



Minutes of a Churches Together Meeting

Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm on 'Zoom'

Welcome: Heather Corbell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, offered prayer, and read from Isaiah 26:20, Luke 13: 18 - 21 and Col.3:3. She reflected on life during lockdown and how the Kingdom of God continues to grow in spite of churches and activities looking closed. HC thanked Eilish Heath for taking the Minutes, and reminded everyone that reports should be sent to Eilish by email.

Present: Heather Corbell (HB) Eilish Heath and Anna Parminter (StEd) David Bonnett (BDI)Gavin Moss (BCY) Jonathan Ford and Andrew Caldecott(CHMH) David Wakeford Debbie Borda and Catrin de Verres (TM) Helen Moore and Gerda Emery (S) Andy Williams (StP) Julie and Will Farrant and Sharon Stevens (WB) Nic Wright (Q) Peter Sebbage (BB) Sally McDermott (V) Laura Pope (StM) Mary and Andrew Soman WCC) Martin Tilley (URC) Pam Pitts (C) Rosemary Clare (GStB) Claire Rose (AII&NBT) Anne Ruffles

Apologies were received from Simon Harvey, Elaine Green, Kevin Bullock, Howard Scott, Val Gagen, Jim Herrington and Sarah Harper.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd February 2020 had been circulated and accepted unanimously and signed by Eilish Heath. HC proposed that as the constitution allows, in the event of an AGM not being held we should vote that the three elected officers - Heather Corbell, (Chair) Elaine Green (Treasurer) and Eilish Heath (Minute Secretary)be elected for this current year - July 2020 to July 2021. This was accepted by all.

Matters Arising: Regarding the 'coming Together' leaflet Pam Pitts reported that this will hopefully be re-edited this summer. CCMH would come up during Reports.

Finance Report: Elaine G had prepared and HC circulated the finance report which was agreed by all. Last year's accounts were formally accepted. Bob Huddlestone, our Independent Examiner has retired and a new Examiner will be elected at the AGM in July. Bob was formally thanked for all his work over the years. Heather thanked Elaine for her continued work as Treasurer.

Reports:

- (i) HC reported that last year's **Good Friday Walk of Witness** had been cancelled due to lockdown, but contacts had continued via telephone and on line and prayer and pastoral support given, and through all the churches in many activities, especially on-line.
- (ii) As there was no Christmas Fayre the **Nativity Tableau** was restored and replaced and dedicated, and prayers had been said.
- (iii) **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** took place on Zoom, which was very well attended. Thanks to Rev Debbie Borden and Fr David Bagstaff, and all those who attended the lunchtime prayer sessions.

There was also a Prayer Morning held before Easter on 'Zoom'

(iv) As there was no **Good Friday Walk of Witness** again this year, a large **Easter wooden cross** was commissioned and dedicated and placed on Angel Hill. This also led to conversations prayer and NTs being given to individuals among the public. This was greatly appreciated, and thanks go to HC, AC and Marcus (who does staging) for organising this.

(V) **Bury Drop In:** David Bonnett reported that BDI had not met during lockdown, but contact and practical support had been offered and accepted by many of the guests. Regular telephone calls and texts were made, over 100 meals had been provided each week, and donations of food were received both from a local factory and a farmer. The council had been very supportive, providing 14 - 15 cabins to house the homeless, though this has now come to an end. During this time 3 guests died, as did 1 volunteer. There are tentative plans to re-open in September.

VI) **CCMH:** In his report Jonathon Ford reminded the meeting that CCMH is an ecumenical church with an ecumenical constitution, with a local sponsoring body, known as the Support Group. This group supports the ecumenical life of the church and is made up the chair of CTBSE and six representatives from other churches in the area. This group is in need of new members, and JF will be approaching the churches to find new members in the next few months as he approaches retirement. The group will have a significant role to play in the appointment of a new minister for CCMH.

VII) **Bury Christian Youth:** Gavin Moss outlined some of their plans in the next season:

(i) BCY are keen to run well-being groups in secondary schools with material by kinsugi, Hope. This course has a Christian ethos and will meet the needs of young people at this time.

(ii) They hope to engage with primary schools (yrs 5 & 6), leading assemblies and small groups, and build relationships.

(iii) Also hoping to work with 6th form and college groups, exploring ways of being alongside and sharing the Christian message. Volunteers are always needed.

VIII) **Christian Aid:** CA week is May 10 - 16 this year and in the report sent by Howard Scott he encouraged people to make a donation via the Just Giving page - BSE CAW 2021 JustGiving as there will not be a door-to-door collection again this year. Churches can organise their own collections and should contact the treasurer, Tibor Pollerman at tibor.pollerman@gmail.com regarding banking.

Future Planning:

(i) **Abbey Gardens Summer Celebration :** HC reported that after a meeting of the working group last week it was agreed to go ahead with the long publicised provisional date of **Sunday 27th June**. Plans have already moved forward - Abbey Gardens and stage already booked, support from the 'Abbey 1000' heritage group, and the beginnings of a programme for the day. The afternoon will begin at **1.30pm** and there will be music and spoken words, and the event will close at **3.30pm** followed by a **'Songs of Praise' service ending at 4.15pm**. led by Debbie Borda from Trinity Methodist church. A pianist is in place and churches will be invited to choose hymns/worship songs, and a choir will be formed on the day.

Churches are encouraged to bring banners and gazebos with their church names, and there will be a **'Prayer Space'** - an open gazebo available for prayer and conversation. No literature other than NT's are permitted. Heather stressed that enthusiastic **publicity** throughout the churches was essential, and posters will be available in the near future.

AC spoke about first aid, safety and 'red badges', the importance of good publicity and stewarding. It is planned to begin setting up for the day from 8.30am onwards and volunteers will be warmly welcomed.

(ii) Study and Share Groups: HC emphasised that studying the Bible together is part of our mission statement, so this year there will be just two sessions, the theme agreed 'The Kingdom of God' reflecting on how the Covid pandemic and lockdown has affected people. These sessions will be held via 'Zoom' and suggestions about speakers should be forwarded to Heather.

*(Since the meeting the first session has now been arranged for **Wednesday 26th May at 7.45pm** to be led by Rev Jonathan Ford)*

AGM: The AGM will take place on Monday 12th July 2021. Nominations are required for the offices of Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary/Minutes secretary, and these need to be with Heather by the end of May. Nominees must have given their permission to be put forward, and must also have a named proposer and seconder from affiliated churches.

For nominees, we need preferably to have those who have generally been interested in Churches Together and have come to meetings, and have supported cross-church events.

A new independent examiner will also be voted in at that meeting.

The meeting closed at **9.00pm** after **prayers** from Andrew Soman, Jonathan Ford and Peter Sebbage.

Minutes 12.5.'21. E.H. / H.C.