



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held on Thursday 15 June 2017 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), John Capper (Treasurer), Rev. John Goddard, Rev. Caroline Vodden, Val Bowtle, David Oelman, Kathryn Fiddock, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Suzan Bouton, and Stephen Rapkin.

Opening devotions focused on Psalm 73. To live with evil that we cannot understand and what it means to trust God. Jonathan then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies: were received from Father David Clemens, Rev. David Tomlinson, Kelvin Pipe, Capt. Carol Baker, and Helen O'Neill,

1. **Consideration of the Agenda.**

Added item 'Inter-faith Discussion' update from John Goddard.

2. **Minutes of last meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 were approved and were signed.

3 **Inter-faith Discussion**

John shared that he has been representing the church leaders at a meeting of a number of people interested in interfaith dialogue and will report back to the next meeting of the Church Leaders. This group has begun to make plans for a first public meeting this autumn, when they hope the Synagogue Choir from Cambridge will perform, singing Psalms in Hebrew.

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

4.1 ***Martin Luther Anniversary Events:***

- The URC have a flower festival and history exhibition on 15th and 16th July – 'Glories of Grace'.
- On 15th October Rev Dr David Cornick is preaching at the URC church in Bishops Stortford and giving an afternoon talk.
- Wed 18 October speaker Dr Ian Randall will be giving a lecture at SWBC looking back and looking forward.

4.2 ***Churches Together Leaflets:*** Rosemary confirmed that she has produced a dozen copies and left them with the Tourist Information Office. It had been suggested that we arrange to have them included in the 'Welcome Pack' that the Saffron Walden Initiative are responsible for putting together. The person to liaise with is John Ready and someone would let Rosemary have his address, number and email address. We have three quotes for getting 1000 colour glossy copies: Vistaprint = £80, Printing.com in Emson Close = £105 and The Printing Centre = £150. John confirmed that we have sufficient funds so it was agreed to go ahead with this and use the local company. Invoice to go to John Capper for payment. Rosemary would organise storage of the stock and arrange for the distribution of leaflets to John Ready, to the Tourist Information Office and to the local churches.

5. Review of Events

- 5.1 **Walk of Witness:** There was positive feedback about the new route and the publicity in the local papers was also good. The stewards were especially pleased as it was much more straightforward to marshal safely. Grateful to John Goddard for organising it this year but we will need to look for someone to take responsibility for this next year.
- 5.2 **Christian Aid Week:** John Capper shared that despite not being able to cover all of the town and the surrounding villages, the expected total this year is in the order of £5,500. We are very grateful to the volunteers from the churches as this is still a significant amount. Thanks also expressed to John Capper.
- 5.3 **Pentecost Prayer Event:** Wished to thank Jonathan for organising this and hosting it. There was an excellent turn-out.
- 5.4 **Election Hustings:** Wished to thank the Friends for taking the initiative and organising this with support from John Goddard. It was clearly welcomed as there were about 350 people there. Although the meeting was feisty there was no unpleasantness. Agreed that if another election is called at short notice we would be grateful if a local hustings could be arranged again.

6. Finance

We are grateful to John Capper for taking over as Treasurer. John confirmed that the annual subscriptions are coming in from the churches, the invoice for the Easter publicity has been paid and there is a credit balance of £320.

7. Future Events

- 7.1 **Town Carnival 8th July:** The 1st Saffron Walden Boys Brigade will be holding a Bar B Q on the front garden at the Baptist Church. Felt confident that they would be happy to display the CTSW banner and Stephen Rapkin would deliver this. Jonathan advised that some of his folk will be serving refreshments in front of their church as well.
- 7.2 **VBS:** Jonathan shared that they are still in need of a few more volunteers and they will also need people to help with the setting up on the Saturday as well.
- 7.3 **More in Common on the Common (17th June):** Street Parties and Picnics are being held this weekend up and down the country to remember the loss of the MP Jo Cox. Caroline Vodden felt it would be good to have a presence at the event in Saffron Walden which is from 12 noon until 2.00 p.m. Rosemary was happy to join her.

8. News from Churches

- **Baptist Church:** This month the church celebrated its 243rd anniversary with Rev Richard Kidd who preached and displayed and sold his paintings to support the work of Freeset. On the 1st July they will host a Quiz Night organised by SWCH 6th form Human Rights Group in aid of the Malala Fund. All welcome and tickets are available from Emma and the Tourist Information Office.
- **Salvation Army:** On 22nd July the Chelmsford Salvation Army Band will be playing in Jubilee Gardens.
- **URC:** They have a coffee morning on 1st July to raise funds for VBS. On 15th July they are holding a Flower Festival and History Exhibition focused on Martin Luther and the anniversary of the Reformation. They also have a charity concert by a Ukrainian accordion duo on the 25th July.
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** On 21st June they have a coffee morning for the Women's World Day of Prayer. They have a Hog Roast planned to celebrate Father David's 25 years as a priest.
- **Society of Friends:** They are preparing for the 'Annual Gathering' at Warwick University from 29th July to 5th August.

- ***St Mary's:*** Their building work continues and the Wednesday lunchtime concerts.
- ***Saffron Walden Community Church:*** The current focus for the leaders and congregation is to develop the vision for the future.

9. Any Other Business

- 8.1 United Service 21st January 2018:** The service will be at the Baptist Church and Jonathan Burton would be the speaker. The Covenant between the churches was last signed in 2013 so at this service there will be an opportunity for representatives from each church to re-sign.
- 8.2 Agape Meal 18th January 2018:** Caroline Vodden confirmed that they would be willing to host the Agape Meal.
- 8.3 URC Meeting Room in Newport:** Caroline shared that they have recently refurbished their property which is available to hire for small meetings. There will be Open Days when folk can have a look at the facilities on 29th June between 4.00 and 7.00 p.m. and on 1st July between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.
- 10. Date of Next Meetings**
- **14th September 2017**
 - **23rd November 2017**

Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer.