



Minutes of the Churches Together Meeting held on Monday 25 January, 2016

Those present:

Richard Norburn (All Saints)	Joyce Norburn (All Saints)	Martin Tilley (URC)
Claire Rose (All Saints)	Paul Doswell (Salvation Army)	Graham Barratt (SA)
Adrian Mann (North Bury Team/BECT)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)	Regina Collender (St Eds)
Clare Mellor (Trinity)	Debbie Borda (Trinity)	David Wakeford (Trinity)
Robert Green (Garland Street)	Richard Stephens (Vineyard/Kairos)	Peter Gibson (Southgate)
Gerda Tooley(Southgate)	Christine Atkins (German Lutheran)	Caroline Baker (Cathedral)
Matt Rushby (BCY)	Andrew Caldecott (CVM)	Mary Soman (Vineyard)
Gillian Trinder (North Bury Team)	Rosemary Clare (Garland Street)	Marian Shaw (Cathedral)
Andrew Soman (Vineyard)	Jenny Troll (St Marys)	

1. **Welcome** – Andrew welcomed us to the meeting
Reading – Andrew read from John 13 regarding Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. Jesus was a servant to others and we need to be servants as well.
Prayer – Andrew prayed
2. **Apologies:**
Malcom Rogers (St Marys), Gill Shaw, Elaine Colechin (Whiting Street), Jill Seggar (Quakers), Mallie Sharpe, Irene Hendley (Just Traid), Geoff Birkby (Cathedral), Christine Tindall
3. **Minutes of last meeting (AGM) of 7 October 2015** - approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman after being proposed by David Wakeford and seconded by Adrian Mann.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - i) Week of Christian Unity – Andrew gave thanks to Paul Tyler of St George’s Church and also the churches who hosted the meetings during the week.
 - ii) Christmas Fayre service – Andrew thanked those who organised this, Nick Alexander who spoke and Paul and team for leading worship.
 - iii) Minutes for Churches Together meeting – Andrew thanked Martin Tilley for taking the minutes of this meeting for many years. A small gift was given to Martin. Andrew thanked Jenny in her new role as Secretary, including sending out the monthly Prayer and Praise sheets.
5. **Finance Report** – Claire Rose gave her report:
 - i) Claire had sent out accounts today.
 - ii) £232.52 had been split between Town Pastors and Christians in the Workplace
 - iii) Presently have 23 churches on records.
 - iv) Kingsgate Church – Claire had not heard from them. Stressed that if no-one from churches is in the google group then the information will not be sent to that church.
6. **CVM – Andrew Caldecott**
Andrew Caldicott advised that he had retired to this area some years ago. He is the Area Co-ordinator for CVM (Christian Vision for Men). There have been 50 area co-ordinators appointed since October in the whole country. AC is the BSE

representative. There is a 3 day event "The Gathering" for men in June, Sizewell weekend in March and golf events in May. The focus is to get men into the church. AC advised that there is a facebook page for BSE. AC asked us to read Romans 12 v 6.

7. **United Nations Peace Day – 21 September 2016 – Clare Mellor**

Clare advised that she would like:

- i) support for the United Nations Peace Day – to cease fire on one day of the year. Question: "who are you going to make peace with today?" She would like to mark the day in BSE – inter faith/civic/ecumenical. Something for young people.
- ii) Sunday 25 September – human daisy chain of hope going between the two warm memorials. 300 metres from Superdrug to Angel Hill – 320 people plus 320 people back up again. Clare has the support of the incoming Mayor – Julia Wakelam – and also the support of the cathedral. It was suggested that the upper schools are contacted.

8. **Good Friday – Robert Green**

- i) Things have become more difficult. There had been many discussions about the Passion Play but due to a number of problems the play will not happen this year. Instead the idea is for churches to walk together to the Cathedral for a service. Malcolm Rogers is contacting the staff at the Cathedral to discuss the content of the service. 10.30 service at Cathedral. No road closures. Hot cross buns at the Baptist Church as usual afterwards but there are discussions about this. If the event ends in the Abbey Gardens the Salvation Army is happy to provide the music. Wording for the event could be "Perhaps you might like to walk together to the Cathedral for a service".
- ii) Passion Play – very disappointing that this is not happening. For next year more planning is needed. To pray about this. Schools are up for this event.

