



**Minutes of the Churches Together meeting held on Monday 30 April 2018 at 7.30 pm
at The Quaker Meeting House, St Johns Street, Bury St Edmunds**

Those present:

Elaine Green (Quakers)	Andrew Caldecott (CVM/HC3)	Olivia Arthur (St Marys)
Mallie Sharpe (St Peters)	Heather Corbell (Horringer)	Andrew Soman (Westley Comm)
Regina Collander (St Edmunds RC)	Eilish Heath (St Edmunds)	David Wakeford (Trinjity)
Martin Tilley (URC)	Gerda Ewing-Tooley (Southgate)	David Green (Vineyard)
Claire McMillan (Garland Street)	Rosemary Clare (Garland Street)	Thomas Mundell (Relevant)
Liz Huddleston (Southgate)	Howard Scott (Christian Aid)	Bob Huddleston (Southgate)
Stephen Griffiths (WSH Chaplaincy)	Nic Wright (Quakers)	Laura Selman (N Bury)
Jenny Troll (St Marys)		

1. **Welcome** – Heather welcomed us to the meeting and thanked Elaine and Nic for hosting the meeting. She welcomed David Green (Causeway) and Thomas Mundell (Garland Street/Relevant).
Reading – Heather read from John 3 v16-17, Col 1 v15,18-20 and Romans 10 v 9, 14, 17..
Prayer – Heather prayed
2. **Apologies:**
Elaine Colechin (URC), Claire Rose (All Saints), Nick Alexander (St Peters), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Paul Doswell (Salvation Army), Mary Soman (Westley Community), Marian Shaw (Cathedral/Suffolk Historic Churches) gave belated apologies.
Heather suggested that two representatives are sent from each church and if you are unable to attend to try and get someone else to come.
3. **Minutes of last meeting of 29 January 2018**
Agreed.
Minutes signed.
4. **Matters arising**
Share and Study groups – three Wednesday evenings in June – 13, 20 and 27 June – 7.30 pm – Hyndman Centre. Heather advised that on the first one on 13 June Professor Hugh Williamson will be speaking on Why do Christians need the Old Testament.
Advent Greeting – moved from Advent to earlier in the year. Proposal accepted. Harvest time this year. Regina said she would help Geoff. Sunday 30 September. Suggested name – Church greeting.
Who Cares – Andrew C advised that the four people involved have come to the end of their spell and on 19 March there was the final get-together. 4000 replies from all over Suffolk. The two most common subjects were Injustice and Loneliness, both being in over 30% of replies. Churches should try to use meetings that are already in place rather than create something new.
Review Good Friday – The day had been dry but very cold. 700 at the cathedral but not 700 in Cornhill. Need to communicate the message to churches to get people to go in the procession to Cornhill. Heather thought we could do with more stewards on the evening before. Good banner – on show at today's meeting. Andrew C would like a bag for the banner – Eilish said she would make one. Alternative literature was being given out on Cornhill. Andrew C thanked everyone for their help and also Heather for all her work. Heather thanked Regina for co-ordinating the drama and also Sheila Mitchell, choir leader. Regina thanked Southgate Church for helping at the last minute. She went on to suggest that a committee is formed for the Good Friday event and that there is delegation of the

work involved. Next year Good Friday will be on 19 April. Andrew C asked if we were going to do this procession etc next year and if so he would like the mime artist to return together with the choirs. Liz said she had received good feedback about the drama and she would say No to the mime. Andrew S said he felt we needed the message about what Easter is all about. Heather said we shall need to pray about the event. Regina said the Drop In choir and the children's choir were really good. Heather said she had taken certificates to the school choir children at Gt Barton. Regina also thanked Rosemary and the Baptist Church for the hot cross buns.

Fair Trade Trail – Mallie reported that the boxes had now been collected. The draw had not taken place as yet. There will be something in the press. She was pleased that a lot of people had taken part. The trail had gone well.

Churches Together leaflet – Heather had been to the Tourist office. She had printed off the list of churches from the website and had given this to the Tourist Office. Heather also gave them some small cards to give away showing Churches Together website details.

5. **Outreach**

Heather feels that this is our main reason for Churches Together. The Mission statement on the website says "to give a united witness to Christ" eg Advent and walk of witness.

