

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 28 February 2012
Saffron Walden Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Present: Jonathan Burton (Chair), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Jackie Bartlett, Val Bowtle, John Capper, Kathryn Fiddock, Jim Gascoigne, Jane Martin, Melanie Mathieson, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Robert Wiseman and visitors Jo Hargarave and Eilidh Forsyth.

The meeting opened with devotions.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Carol Baker, Andy Finn, Father David, David Keeble, Meg Nettle, David Tomlinson and Berry Wareham.

2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** No items.

3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2012 were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising**

(a) **Review of Christmas events.** The late night Christmas shopping evening was a success. The Christmas booklets were very popular and sold early. The Advent Service was well supported.

(b) **United Service.** This was a very good service and very well supported especially in view of inclement weather. However, the lack of heating was very uncomfortable. The United Service for 2014 will be held at the URC.

(c) **Agape Meal.** Very successful with 60 people attending. Thanks were expressed to Melanie and the Baptist Church. Venue for next year to be decided at a later date. **ACTION: ALL**

(d) **Street Pastors.**

The Public launch meeting was held recently and it is anticipated that the scheme will start in the town in September. Fifteen people have applied to become Street Pastors and training starts 27 April 2013. Carol Baker had submitted a request in writing that the CTSW Council consider making a monetary donation to this scheme. It was agreed, after discussion, that funds are low at the moment so a donation is not possible plus members felt that it was up to each individual Church to make their own decision as to a monetary donation. Secretary will advise Carol of this. **ACTION: MAS**

Donations can be made by cheque payable to Saffron Walden Street Pastors and sent to Tracy Todman, 14 Audley Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3HW.

4a **Christian Aid**

John Capper had invited Eilidh Forsyth to speak to the meeting on her experiences of working as a Christian Aid Worker. Eilidh gave us a summary of the work she had been involved with, i.e. Christian Aid work in Kenya, youth work on Iona, a service with Rosie Venner at St Mary's. Eilidh is very keen on being involved in Christian Aid matters in the town and is happy to be approached if anyone requires further information or practical help.

Her details are: Eilidh Forsyth – Local Christian Aid Volunteer.

Email: eilidhisdrwho@aol.com. Telephone: 077304 55535. 01799 586226.

She is also contactable through John Capper or Rosie Venner at Christian Aid London Office.

John confirmed that he is presently coordinating the collections.

5. **Finance Report.**

The end of year account figures were distributed at the meeting.

Balances are: Pentecost Praise Account: £364.40.

Main Account: £241.70.

Subscriptions remain at £60.00 p.a. and will be paid shortly. To date as a result of the URC Christmas collections and a donation from the Methodist Church Christmas lunch, £404.55 has been forward to Christian Aid. The Churches Together United Service raised £614.62 and half of this amount, £307.31 has been sent also to Christian Aid.

6. Easter Events

(a) Lent Groups. These are well supported and doing well. Tony Attwood submitted a report as follows: 'There are now 10 groups organised, five of which are from the Baptist Church, who decided to run the Lent study by York in their house groups. One group is running a study 'Prayer for Lent', another is basing the study on 1 Peter and Acts and the remaining eight are using the York course. The Baptist Church bore the initial cost providing the course material for their groups and I bore the rest. Students are asked to make a contribution of £5.00.

A4 tri-fold leaflets were distributed to Churches to make the procedure of joining a group and the timing of groups known. A4 and A3 posters were also made available and the details were put on the CTSW web site. The major problems have been finding leaders and getting agreement of times and locations for the publicity material'.

Members felt that there was a need to identify the theme of York course and to simplify the structure. To go to the Ministers' Meeting. **ACTION: MM**

(b) Publicity. Lisa Knight is handling this again for us and churches have been asked to liaise directly with her.

(c) Walk of Witness. Meeting as usual outside Baptist Church at 10.30 a.m. walking to The Common then ending with a service at St. Mary's. Eggs and cards to be given out during the walk.

7. Report on Ministers' half day retreat.

Process Agreements and Actions

Formally owned CTSW activities are more "one offs" than on-going projects. On-going projects are better suited to be owned by a church or group of churches and reported back to CTSW.

Initiatives from us:

We should consider the needs of the town and propose a small, one off CTSW activity in which we join together.

Process

The key role for CTSW is not to own projects, and so therefore we cannot approve or reject them. Our role is to be a vehicle for initial communication of such proposals, to facilitate our shared consideration together.

- (i) Any proposal for a project across the town's churches should initially be brought to a Ministers' meeting
- (ii) Individual churches can then indicate if they are interested in knowing more with a view to possibly getting involved.
- (iii) Interested churches then get together offline to explore the initiative further.
- (iv) Regular reports back to Ministers' meetings and Council.
- (v) Any project is then planned and launched by them
- (vi) On-going update to the Council.

8. Pentecost Praise update

A planning group is in operation and plans are all in hand. Posters have been circulated.

9. Youth Worker Report presented by Jo Hargrave from Stort Valley Trust

SVST has been operating for over 20 years and mostly focusing on secondary schools. In 2010 they branched out into primary schools. It has taken two years to get going but is progressing now slowly. We are unique in Saffron Walden in that we are able to take assemblies in local primary schools and Jo asks that this message be prayed for and spread widely to get to as many children as possible. *(A copy of Jo's full report is attached to these minutes for record purposes only).*

12. News from the Churches.

Roman Catholic: On-going work of bringing members into the community

Friends Difficulties at the moment in dealing with a homeless person living in their building. Contact has been made with S.A. regarding this.

Methodist Church: URC members joined for the Covenant Service and services and joint meetings are continuing between the two churches. The Girls Brigade which meets at the Methodist church will be moving shortly to the URC as its permanent base.

United Reformed Church: As above. All work for the Pastoral Profile is completed and with Synod with matters on hold at the moment. Coffee morning this Saturday with proceeds shared between Christian Aid and Church funds.

Baptist Church: Jazz Concert in aid of Street Pastors on 16 March 2013. New Minister Rev. John Goddard starting on 1 July with his induction service on 6 July 2013.

St Mary's: Holocaust Service went very well. Andy Finn has been accepted for training for the ministry.

Gold Street: A short-term task group is reviewing how best they might affirm the children. Their conclusions will be shared with the church and then CTSW.

A second short-term group is looking at how they can recognise and encourage gifts/ministries of members. New Sunday evening series "Facing the Issues" and the first one considered women in church leadership. Just starting to consider and pray about employing an outreach/community worker.

Salvation Army. Carol submitted a written report. The S.A. has been given the go ahead to open a charity shop in the town. The unit will be 4 Hill Street. Carol asks that members put out a notice asking for volunteers to help in this shop. A training day will be held later. Thanks were given to all those who help presently at the Well but they still require more volunteers particularly as they will be opening an extra day from April.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 25 April 2013

The meeting ended with the saying of the Grace.

Future Dates for 2012/13

Council Leaders Business meeting	14 March
Holy Week commencing	24 March
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	18 April
Council Meeting	25 April
Church Leaders Business Meeting	9 May
Christian Aid Week	12-18 May
VBS Sunday	12 May
Pentecost Party	17 May
Pentecost Sunday	No united event
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	6 June
Council Meeting	13 June
Church Leaders Business Meeting	11 July 2013
Church Leaders Business Meeting	5 September
Council Meeting	26 September
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	17 October
Church Leaders Business Meeting	7 November
Remembrance Sunday	10 November
United Nations Service	
Council Meeting	21 November
Advent Service	1 December
Minister's Lunch	11 December