



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Opening devotions were led by Caroline on Galatians.

Present: Rev. Caroline Vodden (Chair), Emma Turner (minutes), Rev. John Goddard, Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Rev. Jonathan Burton, Val Bowtle, Ted Jackson, Jean Mead, Kathryn Fiddock, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley and Margaret Hurst.

1. Apologies: were received from Rev. David Tomlinson, Father David Clemens, John Capper, Suzan Bouton and Rosemary Timms whose husband has suffered a stroke.
2. Consideration of the Agenda.  
An additional items was added to AOB – Interfaith
3. Minutes of last meeting.  
The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved and were signed.
4. Matter Arising and Review of Events
  - **Big shift campaign letter to HSBC:** A photograph of Caroline Vodden delivering the letter made it into the local press. Christian Aid reports that over 160 branches of HSBC branches were visited during Lent. There is a Climate Change event at Westminster on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Jean Mead is already attending, and others are welcome to join her. Jean is happy to be our representative.
  - **Good Friday Walk of Witness:** Our thanks go to John Goddard for organising this. The leaders have reviewed it and have no changes. The meeting had no comments or changes.
  - **Christian Aid Week:** Approximately £3,700 was collected which is similar to 2018 which is encouraging considering the number of collectors is declining. It helps that you can donate online.
  - **World Day of Prayer coffee morning:** Elizabeth Tindley reported that only around half a dozen attended but they still made in excess of £150.
  - **Thy Kingdom Come:** Helen O'Neill reported that they had received good feedback from St. Mary's & Thomas More schools, and they had for the first time a new group, called Prospects, from Faircroft. Some lovely prayers had been added to the prayer wall. The Sunday was not particularly well attended but some felt that the time was not particularly suitable. This will be reviewed for next year.
5. **Finance**  
John Capper was unable to be at the meeting and there was no report.
6. Future Dates

- **More in Common on the Common:** John Goddard has changed his plans so that CTSW will be able to be represented at this event on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He will set up the banner, will have some rugs out and will take along some nibbles to share with people. He will also take along some CTSW leaflets to give out. Please do join him if you are able.
- **VBS 2019:** The commissioning service takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm at the County High School. Please advertise this. The committee will be meeting next week.

7. News from Churches

- ***Society of Friends:*** Many had attended the annual meeting in London on ‘Power & Privilege.’ They were also reflecting on how diverse and inclusive membership is. They have a garden party and BBQ at the meeting house on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- ***Salvation Army:*** On 29<sup>th</sup> June they have an information day for volunteers which they hope will recruit more volunteers and then later in the day they have an afternoon tea for their current volunteers. There is currently a display in the library about this.
- ***St. Mary’s:*** Jenny Tomlinson was recently installed as Archdeacon of Birmingham. David is on sabbatical and currently cycling around Ireland. They have a flower festival 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August on the theme of ‘When the Saints go marching in.’ The lunchtime concerts are now on Wednesdays until July.
- ***Catholic Church:*** They recently had a confirmation service and the St. Vincent De Paul took a group to Audley End for afternoon tea. Father David has a new assistant.
- ***URC:*** On 14<sup>th</sup> July there will be a Sankey service at 3pm. All are invited. On Saturday mornings the church will be open for refreshments from 10-12pm and then folk are able to have a look at the finished building work. There will also be live music.
- ***Saffron Walden Community Church:*** They are still meeting at the Town Hall and this is going well and have had some visitors. All displaced groups have found temporary homes. Jonathan has some additional help in the form of a ministry leader.
- ***Baptist Church:*** Year 7’s from the High School are in the middle of their visits to places of worship around the town so the church has been particularly busy. The uniformed organisations are thriving, and parade services are well attended. At the last one we had several youths join our worship band. Our Lunch Club recently celebrated it’s 15<sup>th</sup> birthday! It runs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays and starts at 12.30 pm in the Lower Hall. Everyone is welcome. You can have up to 3 courses costing approximately £5 but you can just have 1 course.

8. Any Other Business

- ***Essex Police Independent Advisory Group:*** Jonathan Burton was asked if CTSW would like a representative to be a part of this group, which works with communities to see how best to police them taking on board a range of groups. Jonathan is happy to be our representative.
- ***Saffron Walden Bible Focus:*** This is arranged for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September on the theme ‘Who is Jesus?’
- ***Interfaith:*** Caroline Vodden was approached by a Muslim family who wanted to use the church hall during Ramadan to host Iftar feasts. Around 8-9 families (approx. 40 people) attended and they are hoping to open it up to others going forward. Caroline was pleased that they felt that they could go to them.

No other items were raised.

9. Dates of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Caroline closed the meeting with prayer remembering Rosemary Timms and her husband Geoff.

