

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN MEETING
held on Thursday 27 February 2014
Abbey Lane and Newport United Reformed Church, Saffron Walden

Present: John Capper (Chair), Margaret Snowdon (Secretary), Clive Brooker (Treasurer), Jacqueline Bartlett, Val Bowtle, Kathryn Fiddock, John Goddard, David Keeble, Meg Nettle, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley and Robert Wiseman

The meeting opened with a short prayer of silence during which No.5 of Quaker Advices and Queries was read.

1. Apologies. Apologies received from Carol Baker, Jonathan Burton, David Tomlinson, Emma Turner, Berry Wareham and Jean Wheeler.

In her letter of apology, Jean Wheeler confirmed her resignation from the Council due to the forthcoming closure of the Methodist Church. She sent wishes for the Council's future success and thanked members for their friendship over the years.

2. Consideration of the Agenda. No further matters.

3. Minutes of last meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

(a) Christmas late night shopping. The "VIP Red Carpet" event had proved successful. It was a friendly, involved event and well received with a wide age range of people participating. Not appropriate to repeat this event.

(b) United Service. An excellent service, well attended although the number of children attending was small. It was felt that perhaps the timing of the service for the children needed to be looked at. Next year's united service will be held at the Baptist Church on 18 January 2015.

(c) Agape Meal. A lovely evening with about 50 people attending. Next year's Agape date is 22 January 2015 and possibly to be held at the Friends Meeting House. **ACTION: tbc**

5. Walden Walks. No report available.

6. Finance Report.

A copy of the 2013 annual accounts having been previously circulated to all members, they were approved by Council members.

Since the last meeting:	£185.00 for Christmas advert in the Walden Local.
Collection of the united service:	£885.30. £442.65 to Christian Aid. £442.65 to Food Bank.
Balance of account now:	£347.71

Christian Aid extras:

Methodist Church Christmas Lunch:	£105.70
URC Christmas collection:	£209.48
Agape meal:	<u>£150.00</u>
Total to Christian Aid:	£907.83

Thanks were expressed to Clive Brooker for all his hard work in maintaining the accounts.

7. Easter Events.

(a) No joint lent groups this year as no co-ordinator available. Therefore Churches will be organising their own individual groups. The Baptist Church is starting a discussion group at 8 p.m. in the Church on 12 March 2014. The Friends are starting on Friday 28 February to look at letters of Conscientious Objectors. Everyone welcome to join any group.

(b) Publicity

An item raised during last year's Council meetings was to explore the possibility of a leaflet drop with the Walden Local to all areas. Prices had been obtained, and after discussion it was agreed to follow the format of previous years and take an advert again in the Walden Local. Lisa Knight to be asked to undertake this.

ACTION: MAS

(Later: Lisa agreed and Church Leaders have been asked to provide her with relevant information)

(c) Walk of Witness

A meeting of church representatives was held on 19 February 2014 to discuss this event. Minutes of that meeting will be circulated with these minutes. **ACTION: MAS**

If Carol Baker unable to obtain a sound system the SWAT has one available, used in previous years. Secretary to inform Carol of this. **ACTION: MAS**

Discussion ensued as to why the Market Square can no longer be used.

Secretary to research this and possibly contact Rev Murray George. **ACTION: MAS**

The question of Liability Insurance was raised and the Council's responsibility for this.

The Chairman to explore further. **ACTION: JC**

Later: information obtained and forwarded to Church Leaders for their views.

8. Pentecost. There is no Churches Together event this year. Val Bowtle knew of a one man "mime" act and volunteered to research and obtain costs. **ACTION: VB**

Later: Steve Murray www.beholdministry.co. DVD available. Saturday or Sunday event? Any views as this might make a difference to cost.

9. Uttlesford Food Bank.

A recruitment and information evening is scheduled for 3 March 2014 at the Salvation Army hall at 7.30 p.m. A Project Manager is required.

10. Stort Valley Trust Prayer Walk 6 March 2014

The Trust is having a prayer walk around Saffron Walden to pray for children and youth and the work going on in Saffron Walden. The walk will start at the Well at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to finish at 12 noon.

11. Youth Worker Report. No report available.

The SWAT team is holding a coffee morning to raise awareness of their work on 19 March 2014 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Abbey Lane.

A revolution youth work event organised between St Mary's and the Baptist Church and aimed at Secondary school children is taking place on four Saturday evenings starting 29 March 2014.

12. Schedule for Annual Reports.

It was agreed at a Church Leaders Business Meeting that events supported by Churches Together but led by one or two churches should report not only to the Leader's meeting but also to the Council meeting.

Thus – a report from *Street Pastors* for the September Council meeting. A report from the *SWAT* team for June and *Stort Valley Trust* for November Council meetings.

The *Besom* project has problems and is unlikely to be in a position to give a report.

13. News from Churches

St Mary's: Coffee cake and company meetings taking place on Sunday afternoons supporting people with mental problems. **Baptist Church:** Looking forward to welcoming young people who have been on a six week mission in Thailand. **URC.** Coffee morning 01.03.14 on behalf of Street Pastors and Church funds. In process of finding new Minister for the vacancy. Looking forward to the Methodists joining on Easter Sunday.

Methodist Church: Very busy tying up loose ends due to closure of the Church. 116 people due at the final service on Palm Sunday. No movement on sale of building. Looking forward to "resurrection" with URC.

Roman Catholic: Women's World Day of prayer to be held on Friday 7 March 2014.

Society of Friends: After a three year tenure a change of Clerk – now Jackie Bartlett. Discussing and supporting *End Hunger Fast* campaign www.endhungerfast.co.uk.

14. Date of Next Meeting –24 April 2014

Thanks were extended to Meg Nettle and Jean Wheeler for their long commitment as representatives of the Methodist Church to the Council. Meg stated that she had enjoyed being on the Council as had Jean in her letter of resignation.

The meeting ended with a short period of silence.

Future Dates for 2014

VBS Sunday	2 March
Women's World Day of Prayer – R.C. Church	7 March
Church Leaders Prayer meeting	14 March
Church Leaders Business meeting	4 April
Holy Week commencing	13 April
Council Meeting	24 April
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 – venue tbc: 22 January 2015