

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 12 November 2015 @ Abbey Lane URC, Saffron Walden

Present: Rev. John Goddard (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Rev. Caroline Vodden, Jackie Bartlett, Kelvin Pipe, Val Bowtle, , Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner and Berry Wareham.

Rev John Goddard welcomed Kelvin Pipe, a representative of the Salvation Army, to the meeting. John opened the meeting with two prayers from a book of 'Celtic Daily Prayers'.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Carol Baker, Rev Jonathan Burton, Father David Clemens, John Capper, Rev David Tomlinson and Kathryn Fiddock.

2. **Consideration of the Agenda.**

No items were added to the agenda.

3. **Minutes of last meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015 were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising and Review of Events.**

- (a) ***Christian Aid Street Collection:*** This took place on Saturday 17th October and the total raised was £427.37 and was for their refugee crisis appeal. Thanks were expressed to the members of the URC and Society of Friends who were the main volunteers this year. It will take place again in 2016 and hopefully more churches will be able to get involved next year. Members would appreciate confirmation of the date as soon as possible so that they can put it in their diaries.
- (b) ***Advent:*** There will be an Advent Service at St Mary's on Sunday 29th November at 6.30 p.m. to which everyone would be most welcome.
- (c) ***Joint Christmas Publicity:*** Lisa Knight has confirmed she is willing to co-ordinate the information to go into the local papers for the churches Christmas events. The publication date will be 9th December and churches were asked to liaise with Lisa. lisak_night@hotmail.co.uk
- (d) ***Late Night Shopping:*** We have booked the same pitch as last year which will be in King Street, outside the Library. The event is on Friday 4th December running from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m. Caroline Vodden and John Goddard have been working on an idea for this event and Caroline shared their proposals. It would involve inviting people to pick an image or word from a bran tub and to see how this relates to Christmas. They would then be displayed to create a collage and the child or adult would be offered a chocolate or Christmas decoration.

5. **Finance Report.**

Clive Brooker confirmed that Christian Aid have acknowledged receipt of the sum of £427.37 from the recent street collection. The current balance is £412.26. The pitch at the Late Night Christmas Shopping event cost £10 and there are funds in hand to cover costs of any resources associated with this event.

6. **Future Events**

(a) ***Christmas Events:***

Wednesday 9th December Salvation Army Carol Concert in the Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 12th December: Searchlight Theatre Company production of "Good Old Mr Scrooge" at the Baptist Church at 7.30 p.m.

Carol services have been arranged at

- Stanley Wilson Lodge at 5.30 p.m. on the 16th December
- Highfields at 11.00 a.m. on the 17th December

- Hatherley at 3.30 p.m. on the 22nd December
- The Brownies will be singing carols to the residents of Audley Court and Custerston Court again this year.

The Salvation Army will again be hosting a Christmas Day Lunch for any without family who might otherwise be on their own.

- (b) ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016:*** the events during this week include:
- The Agape Meal on the 21st January at 7.30 p.m. Churches asked to provide approximate numbers about a week before.
 - The United Service on Sunday 24th January at St Mary's at 10.00 a.m. It was agreed the collection at this service would be in support of the Christian Aid Refugee Crisis Appeal and VBS. Members were happy for Rev John Goddard to preach again as he would be continuing as chair of CTSW.
- (c) ***Lent 2016:*** Rev David Tomlinson has organised a series of four sessions focused on different aspects and approaches to prayer. Each session to include input from a speaker and then an opportunity to pray together. Posters will be available by the end of the year to publicise these.
- 25th February at the Parish Rooms with Rev Tim Hardingham focusing on the Jesus Prayer,
 - 3rd March at the Baptist Church with Rev Paul Hills focusing on Intercessory Prayer
 - 10th March at Saffron Walden Community Church with Bergit Evault; and
 - 17th March at Abbey Lane URC with Janet Scott

7. News from Churches

St Mary's Church: They are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November.

URC: Their Winter Fair is on Saturday 14th November and they have a Quiet Day on the 21st November at Newport called 'Away to the Manger'. They hold charity coffee mornings on the 1st Saturday of the month and have a church party night on the 28th November.

Roman Catholic Church: They are arranging a lunch party for senior citizens.

Saffron Walden Community Church: They are understood to be settling in well in their new premises. They will be holding coffee mornings every Monday we understand.

Society of Friends: The Quaker Social Action Project is to collect toiletries and warm clothing for organisations working with the homeless in London. Donated items would be most welcome. The sale of white peace poppies has been encouraging. They have been concerned about the high costs of funerals and among other organisations are in discussion with Peasgoods.

Salvation Army: There will be a Christmas Coffee Morning on 21st November and Nativity Services at The Well on the 15th and 17th December. They would appreciate help packing food hampers on the 21st December.

Baptist Church: Rev John Goddard drew attention to the Premier of the Menina Danca film about their work in Brazil with guest speaker and founder Matt Roper being shown this Saturday. We have been supporting the Samaritan Purse Shoebox appeal again this year. John shared that he is in conversation with a couple in our church involved with Social Justice initiatives and so may have something for CTSW to consider sometime in the future.

8. Any Other Business

- Members requested the address list be updated and circulated.
- Meeting dates for 2016 would be available at the next meeting.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**
Agreed to meet on **Thursday 11 February 2016.**

Rev John Goddard closed the meeting in prayer.