

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 19 April 2012
Saffron Walden Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Present: David Keeble (Chair), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Val Bowtle, Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Rajiv Ellalasingham, Kathryn Fiddock, Andy Finn, Murray George, Peter Kidman, Jane Martin, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham, John West, Jean Wheeler and Robert Wiseman,

The meeting opened with devotions led by David Keeble.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Carol Baker, Meg Nettle, Melanie Mathieson, David Tomlinson.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** No further items for the Agenda.
3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 16/02/12 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

(a) Easter. Tony Attwood submitted a comprehensive report – attached to minutes – and raised various points for future consideration. Tony has volunteered to run the Lent Courses next year and his offer is gratefully accepted and the CTSW will take on board all the points raised in his report.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Tony.

ACTION: MAS

Elizabeth confirmed that Our Lady of Compassion ran a Lent course studying St. John.

Good Friday Walk of Witness – well attended this year. Hearing on the Common was again a problem and seems to be insoluble. Thanks were extended to Murray for leading the Walk.

(b) Mission CTSW leaflets have been distributed to new housing in the area. The leaflets already need updating and it was agreed to keep a stock of these for future distribution at CTSW events.

300 more copies will be made available.

ACTION: MAS

(c) Street Pastors. There are three Churches wanting to get involved in this project – Baptist, Gold Street and the Salvation Army. Four Churches are ideally needed to begin the project. An initial meeting has been held with a turnout of 20 interested people. A representative from the Ascension Trust, who also heads up the Stortford Street Pastor Team, was in attendance, and gave further insights into the project. The local Police are very enthusiastic about beginning a Street Pastor team in Saffron Walden and local newspapers are interested, as shown by the front page story in the Walden Local (attached to minutes). If a fourth Church does not come forward we have to establish if we can proceed with three Churches. The Town Council and District Council need to be contacted. It probably takes a year to set such a scheme up. At the moment, this project is being headed by Joy Burton of Gold Street, but it is emphasised that this is an “all Churches” project. Thanks were extended to both Joy and Jonathan for their input: we will be supportive in any way we can.

5. CTSW Covenant

The Society of Friends felt unable to sign the Covenant at the United Service in January 2012 due to wording used. This was discussed at the Minister's Meetings and an addition, suggested by the Society of Friends, has been made to the Covenant thus:

“Although the Religious Society of Friends does not accept any formal creedal statement, it is a welcome and equal member of Churches Together in Saffron Walden”. The Covenant will now be signed at the United Service in January 2013.

6. Finance Report.

A further £120.00 has been sent to Christian Aid. To date finances are: Current Account: £113.84. Pentecost Praise: £714.38. Subscriptions are due soon.

7. Pentecost “Praise on the Common” – 26 May 101 – 1.30p.m. Picnic – 2.30 p.m. Worship

The sub-committee met recently and all plans are in hand. The only item to be dealt with is Public Liability Insurance, which is to be discussed with the Salvation Army. A gazebo has been purchased for use on this day at a cost of £109.00 (this was a cheaper option than hiring and borrowing causes problems). This gazebo may be borrowed by any Church. Storage to be sorted.

8. Youth Worker Report. Andy Finn gave the report. The last meeting of the CYSW was held on 13 March 2012. At the X-site meeting on 10 March 28 children were there, which included 13 new children. There was a real sense of working together. Engage is on 21 April 2012 and a young person from the town is going to speak. On Saturday 31 March young people from the town and across the Churches went to Soul Survivor Watford for their Saturday celebration. The Youth Team is looking and planning towards a series of evenings for young people between the 2nd and 6th July in the run up to community day on the common 7th July. Details will follow. It was suggested and agreed that more publicity to raise the profile of the youth work carried out in the town might be appropriate – Andy will approach Tony Atwood to include on the website.

ACTION: AF

9. News from the Churches.

Friends. Two members are currently attending a world conference being held in Kenya. Their report is awaited with interest. **Gold Street.** A baptism is booked for June. Tickets/posters/fliers are now available for the Henry Olonga event. **New Life.** CAP is doing very well. Only three clients can be accommodated per month so there is a waiting list. Perhaps there is a need to look at situation and train more personnel. Plans are well in hand for “Love Walden”. T-shirts with the logo on will be worn. Practical help linking with the Besom Project will begin in June. On 2 July there is a youth theme night. On Olympic Torch Day 7 July they are holding a big event on the common with inflatable play gear and Charity stalls, working very closely with the Uttlesford District Council. 20,000 people are expected and it is hoped that Blue Peter will be running a live show from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. although this cannot be advertised until the BBC gives permission. Charity stalls are welcomed. Contact Rajiv if interested. Big publicity will be in all local papers. **Methodist Church.** Sunday 6 May at 11 a.m. is the 147th Church Anniversary Service. The preacher is Rev. Brian Beck (a former President of the Methodist Conference). All welcome. Coffee served from 10.20 a.m. It has been decided to change the start time of the morning service to 10.30 a.m. This starts 3 June 2012. Knit and natter continues to meet monthly with variable attendance. A number of blankets have been completed and given to Oxfam. Currently hats and gloves are being knitted for the Christmas “shoe boxes”. **Roman Catholic.** Easter events went well. Currently members are fund raising to maintain the Church building and neighbouring wall. **St Mary’s.** On 22 April 2012 a new family service is starting every fourth Sunday in the afternoon. A new singing group “Joyful Noise” starts in the Parish Rooms on 20 April for children aged 6-8. Festival of flowers and music festival from 2-10 June: Diamond Jubilee Service Sunday 3 June and lunch time recitals throughout the week. **United Reformed Church.** Coffee morning and fun day planned for 7 July. Talks between Methodists and URC continue. **Salvation Army.** The Well continues to flourish. Study groups are continuing. **Baptist Church.** Their small groups continue and are good particularly in pastoral work. Two ladies from the Church meet every Friday to pray for blessings on Saffron Walden. Home Missions is working towards making contact with a smaller Church – Beacon Community Church Bacton, Norfolk. The young people are going there shortly for a weekend. They are looking towards doing something on the 7th July.

10 Date of Next Meeting – 21 June 2012.

The meeting ended with the saying of the Lord’s Prayer together.

Future Dates for 2011/2012

Minister’s Prayer Meeting	26 April
Christian Aid week	12-19 May
VBS Sunday	13 May
Minister’s business meeting	24 May
Pentecost Sunday	26 May
Minister’s prayer meeting	14 June
Council meeting	21 June
Minister’s business meeting	19 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