

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING

held on Thursday 16 February 2012

Saffron Walden Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Present: David Keeble (Chair), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Val Bowtle, Jim Brown (on behalf of Meg Nettle), Jonathan Burton, Carol Baker, John Capper, Kathryn Fiddock, Murray George, Katherine Hewish (on behalf of Jane Martin), Peter Kidman, Melanie Mathieson, Helen O'Neill, Paul Martin, Elizabeth Tinsley, David Tomlinson and Robert Wiseman,

The meeting opened with devotions led by David Keeble.

Liz Vileda, one of our Youth Workers has been involved in an horrendous car crash. It is said that it is a miracle she is alive. She is progressing slowly and our thoughts and prayers go to her and her family for her continued progress.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Rajiv Ellalasingham, Jane Martin, Meg Nettle, Emma Turner and Jean Wheeler.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** No further items for the Agenda.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2011 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - (a) **Christmas Events.** All went well with a good response from the public. The Methodist Church felt that this evening helped promote the "This is Christmas" event. Also the wrapped sweets worked better than mince pies. Thanks were extended to Murray for organising this.
 - (b) **Agape Meal.** 48 people in attendance and although numbers were slightly down, there was a good atmosphere; it was well organised with good worship content. Thanks were given to the Salvation Army for organising this. Next year the Agape meal will be held in the Baptist Church.
 - (c) **United Service** – held at the Baptist Church. Good attendance and the service went well. It was felt that Churches do not take into account mobility issues of the disabled and some worshippers had experienced difficulty this year. The meeting agreed that for future services, more consideration be given to this issue and perhaps front seats be reserved for the disabled. Also, an order of service would be welcomed as not everyone likes using screen displays. **Action: ALL**
 - (d) **SWAT.** Small, dedicated team working well and schools very appreciative of all their efforts. More volunteers still will be welcomed.
 - (e) **Website.** The CTSW website is now active: www.ctsw.org.uk. The site will be static containing only information on the CTSW Covenant and Constitution, agendas and minutes, meeting dates and CTSW events only. Basic information of all Churches will be shown together with links to their websites. Entries are to be submitted to CTSW Chairman for approval and then on to the Webmaster for action. The Webmaster is Tony Attwood and thanks were extended to him for all his work in setting up this site.
 - (f) **Uttlesford Care Network.** The Ministers have met with Sue Sumner, Chief Office for Uttlesford Council of Voluntary Services which supports voluntary organisations and Chair of Uttlesford Care Network. There is potential for the Churches to link up but at the moment news is awaited regarding a scheme being launched in Walden and a co-ordinator being funded.
 - (g) **Mission.** It was agreed that the CTSW leaflet revised in July 2010 would be used in a leaflet drop in Crabtrees, a new development in the Town. Murray and Carol agreed to undertake this distribution. An original copy of the leaflet to be obtained, circulated to Ministers for checking and then the Secretary will arrange to photocopy 100 copies via the Parish Office. **Action: MAS**

5. Finance Report.

Clive distributed copies of the CTSW Income and Expenditure Account for year ended December 2011 (see copy attached). This year £712.00 has been sent to Christian Aid consisting of: £405.00 being half of the collection at the United Service (total collection £810.00), £125.00 from the Methodist Church Christmas Lunch, £112.00 from the United Reformed Church and £70.00 surplus from the Salvation Army Agape meal. Surplus from 2011 Pentecost Praise £309.38 plus £405.00 from United Service gives a total for the 2012 Pentecost of £714.38. Current account balance at 16 February 2012 is £143.84 – total on account £858.22.

6. **Recommendation from Ministers for Deputy Chair:** Murray George is Deputy Chair for 2012.

7. **Easter Events.** Lent Groups have been organised by Tony Attwood, dates and times are on the website and posters available. Publicity: Peter Kidman will approach Lisa Knight to undertake publicity in one local newspaper. Good Friday March of Witness: 10.30 a.m. outside the Baptist Church.

8. **Women's World Day of Prayer.** 2 March 2012 in the Parish Room.

