



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held on Thursday 16 June 2016 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. John Goddard (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Rev. Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Rev. David Tomlinson, Rev Caroline Vodden, Kelvin Pipe, Elizabeth Tindley, and Emma Turner.

By Invitation: Lizzi Mills, Local Co-ordinator for XL Mentoring.

John (Goddard) opened the meeting by welcoming Lizzi and sharing a reading from Psalm 80.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Father David Clemens, Jackie Bartlett, Helen O'Neill, Val Bowtle, Carol Baker, Kathryn Fiddock and Berry Wareham.

2. Consideration of the Agenda.

The following items were added:

1. Carnival 2017 (Future Events)
2. Keswick style Day Conference (Future Events)
3. Christian Aid Week House to House Collection (AOB)

3. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2016 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising and Review of Events.

(a) **Prayer Walk on 8th June:** Jonathan shared that some 18 people had taken part in this activity and he felt it had been appreciated and gone well. It was hoped to do this again, in September – date to be confirmed in due course.

(b) **Easter Walk of Witness:** John confirmed that he would contact Inspector Mike Coldridge, to share our concerns and ask whether the police would be willing to marshall the event next year alongside our stewards. If this is possible they may have to charge for this and so it would be important to ask what that might cost.

(c) **2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:**

- Following some discussion John offered to organise a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 21st January.
- The United Service would be at the URC on 22nd January and Jonathan Burton, the incoming Chair, would preach.
- The Agape Meal would be hosted by the Baptist Church.

5. XL Mentoring Update.

Lizzi shared that she has had to take a step back from her co-ordinator role since her accident, from which she is still recovering, and is grateful to Andrew Heinrich for bridging the gap. One of the mentors has recently undertaken mentor co-ordinator training which will strengthen the

leadership team going forward. Lizzi shared that she has also been contacted by someone from Widdington with experience and expertise in mentoring young people and it may be possible to expand and include Joyce Frankland Academy students at some time in the future. UDC have offered funding for training in mental health issues which is very much appreciated.

Very encouraged that of the original 2014 cohort of mentees 3 individuals met weekly with their mentor for the entire 18 months and 1 continued for 12 months. From the 2015 cohort a further 4 mentees are now 6 months into the relationship with their mentor. The County High are expected to refer a new cohort in Autumn 2016.

John thanked Lizzi for coming to the meeting and sharing this with everyone. John then led prayers for Lizzi and for all those involved in this important work. Lizzi then left the meeting.

6. **Finance Report.**

Clive shared that since the last meeting four of the churches have paid the £75 annual subscription. The current balance in hand is £393.70.

7. **Future Events**

- (a) **Maze Festival:** St Mary's will be hosting a maze as they have done in the past. If any other churches wish to organise something and be open in August during the maze festival then the organising committee would no doubt be pleased to know this.
- (b) **VBS:** Jonathan shared that registrations have now closed and they have registered 475 children including some 40 seniors. The process of recruiting helpers is going well and people can still volunteer for most roles.
- (c) **Carnival 2017:** New Life Church intend to enter a float as they have in the past and Rajeev has asked if Churches Together would like to join them and make this a United Church float. Many church members get involved with the carnival every year by supporting local organisations with their floats. (Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides, Town Band etc) It was not clear whether trying to effectively raise the profile of CTSW with a float would be possible. John and Caroline would speak to him to explore this and to also thank him for offering the churches this opportunity.
- (d) **Keswick Style Day Conference:** Rev'd Tony Mason is exploring the possibility of organising a local day conference in Autumn 2017.

8. **News from Churches**

Salvation Army: Kelvin shared that they have a Summer Fashion show on 25th June and are planning a BBQ and Jumble Sale in July.

Society of Friends: Their yearly meeting in London from 27th to 30th May focused on living out our faith in the world.

St Mary's: David shared that he and Steve Hasler had cycled 1052 miles and raised over £25,000 and thanked everyone for their support. Rev'd Lydia Smith has now finished her curate training and will be moving on to a new position. St Mary's had focused on the Queen's 90th Birthday with a local celebration last weekend which was well received.

URC: Roy Fowler returns from a sabbatical soon. The URC General Assembly is held in July and will discuss same sex marriages. The next local singing event is at 3.00 p.m. on 26th June and will be focused on singing Moody and Sankey songs.

Roman Catholic: There will be a Women's World Day of Prayer and Bible Society coffee morning on 29th June at 10.30 a.m. All welcome to attend. They have applied to Essex Highways for a parking space outside their church.

Saffron Walden Community Church: Jonathan Burton mentioned that they have now received listed building consent for their planned refurbishment. Numbers have continued to grow since they relocated to Castle Street. Last weekend they also focused on the Queen's 90th Birthday with a local celebration. The launch of the 'Walden Well-Being Walk-in' on Thursdays for those with mental health issues will start in September.

Baptist Church: The weekly MIND breakfast club continues on Tuesday mornings. The past few months have been an unsettling period for the church congregation. A number of people have left to worship elsewhere and a number of new people have joined as well. There was a thanksgiving service last Saturday, for Quentin Dawe, who was a much loved and energetic member of the church.

9. Any Other Business

1. **Uttlesford Food Bank:** Welcomed the news that Malcolm Domb, previously the manager of Waitrose, is to take over the management of the food bank.
 2. **Christian Aid Week:** John shared that the total raised from the house to house collection is expected to be £5,600. It was not possible to cover as many streets as the number of collectors has reduced. Although this is less than last year (£6,900) this is still a significant amount which will be much appreciated.
- 10. Date of Next Meetings** – **15th September 2016**
 – **10th November 2016**

John (Goddard) closed the meeting with prayer.