

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 21 June 2012
Saffron Walden Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Present: David Keeble (Chair), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Val Bowtle, Carol Baker, Jonathan Burton, Kathryn Fiddock, Andy Finn, Peter Kidman, Jane Martin, Meg Nettle, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, David Tomlinson, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham, John West,

The meeting opened with devotions led by David Keeble.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from John Capper, Father David Clemens, Rajiv Ellalasingham, Murray George, Melanie Mathieson and Jean Wheeler.

2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** Guildford Play.

3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 19/04/12 were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising**

(a) Pentecost Whilst some members thought the numbers attending were lower than last year, others felt numbers were higher. Although the change of day was well publicised, people has still turned up for a service on the Sunday! Overall the event was good. However, for future reference of this event, no separate children's activity is required. A Saturday meeting, if held on the Common, does present parking problems. A bigger banner is required so that the passing public is made fully aware of what is happening. The two events held over the past two years have not attracted huge numbers so maybe it is now the time to have a re-think of our Mission for future years. A Review meeting of the sub-committee is to be held on Saturday 23 June when all points raised will be discussed.

(b) Jubilee Events David Tomlinson reported that the Flower and Music Festival has been very successful and that the Civil Thanksgiving Service was well attended and good. All agreed that the flowers were truly magnificent.

(c) Street Pastors. Four Churches have indicated their willingness to be part of the scheme: Baptist, Salvation Army, United Reformed and Gold Street and this does mean that matters can go ahead. Other Churches can join at any time. A meeting with all interested parties i.e. Councillor/Mayor/Police is to be arranged to discuss a possible big launch of the scheme. An independent Trust needs to be set up so it is likely that it will not be until 2013 that any start will be made.

(d) More CTSW leaflets are available for further distribution locally and within the Churches. Currently lodged with David Keeble.

5. **Finance Report.**

To date finances are: Current Account: £108.84. Pentecost Praise: £574.40. As agreed at a previous meeting £150.00 was given to Youth Work Projects. Subscriptions are coming in and most Churches are now on Direct Debit.

6. **Youth Worker Report.** Andy Finn gave the report. The last meeting of the CYSW was held on 6 June 2012. Posters for the Love Walden Youth Week are available: events include mini Olympics, karaoke, fancy dress and BBQ, talent show and UV night. Love Walden Youth events morphing into the Fuse event. The Youth Work team is looking to have more social events in October and December to follow on from contacts made during this event. Engage – not until February as all energy is focussed on Love Walden event. Possibility of next year of looking at moving Engage around the town to different venues – to hold it more centrally in town. On 29 September 2012 there is a big National Day of Prayer in London and Youth Workers are looking at how to participate in this event. More information of logistics of this at a later date. At the X-site meeting on 14 May 27 attended – the numbers are increasing. The meeting was joined by a Scripture Union representative to ascertain how the event was running and to look at the theological content. There was positive feedback from Scripture Union and the group was praised for the way in which it works together. Last event for this academic year is on 14 July. Dates for next year are: 15 September, 10 November, 9 March, 11 May and 13 July. Posters are being printed and it is hoped will be available for the summer and VBS.

7. News from the Churches.

St Mary's: As previously recorded, the recent flower and music festival was very successful. The family service is proving popular, as is the singing group "Joyful Noise".

Gold Street: Plans for the Henry Olonga event are all in hand. Plans for VBS in August are in place. A new site has to be used this year which limits numbers able to attend and, to a certain extent, activities. 430 young people have places with 23 on the waiting list.

New Life: Love Walden week was very successful and will, hopefully, continue to be on-going, working with the Besom Project. Food parcels were distributed to CAP clients. There is a big build up towards the Olympic Torch Day on 7 July with many difficulties to be overcome, so prayers are requested. Blue Peter will be on the Common – set up at 6 a.m. and no vehicles after 7.30 a.m.! inflatables, charity stalls etc. etc.

Baptist Church: Bibles were distributed to all the youngsters for Jubilee. The Church Anniversary is on Sunday, with a picnic at Bridge End. On 7 July they are holding a BBQ with live music.

Roman Catholic: All enjoyed the flower festival and Communion celebrated at St. Mary's. Holding a BBQ on Sunday.

Methodist Church: The knit and natter group continues to grow and requests have been received from charities. On 7 July they will join with the URC and Salvation Army. They have been asked to serve tea and cakes at the end of a treasure hunt in the town on 8 July.

The Church has made the positive decision that the last service to be held at Castle Street will be on Palm Sunday 2014 and they will join with the URC in celebration of a new era on Easter Sunday 2014.

Salvation Army: A new toddler group named "Toddlers Song" is proving popular – all singing nursery rhymes with, where appropriate, the Christian message being included in the words.

United Reformed Church: On 7 July the Methodist and Salvation Army people will join in the celebrations and the Church will be open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for coffee/teas/cakes/facilities etc. etc. Cafe services during summer months taking place. There is a pet service on 8 July at 3 p.m. in the Church Hall.

8. Consideration of the Agenda. The Wintershaw Group at Guildford offer religious dramas, for instance "The Life of Jesus" and it was mooted that perhaps a trip could be organised in the future by VGSW. More information to be sought on this.

9. Date of Next Meeting – 27 September 2012.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Future Dates for 2012

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. 6.30 p.m. Methodist Church	28 October
Minister's prayer meeting	8 November
Council meeting	22 November
Advent services	2 December
Minister's lunch	12 December