



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 19 April 2018 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), John Capper (Treasurer), Rev. John Goddard, Suzan Bouton, Kathryn Fiddock, Ted Jackson, Jean Mead, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner and Stephen Rapkin.

Jonathan extended a warm welcome to Jean who was attending her first meeting as a representative from Saffron Walden Community Church.

Opening devotions were led by Jonathan focusing on Colossians 3 v 17

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him".

1. Apologies: were received from Rev David Tomlinson, Father David Clemens, Capt. Carol Baker, Rev. Caroline Vodden and Val Bowtle.
2. Consideration of the Agenda.
No items were added.
3. Minutes of last meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2018 were approved and were signed.
4. Matter Arising and Review of Events
 - a) **Late Night Shopping:** We submitted some feedback to the proposal and have since been advised that the event will not move from a Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon.
 - b) **VBS Sunday** (February): Jonathan thanked the churches for encouraging their members to offer to help again this year. Applications from children have opened and they are looking for more offers of help.
 - c) **Women's World Day of Prayer:** There were about 40 people which was very good and thanks were expressed to the URC for hosting this service this year. It will be at St Mary's next year on the last Friday in March.
 - d) **Lent 2018:** The four sessions focusing on the four gospels approach to the Cross were very much appreciated and well attended. Hopefully something could be organised during Lent next year.
 - e) **Good Friday Walk of Witness** (30th March): Thanks were expressed to David and to John for organising it again on the same basis as 2017. There was a suggestion that more people share in the carrying of the cross and churches were invited to publicise this beforehand next year.
5. Finance
John Capper advised that after paying for the Easter Services Advert, the balance in the account is £129.18. Contributions from the churches will be received over the next couple of months.

6. Future Events

a) **Try Praying Initiative:** Jonathan Burton and John Goddard briefly shared where their churches are with this project.

Ted Jackson commented that the “trypraying” on the A2 poster supplied was not large enough. Jonathan said he would feed this back to trypraying.

b) **Christian Aid Week** (13 – 19 May): John confirmed that for a number of years it has not been possible to get enough volunteers to collect in every road unfortunately. St Mary’s did share that some of the collectors last year faced some unpleasantness which is also very unfortunate.

c) **Pentecost** (20 May): Confirmed that there would not be a churches together event this year.

7. News from Churches

- **URC:** They were pleased to welcome three new members on Easter Sunday. Caroline Vodden is on sabbatical at the moment. They have a coffee morning in aid of the St Clare Hospice in May.
- **St Mary’s:** Building work is continuing inside the church. They have a Come and Sing event on 2nd June.
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** They are continuing with their Sunday evening prayer service.
- **Society of Friends:** They have another Death Café on 21st April. On Sunday 23rd there will be an afternoon tea at Biddy Vousden’s home to raise funds to support refugees.
- **Baptist Church:** Very pleased to be able to offer our church for a baptismal service for a Boys Brigade boy whose family attend St Mary’s. Have a Coffee morning on 28th April in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. John extended an open invitation to join us on 16th July when Simon Woodman is speaking on the Book of Revelation.
- **Saffron Walden Community Church:** Jonathan shared that they have had a baptismal service. They are reviewing the tenders for their refurbishment project. Jean shared that they are planning a Tear Fund Service

8. Any Other Business

No items raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14th June.

Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer.