



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 30 January 2017 at 7.30 pm  
at St Edmunds Church**

**Those present:**

Claire Rose (All Saints)	Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)	Olivia Arthur (St Marys)
Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)	Fr Mark Hackeson (St Edmunds)	Paul Doswell (Salvation Army)
Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	Regina Collender (St Edmunds)	Maj Chris Whittingham (Sal Army)
Matt Rushby (BCY)	Adrian Mann (St Johns/NBT/BECT)	Howard Scott (Christian Aid/CCMH)
Martin Tilley (URC)	Heather Corbell (Horringer)	Geoffrey Birkby (Cathedral)
Claire McMillan (GSBC)	Rev Canon Mark Haworth(NML Bury & Lark Valley)	
Marian Shaw (Cathedral)	David Wakeford (Trinity)	Andrew Soman (Vineyard)
Jenny Troll (St Marys)		

- Welcome** – Andrew welcomed us to the meeting and thanked Eilish for the teas.  
**Reading** – Andrew read from Ezekiel 36 v 23-28 – this was read at the recent Week of Prayer for Christian Unity opening service. God is wanting to renew his relationship with us. He is wanting to give us a new heart.  
**Prayer** – Andrew prayed
- Apologies:**  
 Robert Green (Garland Street) Jonathan Ford and Gill Shaw (Christ Church), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Nick Alexander (St Peters), Elizabeth Elliott (Cathedral), Elaine Green (Quakers), Malcolm Rogers (St Marys), Gerda Tooley (Southgate), Elaine Colechin (URC), Richard and Joyce Norburn (All Saints), Rosemary Clare (Garland St)
- Minutes of last meeting of 10 October 2016** - approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman, after being proposed by Mallie Sharpe and seconded by Claire Rose.
- Matters Arising:**  
**Southgate Trustees** – Claire Rose (CR) advised that she is going to step down at the AGM in September so there would be a vacancy. She said there are four meetings a year. Looking for new Trustee.  
**Garland Street** – Relevant – Andrew Caldecott (AC) advised that this now takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Sundays of the month at 4.30 pm. Advised us to look on website for further details.  
**Christmas Fayre service** - Andrew Soman (AS) advised that this went well and there was a good turn out. There was a problem with the carol sheets and giving them out which needs looking at for another year.  
**Christian Unity prayer week** – The service on the Sunday went well – 120/140 people present. Malcolm Rogers stepped in at very short notice as the original speaker was sick. Martin Tilley (MT) said there was confusion about which day each church thought they were leading during the week eg was Monday Day 1? It was decided at the meeting that next year Monday would be considered Day 1.
- Finance Report**  
 CR advised that all churches had paid their sub. Kingsgate have not paid but have not done so for some time. £354.90 was collected at Southgate Church at the United Service at the beginning of the Christian Unity week. With Gift Aid this will bring the total to £468.65 for Bury Drop In. The balance in the Bank is £5343.86, a significant part of which is earmarked for Good Friday.
- Brief Reports**  
**Christian Aid** – Howard Scott (HS) advised that they were doing well. Most churches collected more last year than previous years. This year Christian Aid are collecting for the Ethiopia Project – women’s health and becoming independent. They aim to get £4000 which will be multiplied by five with the EU. This year CA are doing two things:  
 i) Abseiling down St Marys Church. Hope to get some young people involved. Hope to get some companies to do sponsorship.  
 ii) Auction of promises – hoping to do this at the end of March.  
 HS advised that Michael Veale, treasurer, would like to step down. They are looking for a new treasurer.

**St Johns Centre** – Adrian Mann (AM) advised that plans had gone in today for some work to be carried out. Quotation is much higher than they thought it would be.
- Drop In**  
 Still going well – 30/40 people on Tuesdays and Fridays. They are starting a new project – Angel Project. Support from churches in Bury. A lot of shops are donating food some of which is being given to other projects eg Refuge Centre, Storehouse, etc. Presently raising money to get a van. David Bonnett is currently speaking at churches about the Centre.

