



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Thursday 13 September 2018 at Abbey Lane United Reformed Church

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton (Chair), Rosemary Timms (Secretary), Rev. John Goddard, Rev David Tomlinson, Father David Clemens, Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Rev. Caroline Vodden, John Capper, Suzan Bouton, Val Bowtle, Kathryn Fiddock, Ted Jackson, Jean, Helen O'Neill, Elizabeth Tindley, Emma Turner.

Katrina Thurlow was welcomed to her first Churches Together Meeting.

Opening devotions were led by Jonathan focusing on Galatians and our call to faithfully follow our calling to follow Christ. As Christians from local Churches there is both unity and diversity.

1. Apologies: were received from Jean Mead, and Stephen Rapkin.
2. Consideration of the Agenda.
Added Christian Aid Street Collection on 13 October under Future Dates.
3. Minutes of last meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2018 were approved and were signed.
4. Matter Arising and Review of Events
GDPR and CTSW Website: Following consideration of the issues and the suggestions circulated by Jonathan, some updates and changes to the CTSW website were agreed. Jonathan would contact the website manager to effect these changes.

Members of CTSW confirmed their consent to their names being included in CTSW Minutes, which are available from the CTSW website. Going forward, careful consideration will be given before including names of individuals in the minutes who are not CTSW members.

5. Chair and Deputy Chair
The following proposal from the Leaders was agreed:
 - **2019 Chair Rev. Caroline Vodden and Deputy Chair John Capper**
 - **2020 Chair Rev. Caroline Vodden and Deputy Chair Rev. David Tomlinson**
 - **2021/2 Chair Rev. David Tomlinson**

Rosemary confirmed that she was willing to continue to serve as Secretary and this was welcomed and agreed.

6. Finance
John Capper had confirmed that the balance in the account is £506.38 and all subs are now in from the local churches. This should cover any anticipated costs associated with the Late Night Shopping event and our Christmas publicity in the local paper.

7. Future Dates and Events

- **Christian Aid Street Collection 13th October:** We ordinarily collect between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and will be looking for volunteers from the churches.
- **Late Night Shopping on 30th November:** Our stall has been booked on the understanding that it is valuable for Churches Together to be seen at this Christmas event. Jonathan would welcome suggestions to focus on this year.
- **Women's World Day of Prayer 1st March 2019:** Please note that the venue will be S W Community Church (not St Mary's).
- **Lent 2019:** The proposal from the Church leaders is that we invite local speakers again and that our focus is 'Women of the Gospels'. The dates are 13th, 20th, 27th March and 3rd April and venues and speakers will be confirmed in due course.
- **Pentecost 2019:** David shared that St Mary's will focus on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' national prayer event in the period between Ascension and Pentecost. The elements of this are Mission, Evangelism and Witness and people coming to faith in Christ. The proposal from the Leaders was that we join in with this event and get involved with the event planned for the 9th June and this was agreed at the meeting.
- **Speaker on 'Modern Slavery' 29th November:** John Goddard shared that he has invited a speaker to share his experiences of modern slavery in Southend. Publicity details will be available shortly and all would be most welcome.

8. News from Churches

- **URC:** Last weekend the church were involved in Heritage Day events and this weekend have a Harvest Supper to which Girls Brigade members and families have been invited. There will be a joint service, with the Salvation Army, on 23rd September with a speaker from Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- **Salvation Army:** Katrina shared that it was good to be here and thanked the Leaders for the warm welcome she has received.
- **St Mary's:** On Saturday at 3.00 p.m. there will be service of ordination for a number of new curates and Deacons. An exciting new opportunity were created with a new Organ Scholarship and this has been taken up. On Wednesday 26th September they have a character comedy sketch show by Anna Nicholson entitled 'Woman of the Year'. Tickets available on www.eventbrite.co.uk
- **Our Lady of Compassion:** They are pleased to have a Youth Leader for their youth group. Churches were invited to confirm how many Christmas posters they would like this year.
- **Society of Friends:** They have a Heritage Open Day this Sunday. A senior staff member of 'Quakers in Britain' leads an exploration of Quaker spirituality between 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. on 5th October. They will lay a wreath of white poppies at the war memorial on Remembrance Day which is the 11th November, honouring those who died in times of war who were not directly in the fighting forces.
- **Baptist Church:** We have a new initiative on Thursday evenings which hopes to encourage people to get together and engage in a number of different activities including a Bible Book Club, Challenging Faith discussion, looking at Jesus in the Movies and Games Evenings. Looking ahead, we have booked Searchlight Theatre Company who will bring their Christmas Production to Saffron Walden on the 20th December. Publicity to follow in due course.

- **Saffron Walden Community Church:** Their congregation continues to grow and they have agreed to pursue their plans to appoint a second minister. They are holding a service on 7th October in the Town Hall which may be their temporary home during the building work.

8. Any Other Business

- **Uttlesford Foodbank:** The usage in the period June 2017 – June 2018 has gone up considerably (by 48%). The roof at New Life Church is need of repair and so the Foodbank is looking for temporary accommodation elsewhere in order for that to happen.
- **VBS:** A review meeting takes place this week and Jonathan would report back following this meeting and appreciate our prayers that wise decisions will be made going forward.

No other items were raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 22nd November

Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer.