



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held on Thursday 14 September 2017 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), John Capper (Treasurer), Rev. David Tomlinson, Rachel Prior, Rev. John Goddard, Rev. Caroline Vodden, Kathryn Fiddock, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Suzan Bouton, and Stephen Rapkin.

It was good to welcome Rachel Prior to the meeting. Rachel is one of two new curates at St Mary's.

Opening devotions focused on some verses from Psalm 73 and Psalm 16. Where is our foundation, our security and our joy? Jonathan then opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Father David Clemens, Capt. Carol Baker, David Oelman and Val Bowtle.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.**
Added some additional items under Future Events and a discussion item about the Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan..
3. **Minutes of last meeting.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017 were approved and were signed.
- 4 **Matter Arising and Review of Events**
 - 4.1 ***Churches Together Leaflets:*** Rosemary confirmed that leaflets have already been provided:
 - To John Ready (S/W Initiative) for inclusion in the 'Welcome Packs'.
 - To the Tourist Information Office
 - To St Mary's, S W Community Church, and Abbey Lane URCRepresentatives from Our Lady of Compassion and the Society of Friends would take some today.
 - 4.2 ***More in Common on the Common (17th June):*** Despite the short notice about this event on the anniversary of the death of the MP Jo Cox, Caroline Vodden and Rosemary Timms had attended on behalf of CTSW. They were joined by some friends from the Community Church. It had been a popular event and there has been some talk about doing it again next year.
 - 4.3 ***VBS:*** Jonathan shared that this had been another very successful event and full to capacity. It had been encouraging that a number of parents had offered to help with setting up the site and with packing up afterwards. Financially, the aim is for parents to voluntarily contribute 50% of the funding. Jonathan would know whether this aim has been met and whether there was a shortfall or not at the next meeting. By far the biggest job involved in running this is the admin associated with the recruitment of enough volunteers. Members wished to congratulate everyone involved.
 - 4.4 ***Town Carnival 8th July:*** This had been a lovely day for the people of Saffron Walden to come together and celebrate everything that the town has to offer.

5. Finance

John confirmed that the annual subscriptions from all the churches have been received. There is a credit balance of £359 which should be sufficient to pay for the stall at the Late Night Shopping Evening and the publicity for the churches' Christmas Services.

John advised that there are two bank accounts and unfortunately Barclays did not update them both when he and Rosemary completed the new bank mandate. The meeting agreed that both the main account and the Christian Aid Account at Barclays Bank should be operated on the same basis i.e. either John or Rosemary would be the authorised signatories. John was now pursuing this.

6. Future Events

6.1 *Christian Aid Street Collection:* John had contacted the church Christian Aid reps to ask for volunteers to help with this collection which takes place between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 14th October.

6.2 *The Bundle: An Asylum Seeker's Story:* The Journeyman Theatre are performing this at the Quaker Meeting House at 7.30 p.m. There will be a Q & A sessions after the performance.

6.3 *Reformation Anniversary Events:*

- Wednesday 18th October @ S W Baptist Church at 8.00 p.m: A Public Talk by Dr Ian Randall "What can we learn from Martin Luther" All welcome.
- Sunday 15th October at 2.00 p.m. Rev Dr David Cornick speaking on "Reformations: What happened and why is it important" @ the URC church in Bishops Stortford.

6.4 *Remembrance Sunday – 12th November:*

As in previous years we will gather at the town war memorial for 11.00 a.m.

6.5 *Christmas 2017:*

- St Mary's Advent Service is on Sunday 3rd December
- Late Night Shopping is on Friday 1st December and it was agreed to book a stall. Suggestions for our stall would be welcome as the leaders would be exploring this more at their next meeting.

6.6 *Lent 2018:*

It was agreed that this year's sessions had been well received and the meeting would like the church leaders to plan something similar for next year.

7. News from Churches

- **URC:** Stephen shared that their good heritage open days had gone well and some good conversations had happened at this event which coincided with the Ride and Stride. They have a Bible Society Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th October from 10.00 a.m. Caroline shared that they are looking for a new cleaner.
- **St Mary's:** Phase One of the building work is almost complete. They have two new curates, John Saxon and Rachel Prior and their ordination at Chelmsford is on the 30th September..
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** They are starting a Sunday evening prayer service and they have a Parish Retreat on the 7th October. They are also having a Deanery Quiz Night.
- **Society of Friends:** They have a number of surplus tea plates dating back to 1914 produced by the Women's Christian Temperance Movement. They have recently been accredited as a living wage employer and are exploring being recognised as a Quaker Sanctuary Meeting.
- **Baptist Church:** A new meeting for prayer has been established on Sunday evenings. This coming Sunday the church will be having a Family Day at St Marks. The fortnightly Monday lunch club has re-started this month.

- **Saffron Walden Community Church:** There is to be an Alpha course starting in October and they hope to show the film “The Shack” sometime soon.
- **Salvation Army:** They have a special service this Sunday to celebrate 10 years sharing the site in Abbey Lane with the URC Church.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 **XL Mentoring – Saffron Walden**

Churches have been asked to make it known that they are looking for new mentors to help support the new Year 10 students. Anyone who might be interested should please come along to the next free training course: Thursdays 28th September, 5th, 12th and 19th October, 7.15pm, St Mary’s Parish Rooms. There’s no commitment.

8.2 **Street Pastors:** Jonathan shared that they are keen to recruit some new people. However the prayer sessions are open to all.

8.3 **UDC Young Foundation Initiative:** A group from the Young Foundation had been invited to the town by the District and County council to look at community needs and provision. Jonathan shared that he had been impressed when approached by someone from this group for a meeting. Jonathan shared with them what he knew about community work by the town churches and suggested they also approach the other church leaders.

8.4 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Stephen Rapkin introduced this item and an introductory paper had been circulated. The steering group is keen to consult the public and local interest groups as this is essential to the process and will give credibility to the plan. There may be individuals in our churches who would like to get involved and this would be most welcome. It was suggested that CTSW host a meeting of representatives from the churches to focus on community needs and social needs.

10. Date of Next Meeting

23rd November 2017

Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer.