



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 9 October 2017 at 7.30 pm  
at Salvation Army Hall, Bury St Edmunds**

**Those present:**

Claire Rose (All Saints)	Elaine Green (Quakers)	Paul Doswell (Salvation Army)
Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	Maj Chris Whittingham (Sal Army)	Marian Shaw (Cathedral)
Joyce Norburn (All Saints)	Richard Norburn (All Saints)	Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)
Irene Hendley (Just Traid)	Mary Soman (Vineyard)	Heather Corbell (Horringer)
Geoff Birkby (Cathedral)	Andrew Soman (Vineyard)	Gill Shaw (Moreton Hal)
Christopher Griffiths (Brockley)	Jeremy Parsons ( St Edmunds Way)	Laura Selman (N Bury)
Elaine Colechin (URC)	Regina Collander (St Edmunds RC)	Olivia Arthur (St Marys)
Stephen Griffiths (WSH Chap)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)	Rosemary Clare ( Garland St)
Jenny Troll (St Marys)		

1. **Welcome** – Heather welcomed us to the meeting and thanked CW for opening up the hall.  
**Reading** – HC read from Ps 122 on unity and uniformity and peace with God.  
**Prayer** – HC prayed
2. **Apologies:**  
Robert Green (Garland Street), David Wakeford (Trinity), Nick Alexander (St Peters), Adrian Mann (St Johns), Mark Haworth (N Bury & Lark Valley), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Howard Scott (Christian Aid), Jonathan Ford (Moreton Hall).
3. **Matters Arising:**  
CR said that the last meeting had actually been an AGM but this had not been headed up as AGM in the minutes.  
**Share and Study** – HC thought that it was good that 11 churches had been involved in this. HC had spoken with several people with regard to having a day of studying the bible next year and she found that many people would not be keen to give up a whole day to do this. Probably continue as before with 3 evenings.  
**Come Together** – AS advised that the Come Together group was separate from Churches Together and that St Marys Church was purely used as a venue. AS went on to say that Malcolm Rogers had moved to Russia and Robert Green is busy at present. Numbers attending had been going down and there were other things going on in the town so it was decided not to persevere with these evenings for the time being.  
**Good Friday** – HC advised that AC and herself were in the process of planning this. They are going to see the people at the Cathedral/BFP/East Anglian. Need stewards. Radio Suffolk may not come to BSE as they are in Ipswich in 2018. Thinking of having the stage lower down on the Cornhill. Not having the mime artist in 2018. Thinking of having the schools who will sing something very simple. Parents may then come along. To have 2/3 readings and 2 hymns.  
**Ride and Stride** – MS apologised for not sending the script after the last meeting. She reported that 31 churches in the Churches Together group from the Thingoe area participated. There are a further 14 churches outside of Thingoe area in the Churches Together group. Visitors to the churches are welcomed, signed in and offered refreshments. Anyone can take part. Countrywide £40,000 has been raised so far. Churches receive back 50% of funds raised in their church. The remaining 50% goes into SHCT's grant making account. MS thanked those who helped to warden the churches.  
**Advent Greeting** – GB has distributed letters re advent greeting. 15/16 churches on the list now. GB is trying to increase this number.

**Bury Drop In** – HC asked that we try to support the exhibition at the Cathedral 31 Oct – 3 Nov.

**Item 13** – Chairman position – HC said she had thought she had said gentle spirit when speaking of AS and not quiet spirit.

**BCY** – Still looking for a replacement for Matt. Nicola Bolton is carrying on in the meantime. RN says they are advertising again. BCY is holding a celebration on 15 October at West Road Church.

**Minutes of last meeting of 17 July 2017** - approved and signed by the chair, HC, after being proposed by AS and seconded by PD.

HC thanked JT for her secretarial work.

4. **Finance Report**

CR apologised for sending the accounts late. Balance held £49393.30. Total expenses for Good Friday 2017, across the two accounting years, was £2,263.40. This means we will need to fund about £1,000 for next year from our own resources (beyond the collection at the Cathedral this year), if expenses are similar. Subscriptions have been received from 17 churches. CR expects to receive from another 6 or 7 churches.

HC thanked CR for all her work.

5. **Churches Together banner**

AC advised this was work in progress. He showed the chosen design and had received two quotes. Presently looking at the material of banners as we do not want banners that are heavy. Should be ready in the next two weeks. It will have collapsible poles for easy storage. EC said that PVC was OK in storage.

