



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 29 January 2018 at 7.30 pm
at The Crypt, St Edmunds Church, Bury St Edmunds**

Those present:

Claire Rose (All Saints)	Elaine Green (Quakers)	Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)
Maj Chris Whittingham (Sal Army)	Maj Steve Whittingham (Sal Army)	Marian Shaw (Suffolk Hist Churches)
Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)	Heather Corbell (Horringer)	Geoff Birkby (Cathedral)
Andrew Soman (Westley Comm)	Gill Shaw (Moreton Hal)	Elaine Colechin (URC)
Regina Collander (St Edmunds RC)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)	David Wakeford (Trinjity)
Elizabeth Elliott (Cathedral)	Sam Potter (Southgate)	Martin Tilley (URC)
Gerda Ewing-Tooley (Southgate)	Catrin Diverres (Trinity Methodist)	David Bonnett (Bury Drop In)
Matt Selman (N Bury team)	Rev Canon Mark Haworth(NML Bury & Lark Valley)	
Elaine Colechin (URC)	Jenny Troll (St Marys)	

1. **Welcome** – Heather welcomed us to the meeting and thanked Eilish and Regina for hosting the meeting. She welcomed Matt Selman (N Bury team).
Reading – Heather read from John 15 v1-11 about the vine and pruning the branches and abiding in Jesus. We need to abide in him and obey his commands. Heather commented that we are not individuals but a group of people.
Prayer – Heather prayed
2. **Apologies:**
Nick Alexander (St Peters), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Howard Scott (Christian Aid), Jonathan Ford (Moreton Hall), Rosemary Clare (Garland Street), Olivia Arthur (St Marys), Paul Doswell (Salvation Army), Mary Soman (Westley Community), Father Alvin (St Edmunds), Jeremy Parsons (Hawstead)
3. **Minutes of last meeting**
Marian Shaw – Marian said she was at this meeting representing Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and not the Cathedral.
Spring Prayer Breakfast – should read 24 February.
Minutes were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising**
Fred Maynard – Died within a few days of our last meeting. We had prayed for him at that meeting.
Richard Norburn – Died since our last meeting. Richard had been at our last meeting. Many people attended his funeral.
Share and Study groups – Nothing yet arranged. Heather suggested three evenings in the Summer. Venue TBC Wednesdays in June. Heather to work on this. **HC**
Advent Greeting - Geoff Birkby said that some churches did not want to take part. Geoff wanted to know whether it was worth carrying on? Elaine Green said she was it was a good idea – joining together with all churches. A positive thing. Mark Haworth suggested that it is held at another time of year as Advent was a busy time of year. Andrew Soman suggested it was held during the period Ascension – Pentecost – 10-20 May. Discussion held about timing. Decided on harvest time this year and Pentecost next year. ? someone working alongside Geoff for a year. Regina volunteered to work alongside Geoff.
Ride and Stride - 38 Churches opened their doors to visitors. Of these, 30 churches were able to find members to take part in the occasion by walking or cycling for the cause. These were joined by one or two people who were not aligned to any particular church, but wished to take part, and whose money was dedicated directly to SHCT.

Comparative Results showing monies raised in 2017 and 2016

AREA	2017	2016	+/-
Thingoe	£8,814.10	£8,813.55	+ £0.55
Suffolk	£144,521.00	£135,775.00	+ £8,746.00

N.B Thingoe's contribution in 2017 was almost identical to 2016's total.

County-wide, the amount raised in 2017 showed an increase of almost 6.5% over 2016.

Who Cares – Andrew Caldicott advised that the four people involved have had difficult situations to deal with recently and therefore information has been delayed and will now be out after Easter. They are moving forward but slower than they hoped.

Churches Together banner – The banner is at the printers at present. Should be with Andrew C next week.

Christmas Fayre service – Heather thought it went well. No-one walked away during the service. Mallie Sharpe thought the drama was good, others agreed.

Prayer Breakfasts – The one in November was held in Southgate Church. Spring Prayer Breakfast is on Saturday 24 February. Time Out - breakfast followed by prayers in West Suffolk Hospital Chapel. 8.00 am for 8.15 am. (Requests made to pray for Ian and Stephen.)

Fair Trade Day of Action – Mallie said this did not happen. Mallie said they were still lobbying. There is a Barn Dance on 24 February and Jeff Lucas on 24 March.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Thanked Elaine Colechin for all her hard work. Heather said she thought the week went well. Heather said she had asked Bishop Mike Harrison to speak at next year's launch service on 20 January. Mark said we need to commit to this. Heather feels that events that Churches Together do should be supported by the churches in Churches Together. Heather will e-mail via the Google Group something to this effect. **HC** Heather thanked Jenny for doing the minutes, reminders etc.

