

**Minutes of Churches Together meeting
Monday 31st January 2022 at Bridge Church, West Road**

Present Heather Corbell (Horringer benefice), Helen Moore (Southgate), Elaine Green (Quakers), Pam Pitts (Cathedral), Alison Miller (LVNB benefice), Andy Miller (LVNB benefice), Simon Harvey (St. Mary's), Martin Tilley (U.R.C.), David Bagstaff (St. Edmund's RC), Andrew Caldecott (Christ Church, Moreton Hall), Paul Doswell (Salvation Army), Paula Ashman (Salvation Army), Claire Rose (LVNB benefice), Gavin Walter, Rosemary Clare and Claire McMillan (all Garland St. Baptist), Gerda Tooley (Southgate), Regina Collender (St. Edmund's RC), Catrin Diverres (Trinity Methodist), Stephen Griffiths (WSH Chaplaincy), David Wakeford (Trinity Methodist), Eilish Heath (St. Edmund's RC), Peter Sebbage (Barrow benefice), Ian Featherstone and Andrew Soman (Bridge Community Church). Margaret Steavenson (Cathedral and LVNB benefice).

Welcome Heather welcomed all to the meeting, especially Paula, Ian, Andy M and Ali, who were coming for the first time. Also, Margaret S taking on as Minutes Secretary.

Heather read from Ephesians 4: 1-7a, and prayed.

Apologies were received from Anna Parmiter, Jason Vinyard, Jonathan Ford, Andy Williams, Mike Simm, Sharon Steven, Julie Farrant.

Minutes of last meeting were agreed and signed, it was added that the prayer morning did happen in November (on 'Zoom'). There were no other matters arising (which are not covered in the later agenda).

Finance report Elaine gave the Treasurer's report for the period ending 31.1.22. Copies had been circulated. She commented that in 2021 there had been no Walk of Witness, which had had an effect on expenditure. The Summer Event was reckoned to be worthwhile; it was an opportunity (and really needs) to receive donations. If possible, these should be gift-aided. Elaine offered to put information for doing this on the web-site.

Annual Church Greeting Heather expressed her feeling that this important event should continue. It was decided that in 2022 it would take place over a 6-week period from the beginning of September until mid-October. Margaret S and Claire R would take on the task of making a list of churches wishing to participate, and then sending out invitations as appropriate.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Heather remarked that the Service to open the Week at St. Edmund's Church had been well-attended, and thanked David Bagstaff and Simon Harvey, and other participants. The daily lunch-time sessions had also been well attended.

New initiatives Weekly newspaper articles in the Bury Free Press had been launched at the instigation of Peter Sebbage, with assistance from Graham Taylor. The writing rota (representatives of affiliated churches) is joined through Heather, and both she and Helen M along with Peter form the editorial team. Ten denominations had been represented and 15 weekly articles contributed so far. More contributors would be welcome.

Proposed Platinum Jubilee Cross Trail Andrew Caldecott spoke about the following suggestion, details of which had already been circulated.

A 'Cross Trail' consisting of individual crosses from our member churches in and around BSE might be a suitable 'event' for the CT group to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Each Church would have the opportunity to design/decorate a standardised cross by 1st April. Crosses could be constructed and supplied by Churches Together, or Churches could make their own (5 ft. in height). These should be available for display over the Easter weekend of 15th-17th April and also for the Jubilee week-end of 2nd-5th June.

Finally the crosses would be brought to the Abbey Gardens for display on Sunday 26th June for the Churches Together Summer Celebration (and Abbey 1,000 Celebrations). In addition to the cross, each church might supply a donation box and a question for a quiz.

The meeting was in favour of this idea, and it was decided to proceed as outlined.

Special Outreach Week Heather gave an outline of possible events, and it was decided to share ideas at a later date.

Reports

1. Bury Town Pastors' report has been separately circulated.
2. 'New Hearts' project (Bridge Church) – Ian spoke about this and circulated leaflets giving details.
3. Bury Christian Youth – report was given
4. WSH Chaplaincy – Stephen spoke about his work, and asked for prayer.

Future events

1. Prayer Breakfast – it was hoped that 3 would take place in 2022. The first would be on 19th March at the Salvation Army HQ from 9.30am
2. Good Friday Walk of Witness. It was hoped that this would follow the usual pattern, 10.30 start at the Cathedral and Rosemary C offered to organise coffee & hot cross buns at the Baptist Church. People could carry the cross they had made for the Cross Trail.
3. Share and Study sessions would hopefully be held in early May, with 3 evening sessions. Further ideas were sought.

Other dates to be noted

Racial Justice Sunday 13th February.

Fair Trade fortnight 21st February – 6th March

Graham Kendrick concert Tuesday 15th February at The Apex.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 4th March

'Climate Church' meeting on 1st Saturday in the month on Angel Hill.

Any Other Business Andrew C mentioned that a new strategy is coming for 'Relevant' events.

Date of next meeting 25th April – venue tbc.

Closing prayers were from Andrew C and Helen M.

MS / HC