



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 17 July 2017 at 7.00 pm  
at Salvation Army Hall, Bury St Edmunds**

**Those present:**

Claire Rose (All Saints)	Elaine Green (Quakers)	Paul Doswell (Salvation Army)
Rev Jonathan Ford (Christ Church)	Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	Maj Chris Whittingham (Sal Army)
Marian Shaw (Cathedral)	Howard Scott (Christian Aid/CCMH)	Peter Gibson (Southgate)
Joyce Norburn (All Saints)	Richard Norburn (All Saints)	David Bonnett (Bury Drop In)
Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)	Irene Hendley (Just Traid)	Mary Soman (Vineyard)
Heather Corbell (Horringer)	Claire McMillan (Garland Street)	Geoff Birkby (Cathedral)
Richard Stephens (Vineyard)	Mark Haworth (North Bury & Lark Valley)	
Jenny Troll (St Marys)	Andrew Soman (Vineyard)	

1. **Welcome** – Andrew welcomed us to the meeting and thanked CW for opening up the hall for the buffet and teas. Welcomed RN and JN back after quite a few months.  
**Reading** – AS read firstly from Phil 4 v6-7 “Don’t worry about anything but pray about everything” and then from John 15 v 1-8 about the true vine and that we want people in this town to bear fruit.  
**Prayer** – AS prayed
2. **Apologies:**  
 Robert Green (Garland Street), Elaine Colechin (URC), Rosemary Clare (Garland St), David Wakeford (Trinity), Regina Collender (St Edmunds), Sharon Connell, (St Nicholas Hospice) Martin Tilley (URC), Gerda Tooley (Southgate), Eilish Heath ( St Edmunds), Nick Alexander (St Peters) and Adrian Mann (St Johns), Olivia Arthur (St Marys)
3. **Minutes of last meeting of 24 April 2017** - approved and signed by the chair, Andrew Soman, after being proposed by Andrew Soman and seconded by CR.
4. **Matters Arising:**  
**Share and Study** – DW had sent a report to the Secretary – The three studies were on Paul, Peter and Mary Magdalene. They learnt a good deal about the characters thanks to Debbie Borda and Victor Jack who gave fresh insight and a lot to think about. Indebted to Victor Jack for doing two of the studies. 11 churches took part with a total attendance of 77, average 25/27. Thanked All Saints for the excellent venue. Rosemary Clare and DW are wondering if a change would be appropriate for 2018, say a week day or Saturday where the speaker would help them to delve deeper into God’s word.  
**Come Together** – Saturday evening in June. AS said the numbers had been going down, only 80/100 this time. Graham Jack gave a good message and there were two testimonies. The Planning Group are meeting together in the Autumn to see what God is saying to them about the future of Come Together.  
**Thy Kingdom Come** – JT gave a report on this initiative by Justin Welby. The idea is to pray for unbelievers to come to know Christ. The prayer event is between Ascension Day and Pentecost. After the launch service at the Cathedral on Wednesday and Ascension Day services on the Thursday, St Marys and St Peters churches held a 24 hour period of continuous prayer. Normal services were on the Sunday and then from Monday – Thursday prayer sessions were held between 8 – 9.00 am and 8-9.00 pm which were run by housegroups. Each session was different depending on how the housegroup wanted to run it. The organising group felt the period had gone really well and we intend to hold it again next year.
5. **Finance Report**  
 CR produced the accounts. She advised that there had been no Good Friday in the 2017 accounts. Expenses were £2263.40 for Good Friday. £1260 raised Good Friday this year at the

Cathedral. We need to find £1000. AC said he could not see expenses would be higher next year.

CR wonders if the subs should increase. Presently the church subs are £60 for churches over 25 people, £30 under 25 people. Choice – either carry on as we are or raise subs. After some discussion it was decided to leave the subs as they are for this year.

CR gave a vote of thanks to Bob Huddlestone for looking at the accounts.

6. **Good Friday – 30/3/2018**

AC asked if we wanted to do the same. He would like someone to liaise with the Cathedral as Malcolm Rogers used to do this. No additional costs.

Things to think about:

- 1) Do we want to do it?
- 2) Get more people on board
- 3) Same as before or modified?

PG and HC both thought the time was very good. The Bury Free Press had a full page spread. After discussion it was decided to go ahead but AC does need helpers.

7. **Churches Together banner**

AC said there were three banners presently, two of which are for Good Friday. The third is for general use. AC had found 7 banner styles and he asked us to tick the one we prefer before we leave this evening. PD suggested that we use a banner for the Advent service. There was a request made for metal poles rather than wood as they are lighter. AC said he was looking at plastic.

8. **Brief Reports**

**Just Traid** - IH said there had been a few changes with a new assistant manager and a new Saturday supervisor. They are looking to do some evening things. They are looking for volunteers – till and café workers.

