



Minutes of the Churches Together Meeting held 7th October, 2015

1. We were welcomed by Andrew Soman who read from Ephesians 4 about the range of people skills in the church and how we are given the strength to carry out the tasks we have been called to do.
2. Apologies: Claire Rose, Malcom Rogers, Jonathon Ford, Adrian & Julia Mann, Paul Tyler, Jill Segger, Debbie Borda, Howard Scott, Sharon Connell, Mark Howarth, Francis Parr, Simon Goddard,
18 people were present.
3. The minutes of last meeting (AGM) of 20th July, 2015, were approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman after being proposed by Mallie Sharpe and seconded by Paul Doswell.
4. Finance report: The financial report showed a deficit for the year but only because £900 was paid out in donations. The balance stands at £2570 with 17 churches having paid subscriptions.
5. Passion Play: A new director is being appointed. Catering, publicity and Prayer co-ordinators are still being sought and also an assistant producer. Hopefully a decision as to whether it will go ahead will be made in December. Jonathan Ford asked that we pray and ask our churches if anyone can fill these positions to please let him know.
6. Share & Study Groups: David Wakeford told us that the four speakers have been found. The evenings will all be stand-alones and will be focused on local issues.
7. Brief Reports: Just Traid: The recently appointed assistant manager has left and an advert for a new one has gone out.
8. Prayer Breakfasts: The next prayer breakfast is on 21st November at the Hyndman Centre. Please promote by word of mouth. It could be worth mentioning to potential new people that each one is different and very friendly.
9. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Paul Tyler is organising this. The opening service is at 6.30pm on 17th January, 2016, at St. Georges. The prayer lunches (12.30 – 1.30pm) are at the following venues:- Monday - Cathedral, Tuesday – Garland Street Baptist, Wednesday – Trinity Methodist, Thursday - St Edmund's Friday – United Reformed Church, Saturday - St John's (To be confirmed.) (Since the meeting this has been confirmed.) The offertory is gift-aided and the charity supported will be decided by the speaker Father Tony Rogers or, if he doesn't mind, Chaplains in the Workplace and Town Pastors.
10. Christmas Fayre Service: 29 November: This year we have been asked to do the service at 4pm. Revd. Nick Alexander will be leading.
11. New secretary: Jenny Troll has agreed to be the secretary. With effect from January she will take over from Martin Tilley in the taking of minutes at Committee meetings. Francis Parr will continue to produce the Prayer and Praise sheets for now. On behalf of Churches Together Andrew expressed sincere thanks to Martin for all he has done as Minutes Secretary.

12. Date of next Committee meeting: Monday 25th January at 7.30pm probably at Garland Street. (Since the meeting this has been confirmed.)
13. Bury Drop-In: This is up and running with an enthusiastic team. It runs on each Friday between 11am – 2pm with a lunch. A number of agencies will be available for people who need help. The response for the first three Fridays has been limited but it is expected to grow. More volunteers are needed even if they can only manage an hour or so. The finances at present will keep it going for about 4 months which is encouraging. Those who have been involved in setting up this initiative believe that the Friday Drop-in is just the start and that the provision for the homeless and vulnerable people in Bury may well increase in the future.
14. Changes to Church representatives: Sylvia Chandler has stood down as St. Mary's rep. Olivia Arthur will take her place. Also Gerda Tooley is the new representative for Southgate Church.
15. A.O.B: [a] Regina told us that it is the 5th anniversary of the German speaking Lutheran Church in Bury. There is a service at 11am at St. Mary's on Saturday 10th October and a shared lunch afterwards at St Edmund's crypt.
[b] St Edmund's will be holding a second series of Autumn Lectures on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October when the speakers will be Doctor Stephen Dunn, Archbishop Kevin McDonald, Professor Eamon Duffy and Mr Julian Filochowski
[c] Regina thanked the URC and other churches for collecting clothes for Syrian refugees. The URC is open on Wednesday and Sunday mornings when clothes can be left. Clothing can also be left at the Chaplaincy at the West Suffolk Hospital.
[d] Richard announced that Sharon Connell is being inducted at the hospice on the morning of Wednesday 14th October.
[e] The BCY AGM is at Christ Church, Moreton Hall at 5pm. Sunday 11th October with a service at 6pm
[f] Churches Together in Suffolk AGM is on Wednesday 14th October from 6.30 at Stowmarket Citadel. Revd. Elaine Colechin will represent us.
(g) Andrew said planning has started for another Come Together event next summer. Further details to be announced later.
16. Closing Prayer: We prayed in small groups about the issues that arose during our meeting.