DCRF Social Issues Group

Meeting 30/03/22 on Zoom

Present: Rev’d Jane Hayes, Sylvia West, Dave Watson, Richard Yarwood

Apologies: Rev’d Jane Skinner, Nora Corkery, Martin Beck

Ideas for discussion:

1. Any developments to report
2. How to get info from/to other parishes/areas
3. What’s our next step?
4. Slightly one-sided discussion as all apart from Richard come from the same area. In Hartland Coast, Torridge circuit, churches already liaise with Parish Councils and work is already going on to support families in Hartland through the local primary school, with the assistance of the parish council. Hartland belongs to the Bude Methodist circuit and with the chapel closing there are initial investigations taking place as to the suitability of the land for a residential or community setting for the elderly. Work is in place to partner with Foodbanks/Harbour project for outreach work and Sylvia is training with CAP and we hope in the longer term to run a hub in the Mission Community.

Discussion took place around how we gather information from other areas – or dissemble ideas if there is no representative on DCRF.

Concern was raised that we might be trying to re-invent the wheel, and that our purpose as a social issues group may be more around raising awareness of local issues through special services/prayers, also articles in parish mags highlighting local issues, using the unique ‘goodwill’ position of the local churches, and signposting to other services.

1. No conclusion on this! How do we find out what is going on in the rest of the county? Do we need to, or do we just need to get info/ideas out to others?
2. To continue to liaise with local foodbanks to make sure local people can access them – maybe investigate volunteers to collect/deliver. Fuel poverty for transport as well as heating/cooking an issue. Is there anybody who could run classes for low budget, healthy cooking?
3. Spend time on building the links we have already established. Make no apology for starting small but aiming high. PRAY! Use prayer & maybe instigate some special services to highlight the local issues. Refugees are top of people’s minds at the moment, rightly so, but local issues haven’t gone away.