5. **Finance Report**

Claire advised that there were a few churches that had not paid yet. The sum of £192.60 was collected at the United Service. £5059.10 is held in the account which is enough for Good Friday. Heather thanked Claire for her work as Treasurer.

6. **Good Friday**

Heather advised that road closures are in place and the Police/security are in hand. There will be a short service at the Cathedral at 10.30 – there is a meeting with the people at the Cathedral in the next two weeks. At 10.50 the walk will commence along Angel Hill, up Abbeygate Street to Cornhill. The Town Council is very supportive of this walk. There will be a stage outside Moyses Hall.

- There will be songs – Heather has written to schools although there have been very few responses. Two or three are keen for children to sing "There is a Green Hill". Some youth groups and adult choirs are interested. The Bury Drop In choir will sign Amazing Grace. There will be one or two readings and a devotional time.
- Need to have some outreach element for the unchurched people. Andrew C has drafted a flier – suggested giving these out before the day.
- Sometimes the items included at the Cathedral are then repeated in the Market Place – need to try and avoid this.
- ? having a drama rather than a devotional. Tell a story/visual/open the book. Elaine C can provide material.
- All shops will have posters – to be given out between 5-12 March. Andrew C is working on this. Churches will also be given posters. On the back of the posters there will be something evangelical.

- To finish by 11.45 to enable people to go to services at the Cathedral and St Marys at 12 noon.
- ?hot cross buns at the Baptist Church.
- ?New Testaments to be given out to anyone enquiring.
- Andrew C said he needed two teams to carry the cross – anyone interested to e-mail Andrew C.

7. **Bury Drop In**

David read from John 13. The Drop In offers food and drink to the guests and several agencies attend on Tuesdays and Fridays. When they started 2 ½ years ago there were two guests and now this has increased to an average of 55-65 each session. Last Friday 73 meals prepared. The Council are very supportive. There was a severe weather centre for 1 ½ weeks and this led on to a night shelter which will be open until the end of March. They have been having up to 11 people each night. They arrive at 9.30 pm and have to be out by 8.00 am in the morning. Most expensive hotel in town! There are many loyal volunteers each session but they are always looking out for more volunteers particularly more men. They have a good working relationship with the agencies. Food comes from M&S, Greggs, Tescos mainly. Valley Connections provide curries and they have offered one guest a job. Nandos are thinking along the same lines. Gifts are always welcome. Everyone can pray for the work done at the Drop In. David thanked Mike Coleman who has recently retired as Chairman for the Drop In. Heather thanked David for telling us about the Drop In Centre. Heather has written to Mike Coleman with his reply:

Dear Mike,

I am writing, on behalf of Churches Together in Bury St.Edmunds and District, to thank you for all your work in establishing and running the Bury Drop-In. It has been a great work, and one for which all the churches, all the Body of Christ in our area, and many other people too, can be thankful. It is a privilege to be associated, in any way, with this work which has won the love and respect of Christians and non-Christians alike, across the town and surrounding villages.

So a big and heart-felt thank-you.

Heather (Corbell).Chair, Churches Together in Bury St. Edmunds and District.

Dear Heather

Thank you so much for this hugely encouraging letter. It cost a lot to step aside but my prayer is that others, especially younger others, will more than fill my place.

Kind regards

Mike Coleman

8. **Brief Reports**

Christian Aid – HS not present – no report.

Just Traid - Adrian Mann said Irene Hendley is on sick leave and having chemo therapy. She will be out of action for some months. Heather asked him to pass on our love.

9. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 30 April – St Georges (NB since meeting Mark has advised the room is not available. Elaine G has thankfully said that the Meeting House in St Johns Street is available for us.)

10. **AOB**

- 1) Jonathan Ford – Alpha – starting Wednesday 31 January at Moreton Hall – Bear Grylls format. 7.00 pm start, finishes 9.30 pm. Contact Jonathan Ford.
- 2) Elizabeth Elliott – Inter Faith Forum – need a Christian presence.
- 3) Fair Trade Trail – 25 February – pick up forms and go to shops showing Fair Trade posters. Free.
- 4) Women’s Day of Prayer – Friday 2 March – 10.30 am Moreton Hall, 7.30 pm Salvation Army.
- 5) Tourist Office – they used to have information re churches and they would like some more leaflets. Claire suggested having a leaflet with churches and location as everything else changes. Marian has a sample. Andrew said the Americans would probably like copies of this leaflet.

11. **Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed with prayers.

Meeting ended at 9.25 pm.