



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Opening devotions were led by Caroline.

Present: Rev. Caroline Vodden (Chair), Emma Turner (Minutes), Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Rev. Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Kathryn Fiddock, Val Bowtle, Ted Jackson, Margaret Hurst, Bob & Kathy Pledger.

1. Apologies: were received from Rev. David Tomlinson, Father David Clemens, Rev. John Goddard, Suzan Bouton, Jean Mead, Elizabeth Tindley, Helen O'Neill and Rosemary Timms. News was shared of progress made by Geoff Timms.
2. Consideration of the Agenda.
5 additional items were added: Street Pastors, CTSW Gazebo, CT in Essex & East London, Assemblies Team (SWAT) & United Service
3. Minutes of last meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2019 were approved and signed.
4. Matter Arising and Review of Events
 - **More in common on The Common:** Although we were few in numbers it was agreed that it is better to have a presence and that numbers are not really noticeable as everyone is together on The Common. We should consider doing this again.
 - **VBS:** Jonathan reported that the final VBS had gone well but the finances are still being calculated. The committee will be meeting later in the month to discuss any suggestions or plans for the future. If you have any suggestions, please do pass them on. The CTSW council thanked the committee for the amazing contribution to the town and community and to Community Church for underwriting it all.
5. **Chair and Deputy Chair**
Kathryn informed the meeting that David Tomlinson is leaving St. Mary's and Saffron Walden to join his wife Jenny in Birmingham at the end of November.
Caroline stated that David was due to be Chair the year after next. John Capper has kindly agreed to deputise for another year but obviously we are looking for a Chair to take over from Caroline in 2021. Please pray about this and we will keep this on the agenda.
6. **Finance**
John Capper informed the meeting that we have £483.58 with one church still to pay their subs. We have slightly more than usual at this time of year. Current payments that are due is the Christmas advert in the press which is usually £185. A brief discussion took place as to whether

we use the surplus to support a good cause or reduce subscriptions for the year, but no decision was made.

7. Future Dates

- **Christian Aid street collection:** The collection takes place on 5th October. John Capper is looking into getting a Christian Aid speaker to talk with the reps prior to this. Jonathan asked if the fee for the speaker would come from CTSW. This will need to be looked at.
- **Street Pastors/Prayer Pastors:** On 9th October in the Town Hall there will be an information evening. (See AOB below)
- **Advent service:** This will be on 1st December at 6.30 pm and arrangements are in hand.
- **Late night shopping:** CTSW has booked a stall. Jonathan said that the Street Pastors would be happy to join with CTSW and do a joint stall. Although not officially CTSW, Street Pastors are supported across the churches and last year they had a stall near to CTSW. It was agreed that joining together would be a good idea but discussion with Joy Burton would need to take place to see how this would work as Street Pastors has parameters regarding Christian outreach. Jonathan will speak to Joy and feed back to the Ministers. The meeting was happy for the Ministers to make a decision. This should be reviewed next year.

7. News from Churches

- **Baptist Church:** The church building continues to be well used and John is looking forward to getting going with the autumn term. Harvest parade takes place on 13th October and these services continue to be very well attended. John attended the Boys' Brigade camp over the summer as Padre and had a great time on the Isle of Wight. Lunch Club has restarted and continues in good numbers.
- **Saffron Walden Community Church:** Worshipping at the Town Hall has been a blessing with new folk dropping in but they are glad to be going back into their refurbished building. They have a baptism on 13th October. Bob thanked all the churches for their support of VBS over the 50 years as we all have a responsibility to make the gospel available to young people in our town.
- **St. Mary's:** Approximately £9000 was raised from the recent flower festival which will be used for further alterations. The church will be open for the Heritage Day on Sunday. The recent bike race in the town affected church attendance and many businesses were affected due to poor signage and little information prior to the event. It was agreed that Caroline should write to the organisers to raise our concerns regarding advance notice, signage and earlier stewards.
- **Society of Friends:** The Meeting House will also be open on Sunday for Heritage Day and there will be a tour between 12-1pm. On Saturday 21st September 10-2pm, they are hosting an Eco-fair.
- **Salvation Army:** Over the summer due to personnel issues the shop had to reduce its opening hours and this has now knocked onto the Well café which is only open on a Tuesday from 1st October. On 30th November they are trialling a prayer walk for Advent. Others were interested in this but for now it is an Army event. Katrina informed the meeting that after discussion the Christmas day meal provided by the Salvation Army and their volunteers will not go ahead. Over half of those that attend are volunteers and they feel that the need just isn't there compared to the work involved. They will continue to provide gifts to needy families and they are continuing to work with the Foodbank and CAB.
- **URC:** They have had to have some major repairs to the hall floor but their harvest lunch should still take place there on Sunday. They have a church outing planned and their building will be open on Saturday as part of Heritage weekend and the Friends of Essex Churches' Ride & Stride.

9. Any Other Business

- ***Street Pastors:*** There is an open meeting on 9th October at 8pm in the Town Hall looking at the future of Street Pastors and how that will look in the future. It is hoped that churches will engage more with it and that we can have a town chaplaincy team. Please encourage folk to come along and hear all about what the Street & Prayer Pastors do and what they hope to do.
- ***CTSW Gazebo:*** CTSW purchased a gazebo some years back and it has been stored at the Baptist Church which is taking up precious storage space. As no current use could be identified for it, it was agreed that we would dispose of it.
- ***CTEEL:*** We have received information about the AGM for Churches Together in Essex & East London on 24th October at Chelmsford. Jonathan said he was sure that we were not actually part of Churches Together as we do not pay a subscription. This will be discussed at the Ministers meeting.
- ***SWAT:*** The Assemblies Team have lost 2 leaders and are looking for a 2 minute slot in each church's service to highlight their work. Val Bowtle will be in touch to organise this.
- ***United Service & Agape:*** 19th January at URC and the Agape meal is on 23rd at Friends.

9. Dates of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be Thursday 14th November 2019.

Caroline closed the meeting in prayer.