



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 24 April 2017 at 7.30 pm
at Christ Church, Moreton Hall**

Those present:

Claire Rose (All Saints)	Olivia Arthur (St Marys)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)
Elaine Green (Quakers)	Paul Doswell (Salvation Army)	Rev Jonathan Ford (Christ Church)
Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	Maj Chris Whittingham (Sal Army)	Marian Shaw (Cathedral)
Adrian Mann (St Johns/NBT/BECT)	Howard Scott (Christian Aid/CCMH)	Peter Gibson (Southgate)
Gerda Tooley (Southgate)	Andrew Soman (Vineyard)	Jenny Troll (St Marys)

1. **Welcome** – Andrew welcomed us to the meeting and thanked Howard for the teas.
Reading – Andrew read from John 17 V20-23 – that they may all be one. Jesus prayed for us.
Prayer – Andrew prayed
2. **Apologies:**
Robert Green (Garland Street), Gill Shaw (Christ Church), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Malcolm Rogers (St Marys), Elaine Colechin (URC), Richard and Joyce Norburn (All Saints), Rosemary Clare (Garland St), David Wakeford (Trinity), Regina Collender (St Edmunds), Mallie Sharpe (St Peters), Mark Haworth (NML Bury & Lark Valley), Matt Rushby (BCY), Heather Corbell (Horringer), Irene Hendley (Just Traid), Mary Soman (Vineyard)
3. **Minutes of last meeting of 30 January 2017** - approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman, after being proposed by Eilish Heath and seconded by Andrew Caldicott.
4. **Matters Arising:**
Good Friday – AS said this event went well and has had good reports, especially the mime presentation which had been very moving. Having Radio Suffolk recording the event had helped. CR said that some people at the back could not see the mime although there was quite a lot of space in front of the stage. At the previous Churches Together meeting it was suggested that the general public should be the ones to go to the front and this was possibly the reason there was space at the front. The siting of the stage had been moved at the last moment. AC said that the police were behind the scenes due to recent events elsewhere in the world. It was thought that the public had respect while we were walking from the Cathedral to Poundland. Thanks to EH, RC, MR, AS and AC for their work in this event.
Mary Elliott – AS said he had received a card from ME thanking us for our card.
5. **Finance Report**
CR produced the accounts and said finances were looking good. She had not received funds from the Cathedral yet for Good Friday - costs amount to £2263.40 for the event. She wonders if the subs should increase. This will be reviewed at a later date once confirmation of the offering taken at the Cathedral is known, as this money will be put towards next year's Good Friday event. Presently the church subs are £60 for churches over 25 people, £30 under 25 people. MS suggested getting more churches to join Churches Together but it was thought most churches are already involved.
6. **Churches Together banner**
AS said there were three banners presently, two of which are for Good Friday. The third is getting a bit old. It was suggested that a competition is held for children to design a banner and perhaps the Open the Book people could get the children involved. PG suggested a firm in Ingham to make the banner. PS will e-mail AS details. BCY/Nicola/Alison Burgess could be contacted.
7. **Nicki Dixon/Cathedral**
Unfortunately ND could not come to-night due to father-in-law being in hospital.

8. **Brief Reports**
Christian Aid – Howard advised that proposed events will be scheduled for the autumn. On target financially.
9. **Bury Drop In**
AS asked JT to say a few words re starting at Drop In. JT advised that there were jobs of being in the kitchen, reception and befriending to be done and she had worked in all areas. The volunteers and guests were all very friendly and it was good to see many churches represented and working together. AS added that shops were giving a lot of food. The Elven Centre is to be re-vamped in the autumn. He added that if anyone is interested they should just pop in.
10. **Who Cares**
AC advised that the Who Cares evening brought in 280 people representing 46 churches. The offering covered a great part of what is planned. Dates for training: Thurs 18 May, Saturday 20 May and Tuesday 23 May – 3 hour sessions at Great Barton Freedom Church. There is also a training event in Ipswich – please e-mail Robert Green if interested. They hope to have 30,000 cards going out. Analysis of results and action could start in Easter 2018. Presently 5 on the steering group but they need more people.
11. **Share and Study groups in June**
Becoming a Disciple. Dates – 7/14/21 June. All Saints Church 7.00 pm for tea and cake with 7.30 start. They are still having problems with finding a facilitator for 14 June on John. The other two sessions are – Paul, led by Victor Jack and Peter by Debbie Borda. Once finalised Howard has kindly said he will do a flyer.
12. **Prayer Breakfast**
Saturday 13 May 2017 – URC – 8-10.00 am.
13. **Come Together**
Saturday 17 June 2017 at 7.00 pm at St Marys. Graham Jack speaking on compassion. There will be one or two testimonies.
14. **Chairman position**
AS will be standing down at the AGM in July. We need a new chairman or chairwoman. AS has asked us to give this prayer.
15. **Date of next meeting**
AGM Monday 17 July 2017 – 7.00 pm. Looking for venue. Share finger buffet to start with. Host provides tables and hot drinks. CW has offered the Salvation Army Hall in St Johns Street. AS thanked CW.
16. **AOB**
 - i) **Hustings** – Could Churches Together organise something? Robert Green has said he could assist. Generally thought it was too short notice to get anything organised, and therefore Churches Together won't be organising such an event this time.
 - ii) **Thy Kingdom Come** – Archbishop's initiative. Held between Ascension Day 25 May – Pentecost 4 June. Pray between these dates for people to come to Christ. It is now an international event of a call to prayer. St Marys and St Peters have organised this event at the Hyndman Centre. AS suggested that we all support this initiative. 24/7 prayer Friday/Saturday 26/27 May. Anyone can come along. JF suggested looking at Thy Kingdom Come website. Moreton Hall are also doing prayer for 10 days. JT to send out programme.
 - iii) **Horringer Court** - prayer week – 7-13 May –7.30 am for 45 mins. Asks for prayer for this event.
 - iv) **MAF** – pilot coming to give a talk on Wednesday 17 May.
17. **Closing prayer**
AS asked us to form groups and pray about the various matters that had come up during the meeting.
Meeting ended at 9.00 pm.