



**Minutes of Churches Together meeting
Monday 25th July 2022 at St. Edmund's Church Crypt**

Present:

Heather Corbell (Horringer benefice), Helen Moore (Southgate), Elaine Green (Quakers), Sharon Steven (Whepstead Baptist), Philip Lloyd-Jones (St. Peter's, BSE), Pam Pitts (Cathedral), Andy Miller (LVNB benefice), David Bagstaff (St. Edmunds RC), Paula Ashman, Robert Mark (Salvation Army), Claire Rose (LVNB benefice), Rosemary Clare, Daniel Robson (Garland St. Baptist), Gerda Tooley, Mike Simm (Southgate), Regina Collender, Nicola Trask, Eilish Heath, Anna Parmiter, Waiser Chenyika, Phyllis McGonsa, Alison Flath (St. Edmund's RC Church), Catrin Diverres (Trinity Methodist), Andrew Soman (Bridge Community Church), Sally McDermott (West Suffolk Vineyard), Sally Murray, Hannah Wallbridge (Freedom Church Great Barton), Rufin Emmanuel (W. Suffolk Hospital Chaplaincy), Richard Stephens (Kairos Prison Ministry), Gavin Moss (Bury Christian Youth), Margaret Steavenson (LVNB benefice).

Visitors: Melissa Naish (Home for Good: Suffolk), Sally Murray (CAP Debt Counsellor), Richard Stephens (Kairos Prison Ministry) David Sutherland (Forge Community Church),

Welcome: Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting. She read from Romans ch. 10 (verses 9,14,17). She also passed on a message from Revd Debbie Borda, asking for prayer as she awaits a serious operation. Heather prayed.

Apologies: Max Osborne, Jonathan Ford, Val Gagen, Stephen Griffiths, Claire Rose, Paul Doswell, David Wakeford, Mel Takac, Peter Sebbage, Gavin Walter, Andrew Caldecott.

Minutes of the last meeting: These were agreed and signed.

Matters arising:

Reports mentioned by speakers at our last meeting had unfortunately been slightly delayed in sending out because of the size of their files, but had now been received.

Review of events:

The Jubilee Cross Trail had been successful, and it is hoped to repeat it next year 12 Churches had taken part.

Study & Share – Whepstead Baptist Church was an excellent venue and about 15 Churches had been represented. It was suggested that the series of S&S meetings should not be always held on the same week-day.

Abbey Gardens Summer Celebration - Members said that the atmosphere had been good with very helpful testimonies. The microphones could have been better situated and volume perhaps increased. More additional chairs would be useful – could be brought from the Cathedral perhaps? More personal testimonies were suggested.

Finance Report:

Elaine had submitted details of the updated financial situation by email. It was agreed that these accounts could now be submitted for examination. She said that in August / September a decision had to be taken as to whether subscriptions should remain at the same level for next year. If they were increased this might well remove the current deficit. Mike (Southgate) suggested that if higher subs and donations are requested, it would be helpful to say what improvements could be made if they were received. A suggestion that follow-up phone calls be made was felt impracticable.

Other organisations:

'Home for Good: Suffolk' - is run by Melissa Naish in response to the need for more homes for children in care, with the aim of developing networks. Training courses are available. Monthly one-off events could be held by churches. A church offering itself as a venue to host an event would be very welcome.

CAP - Sally Murray is newly appointed as manager of the local CAP. (She has taken over from Darren Bullen). She said that single women are the largest single group of clients, and 41% of their clientele are unable to work because of mental health issues. The CAP report is entitled 'On The Edge'. She reported some very positive results from debt counselling.

Town Pastors (Bury) - Philip Lloyd-Jones is one of a local group of 30 Town Pastors, which includes those who support those on the streets and others who pray at home. They are highly thought of by both the police and ambulance services for their good effects. Currently, they only work on Saturday nights, but it is hoped to extend this. More support is needed, the leader is Jo Copsey.

Events coming up:

Prayer event - This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Annual Church Greeting - Margaret would discuss this with Claire soon.

Christmas/Advent event - As there is no longer a Christmas Fayre, this event might be brought forward to coincide with the Annual Switch-On of Christmas Lights and the unveiling of the Nativity Sculpture. Discussions would have to take place with the Council and Salvation Army. There were some requests last year for a repeat of the event in the Cathedral, (this was used as the most viable large space near the Nativity Tableau, when public gatherings outside were banned). Some feel this is pointless as it is not outside, and not a public witness. Conclusion was to investigate being involved with the Lights Switch-On.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - The launch service will be held on Sunday 15th January 2023 at 6.30.p.m.

A.O.B.

Heather announced that she intends to stand down as Chairman at the A.G.M., and so everyone is asked to think and pray about a successor. Nominations must be received, witnessed and seconded by the middle of August (from affiliated churches / organisations). Heather produced a paper advising suggested ideals for the post, which she will circulate. However, she said, others may have completely different ideas. We must pray for the person God wants, to become clear.

Next Meeting and A.G.M.:

This will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 26th September in the Salvation Army Hall.

The meeting ended with prayers at 9.30.p.m.

MS / HC.