8. **Who Cares**  
 Matt Rushby (MR) spoke about this initiative – there is one question: What hurts the most? Jesus is able to help and cares for us – he is able to bring hope and light in the darkest places. There is a vision night on Saturday 25 February at 7.00 pm at St Marys. Sandy Miller is the speaker and MR and Robert Green (RG) will be talking about the project. There will be a time of prayer and also interviews with people who have been affected by this project. This project does work. There are three training events.
9. **Good Friday – 14 April**  
 Service at the Cathedral at 10.30 am. Leave Cathedral – walk of witness through town following the cross – up through Abbeygate Street, Cornhill/Buttermarket ending at Poundland, where there will be a Christian mime artist who will be performing 3 or 4 mimes based on Good Friday. RG will do a narration ahead of each mime. Sharing what Good Friday is about. Need to pray for good weather. Afterwards there will be hot cross buns at Garland Street. Cost – around £2,000 – traffic management, mime artist, hire of stage, PA, printing, St Johns Ambulance. Offering taken in the service will go towards next year's Good Friday event. Radio Suffolk will be involved with the event. Peter Gibson (PG) suggested that the church people stand at the back and people who need to know the message stand near the stage. Need 8 cross bearers – asked churches if they would help – Garland Street/St Peters/Southgate said they may be able to. Also need Stewards to keep people on pavements – Mark Hackeson (MH) volunteered St Edmunds. Banners – bring any along. Banners all at the front of the procession. AC will ask younger people to carry the banners. Flyers about Good Friday will be available at the end of February and will be going into the shops on the route of the walk. The shops will be aware of what will happen on Good Friday. MR asked what will happen if people respond to the message. We need people to be available and ready to help these people. HS suggested a prayer point near the stage. Also need people at Garland Street – handpicked people to be able to talk/pray with any enquirers.. AC suggested the ministers make suggestions of appropriate people.. Andrew(AS) to take these comments back to the Planning Group to consider and action accordingly.  
 Eilish Heath (EH) advised that the Apex had come back to us to say that Hanchett Square was available for us if we wanted it. They had been unable to let us know before January.
10. **Share and Study Groups – June**  
 7,14 and 21 June- 7.30 – 9.00 – All Saints – tea/coffee/cakes  
 Studies on Peter, John and Paul  
 Debbie Borda – Peter  
 Victor Jack – Paul  
 ? – John  
 HS said he will do a flyer.
11. **Prayer Breakfasts**  
 Saturday 25 February – 8-10.00 am – Christian Resource Centre  
 Saturday 13 May – 8-10.00 am - URC
12. **Come Together**  
 Saturday 17 June 2017 – 7.00 pm – St Marys.  
 Graham Jack speaking.
13. **Date of next meeting**  
 Monday 24 April at 7.30 pm at Christ Church, Moreton Hall
14. **AOB**
- i) John Froud – singer – URC – Thursday or Friday 24 March
  - ii) Christian Aid week – 14-20 May
  - iii) Womens World Day of Prayer – focussing on Phillipines – Friday 3 March  
 10.30 am – St Peters  
 7.30 pm – St Edmunds
  - iv) Shelter for people on the streets – churches in Ipswich provide shelter between them. In the long-term Bury Drop In Centre would like to provide emergency overnight accommodation. Many of these people have mental health problems. AC suggested a letter being sent to Jo Churchill. DW said that Churches Together had done this in the past.
  - v) Fair Trade partnership – Coffee morning 6 March Just Traid – to celebrate that we have a town map showing fair trade shops. Fair Trade dance at All Saints on 30 April – 3-5.00 pm.
  - vi) AGM – AS will be standing down and a replacement is needed.
  - vii) Saturday 11 March – 9.30 – 12.30 at All Saints – CVM Men's morning-“Raising Up Men.” open invitation
  - viii) Prayer is needed re future possible church building projects – Garland Street/ Horringer Court/Vineyard/West Road and regarding local ministries. eg CAP/Drop In/Street Pastors. Drop In-Angel Project.
15. **Closing Prayer**  
 AS asked us to get in to groups to pray. AS then closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.