

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 25 September 2014 Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church

Present: John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Jackie Bartlett, Val Bowtle, Jonathan Burton, Kathryn Fiddock, John Goddard, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, David Tomlinson, Berry Wareham.

The meeting opened with a short period of silence during which Advices No. 17 from "Quaker Faith and Practice" was read.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Father David Clemens and Carol Baker.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** Further items were added to the Agenda – see below.
3. **Presentation from the Stort Valley Trust**
Tina from the Trust gave a brief summary and outline of their work. Jonathan then went on to explain that after attending two Committee Meetings, it was his opinion that the Trust is in financial Crisis. The Trust is reliant on one or two independent donors and was now in shortfall. Council members felt the Trust carries out important work and that the opportunity of being able to work in schools should continue. The meeting felt that all the Churches should work together to provide ongoing financial assistance to the Trust. This issue will be taken to all Churches but in the interim, Council Members agreed to forward the sum of £200 from funds to the Trust to show our support. **ACTION: CB**
4. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2014 were approved and signed.
5. **Matters Arising.**
 - (a) **Christian Aid.** A street collection is scheduled for Saturday 18 October 2014 and all is in hand.
 - (b) **Pentecost 2015.** The entertainer and venue is now all booked for 22 May 2015 starting at 7.30 p.m. A sub-committee with the responsibility of organising this event will be formed at the next meeting. **ACTION: MAS TO DIARY/ALL**
 - (c) **Food Bank.** David Tomlinson confirmed that he will be Chairing a Management Committee Meeting next week to take stock of the situation, with the intention of moving things forward.
 - (d) **VBS.** A very successful event this year with 430, very well-behaved!, children attending. The finances have yet to be confirmed but there was an income of £20,000 and the costs were £20,000 so it looks good. Newport Free Grammar School will be their permanent home. Thanks were expressed to Jonathan Burton and Gold Street for being responsible for this annual event.
 - (e) **United Service.** 10.30 a.m. 18 January 2015 to be held at the Baptist Church. John Goddard, as Chairman to the Council for 2015 will organise the service details and will also confirm that his Youth Group Leaders are able to cope with the children attending. It was agreed that half of the offertory will go to the Stort Valley Trust and the other half to be decided at our November meeting. **ACTION: JG**
6. **Finance Report.**
All subscriptions have been received and the balance stands at £529.76
7. **XL mentoring.**
There was a good launch meeting with between 25/30 people attending. The project is pressing on with training commencing in October. This will consist of four sessions lasting for two hours each session. For more information go to www.xlmentoringsw@gmail.com.
8. **Late Night Shopping 5 December 2014**
After much discussion it was agreed that Churches Together will not participate this year. However, a suggestion was made that perhaps for next year, Churches could link up with the Town Band and provide carol singing. At the appropriate time, Jonathan will make contact with the Band. **ACTION: JB**
9. **Christmas Events.** There was nothing to report.
10. **Youth Worker Report.** No report was available.
The second session of "Revolution" will take place on Saturday 27 September at the Baptist Church.

11. News from Churches

St Mary's: The Junior Choir had a week in Norfolk and sang in Norwich Cathedral. Rev Rowan Williams is due to preach on 19 October 2014 at 6.30 p.m. A Masai Warriors event will be held on 25 October at 4 p.m.

Baptist Church: Last Sunday a discussion was held as part of worship on how best to move forward with their youth as they have a large number at present. On Sunday 28 September at 7 p.m. they have a speaker Matt Roper from Meninadanca, who works with young girls who are at risk in Brazil by building up their confidence through dance. On 25 September at 8 p.m. they have comedian Andy Kidd. Tickets £10 available at door. Andy will be joined by singing sensation Katie Marshall and proceeds will go towards Kyangala Trust, which helps people in Kyangala in Kenya develop their community and overcome difficulties.

Roman Catholic: Held a family day at St Marks and also a Retreat Day – both successful.

URC: A lovely farewell service was held for David Keeble – well attended and much enjoyed. Roy Fowler arrives at the new Manse in Stansted, bought by the Synod, on 29 September and his Induction Service is on 18 October. Refreshments will be served at 3 p.m. and the service commences at 4.30 p.m. During next year the Church will be celebrating 350 years of worship on the site and various events will be held during the year.

Salvation Army: There is a Charity Shop Fashion Show in the S.A. hall on 4 October.

Society of Friends: The Friends are hosting tomorrow a Regional gathering. A short drama (approx. 50 minutes) called “Can this be England” has been written by Angie Neville Friends Jackie Bartlett and Angela Howard. This looks at some of the difficulties in getting help from the welfare state. This is to be performed – script in hand – sometime in late October/November, followed by discussion. A date is to be advised.

12. Police Advisory Group. Information has been received from Stuart Colbear, Police Sergeant at Braintree Neighbourhood Crime Team. He is setting up an independent advisory group for Braintree and Uttlesford District. The purpose of the group is to allow a group to give direct independent feedback to the police in issues that affect them. Broadly speaking the group meets every quarter to discuss relevant issues and he is looking for a representative from Churches Together to join them. Anyone interested should contact John Capper who indicated that if no one else was available, he would be prepared to go to the meetings.

13. Information for the Tourist Information Centre

The secretary confirmed that updated information has been sent to the Tourist Information Centre regarding CTSW for inclusion in their list of organisations etc. This is normal procedure.

14. Secretary to CTSW

The Secretary, Margaret Snowdon, told us that she wished to retire from her role at the end of the year. This was agreed, and thanks expressed for all her work during the past five years. Margaret will draw up a job description and also a short note for inclusion in Church Newsletters in an endeavour to find a replacement.

ACTION: MAS

15. Date of Next Meeting – 20 November 2014

The meeting ended with a short period of silent worship.

Future Dates for 2014

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 Praise: Friends School 7.30 p.m.	22 May 2015