9. **Pentecost Praise 2012.** Because of various other events taking place on Sunday 27 May, it was felt it would be more beneficial to change our service day to Saturday 26 May and this was agreed. The first meeting of the planning sub-committee is on 3 March 2012. Timings will probably be the same as last year, i.e. picnic on Common at 3.45 p.m. with Worship at 4.30 p.m. The speaker is Murray George and Carol Baker is Leader.

10. **Youth Worker Report.** Paul Martin gave the report. X-site and Engage are working well with good support. It is hoped that the groups can link in with the Besom Project and also the "Love Walden" campaign being organised by the New Life Church. The X-site group is self financing but expenses are incurred in running the Engage Group. It was therefore agreed by the meeting that in the spirit of Pentecost and looking to our youth for the future, if there was a surplus after the Pentecost Praise event, £150.00 will be made available for the youth project.

11. **Henry Olonga.** This is a Gold Street Chapel event although everyone invited. All plans are well in hand. Details as previously given

12. **News from the Churches. Gold Street.** Joy Burton has arranged a meeting to discuss the possibility of creating "Street Pastors" – meeting 26 March 8 p.m. Gold Street. **Baptist Church** now have a Moderator, Rev. Pat Heap, and are working on their profile as they continue to seek a new minister. At the moment they have Community Offenders painting the Church and this is working really well. Their Probation Officer would welcome more of this work, particularly from Churches. The lunch club continues to grow. Thanks were given for hosting the United Service.

Methodist Church. "This is Christmas" event was very well attended. There were 70 different Nativity scenes on display with local schools and youth organisations contributing. Christmas and New Year celebrations were shared with the URC. A decision has been made by Castle Street Methodist Church Council that at some point in 2014 the Church will close. **Roman Catholic.** The AGM went well. The Evander Project with South Africa is working very well. **St Mary's.** After Easter a new family service is starting every fourth Sunday in the afternoon. Saffron Walden Deanery Mission is 18-20 May. Proposed events for the Diamond Jubilee - a flower and music festival 2-10 June. **New Life.** First week in June "Love Walden" project linking with the Besom Project showing the community in a practical way they are loved. Olympic Torch Day – they are holding a big event on the common with inflatable play gear and Charity stalls. CAP is going well with 15 clients since May. Thanks were extended to those Churches showing posters for CAP.

Salvation Army. The Well is now fully staffed. A new group "Toddler Song" now organised for every Wednesday afternoon during term time. 14 April 2012 Cambridge Citadel Band 7 p.m. URC for Help for Heroes. **United Reformed Church.** A sing-in of Stainer's Crucifixion planned for Sunday afternoon 11 March – more details will be circulated. A jigsaw library is now opened and operating in the Church Hall. The Methodist and URC Guilds are experimenting with joint meetings. **Friends.** Recommendation was made for a visit to Ely Cathedral where wonderful tapestries are on show. These are normally housed in Kendal but will be on display in Ely until the end of February. There is a world conference for the Friends being held in Kenya and two people from the local Group are attending. The local meeting is also sponsoring someone for Thailand to attend.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 19 April 2012.

The meeting ended with the saying of the Grace together.

Future Dates for 2011/2012

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| Women's world day of prayer | 2 March |
| Lent Groups | 26.02 – 25.03 |
| Minister's business meeting | 15 March |
| Holy Week commencing | 1 April |
| Good Friday | 6 April |
| Council meeting | 19 April |
| Minister's Prayer Meeting | 26 April |
| Christian Aid week | 12-19 May |
| VBS Sunday | 13 May |
| Minister's business meeting | 17 May |
| Pentecost Sunday | 27 May |
| Minister's prayer meeting | 14 June |
| Council meeting | 21 June |
| Minister's business meeting | 12 July |
| Minister's prayer meeting | 6 September |
| Council meeting | 27 September |
| Minister's business meeting | 18 October |
| United Nations Service | October |
| Minister's prayer meeting | 8 November |
| Council meeting | 22 November |
| Advent services | 2 December |
| Minister's lunch | 12 December |