a full discussion at the Annual General Meeting. We asked representatives to encourage their church members to attend and contribute their thoughts on the future shape and direction of our work and witness together.

*Bridget Walker, CTH Secretary  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2017*