



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 13th February 2020 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton, Rosemary Timms, Rev. John Goddard, John Capper, Emma Turner, Jean Mead, Kathryn Fiddock, Ted Jackson, Margaret Hurst, , Elizabeth Tindley, Helen O'Neill.

In Caroline's absence Jonathan had agreed to chair the meeting.

The opening reading was taken from Revelation 8 focusing on silence. Jonathan opening the meeting with prayer after a period of silence.

1. Apologies: were received from Rev. Caroline Vodden, Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Father David Clemens, Suzan Bouton, Ted Jackson and Val Bowtle.
2. Consideration of the Agenda.
No additional items were added.
3. Minutes of last meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019 were approved and signed.
4. Matter Arising and Review of Events
 - **Late Night Shopping:** Street Pastors and CTSW had shared a stall at this event. Jonathan was asked to check whether Street Pastors were comfortable with this approach? There was also a discussion about whether we might carol sing, for perhaps an hour, rather than man a stall for 3 hours. We would need more volunteers but for a shorter period.
 - **United Service @ URC:** This was very well attended. The collection raised £814 which was split between Christian Aid and the Stort Valley Schools Trust. The next annual united service will be on 24th January 2021 at the Baptist Church.
 - **Agape Meal:** Thanks were expressed to the Friends for hosting this and forwarding £331 to Christian Aid. Agreed the hosting church should decide what day in the Week of Prayer to hold the Agape Meal. In 2021 it is due to be hosted by Our Lady of Compassion.
 - **VBS:** Jonathan Burton shared that there are no plans for an event in 2020 but the committee are yet to decide whether they can organise something in 2021. The balance in hand is a little over £9,000. If it is decided not to organise a children's event they have agreed to donate the funds to a similar charity working on taking the gospel to children and young people.
 - **Saffron Walden Grand Prix:** Caroline had contacted the overall organiser of this event to express concern about road closures and access to church services and had received a response acknowledging these concerns. Understand that this event will be taking place again in August 2020.
 - **General Election Hustings:** Thanks were expressed to all those involved in arranging this and hosting it including the chair.

5. Future Dates

- **World Day of Prayer – 6th March:** This will be at 10.30 in St Mary's Parish Rooms and coffee will be served afterwards. The materials have been produced by some women in Zimbabwe this year.
- **Lent Groups:** Revised posters were available as the venue for the session on 18th March had changed. The theme is 'The Cross' and dates and themes had been included on the agenda.
- **Good Friday Walk of Witness:** John Goddard had agreed to organise this again on the same basis as last year. Last year Katrina had organised a group of people to carry the cross and Rosemary was asked to contact Katrina and ask if she would do this again this year. Understood that Steve Hasler normally made sure the cross was available and he would be asked if he would do that again this year.
- **Christian Aid Week:** This will be from 10th to 16th May 2020. John Capper does not know who at St Mary's he should liaise with.

6. Easter 2020

Joint Advert: Rosemary confirmed she would contact Lisa Knight to ask if she would co-ordinate this again.

7. Finance

- **2019 Accounts:** John circulated the 2019 accounts which had been independently examined by Ged Pearce again this year. The balance carried forward into 2020 was £299.36. The total given to Christian Aid in 2019 was £4,131.54.
- **Christian Aid Collection (@Tesco) – 27th February:** Churches had been asked to publicise this collection and encourage people to volunteer.

8. News from Churches

- **Baptist Church:** John shared that this year the 1st Saffron Walden Boys Brigade are celebrating their 40th anniversary. On a personal note John would be taking a sabbatical between May and July this year.
- **Saffron Walden Community Church:** They will not be using the Town Hall over the summer as they had planned but will do so for occasional services, the first of which is May 10th. They are trialling using St Mary's School for their children's work to give them more space. They will have a baptismal service on the 3rd May and are planning a 2 day 24 hour prayer event in April.
- **St. Mary's:** They will be interviewing for a Rector in May. Their Tinies group is now meeting on Tuesday mornings rather than Tuesday afternoons and have more mums and toddlers as a result.
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** Father John Garrett, the previous Father, died yesterday. They have a Healing Service coming up and their Youth Group have an outing to Norfolk planned.
- **Society of Friends:** At Christmas they supported a Quaker Homeless shelter in London. On 7th March they have an invited speaker who is leading a day on "Quakers and the Bible".
- **URC:** Caroline and her husband Paul are very much in their prayers at this time and they are grateful to have the support of a Lay Preacher/Probationer. They have a "Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion" at 2pm on Saturday 28th March.

9. Any Other Business

Nothing added

10. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 30th April 2020.

Jonathan closed the meeting in prayer and included Father John Garrett and Caroline and Paul Vodden in those prayers.