



**Minutes of Churches Together meeting  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Trinity Methodist Church**

*Present:* Heather Corbell (Horringer Benefice), Helen Moore (Southgate Church) Pam Pitts (Cathedral), Martin Tilley (U.R.C.), David Bagstaff (St. Edmunds RC), Andrew Caldecott (Christ Church, Moreton Hall), Claire Rose (LVNB benefice), Rosemary Clare (Garland St. Baptist), Gerda Tooley (Southgate Church), Regina Collender (St. Edmund's RC), Catrin Diverres (Trinity Methodist), David and Betty Wakeford (Trinity Methodist), Eilish Heath (St. Edmunds RC), Margaret Steavenson (Cathedral and LVNB benefice), Anna Parmiter (St. Edmund's RC), Sabine Dornbusch (Bury Drop-In), Julie Farrant (Whepstead Baptist Church), Will Farrant (Whepstead Baptist Church), Paula Ashman (Salvation Army), Andrew Soman (Bridge Church), Andy Williams (St. Peter's Church), Walter Chenyika (St. Edmund's RC), Rufin Emmanuel (WSH Chaplaincy), Julian Bryant (Christian Aid), Jason Vinyard (Trinity & Methodist Circuit).

*Visitors:* Rebecca Poz, Julian Bryant, and Elizabeth & Edward Coningsby.

*Welcome:* Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting. She read from Proverbs 21: 31, 2 Chronicles 20: 17, and Ephesians 6: 13-14a. followed by prayer.

*Apologies* were received from Stephen Griffiths, Gavin Walter, Jonathan Ford, Richard Shone, Val Gagen, Andy and Ali Miller, Claire McMillan and Elaine Green.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

*Matters arising:*

*New Initiatives* – The Bury Free Press weekly column: Heather thanked Peter Sebbage for his consistent work with this; also, Helen for her assistance; more contributors would be very welcome. Contributions should be of around 350 words (and can include illustrations) and should be sent to Peter by Monday in the week before publication. This is to allow scrutiny by the editorial team before submission to the paper.

*Jubilee Cross Trail* – Heather said that unfortunately there had been some delay in setting this up, but 12 Churches now had decorated Crosses. The Quiz trail, Questions and map should be forthcoming very soon.

*Study & Share* – These had been organised at Whepstead Baptist Church on the following dates, with 3 leaders from different churches, with the title Encounters with God:

May 4<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup> (all at 7.30).

A flyer was ready to be sent out.

'*Relevant*' – still in the pipeline!

### Finance Report:

Copies had been circulated, showing that £4,672 is now in the bank. (The Good Friday offering had been exceptional.) Any queries should be emailed to Elaine.

### Reports

Christian Aid – Julian said that Christian Aid week 2022 would be going ahead. The 2022 focus would be on Zimbabwe. He offered collecting envelopes for each church to take.

NSFT – Dr. Rebecca Poz spoke on behalf of mental health Chaliancy. She said that NSFT would appreciate facilitators from churches to help older people rejoin religious communities. Training would be given. Anyone who would like to help is invited to contact Rebecca (see a separate mailing to come).

Tear Fund – Elizabeth Coningsby said this is a Christian relief and aid agency with a worldwide operation. They are involved with campaigning and organise self-help groups. Information is exchanged via Zoom. Anyone interested could contact her. Heather would send a separate email with details.

### Events

Jubilee Cross Trail – Andrew C. says 12 Churches have decorated crosses. He is producing maps and question sheets.

Share & Study Groups – Helen & Heather reported that these are going ahead – see separate ‘flyer’.

Annual Church Greeting – this is in hand for the Autumn.

Prayer Breakfast – This was arranged for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, time and venue to be confirmed.

Abbey Gardens Gathering – this will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30-4.15pm. Volunteer helpers would be welcome for events. More decorated Crosses and banners can be brought on the day. Trinity can supply ‘stands’ for the Crosses, but tent pegs would be required. More gazebos would be useful. Please send all ideas to Heather. Heather said that this event is already publicised in the town’s ‘What’s On’ booklet and web-site, as part of Abbey 1,000. If anyone should celebrate, and be thankful for the heritage of Abbey 1,000, it should be us (all the Christians of the town!)

### Any Other Business

Heather expressed her thanks for everyone’s support to make it a very good Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Thanks especially to the Cathedral, and the various participants.

Date of next meeting (and AGM) Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Closing prayers were said by Jason Vinyard and Andrew Caldecott.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Time 9.45.pm.

MS / HC.