9. **Bury Drop In - Robert Green**

This centre opened in September and up to today there have been 41 guests, some come only once, some more often. There were 17 in January. People seek help for different reasons – finance/clothing/health/housing/food. There are over 50 volunteers, mainly from churches. They have recently registered as a charity and now arrange gift aid on giving. They are seeking funding on a regular basis. Finance is looking good at the moment. Would like to extend reach of the drop In – possibly another day eg Fridays and Tuesdays. Need to continue to recruit volunteers. Have been having friendly press reports. Mayor entered into the spirit of things on his visit. Now changing leadership structure to a management team. There is the question about separate facilities for men and women. Also whether there will be a night shelter but that would be a big step up.

10. **Share & Study Groups: David**

David advised that these would be held on Wednesdays – 20 April – 11 May, All Saints Church – 7.00 cake and drink. Have now finalised speakers:

- Matt Rushby – Ministry to young people (children)
Joel Foyster – Ministry in the workplace
Graham Jack – Ministry to families
Sharon Connell (St Nicholas Hospice) – unsure of title

11. **Brief Reports:**

Just Traid: JT read out report sent in by Irene: "We are pleased to have appointed an Assistant Manager, who started, on probation with us at the beginning of January. Pippa Judd is

giving us a trial because of the flexibility and the Voluntary aspects of the job as she has a 6 year old. We had good sales in the café and shop for the Christmas Fair and over Christmas, and had a record number of people through the café on the Saturday of the Christmas Fair - 181. (previous number 165.) We will be marking Fairtrade Fortnight with a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 8th February this year. There is the possibility of free chocolate for tasting!"

Christian Aid: No-one present to give report.

BECT: Adrian Mann – gentle upward graft.

Fair Trade: Mon 22/2 – 7/3. Big breakfast. Display in library. Moving forward.

12. **Prayer Breakfasts:**

Andrew reported that in November Nick Alexander spoke at St Peters and it was a good time.

6 February – Ian Howells – 8-10.00 am Time Out Restaurant, West Suffolk Hospital. Andrew asked for one in April/May time. Eilish will get back to us. (Since meeting arrangement is St Edmunds Church, 9 April, 8-9.45 am.)

13. **Chairman position:**

Andrew Soman has been chairman for two years in July. Usually the position is for two years. However Andrew is prepared to extend his service for another year after praying about this. If anyone wishes to take on the job then he is happy to stand down. Unanimous for Andrew to continue.

14. **Date of next Committee meeting:**

Monday 11 April at 7.30pm at Garland Street Baptist Church

15. **Come Together**

Friday 26 February - Prayer event - Worship together. Emphasis on prayer.

Christchurch Moreton Hall. 7.30 pm (7.00 pm refreshments)

18 June – Summer event – Pastor Sujith from Christian Resource Centre speaking.

7.00 pm St Marys/

16. **A.O.B:**

1) Christian Unity – 3 ministers would like to re-establish the exchange of ministers which had been done in the past. David Wakeford would contact Geoff for contacts. Robert Green said we need to know if ministers would like to do this. The Sunday morning of the week of Christian unity could be a good idea. Also need the subject to be spoken about at the Ministers' lunch. Andrew to e-mail via Google Group after hearing from David.

2) Advent greeting – Claire said this is at present in the week of the Christmas Fair. She suggested that this is done on 2nd Sunday. David to speak with Geoff about this as well.

3) Methodist modern art group – Claire brought this up as this is coming to Bury next year. Works include Elizabeth Frinkl etc. Debbie (Minister at Trinity) said that St Johns/Trinity/Cathedral were having paintings. Debbie has taken ownership of this project. Finance and marketing has to be thought about. Would Churches Together steward the project? And also consider financing? No entry price but donations welcome. Could cost up to £5000.

4) Jonathan Veira – Saturday 27 February – Southgate Church. £10 pp.

5) Cathedral Lent talks – details would be sent to google group members.

6) Syrian refugees – Caroline advised that the refugees would be arriving in Ipswich in 6/7 weeks' time. She would like the people of Suffolk to know more about the situation in Syria.

7) Holocaust – Mary advised re service on Wednesday 27 January, 10.30 am in Abbey Gardens. Refreshments after the service.

- 8) Andrew Caldecott asked three questions that have been highlighted by Christian Vision for men. He will be asking for replies via Googlegroup –
 - i) how do we hear good in the modern world?
 - ii) how do we relate to God today?
 - iii) what are we doing today re male suicide?He would like our responses.
- 9) Who Cares? – Matt said he was going to a meeting on Thursday in Ipswich about this – a mission opportunity. What is the hardest thing you have to deal with? 18000 responses in Norfolk and it is hoped that this will happen in Suffolk in 2017. Website – www.who-cares.uk. Andrew asked Matt for feedback at the next meeting.
17. **Closing Prayer:** We prayed in small groups about the issues that arose during our meeting.

Meeting ended at 9.25 pm.