



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held on Thursday 23 November 2017 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

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

Opening devotions focused on Ephesians 4: 1 – 6. Unity is vital even though we it will not be possible to agree on everything. Jonathan then opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Rev David Tomlinson, Rev. Caroline Vodden, Father David Clemens, Capt. Carol Baker and Helen O'Neill.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.**
No new items were added to the agenda
3. **Minutes of last meeting.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 were approved and were signed.
- 4 **Matter Arising and Review of Events**
 - 4.1 ***Christian Aid Collection:*** We have been collecting in Saffron Walden now for five years and this was the most successful yet raising £713.99.
 - 4.2 ***The Bundle: An Asylum Seeker's Story:*** This productions was very good and well attended.
 - 4.3 ***Reformation Anniversary Events:*** There were a number of events which were well received. Thanks were particularly expressed to John Goddard for organising the CTSW lecture given by Dr Ian Randle. A free will offering at this event was given to Ian as a thank you.
 - 4.4 ***Remembrance Sunday:*** This event is organised by the British Legion and was well supported again this year. It was cold and windy and some parading organisations could not hear when it started. Discussed whether a visual signal could be used to get everyone's attention at the start. Emma agreed to pass on the suggestion to the organisers.
 - 4.5 ***Neighbourhood Plan Input:*** There was a short time frame for responding to this. At the Church Leaders meeting they had prepared and agreed an input document which had been circulated for information earlier this week and submitted. Following a discussion it was apparent that this document did not have the unanimous support of everyone present and it was therefore agreed to clarify that this was the input from the CTSW leaders.
5. **Finance**
John confirmed that he has paid for the stall at Late Night Shopping £10 and that the balance is now £349.89. This will be sufficient to cover the cost of the Christmas Publicity advert.

John Goddard confirmed that Ged Pearce had been asked, and has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for the 2017 CTSW accounts.

6. Future Events

6.1 **Late Night Shopping 01/12/2017:** Grateful to Jonathan for agreeing to co-ordinate the stall for us this year. We have pitch 2 on King Street. We will be encouraging people

- to stop and share what Christmas means to them; and
- to take a picture from the lucky-dip bran tub; and
- display and discuss that image

Churches were asked to encourage people to support this by helping out and participating as well.

6.2 **Christmas Events:** It was agreed to put the joint advert in the Walden Local on the 6th December and churches were asked to submit details of their events to Lisa Knight so she can co-ordinate that for us. Posters for the following events were available at the meeting:

- **2nd December: URC Service of Remembrance for Advent @ 5.30 p.m.**
- **3rd December: St Mary's Advent Carol Service @ 6.30 p.m.**
- **6th December: Abbey Lane Guild Carol Service @ 3.00 p.m.**
- **12th December: Baptist Church EACH Carol Service @ 7.00 p.m.**

6.3 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018:**

- **Agape Meal on 18th January hosted by URC @ 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.:** Churches were asked to give Val Bowtle numbers expected to attend by the preceding Sunday.
- **Lunchtime Prayer event on 25th January hosted by Baptist Church @ 12.00 noon:** Churches were asked to give John Goddard numbers expected to attend.
- **United Service on 21st January hosted by Baptist Church @ 10.30 a.m.:** No changes to the wording of the covenant that was signed in January 2013 had been proposed. We plan to sign the Covenant during the service and churches were asked to confirm the name they wish to see on the document and ensure that their leader or a representative would attend to sign it. It was agreed that the offering would be split equally between Christian Aid and VBS. John shared that the plan for the service is that adults and children will be together for the first twenty minutes. There will then be activities in the church hall for pre-school children and those in the Reception Year. There may also be activities for primary school children in years 1 to 5. Churches were asked to feedback to John, the likely number of children in these age groups.

6.3 **Lent 2018:** The Leaders are planning a series of events on Wednesday evenings, focusing on the four gospels. These will be on February 21st and 28th and March 7th and 14th.

6.4 **'Try Praying' 2018:** Jonathan shared that the leaders are exploring encouraging churches to use the national Try Praying initiative sometime in 2018.

7. News from Churches

- **URC:** Stephen and Val shared some of their news and extended an invitation to their Remembrance Service for Advent and their Guild Carol Service.
- **St Mary's:** Kathryn shared that their building work has stopped over the Christmas period and reminded everyone of their Dickensian Christmas Fayre and their Advent Service.
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** Elizabeth shared that Father David's supper had been a great success. Their new Sunday evening prayer meeting is going reasonably well. Parking for events at the church is always difficult.

- ***Society of Friends:*** John Capper circulated information about a Death Café in their Tea Room on Saturday 27th January between 11.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Numbers are limited so please let Gill Parker know if you would like to attend.
- ***Baptist Church:*** John shared that there had been a Day of Prayer last weekend and that a Quiet Day is being planned in the Spring. On Thursday 8th February the Searchlight Theatre Company will be performing their 'Would you Adam and Eve It' production. More information and tickets will be available in due course.
- ***Saffron Walden Community Church:*** Jonathan shared that their building plans have been approved so they can now go on to the specification and tender stage. May have to worship elsewhere for a while when the work begins. They have been encouraged by a number of people taking a step of faith.
- ***Salvation Army:*** Val shared that they have plenty of offers of help to serve Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. They do have some spaces if the churches wish to nominate anyone to be invited.

8. **Any Other Business**

Nothing was raised.

9. **Future Dates**

Thanks were expressed for the 2018 timetable that had been prepared and circulated.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 8th February.

Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer.