



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 11 February 2016 Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church

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

John (Goddard) then opened the meeting referring to Lent and read a short prayer.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Father David Clemens, Rev. David Tomlinson, Carol Baker, Jackie Bartlett and Kathryn Fiddock.

2. Consideration of the Agenda.

The following items were added:

1. Café Church
2. VBS
3. Womens' World Day of Prayer
4. Maze Festival

3. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015 were approved and signed.

4. Council Meeting Date for 2016.

The ministers would meet tomorrow and would set the dates for 2016 which would then be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

5. Matters Arising and Review of Events.

(a) **Christmas 2015:** The Late Night Shopping event went well and also the carol singing at the Kings' Arms on the same evening. The collection for Christian Aid from the Christmas service at the URC was £457.45. The URC have also sent funds directly to support of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

(b) **Week of Prayer January 2016:** John (Goddard) had preached at the **United Service on 24th January** at St Mary's Church. It had been agreed that the offering would be divided between Christian Aid and VBS and the amount raised would be confirmed in due course. The suggestion was to advertise the Agape Meal in 2017 as '7pm for 7.30pm' and to publicize clearly that activities for children are provided at the United Service.

Thanks were expressed to the Catholic Church for arranging the **Agape Meal on 21st January** which raised £157.00 for Churches Together Funds. John (Goddard) suggested that the Baptist Church host it in 2017 and this offer was welcomed.

6. Finance Report.

- (a) **Accounts for 2015:** Copies of the Finance Statement had been circulated by email with the agenda and were formally approved at the meeting. The income for 2015 was £ 1,072.16 and the balance carried forward was £227.26. Council members expressed their thanks to Clive for producing the accounts and for continuing as Treasurer..
- (b) **Finance Report 2016:** The current balance is £384.88 – b/f £227.26 + £157.62 from the Agape Meal. St Mary's took responsibility for the collection at the united service and are expected to pass on a cheque shortly.

7. Future Events

- (a) **Lent:** John Capper has asked the local papers to advertise the Lent talks on 25th February, 3rd, 10th and 17th March. John had circulated some information about the speakers: Tim Hardingham, Paul Hills, Birgit Ewald and Janet Scott.
- (b) **Easter Publicity:** It is hoped that Lisa Knight will co-ordinate the joint advert again this year and Rosemary would get in touch with her to check this.
- (c) **Walk of Witness:** Plan to assemble at the War Memorial at 10.30 a.m. and to follow the same route as last year. The local police need to be advised accordingly and Ged Pearce would be agreed to organise marshals for the route again. The feedback from last year was that it would be good to have cards and eggs perhaps to hand out to children as we have done in the past.

8. Monthly Prayer List 2016

The monthly prayer list had been circulated after the last meeting and was discussed briefly.

9. Contact List 2016.

The contact list had been updated and circulated. Please notify Rosemary of any changes.

10. News from Churches

URC: They are holding a Quiet Day on the 20th February and are also welcoming singers and listeners to 'come and sing' Stainer's crucifixion on Good Friday at 2.00 p.m.

Salvation Army: They have a Coffee Morning on 19th March and will be leading a service at Stanley Wilson Lodge on 16th March.

Saffron Walden Community Church: Jonathan Burton mentioned;

- the 'Walden Well-Being Walk-in' that they are hoping to launch on the 1st Thursday of each month from May; and
- a 'New Seeker's course' which they hope to start in April.

St Mary's: Their Holocaust Service held recently was well attended and they will be holding a Quiz Night on 27th February.

Roman Catholic: The Women's World Day of Prayer is on the 4th March. All welcome to attend. They are also planning a Coffee Morning on 29th June and a Gaelic evening for St Patrick's Day.

Society of Friends: Betty West's memorial meeting was well attended yesterday. Jackie Bartlett is giving on talk on the Quaker Tapestry on 21st February. John mentioned a scheme to privately sponsor refugees and Jonathan asked if he would keep this committee updated on this.

Baptist Church: John shared that our kitchen refurbishment should be completed by the end of the month which is exciting. There will be a Quiz Night on 5th March and an 80's Night on 7th May.

11. Any Other Business

1. **Café Church:** Jonathan shared that this has stopped for the time being. People were not bringing their non-church friends with them.
 2. **VBS:** Churches are encouraged to use Sunday 28th February as VBS Sunday. They have a good balance in hand but income in 2015 was less than expenditure. It will continue to take place at Newport.
 3. **Maze Festival:** The Saffron Walden Initiative have asked if Churches would like to get involved with the Maze Festival from 19th to 21st August. It was agreed to register our interest but there is no obligation at this stage to take part. Rosemary took the relevant correspondence.
 4. **Utlesford Food Bank:** Kelvin also shared that the Food Bank is not in need for donations of food at the moment as they have plenty.
- 12. Date of Next Meeting – see addendum below.**

John (Goddard) closed the meeting with prayer.

Addendum

CTSW Meeting timetable

Thursday 14th April

Thursday 16th June

Thursday 15th September

Thursday 10th November

The collection at the United Service raised £422.16 and a cheque has now been received from St Mary's and passed on to Clive Brooker.

St Mary's have a rep on the Maze Committee and have a large canvas labyrinth that they normally lay out in the church for the Maze festival.