MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 21 November 2013
Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Present: Jonathan Burton (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Val Bowtle, John Capper, John Goddard, Meg Nettle, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham, Jean Wheeler and Matt Williamson.

The Chairman welcomed Ged Pearce, who attended this meeting to talk about the late night Christmas event, and Matt Williamson, the new Youth Worker at St Mary's.

The meeting opened with a reading and prayer.

1. Apologies. Apologies received from Carol Baker, Jackie Bartlett, Kathryn Fiddock, Jim Gascoigne, David Keeble, David Tomlinson and John West.

2. Consideration of the Agenda. Christian Aid. Monthly Prayer Rota. Gazebo.

3. Minutes of last meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

(a) Christmas late night shopping. Ged Pearce from the Baptist Church had volunteered to organise this evening, which will be a "VIP Red Carpet" event. Red carpet with chrome posts and ropes loaned from the County High School: personnel formally dressed for the occasion. The idea is to encourage people to enjoy their moment as a VIP and to give the message that "everyone is a VIP to God, so why not join us at a service over Christmas". Ged is providing, at his own expense, "business" cards to be handed out under the CTSW heading, giving the names of all Churches. Ged will arrange a poster for circulation to all and forward to Secretary. Thanks were extended to Ged for his enthusiasm in arranging this event. ***ACTION: GP. MAS***

Lisa Knight has made contact with Church Leaders to provide information on Christmas Services.
ACTION: CHURCH LEADERS

(b) Lent Co-ordinator. No volunteer has come forward so probably no Lent Groups for 2014.
(c) Street Pastors. All working well and relationships are being developed.
(d) Food Bank. Due to problems regarding insurance, the launch has had to be postponed until the New Year. Information posters needed for circulation to Churches. ***ACTION: CB***

5. Finance Report.
Balance of main account is: £542.71. To be deducted from this: £10.00 for late night shopping space and Christmas publicity costs – probably in region of £185/190.

6. Dates for 2014
The Secretary and incoming Chairman will liaise regarding dates. After discussion it was agreed to keep the day of Council Meetings the same, i.e. Thursday, but the start time to be changed to ***11.30a.m.***

7. Youth Worker Report
Matt Williamson handed out to Council members a report giving details of his plans for arranging a Youth Service, aimed at high school and sixth form aged young people. (See report attached to these minutes).
X-site still working very well.

8. Credit Union for Saffron Walden/Uttlesford
David Tomlinson and Jonathan had met with people from Harlowsave, an existing Credit Union.
Please see report attached to these minutes.

9. News from Churches
URC. Jim leaving on 12 January. Vacancy after that. Recent Christmas Fair raised £2,041.

Salvation Army: 4 December Carol Service in Town Hall. 16 December from 10 a.m. onwards packing Christmas presents and food hampers – volunteers to help very welcome. ***Methodist Church:*** Plans are working out well with URC for joint fellowship in 2014 when the Methodist church has to close. A Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome has been prepared between the two churches for signature on Easter Day. This Declaration enables Methodist members to retain their own identity, whilst being in association with the URC. ***Roman Catholic:*** Successful quiz evening held recently. Jenny Tobitt hosted an autistic meeting in Church Hall and so successful a further one planned. ***Society of Friends:*** Quaker Quest held recently. Wednesday evening meetings closing. ***St Mary's:*** Christmas Fair 30 November from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – 60's theme. Agape Meal 16 January – would like names a week before. ***Baptist Church:*** Work with Besom continuing. Christmas Fair: 7 December from 2 p.m. 17 December at 7.30 p.m. carol service for East Anglian Children's Hospices. Looking to 2014 with a theme of "discipleship", which could be lent oriented.
Gold Street: Joint alpha course with Baptist Church. Just held last "Question Service". 9 December 8 p.m. carols and quiz evening at the Old English Gentleman.

10. Any Other Business
(a) Christian Aid: Town collection 30 November at Waitrose, Market Square etc. for the Philippines. URC, Baptist Street, Gold Street members helping out as collectors. Advertised in local paper.
(b) Gazebo owned by CTSW can be stored at the Baptist church. Banner is at URC.
(c) Monthly Prayer Rota. The Secretary confirmed that she will prepare the rota and then circulate.

11. Date of Next Meeting –27 February 2014

Thanks were extended to Jonathan for his Chairmanship throughout the year.
The meeting ended with prayer and the sharing of The Grace.

Dates for 2013

Advent Service – St Mary's	**1 December**
Minister's Lunch	**11 December**

Future Dates for 2014

Agape Meal – St Mary's	16 January
United Service – URC 10.30 a.m.	19 January
Church Leaders Business Meeting	7 February
Council Meeting	27 February
VBS Sunday	2 March
Women's World Day of Prayer – R.C. Church	7 March
Church Leaders Prayer meeting	14 March
Church Leaders Business meeting	4 April
Holy Week commencing	13 April
Council Meeting	24 April
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	9 May
Christian Aid Week	12-18 May
Church Leaders Business Meeting	6 June
Pentecost	8 June
Council Meeting	19 June
Church Leaders Business Meeting	11 July
Church Leaders Business Meeting	5 September
Council Meeting	25 September
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	17 October
Church Leaders Business Meeting	7 November
Remembrance Sunday	9 November
United Nations Service	
Council Meeting	20 November
Advent Service	30 November
Minister's Lunch	11 December

Note: Church Leaders Business and Prayer Meetings at 18 Landscape View 09.00 – 10.00 (subject to confirmation).