



Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 10 October, 2016 at 7.30 pm

Those present:

Richard Norburn (All Saints)	Joyce Norburn (All Saints)	Claire Rose (All Saints)
Rosemary Clare (Garland St)	Elaine Green (Quakers)	Gerda Tooley (Southgate)
Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)	Olivia Arthur (St Marys)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)
Marion Shaw (Suffolk Hist Churches)	Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	David Wakeford (Trinity)
Regina Collander (St Edmunds)	Irene Hendley (Just Traid)	Malcolm Rogers (St Marys)
Matt Rushby (BCY)	Andrew Soman (Vineyard)	Jenny Troll (St Marys)

- Welcome** – Andrew welcomed us to the meeting
Reading – Andrew read from Lamentations 3 v 22-24 – Mercies being new every morning. Andrew reminded us that so much changes but God does not change, he is faithful.
Prayer – Andrew prayed
- Apologies:**
 Robert Green (Garland Street) Jonathan Ford and Gill Shaw (Christ Church), Adrian Mann (NBT/BECT), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Paul Doswell (Salvation Army), Nick Alexander (St Peters), Mark Howarth (NBT/Lark Valley Bene), Mary Soman (Vineyard), Peter and Audrey Gibson (Southgate), Elizabeth Elliott (Cathedral), Geoff Birkby (Cathedral), Howard Scott, (Christ Church/Christian Aid), Marlina Kralina, (All Saints), Elaine Colechin (URC).
- Minutes of last meeting (AGM) of 11 July 2016** - approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman, after being proposed by Rosemary Clare and seconded by Eilish Heath.
- Matters Arising:**
Share and Study Group – Claire advised that she had omitted to send a cheque for £35 to All Saints Church as a donation to them for their hosting the study course. She has had a cheque signed for £35 to-night.
Advent greetings – Claire said she had sent letters to the treasurers of churches but had only received four responses including one new church.
- Home for Good – Melissa Naish**
 Melissa introduced herself as being an adoptive parent – she had adopted two children and has now started fostering children. 35,000 children go into the UK care system every year, being removed from chaotic situations. Parents often want to keep their children but they are not always able to parent. If the children cannot go home they may be adopted. Home for Good started in 2013 and is a national charity. What can the Church do in this situation? In 2014 Suffolk started Home for Good. The aim is to raise awareness of the local need within Suffolk churches. Home for Good is a charity which aims to make adoption and fostering a significant part of the life and ministry of the Church in the UK. They are dedicated to inspiring, equipping and coordinating the network of local movements, churches and individuals. They raise awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents, encouraging families to provide loving homes for the children in care, and equipping the Church to offer welcoming communities for them. Everyone can help in some way.
- Who Cares**
 Matt Rushby spoke about the initiative of Who Cares. Jesus is able to give each person hope and this is what Who Cares is about – reaching people with the gospel. People are asked to complete cards with the question “What hurts the most?” Churches then decide how they will respond to the answers and shape events around the comments. The aim is to meet the needs of the community. It is a fun way to do mission. A simple idea. In Norfolk in 2014 there were 50,000 responses. The church responded to it. It is hoped that something similar will happen in Suffolk. A vision night is to be held on Saturday 25 February 2017 at St Marys Church at 7.00 pm. Need support from the churches.
- Bury Drop In** – Andrew Soman advised that there are usually 30-35 people on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Drop In which is very encouraging. One or two people have become Christians since attending the Drop In. They are always looking for volunteers.
- Finance Report – Claire Rose**
 £490 – Passion for Life – Claire needed the agreement of the people at the meeting for the money to be passed over to “Who Cares”. Proposed – Andrew Soman, seconded – Richard Norburn. The motion was passed.
 18 churches have paid their subscription, two others have paid directly.
 A donation of £300 has been given to the Walk of witness.

9. **Christmas Fayre Service – 27 November**
Andrew advised the service would be between 4-5.00 pm outside the Abbey Gardens and it would close the proceedings. Debbie Borda speaking. Andrew Caldecott suggested advertising this widely. It is on the website.
10. **Good Friday**
14 April 2017. Approximately £2000 available. There is a steering group. There will be a short service at the Cathedral at 10.30 am and then a walk through the town. Then meet outside Poundland where there will be a stage. There will be a Christian mime artist performing. Then disseminate there. Andrew asked for prayers for the practicalities involved and that this will work out.
11. **Brief Reports**
Just Traid – Irene Hendley advised that there is to be an open afternoon – Christmas preview on Monday 7 November – 2-6.00 pm.
Fair Trade – Mallie Sharpe advised that the town had been granted fair trade status which stands for two years. Every church in Bury is a fair trade church which means that at the bare minimum tea and coffee needs to be fair trade. Mallie is trying to get the clergy to buy fair trade clergy shirts. Regina thanked Mallie for her hard work.
No other reports.
12. **Prayer Breakfasts**
Andrew reported that the last prayer breakfast was at the Vineyard Church and numbers were going down. Andrew asked if Prayer Breakfasts were still wanted. Andrew Caldecott suggested avoiding the first Saturday of the month and Rosemary Clare the third Saturday. It was suggested that the breakfasts are held quarterly on the 2nd or 4th Saturday of the month. Marion thanked Andrew for the breakfast at the Vineyard.
13. **Week of Prayer-22 to 28 January 2017**
Sunday – Southgate Church 6.30 pm – speaker – Carl Morehouse
Lunches 12.30 – 1.30 pm, drinks to be provided by host church
Monday – St Marys
Tuesday – Garland Street
Wednesday – Trinity Methodist
Thursday – St Edmunds
Friday – URC
Saturday – St Johns
Theme – “Crossing barriers”
14. **Come Together**
Andrew had some flyers. This Friday ‘s event is at Christ Church, Moreton Hall. Worship and prayer.
Next year – Saturday 17/6/17 – St Marys, 7.00 pm.
15. **Date of next meeting**
Monday 30 January 7.30 pm. ?Crypt – Eilish to check or Garland Street Baptist Church.
(Note since the meeting Eilish confirmed meeting to be held at the Crypt at St Edmunds Church.)
16. **AOB**
- i) Suffolk Churches Together AGM – Thursday 13 October 6.30 pm refreshments, 7.30 meeting
 - ii) Suffolk Inter Faith Group – Marina asked if there is a representative from Churches Together. Eight meetings a year at West Suffolk College. Claire said she would circulate the e-mail and perhaps someone would be prepared to go to the meetings.
 - iii) Trustee of Southgate Church – Claire said she was still a trustee and would like a replacement.
 - iv) Multi-cultural Women’s Group-leaflet circulated at the meeting.
 - v) Study Group – David Wakeford and Rosemary Clare – no new blood as yet. Regina offered herself to be part of the group.
 - vi) Church in Peace – Elaine from Quaker mentioned this with regard to migration.
 - vii) Historic Churches Bike Ride – Marion thanked everyone for supporting this. The President of the Suffolk Churches Together is also Chairman of Historic churches Bike Ride
 - viii) Horringer Court Community Church – Nov 19th. “Why do we need free churches?”-Rev Dr H Osgood.
 - ix) “Relevant” at Garland Street – Andrew Caldecott thanked those people who came to the last event. Next event 25 October.
 - x) What’s on in churches in Bury St Edmunds – Facebook page. No information known about this by those at the meeting.
17. **Closing Prayer**
Andrew asked us to get in to groups to pray.
Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.