**Christian Aid** – HS thanked us for supporting them. Money raised this year has been less. The united service did not have many people attend may be because church services were still being held. There is an abseiling event at the end of September. Need to raise £1000 to get on target. He will send information to JT to be forwarded out to all.

**Alpha** – JF advised that Moreton Hall is to do an Alpha course over 7 evenings in the Bear Grylls format.

**Bike Ride** – MS spoke about the Suffolk Historic Churches bike and stride held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September. Non denominational. Asks for people to take part in this. 700 churches in Suffolk open on the day. Half the money goes to your own church and the other half goes to the Historic Churches Trust. MS will write a little bit and send it to JT to send out.

**Advent Greeting** – GB is prepared to arrange this - ?3 December. Nearest neighbour church would be good. Any Church wanting to be involved with this to contact GB. CR will compose an e-mail to be sent to churches.

9. **Bury Drop In**

DB – Trustee – gave a short talk. He said that the Centre had been going for three years now. He read Luke 15 about the Prodigal elder son. There are a lot of late teens/early 20s people attending the Drop In. 245 new guests this year. 50-60 each session. The Council have implied that they are too successful. There is a Rough Sleeper Officer attending. There are plans for a night shelter between Nov-March – severe weather project. 16 volunteers a night will be needed to run it. Food collections going well. Thinking of having a drop-in in the evening. Want to have better discussions with the guests including discussions on spiritual matters. There is to be an exhibition held at the Cathedral 31 Oct – 3 Nov with a service on the Friday evening. Prayers are needed and if anyone can volunteer that would be great.

AS read a letter thanking Churches Together for their donation of £354.90 (with Gift Aid: £468.65) collected at the united service.

10. **Who Cares**

AC thanked everyone who has been for training. 100 people in BSE and 110 in Ipswich. 20 churches involved in West Suffolk. The Listening Phase, running from Aug to Nov 2017, will

start on Wed 2 August when students from the New Day festival will be asking people to complete the questionnaire in Bury and Elmswell . From Dec 2017 to Jan 2018 data analysis will take place to see how churches can respond to the results of the questionnaire. Then between Jan and Easter 2018 churches will respond accordingly. If any churches are not in this scheme they should contact Robert Green or Andrew Caldicott.

11. **Prayer Breakfast**

None in diary for the Autumn. HC suggested having the next one at Horringer and Sat 14 October was agreed on. HC needs to confirm this.

12. **Kairos Project**

Richard Stephens of the Vineyard Church spoke about a prison ministry. They have been operating for five years in Whitemoor Prison. 24 people go in as a team and take cookies for the prisoners. Prisoners' lives have been changed. Looking for people to cook cookies for the prisoners.

13. **Chairman position/Election of Officers**

AS said he is to stand down this year. He has valued the opportunity to serve on Churches Together and he has done this for three years. He feels we need to pray more. Thanked us for our support. Thanked CR as Treasurer and JT as secretary. Also thanked Malcolm Rogers as his mentor. Thankfully we have someone to takeover – Heather Corbell. She is prepared to be chairman for two years. Proposed by AS, seconded RN.

HC spoke – first read John 17 v 23. As background she was brought up in a Christian family and been to various churches but is now at Horringer Church. Involved with hospital chaplaincy 3 times a week and concerned with end of life care. Her vision for Churches Together is to introduce people to Christ, to be pro-active. Feels more should be done for the villages. Suggests prayer weekend. Thanked AS for his quiet spirit and encouragement.

**Election of Treasurer** – CR is prepared to stand for another year – AS proposed, RN seconded. CR said she will standing down as treasurer from the AGM in 2018.

**Election of Secretary** – JT proposed by MS and seconded by CR

AS thanked AC for heading up events eg Good Friday.

14. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 9 October 2017 – 7.30 pm – Salvation Army Hall.

15. **AOB**

1) AC thanked AS for his work as chairman.

2) AC said there were several changes:

Peter and Audrey Gibson – Peter retiring from Southgate

Malcolm and Alison Rogers – leaving St Marys and moving to Moscow

Andrew and Dawn Buttress – Andrew to train as a vicar in Durham

BCY – in a period of flux

3) Roughton Tower Museum – minute's silence. 10/12/2017 10.30 am.  
1942-45 – Americans came over here.

4) EG gave an update on Grenfell Tower children – St Johns and Clare Baptist Church had made donations for the children to have caravan holidays –four weeks so far but are hoping to get this up to six weeks.

5) PG's last meeting with Churches Together. CR gave thanks for his input as Churches Together Chair in the past. AS said he and Audrey will be missed.

6) Sunday 6 August – 2-5.00 pm – CR is opening her garden at 10 Meadow Close in aid of Christian Aid.

16. **Closing prayer**

AS asked us to form into groups and pray about the various matters that had come up during the meeting.

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm.