

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 19 June 2014
Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Present: John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Carol Baker, Val Bowtle, Jonathan Burton, Kathryn Fiddock, John Goddard, Elizabeth Tindley, and Emma Turner,

The meeting opened with a short period of silence during which Nos.10.01 and 10.20 of Faith and Practice were read.

1. Apologies. Apologies received from Helen O'Neill, David Tomlinson, Berry Wareham and Robert Wiseman.

2. Consideration of the Agenda. There were no further items to add to the Agenda.

3. Minutes of last meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2014 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

(a) Christian Aid. The collections amounted to £6,209.03 with additional gift aid of £623.12. The local papers have been informed of this and as further street collection is scheduled for Saturday 18 October 2014. Thanks to John Capper for co-ordinating this.

(b) Pentecost 2015. Steve Murray has now officially been booked by confirmation e-mail from the chairman for 22 May 2015. The Friends School Hall is provisionally booked: a sub-committee with the responsibility of organising this event will be convened in the New Year. **ACTION: MAS TO DIARY**

(c) Food Bank. The launch date had to be postponed but a training day is scheduled for 23 June 2014. There are about 25 volunteers to date, information leaflets are in production and will be circulated appropriately and everything is in hand. To begin with the local Tesco and Waitrose stores will be collection points, with, hopefully, others joining later. It is anticipated that the launch and start date will be mid-July.

5. Finance Report.

Balance total to date: £409.76. No bills outstanding and two more subscriptions expected.

6. Vacation Bible School.

The young leaders training initiative residential weekend at St Marks was very well received, although, as expected, with a low turnout. However, participants are keen to repeat the venture. Volunteers are still needed for various ancillary roles – *as per the attached schedule*.

7. XL mentoring.

This is a new enterprise initiated by the Baptist Church. With the backing of the County High School, the ethos is to identify those students who are in any way struggling with their life or needing help of any kind and would benefit from a mentoring scheme. The County High School has identified already five students who might benefit from a mentor. As this is a new scheme an information evening is planned for 10 September 2014 at 8 p.m. in the Baptist Church. Four training days are on 2, 9, 16 and 23 October 2014 to be held at Gold Street coffee bar. Anyone interested is invited to come along – there are no age barriers although there can be no guaranteed mentees. Speakers can come to Churches if invited. Publicity has been in the local press and due to an error in text, which gave the impression that only church members can be members, this, unfortunately, has provoked several angry responses. Hopefully, this will be corrected in the next local press issue. It was suggested that perhaps liaison with the Stort Valley Trust might be beneficial and John Goddard agreed to do this. For more information go to www.xlmentoring@gmail.com.

ACTION: JG

8. SWAT Annual Report written and presented by Val Bowtle

“In spite of being a rather small team of leaders we are managing to lead worship in 11 schools once each half term. Katherine Semar Infants and Juniors, R.A.B. Infants and Juniors, Dame Bradbury’s Infants and Juniors, St Mary’s, Debden, Radwinner, Wimbish and Chrishall. The members of the team feel privileged to be invited

into these schools and are very generous with their time. At the beginning of each term I e mail the schools to ask for preferred dates or any to avoid. The team then meets to plan the rota, after which I confirm with the schools who will be leading on each occasion.

Back in the spring we held a coffee morning to explain to people what we do and, lo and behold, there was a group of people interested in may be helping us as part of a small team working together to prepare and lead assemblies. Some of them have been to observe the current team at work and I am hoping we can organise another meeting to progress the idea. Please remember us in your prayers and if anyone would like a copy of the new term's rota so they can offer up a prayer on a particular morning just let me know".

9. Stort Valley Trust

Jonathan Burton has been invited to join the committee of the Trust as liaison between the Trust and all the Churches so that stronger links can be established between both parties. From his observations at the committee meeting he attended, there are two areas which need to be looked at more fully: (a) the Trust does not hold a very high profile in Saffron Walden. . To address this, a mini-launch is planned to be held in Saffron Walden to establish links. (b) financially, the Trust is vulnerable. It relies on money from a few individuals and Jonathan wondered if perhaps money should be made available from all the Churches? Perhaps Churches should support the Trust through prayer and money?

It was suggested Stort Valley be added to the list of annual reports and that also that it would be helpful to the Council to have a presentation from the Trust. Jonathan agreed to organise this. **ACTION:JB**

Later: representative from Stort Valley Trust can attend Council Meeting on 25 September 2014.

10. Youth Worker Report.

No report was available.

11. News from Churches

St Mary's: Paula Griffiths has been made Priest in Charge at Hadstock. Lydia Smith is to be ordained on 22 June 2014 at Waltham Abbey. Professor Graham Davies, Emeritus Professor Old Testament Studies at Fitzwilliam College, will speak on the Psalms on Thursday 10 July 2014 at 7.45 p.m. in the Parish Rooms. All welcome. The lunchtime concerts continue throughout the summer.

Baptist Church: Church Anniversary was celebrated recently – the success of which is attributed to the availability of the arranged ice cream van outside after the service!! All age services continue.

The Church is blessed with many children but need people to run and sustain this.

Roman Catholic: The Communion Service held recently at St Mary's was very successful. Also the recent coffee morning raised £150.00.

Gold Street: A time of refreshing from God is taking place, which is triggering all kinds of challenges. There is a distinct lack of children attending Church although the toddler group is thriving.

URC: Holding joint open day with the Salvation Army at the home of Lady Morrow Saturday 21 June. Five groups of year 7 County High Students have visited Abbey Lane as part of "Faith in the Community". A new Minister, Rev. Roy Fowler, has been appointed to the WEBS Pastorate. There is no confirmation of an actual start date but the induction service is on Saturday 18 October 2014. David Keeble's farewell service is at Abbey Lane on Sunday 27 July 2014 at 3 p.m. Invitations have been issued. All welcome.

Salvation Army: Food bank launch soon and joint open afternoon with URC.

Society of Friends: A meeting was held in May with other Meetings to discuss "The Way Ahead" and Elders have been asked to organise a spiritual retreat. The pilot scheme between Quaker meetings in the area and English Heritage continues and this will eventually become part of a National scheme. Members will be attending a meeting on 28 June in Suffolk for a day of talks and discussion with David Bolton, who revised and updated the book on conscientious objectors "Objection Overruled".

12. Date of Next Meeting – 25 September 2014

The meeting ending with a short period of silent worship.

Future Dates for 2014

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).

2015 Dates:

United Service, Baptist Church:	18 January 2015
Agape Meal – Friends Meeting House :	22 January 2015
Women's World Day of Prayer	
Friends Meeting House:	6 March 2015
Pentecost:	22 May