

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING  
**held on Thursday 20 November 2014 Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church**

**Present:** John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Val Bowtle, Kathryn Fiddock, Roy Fowler, John Goddard, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, David Tomlinson, Berry Wareham and Robert Wiseman.

The Chairman welcomed the Rev Roy Fowler, Minister of URC to the meeting, together with Rosemary Timms, who is taking over the role of Secretary to the Council in the new year and was sitting in the meeting as an observer.

The meeting opened with a short period of silence during which Advice No. 5 advices and queries from "Quaker Faith and Practice" was read.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Father David Clemens, Carol Baker and Jonathan Burton.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** No further items were added to the Agenda.
3. **Minutes of last meeting.** The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2014 were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising.**

(a) **Pentecost Event 2015.** The following people agreed to sit on the sub-committee:

John Capper – Convenor, Jonathan Burton, Val Bowtle, Elizabeth Tindley, Berry Wareham, Robert Wiseman and Helen O'Neill.

(b) **Uttlesford Food Bank.** Good progress is being made and Tesco and Waitrose are back on board. Alan Hawkes is Co-ordinator with the Salvation Army being the major contributor to this project. Premises at the Police Station in East Street are being used as a storage point with actual distribution from the Salvation Army and referrals coming via the CAB. It is anticipated that there will be various distribution points around Uttlesford, i.e. Thaxted, Stansted etc. A bank account has been opened under the auspice of the S.A with all finances being made payable to them. They will have a presence at the late night shopping evening in an endeavour to raise the profile.

(c) **United Service.** 10.30 a.m. 18 January 2015 to be held at the Baptist Church. It was confirmed that half the collection is to go to Stort Valley Trust with the other half for Christian Aid.

(d) **Christian Aid.** The street collection held on Saturday 18 October 2014 raised £568. 53p. A further street collection is scheduled for October next year.

5. **Finance Report.** Expenditure since last meeting: Stort Valley Trust donation: £200.00. Late night shopping fee: £10.00. Glow sticks and bracelets: £25.95. Balance: £293.81p.

6. **XL Mentoring.** All going well. Mentors are undergoing training and meeting with the young people. It is hoped that this will really getting underway in early January.

7. **Street Pastors.** A written report had been provided and circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The project is going really well though more Street and Prayer Pastors are needed. Members were asked to raise this matter with their congregations and to endorse that anyone was welcome to go along as an observer. If anyone is interested, please contact Joy Burton at Gold Street.

8. **Amendment to the Constitution.** At the Church Leaders Business Meeting held on 7 November 2014 a recommendation was made that the Constitution be changed to give the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the option of serving for a second year. All Council Members agreed to this recommendation. Therefore paragraph 5 of the Constitution will read "Churches Together in Saffron Walden elect annually a Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are elected annually for a one year term in January, with the option of serving for a second year.

9. **Late Night Shopping 5 December 2014**

Since the previous meeting, volunteers have emerged with ideas. A stall was booked and various items purchased as "giveaways". The stall is being organised by Jonathan and John Goddard. More volunteers are needed so please contact Jonathan if anyone can help.

**10. Christmas Events.** Lisa Knight has volunteered to organise the publicity in the local press and the clergy have been asked to forward to her details of services. St Mary's Advent Carol Service is 30 November. The Salvation Army is providing a Carol Service at Stanley Wilson Lodge on 10 December at 5.30 p.m. at Hatherley on 11 December at 3 p.m. and a Highfields on 16 December at 7 p.m. As St Mary's is planning to hold a Carol Service at Highfields earlier on the same day, it was requested that perhaps the Salvation Army service could be changed.

The Salvation Army Carol Concert is on 3 December in Saffron Walden Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend all services.

**11. Youth Worker Report.** No report was available. Stort Valley Newsletter was available. "Revolution" will take place on Saturday 22 November at the Baptist Church on the theme of "Love".

**12. News from Churches**

**St Mary's:** The Remembrance Day service was much bigger this year with 800 people attending. The Rowan Williams evening had been well attended. Christmas Fayre with a Tudor theme is on 29 November from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advent Carols 30 November 6.30 p.m.

**Baptist Church:** The youth and children's ministries are ongoing. It is hoped the Searchlight Theatre Group will present "Woodbine Willie" in the Church next year.

A Carol Service for E.A.C.H. is to be held on 16 December at 7.30 a.m. and a Carol Service on 21 December with the Town Band.

**Roman Catholic:** Trisha Cobby is the Parish Pastoral Counsellor, preparing children for confirmation.

**URC:** Very pleased to welcome their new Minister, Rev Roy Fowler. The recent Winter Fair raised £2,500.

The Guild Carol Service is on 19 December and the Church Carol Service on 21 December at 6 p.m.

The W.I. and Rotary Carol Services will be held in early December. Rather than a Christmas tree in the front garden, it is planned to light up the three trees there. 350 year celebrations will take place during next year.

A Christening was held recently.

**Salvation Army:** See service details mentioned earlier in these minutes.

**Society of Friends:** Speaker Nick Wilde will be there on Sunday 23 November. The play written by Friends as mentioned previously will be premiered on 30 November at the Bardfield Meeting House.

The Agape meal in January will be hosted by Friends.

**13. Date of Next Meeting – 26 February 2015.**

Thanks were extended to John Capper for his chairmanship during the past year and to Margaret Snowdon for her years as secretary. The new secretary is Rosemary Timms – [rosemary.timms@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemary.timms@hotmail.com).

The meeting ended with a short period of silent worship.

**Future Dates for 2014**

Advent Service St Mary's	30 November
Minister's Lunch	12 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 10.30 a.m.	18 January
Agape Meal, Friends Meeting House	22 January
Council Meeting	26 February
Women's World Day of Prayer, Friends	6 March
Council Meeting	23 April
Pentecost Event Friends School 7.30 p.m.	22 May
Council Meeting	18 June
Council Meeting	24 September
Council Meeting	19 November

**In 2015 the Church Leaders Business and Prayer Meetings will be held at 41 Linton Close**