Heather feels we should do a bit more. She has three ideas:

- 1) **Relevant** – Thomas Mundell helps to organise worship events that are creative and different from Sunday mornings. Informal. Relevant have done different events over the last few years both outside and inside. Also craftwork. Wants to get as many people involved as possible from different churches. Suggests a directory re different events across the town. Will be doing a worship course for worship leaders. Usually 4-6 events a year. Website: www.relevantuk.com
- 2) **Celebratory Get Together event** – Heather spoke about Jo Cox and her murder and the subsequent Get Together event held yearly with the tagline "more in common than divides us". Heather suggested having a celebratory event in the Abbey Gardens in the Summer. A united Communion service. Some formal liturgy, prayer and praise. Her suggestion is for this to be in the morning and in the afternoon have bands with worship and testimonies. Some people to go on angel Hill with invitations to come to a service in the Abbey Gardens with hymns that people know. Heather had been in contact with the Abbey Gardens – cost would be £115 for up to 500 people, £225 for over 500 people. Thomas said he would be able to help. Mallie thought that church leaders need to be aware that this is going to happen. Elaine G thought it was a brilliant idea. A huge outreach opportunity. Andrew S suggested getting all the Church leaders on board first. There would be a lot of preparation involved. Eilish suggested having the event on a Saturday, David G agreed. Regina thought that if communion is held at 12 noon and the event was ending at 5.00 pm it is a long time for organisers to arrange things. Andrew C mentioned that stewards/loos/ H&S would need to be considered. Martin thought Sunday morning would be better time for event. Laura thought it was a great idea but a short framework for organising for this year. A Saturday would be better with fun activities for children. Howard though it was a good idea to hold a large communion. Rosemary suggested a picnic in the park after Church service. A further thought – Saturdays may bring in the public more than Sundays. Need Church leaders behind the event because they can sell the idea. No conclusion.

Prayer Day – Open House – 1 Sharpe's Lane, Horringer, IP29 5PW on Saturday 7 July from 10 – 4.00 pm. Coffee/tea/croissants. Bring own lunch.

6. **Finance Report – Claire**

Claire gave apologies for her absence so Heather gave out account sheets as given by Claire. There was a loss for the year but we have not yet had the Good Friday collection as yet. Claire plans to stand down at the AGM as Treasurer but does have a person in mind to take

on finances. Data protection procedures are taking place presently and she will be sending out an e-mail to everyone in the google group.

7. **Brief Reports**

Christian Aid – Howard advised that Christian Aid week is 13-19 May – focus is on Haiti. Christian Aid (CA) works through local organisations. There have been two cases re sexual harassment in CA but these did not have anything to do with the beneficiaries. There is a service on 13 May and a good speaker is coming. Howard will send out some information after CA week about Ghana. CA has to raise £3000 by 31/12/19 locally. Have booked Whole Life Worship, taking worship out of the church – a whole life thing.

Just Traid – Mallie had seen Ilene and she was looking a lot better. Heather asked Mallie to send our prayers and love to her.

West Suffolk Chaplaincy – Stephen Griffiths is the fulltime Assistant Chaplain at West Suffolk Hospital and has been in post since September. There are lots of new ideas where they are forging links. Care from GP surgery – hospital – discharge. Trialling this at Red Lodge surgery. Pastoral responsibility at Glastonbury Court where there is reminiscence work and also at Newmarket where he is forging links. They are looking for volunteers, prayer partners, friends, Sundays – service. Six Anglican curates are coming to work with them, Wedgewood and the hospice. Heather thanked Stephen for telling us about the work at the hospital.

8. **David Green – Causeway**

Causeway is a church group for adults who have a learning disability, their Carers and Families. We sing, share news, pray, and listen to a talk from the bible, followed by refreshments. Anyone with a learning disability can attend. Our aim is to learn about God and to share truths from the Bible in a way which helps all to understand. Helpers come from a variety of churches in the area.

The group is held at Westgate Chapel, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds on the 1st and 3rd Mondays excluding Bank Holidays, from 7.30-8.45pm roughly in line with the school term. Contact number: Wendy 01953 681468.”

9. **Date of next meeting - AGM**

Tuesday 17 July 2018 -?All Saints

10. **AOB**

1) **Cinnamon Trust** –'The Cinnamon Network is working with Suffolk Police and local churches, to support community transformation through the delivery of church-based social action projects. Police forces are increasingly seeking to partner with churches to support those most at risk and to provide vital early intervention. Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, and Chief Constable Gareth Wilson are involved in sharing their hopes for this partnership and their local priorities for Suffolk.'

You can find more information at www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

2) **A Year in the life of a fair trade town** - Wednesday 16 May – 7.30 pm – Hyndman Centre – free.

3) **Banner** – available to anyone who wants to use it.

4) **Men's Unity event** - September

5) Heather thanked Jenny for her secretarial work and Claire for doing the accounts. Also thanked Nic for keeping the website.

6) **Prayer walking** – Heather thanked those people who walk with her on Mondays around the town. This is not happening during May.

11. **Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Andrew Soman.

Meeting ended at 9.25 pm.