

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING

held on Thursday 13 June 2013

Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Present: John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Carol Baker, Jackie Bartlett, Val Bowtle, Jonathan Burton, Kathryn Fiddock, Meg Nettle, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham, Robert Wiseman.

The meeting opened with readings from Quaker Faith and Practice.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Father David, Jim Gascoigne, David Keeble, Jane Martin, Melanie Mathieson, Helen O'Neill, David Tomlinson, John West and Jean Wheeler.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** Coffee morning at home of Elizabeth Tindley 19 June.
3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2013 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - (a) **Street Pastors.** Training is continuing, with a start date in September still on course.
 - (b) **Christian Aid.** £7,600 was collected with a further £600 due in Gift Aid. Thanks were extended to all who helped and special thanks to John Capper for the organisation.
 - (c) **Pentecost Tricks n Laughs Review.**
Tickets Sold: 129. Adults 101, child 23, 5 Family. Aprox. 150 people

Comments

- We felt it was an excellent and entertaining evening.
- When we were giving out fliers on the streets, a show was much easier to “sell” rather than other more religious events.
- However, it was more difficult to “sell” in our churches. There seems to be an almost inbuilt feeling that a church event is work, a duty, something else on our “To Do list” rather than being just the fun evening out that it actually was.
- We felt it was a better option than praise on the common.
- Did we attract those who are not church attenders? It is hard to be certain on this: most of us felt we did. This being based on the number of people we did not recognise and comments from those who brought others with them.
- The committee worked very well together.
- Staging a show like this is quite a lot of work.
- **Conclusion:** We recommend that we do something similar again - a show/ film etc. However, in order to keep it fresh and to because of the amount of effort involved, we recommend that we only do something like this once every two or three years. This leaves it open for ideas for the next year or two.

Comments from Council members were that all felt the evening was very good, the venue was excellent, parking easy etc. Agreed with sub-committee's recommendation that a similar event be considered in 2/3 years' time and thanks given for all the hard work involved.

Event Costs.

- £650 Fees for the entertainers
- £155 Publicity (posters)
- £75 School hall
- £21 Drinks license
- £20 Bible tracts
- **£921 Total (excluding refreshments)**

Total income from Ticket Sales: £608.36

Churches Together had £364 in hand dedicated to cover costs for Pentecost Outreach. This was collected at last year's United Service.

Refreshments. Costs (Sale or return)

£947.58	Price paid
£ 18.98	Donations to volunteers.
<u>£698.81-</u>	Returned drinks
£267.75	Actual costs

Sales

£292.00	Expected Receipts
£206.00	Actual receipts (i.e. we are £86 short, and are unable to explain this)

Profit / Loss (on refreshments)

£61.75 loss - To be reimbursed from CTSW funds.

Council members agreed that the loss sum of £61.75 should be reimbursed. This sum covered by £50.00 left from the Pentecost allowance and £10.75 from the CTSW general fund.

(d) Iona Pilgrimage – Iona 19 May – London 20 July 2013

Saffron Walden - Sunday 14 July and Monday 15 July 2013

This is an ecumenical and inter-faith act of witness for peace and economic justice. The primary aim of the Pilgrimage is to focus attention on the Government's intention to spend up to £100 billion renewing the U.K.'s Trident nuclear weapons system, while continuing to slash NHS, education and social welfare budgets, including vital financial support for some of this country's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The core group will be approximately 15 people and local people are encouraged to join the Pilgrimage for the last five miles into Saffron Walden. Hospitality is being offered by the United Reformed Church and the Society of Friends. A hot meal will be provided upon the arrival at Abbey Lane followed by Iona Evening Prayer at 6.30 p.m. The Pilgrimage will leave the URC at 8.30 a.m. on Monday and walk to Newport for Iona Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. before continuing on to Buntingford, St Albans and London. Help with a route from Newport to Buntingford is required and Jonathan agreed to look into this. Volunteers also needed for cake making and coffee serving. Contact Jim Gascoigne or John Capper. Further details on: www.justpeacepilgrimage.com.

5. Finance Report.

Pentecost praise Account: £51.76. Main Account: £492.60. Total: £544.46.

Cheque signing. To date and for the past 26 years there has only been one signatory responsible for signing cheques. Although this has never proved problematic, it is felt prudent to have one other named person as a signatory in case of illness etc. Margaret Snowdon agreed to be the other signatory. The relevant papers had been obtained and will be completed and returned to Barclays Bank along with the relevant extract from this meeting's minutes as follows:.

6. **Bank Mandate**

We authorise Mrs Margaret Snowdon to sign Churches Together in Saffron Walden cheques as an alternative to our Treasurer, Mr Clive Brooker.

Proposed: Robert Wiseman. Seconded: Meg Nettle

7. **VBS**

All plans are going ahead – 350 places this year – although it has been difficult getting tent leaders. For the future, a public meeting is being called on 10 September 2013 at 8pm at Gold St. for further prayer, sharing and discussion.

8. Youth Worker Report. Val Bowtle reported that a recent “Pray for Schools” event through Stort Valley Trust was held. SWAT is still going well with a new recruit starting in September. Lots of good work going on although Youth Workers are sad to be losing Andy Finn.

9. **News from the Churches**

Roman Catholic: Communion being held at St Mary’s this weekend.

Friends: Funding has been made available for the refurbishment of the Meeting Room, which now has magnificent new curtains. On 7 September 2013 they are hosting a Community Fair for all users/hirers of the Meeting House.

Methodist Church: At the Synod meeting in April, it was agreed that the Church would close after Palm Sunday 2014. On Easter Sunday 2014 the Methodist Church will join with URC. A recent after Sunday service sharing of lunch and information had been held between the two Churches on a “getting to know” each other basis, which was very successful.

United Reformed Church: On Sunday 9 June St Columba’s Day was celebrated at Newport with a service, shared lunch and Iona singing. The outside of the Church is being decorated. Training Day at Westminster College, Cambridge is on 29 June 2013 for all Elders and Stewards and any other interested parties of the Church. Afternoon café services are continuing throughout summer.

Baptist Church: Induction Service for the new Minister, John Goddard, to be held on 6 July 2013. Coffee and milkshake event for BMS to be held 22 June from 9.30 a.m.

St Mary’s: Visitors from Chelmsford Cathedral and shared Evensong took place on Sunday 9 June with a sharing of information between all. New Curate Lydia Smith joining at the end of June. Andy Finn leaving to train for the Ministry and a replacement Youth Worker is being sought. Lunchtime recitals continue throughout June and July.

Gold Street: On-going work and discussion continuing as previously reported.

Salvation Army. It is anticipated that the Charity shop will open mid-July. The unit will be at 4 Hill Street. Carol now has a full time Corps Assistant. Discussions are taking place between the CAB, UDC, SA and Waitrose regarding an Uttlesford food bank. Waitrose has agreed to release a staff member on one day a week to run this food bank. Collections at Dunmow, Thaxted, Bishop’s Stortford, Stansted and Saffron Walden.

10. **Date of Next Meeting – 26 September 2013**

The meeting ended with silent prayer in the style of the Friend’s worship.

Future Dates for 2012/13

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