



**Minutes of the Churches Together Meeting Monday 8th October 2018 at 7.30 pm  
In the Crypt at St. