

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 27 September 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, Kathryn Fiddock, Andy Finn, Jane Martin, Meg Nettle, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, David Tomlinson, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham.

The meeting opened with devotions led by David Keeble.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Melanie Mathieson and Jean Wheeler.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** Christmas and Easter Posters – see item 12. Archives.
3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 21/06/12 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

(a) Pentecost Praise Review A Review meeting of the sub-committee was held on Saturday 23 June 2012 when various issues arising from the 2012 Pentecost Praise on the Common were fully discussed.

Conclusions reached were:

If another event held in 2013 the format will be the same.

Is now the time to start thinking and planning a big re-launch of Pentecost Praise for 2014 along the lines of using a professional speaker and making the event a much bigger/younger/community based occasion – a big party?

If so, then a working group will need to be formed: there will be cost implications and representation needs to be from every Church.

Minutes of the review meeting had been circulated to Church Leaders and the issues raised were discussed.

Their conclusion was that further representation is needed from all Churches. Representatives were asked to take this matter to Church members for comment.

ACTION: ALL

(b) Street Pastors.

The first meeting with the Ascension Trust, Town and District Councillors, Police and lay members had been held and was well attended. All interested Churches have to sign a licence agreement. There will need to be 16 Street Pastors and a Management Committee formed, but the Management Committee can only consist of members from the licensed Churches. Interested Churches at the moment are Gold Street, Baptist Church, Salvation Army and the URC. Training is given. A Public meeting will need to be called. It is anticipated that Street Pastors will need to commit to 50 hours training and the cost is in the region of £300 per Street Pastor. Further updates to follow.

(c) Wintershall Group at Guildford.

This event is held at the end of June. A DVD is available (contact Val Bowtle). No further action

(d) Revd. Murray George

Since the last CTSW meeting Murray has moved to take up a new appointment in Cheshire. The Council wished to acknowledge and thank Murray for all his hard work and support of Churches Together. David Keeble is attending Murray's induction and will take a greeting card from all.

5. Finance Report.

To date finances are: Current Account: £308.84. Pentecost Praise: £424.40. The Pentecost Account to stay as it is.

6. Chair and Vice Chair 2013

Jonathan Burton – Chair and Carol Baker – Vice Chair for 2013.

7. Christmas Late Night Shopping - 7 December 2012. 5.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

A booking form for a stall will be completed and returned to the TIC.

ACTION: MAS

It was agreed by all that this is a very valuable event in which to participate. The Church Leaders had discussed the matter and felt that a lay person can be the organiser. No volunteer came forward so this to be taken by representatives to their Church members to seek a volunteer.

ACTION: ALL

Discussion ensued as to what should be handed out i.e. mince pies/hot drink/sweets: to be decided by organiser. In the interim Val will explore Biblical Christmas baubles.

ACTION: VB

8. United Service. 20 January 2013. St Mary's Church. 10.00 a.m.

St Mary's will lead and Jonathan will preach. The signing of the Covenant will take place at this service.

Jonathan and David Tomlinson will decide on distribution of the joint collection.

ACTION: JB/DT

9. Christian Aid Representative

A new C.A. Organiser is required as Karen George has now moved out of area. Council Representatives to ask Church members for a volunteer.

ACTION: ALL

David Keeble to ask Karen for a job description.

ACTION: DK

10. Resignation of New Life Church from Churches Together in Saffron Walden

In depth discussion had taken place with all Church Leaders. A statement of resignation from CTSW had been received from New Life Church outlining their reasons for taking this decision and was shared with Council members. All were sorry that this had happened and the Chairman said that he was very saddened by this matter and asked that prayers be said for all. Thanks were extended to Jonathan for chairing the Leaders meeting.

11. Youth Worker Report. Andy Finn gave the report. The Love Walden youth week was well attended growing to 20/30 young people across the week attending the events. It is hoped that this will not simply be a "one off" event. Friday night socials are being held once a month at New Life Church: the first of these was held on 16 September with 30 young people attending. The next social will be an alternative Halloween fancy dress night on 26 October.

The X-site first event was 5 September with 18 in attendance. Dates for the year are being finalised but the next event is 10 November.

12. News from the Churches.

St Mary's: Team JC launched. Numbers low but new children expected. Sing-in of Mozart Requiem 29 September.

Gold Street: AGM held recently – concern expressed regarding dwindling numbers of young people and children. Recently recognised that many single people attending Church – to be explored further.

Baptist Church: Youth group been away – successful 60's night recently and a baptism.

Roman Catholic: Packs regarding Poverty and Homelessness Action Week 26/01/13 – 04/02/13 available from Elizabeth. Christmas and Easter posters also available from Elizabeth.

Methodist Church: The knit and natter group continues to be successful. United Nations Service 28 October 2012 6.30 p.m. at Castle Street.

United Reformed Church: Revd. Jim Gascoigne preaching this coming Sunday with a view to a one year's placement. If this is agreed the Church can still seek a new Minister during this placement period.

Friends: Information leaflet distributed regarding "Walden Inspired". Quakers working with sustainability groups. Sessions; October/November/December.

13. Consideration of the Agenda.

Archives. Old Minute books have just come to light. The meeting agreed that these be sent, along with other relevant CTSW papers, to the Records Office at Chelmsford for storage.

ACTION: CB

14. Date of Next Meeting – 22 November 2012.

The meeting ended with all joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Future Dates for 2012/13

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
United Service. St Mary's. 10.00 a.m.	20 January