

CTC - Report for AGM at Parish of Cranleigh and Bramley  
March 2020 by Win Bracking

In July 2019 the Committee of C.T.C. was “stood down” and it was decided to have no formal body as such. I understand that this makes things easier for the clergy, so we don’t have unnecessary meetings as the planning for our ecumenical services is their responsibility. However, those who know me will be aware that ecumenism is very dear to my heart and consequently I feel very cut off from the action. This ‘experiment’ will be reviewed in Advent.

Last year Churches Together ran the Lent Course following the book “The Joy of the Gospel” by Paula Gooden. It was held at JCROM and St Nicolas, led by Clergy but not necessarily on their own territory. It was well received, and participants felt it was good to exchange a variety of views and opinions.

This Lent we are using Susan Sayer’s book “This ?” - how Christians respond to climate change. This course is also going well and there is still time to join.

Vespers at the Seminary was a quiet and peaceful service, but attendance was very poor. Shame on us!

The Palm Sunday Procession from the Common and the open-air service in Stocklund Square on Good Friday followed their usual pattern and then the Summer Picnic and Remembrance Day Service with the addition of a Special Evensong at St Nicolas to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

The United Service of Harvest Hymns took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Members from each church chose hymns and gave reasons for their choice. It was a beautiful service with only 50 people attending and that was disappointing.

Our service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place in the Catholic Church in the afternoon, rather than the evening and this seemed to be popular given that the observance is in January. We acknowledged our divisions past and present and asked for God’s healing light to shine on us and through us as we offer a witness of service to the world, recognising that this witness is better and clearer when we work together in harmony.

There was no distribution of Easter cards or Christmas cards giving service times this year.

One of the most powerful contributions to working together is seeing the clergy of our own churches taking part together and leading worship in any of the churches, representing and accepting each other’s different points of view and still able to hold their own beliefs. This gives a “lead to their own congregation and has also attracted favourable comments from those who are not regular church-goers.

We are indeed blessed in having excellent relations and collaboration among the clergy in our village and I thank Fr David for his continued involvement and leadership, given his very heavy work load.