6. **Christmas Fayre/Advent service**

Sunday 26 November – stage on the left of the Abbey Gate. Salvation Army band, short reading and a message. Plea for three things:

- 1) Singers on the stage eg 2/3 from each church(?)
- 2) Stewards to give out service sheets
- 3) Actors to act out message

Victor Jack has agreed to speak. RC suggested a choir – AC and PD to try and organise. HC asked JT to send out an e-mail to the google group to contact her re singers/stewards/actors.

7. **Brief Reports**

**Christian Aid** – HS not present. CR thanked everyone for coming to her garden – she raised £200 for Christian Aid.

**Just Traid** - IH said she is ordering lots of things for Christmas. There is a Christmas preview afternoon on 6 November – 2-6.00 pm – 10% off.

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

8. **Who Cares** – AC advised they had had a meeting last week – Robert Green/Darren from CAP and Peter from Elmswell. Good response. In Norwich and Norfolk there had been 27,000 responses. In West Suffolk they are hoping that more churches will come on board and they are extending the time to join until after Christmas. Loneliness and injustice keep coming up in West Suffolk. Are presently looking at the list of responses and agencies who will get involved. 16 churches signed up in this area. AC is to speak at the Regional Mothers' Union meeting.

9. **Prayer and Prayer Breakfasts**

HC apologised re prayer breakfast. HC asked that any communications for Churches Together could go through JT. She went on to say that we need to pray for the events that Churches Together get involved in. Need a prayer event early November to pray for Advent Service. Timing is difficult. RC thinks prayer breakfasts should still continue as we can get to know each other. They don't need to be run by Church leaders.

? mid week lunch

Saturday morning breakfast

After work slot

Prayer breakfasts seem the most popular. AC asks where this could be held? ?

Methodist/Catholic/Baptist churches? MS suggested Hyndman Centre on Saturday 11 November 2017 – 8-10.00, 8.30 prayer. (MS has since confirmed that Hyndman Centre is not available. Now to be Southgate Church. Spring Prayer Breakfast to be held at WSH Chaplaincy on either 28 Feb or 3 March)

HC thanked AS, AC, RN, RG for their help over the last few weeks.

Prayer Walking – HC finds this effective.

HC suggests praying with someone who lives near to you and from a different church.

12. **Week of Christian Unity (not on agenda)**

RC brought this to our attention. Dates – 18-25 January 2018. Service on Sunday evening at 6.30 pm – EC offered URC church for this service. Agreed. AS said he could let HC have details of last year's speaker if she would like them. EC suggested having a local preacher. Collection for a charity. There had been confusion over which day each host thinks it should be. It was agreed that the following should be adhered to with regard to the day of the week:

Sunday 18 January – 6.30 service – URC – (Speaker since confirmed as David Oakley)

Monday 19 January – Cathedral – DAY 1

Tuesday 20 January – Garland Street – DAY 2

Wednesday 21 January – Trinity – DAY 3

Thursday 22 January – St Edmunds – DAY 4

Friday 23 January – URC – DAY 5

Saturday 24 January – St Johns – DAY 6

Lunchtime – 12.30 – 1.30 pm. Tea and coffee supplied by host church.

EC is co-ordinating access to the materials and venues.

14. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 29 January 2018 – 7.30 pm – St Edmunds or Baptist Church. To be confirmed. (Since confirmed as St Edmunds Crypt)

15. **AOB**

1) Fair Trade tea at Sainsburys – the labels have been removed from their tea. National day of action on Saturday 28 October throughout the country. MS to e-mail us details.

2) AS advised that Fred Maynard is in the hospice and has only days to live. Asked us to pray for Fred and Eileen his wife.

3) EG advised re Remembrance Sunday and the white poppy. 3.00 pm. War must be avoided if at all possible.

4) Hospital chaplaincy – SG has something to give to all churches at the end of the meeting.

5) Sunday 10 December 10.30 am – one minutes silence. Salvation Army Band.

6) Saturday 18 November Mens' breakfast – 8-9.00 am. Planet Laser £7

7) AC advised that some Americans are coming over as it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since they came over in the war. He wonders how many churches in the area have links with the Americans?

16. **Closing prayer**

HC, RN, AC and AS closed the meeting with prayers.

Meeting ended at 9.25 pm.