Chair’s report for Churches Together in Hemel AGM - 16th June 2020

Well this year has certainly not been what I (or anyone else) planned. As I sit and reflect back on this year it’s hard not to be taken over by current events. Looking back over the last year though we have had some wonderful highlights. I really enjoyed in October when we had The Wall project come to speak to us. It was truly an inspiring evening. I cannot wait to be able to go and visit it when it’s complete - as I have no doubt God will see it through to completion. Our annual Christmas Carol Singing went really well and was well attended. I’m always sorry I have to miss it but love looking at the photos! In February Hope UK came to tell us all about their work with young people and drug prevention. I certainly learnt a lot that night!

As we all know the covid-19 crisis then hit us here in the UK and we were forced to cancel the Good Friday Walk of Witness and remaining Lent Groups. While this was really disappointing as so much work had gone into the preparation I loved how everyone responded to our call to try and get the service element online. Having never edited a video together before I spend several hours watching you tube videos to teach myself and was able to put together all the clips sent to me. It was wonderful to be able to have so many churches involved and submit elements. So despite it not being what we planned it will be a Good Friday that I will always remember. It was a unique feeling as I watched the video on Good Friday knowing that so many fellow christians in town were watching as well. I am grateful to all the trustees and everyone else who have been so supportive during this difficult time. I know we have more challenges ahead but I have faith that God is walking with us and we will get through it.

I’d like to take a short time now for a more personal reflection. Many of you know that I took up the role of Chair of Churches Together 6 years ago. It was a real ‘God pushes you off a cliff’ moment for me. I had no idea what I was getting into. This AGM marks my time to step down from this role. It is certainly giving me mixed feelings. I have been honoured to be have been able to hold this role and it has given me so many opportunities that I could never of imagined. In my first year I did a tour of the churches to get to know them and to refresh the discussion around what Churches Together does. I built so many relationships and friendships during this time that have lasted in all the years since. It would be impossible to name everyone but thank you to everyone who allowed me into their church and welcomed me so readily. Being chair has allowed me to attend so many wonderful events and I always really enjoyed the services of welcome to new ministers in town. It is such a privilege to be able to welcome a minister to Hemel on behalf of all our member churches. In my time as chair I have also seen new churches become members and new churches come into the town and thrive. It really is such an honour to be a witness to all the wonderful work God is doing in our town. Hemel Hempstead is a special place and has a special Christian community within it. While I am stepping back as chair I will be remaining as a trustee and I truly cannot wait to see what the next 6 years will bring and what God will grant us!

So it only leaves me to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me during my time as Chair. It was been an honour and a privilege to serve in this way. I am looking forward to working closely with the next chair as they take on the mantel.

God Bless, Nikki Daly