

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 24 April 2014
Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Present: John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Jonathan Burton, Kathryn Fiddock, Lydia Smith, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham, Matt Williamson and Robert Wiseman

The meeting opened with a short prayer of silence during which No.4 of Quaker Advices and Queries was read.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies received from Carol Baker, Jackie Bartlett Val Bowtle, John Goddard
2. **Consideration of the Agenda.** Update on VBS. See item 11
3. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2014 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising.**
 - (a) **Agape Meal 2015.** This will be held at the Friends Meeting House.
 - (b) **Walk of Witness.** This was a good walk, reverent and quiet. The pace of walking was rather fast for some walkers and thus a division between groups was caused. It was mentioned that perhaps for the future a "Jesus" figure at the head might be impressive and also for the CTSW banner to be used. Marshalling was good and the Police were happy, although concern was raised regarding Church members being responsible for this role without a Police presence. High visibility jackets bought for CTSW and were worn by the Marshalls.
 - (c) **Women's World day of Prayer.** This was good and well attended. Next year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at the Friends Meeting House on 6 March 2015.
5. **Public Liability Insurance**

Enquiries were made regarding Public Liability Insurance. It was felt that the Methodist Insurance plc policy was the most suitable for CTSW offering an annual policy with a limit of indemnity of £5,000,000. The policy provides cover in respect of the following activities:

 - (a) Usual regular management meetings of Churches Together
 - (b) Up to three major events a year including Walk of Witness at Easter, Pentecost Parades and carol singing at Christmas.
 - (c) Up to three other awareness raising events either organised by another body e.g. Carnival committee or village fete or an event organised by Churches Together where there are less than 250 people attending.

The Policy has been taken out on an annual basis and the Policy document is held by the Treasurer.
6. **Finance Report.**

Cheques issued are: £68.90 for Insurance. High visibility jackets: £12.25 Easter publicity in the local press: £185.00. Thanks have been sent to Lisa Knight for organising this.

This leaves a balance of £141.56. Subscriptions from Churches will be forthcoming during the next few months.
7. **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid week is 11 – 17 May 2014. John has all the necessary materials.
8. **Pentecost.** There is no Churches Together event this year. However, Steve Murray, a Mime Artist, has been booked for Pentecost next year – 22 May 2015. He requires a stage so enquiries will be made of the Friends School for their hall, as previously used. A confirmation letter from CTSW will also be sent to Steve.
Further information regarding this on attached document. **ACTION: JC**
9. **Uttlesford Food Bank.**

Rebecca Cushway has been appointed Project Co-ordinator. A launch is planned for 9 June 2014.

10. Youth Worker Report.

Plans for the Revolution Youth Service are well in hand. Dates are: 7 June, 27 September and 22 November 2014 to be held at the Baptist Church 7 – 9 p.m. for youngsters aged 12-18 years. They have 20 volunteers for each evening and the plan is to have a snack bar/café, a welcome messy game, DJ worship and then contemporary music worship. Three good, enthusiastic speakers are booked and other Youth Groups in the district are to be invited. This is going to be an exciting project.

11. (a) VBS Update. Training Weekend 30 May –1 June 2014. St Mark's College, Audley End

The training weekend is open to young people aged 14-18 years who are planning to be young helpers at this year's VBS and is open to other young helpers from Churches around Essex. The aim is to grow a group of young helpers to train together as a team to be the best possible help to VBS and to other Churches in Essex.

The programme will include sessions on:

Leadership lessons from Jesus.

Working as part of a team

Safeguarding

God's great commission

How can I use what I've learned

God's love for his people

What makes a good leader/helper.

Breakdown budgets attached to minutes.

11. (b) News from Churches

St Mary's: Worship and music at Easter was very good. Sadness at the death of Christopher Warren.

Baptist Church: Liz and Sergio's Commissioning Service shortly. Services have increased to include afternoon/evening services. Celtic service once a month; songs of praise service, alternative services of praise and worship and a cluster service with other Baptists in the district once a month.

Methodist Church: The Church has officially closed although the building is still being used by hirers and this will continue until the building is sold. All agreed that the closing service in the church was lovely.

Roman Catholic: Women's World Day of prayer very successful with 80 people attending. An evening discussion with Father Bob Eccles of Blackfriars, Cambridge is to be held on 13 May at 8 p.m. in the Catholic Parish Hall. All welcome. Four parishioners are to walk from St Jean pied de Port, France to Santiago de Compostella, Spain in support of E.A.C.H. Coffee morning at Bartletts on 4 June .

Gold Street: Spring question church now finished – plans being made for autumn. Monthly Friday lectures continue and outreach in the community offering various options continues. ***URC:*** Very pleased to have friends from the Methodist Church joining with four being taken into membership on Easter Sunday. A 'Preacher with a View' weekend during first weekend in May within the Pastorate and taking place over three days.

Society of Friends: On Friday 25 April a talk on conscientious objectors during First World War at 7.30 p.m. Saffron Walden Society of Friends is piloting what will become a National project in conjunction with English Heritage looking at Meeting Houses.

SWAT annual report required for next meeting in June.

12. Date of Next Meeting –19 June 2014

The meeting ending with a short period of silent worship.

Future Dates for 2014

Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	9 May
Christian Aid Week	12-18 May
Church Leaders Business Meeting	6 June
Pentecost	8 June
Council Meeting	19 June
Church Leaders Business Meeting	11 July
Church Leaders Business Meeting	5 September
Council Meeting	25 September
Church Leaders Prayer Meeting	17 October
Church Leaders Business Meeting	7 November
Remembrance Sunday	9 November
United Nations Service	
Council Meeting	20 November
Advent Service	30 November
Minister's Lunch	11 December

Note: Church Leaders Business and Prayer Meetings at 18 Landscape View 09.00 – 10.00 (subject to confirmation).

2015 Dates:

United Service, Baptist Church: 18 January 2015
Agape Meal – Friends Meeting House : 22 January 2015
Women's World Day of Prayer
Friends Meeting House: 6 March 2015