

Minutes of Churches Together meeting Monday 30th January at St. Edmunds Church Crypt

Present

Helen Moore (chair), Elaine Green (Treasurer), Andrew Caldecott, Rosemary Clare, Regina Collander, Peter Sebbage, Jane Harper, Paula Ashman, Robert Mark, Claire Rose, Andrew Soman, Andy Williams, Catrin Diverres, Heather Corbell, David Bagstaff, Pam Pitts, Sharon Steven, Sally McDermott, Walter Chenyika, Eilish Heath and Margaret Steavenson (Minutes)

Welcome

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting, prayed, and read from Ephesians 4.

Apologies

Peter Lloyd Jones, Val Gagen, Max Osborne, David Wakeford, Gavin Walter, Andy Miller, Paul Doswell, Gerda Tooley, Mike Simm and Jonathan Ford.

Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record, with the correction that 'Relevance' should read 'Relevant'.

Chair's report:

Helen said that in the absence of a new Chair, she had been working with Elaine and Andrew Caldecott as the management team. She reported on the following:

'Warm rooms': this scheme was now in operation in the places arranged, with the addition of the Oddfellows Hall in Whiting Street.

The prayer morning at Southgate hadn't been very successful and needs a rethink. *The Nativity Tableau* on Angel Hill had been rededicated, and a short service held. *'Thought for the Weekend'* in the *Bury Free Press*: 20 contributors had submitted 60 articles. Thanks were due to Graham Turner at the BFP. Andrew C. asked if at some regular interval the articles could be collated and distributed to the GoogleGroup. This was agreed.

C.T. matters

Good Friday Walk of Witness 2023: Plans are afoot, and Simon Ladd will speak. The theme will be 'Why Easter'. Testimonies may be sought. New Testaments will be available and small palm crosses. It was suggested that several stops might be made during the course of the walk to enable people to catch up!

Summer Event. Discussions had taken place about the idea that the summer event could be alternated each year with an advent service, at which a collection could be taken. There could be a 'Let There Be light' event. A date of Sunday 10th December had been suggested. Paula (S.Army) proposed and Heather (Horringer) seconded that this be taken forward.

Communications: Andrew has made a spreadsheet showing the church links in C.T. to try to enable specific information to go to certain groups. This will be further discussed before the next meeting. We would like to encourage all church representatives to make themselves known and give their contact details.

Study & Share: To avoid a surplus of events in May, it was suggested that this might move to June, maybe on 3 different weekdays. It could be extended if desired. The proposed theme is 'Churches Together? (ie why are we involved and what do you want or need, from us?) Venues to be decided later.

Exchange of Greetings: this had happened very successfully with 14 Churches involved. Thanks were due to Claire Rose. We hoped that all representatives would encourage their churches to take part in 2023.

Week of Prayer for Unity: Andrew expressed warm thanks for the organisation of the opening service. Average number of attendees at the individual lunchtime meetings was 20. However, in one or two a lack of prayers had been noted. The work of the Holy Spirit had been illustrated, according to one attendee. Further points to consider were the future location of participating churches and the timing of meetings.

C.T. Chair is still sought.

Treasurer's report: Elaine had circulated her report. The main points were that the current income figure is £3,658 and expenditure is £4,966. Money in bank £2,343. It was decided to discuss the annual subscription level at the next meeting. A reminder needs to be sent out.

Prayer breakfast: will be held at 8.30 on 20th March.

Fair Trade: Pam said that the F.T. fortnight would be 27th February-12th March.

Coronation event: it was decided to support other churches, rather than hold an event.

'The Forge': David Sutherland had applied to join C.T. and the application was granted. The group meets in Debenham and other locations.

'C.T. Sunday' Andrew C. suggested that all participating churches should have a designated C.T. Sunday to encourage awareness. (to be discussed at next meeting).

'Men's Shed' Andrew C. said that a Committee has been formed to set this up, and a public meeting would be held at the Cathedral in March. There are four possible sites.

Date of next meeting: 7.30 on 24th April at

The meeting finished with prayer at 9.15 pm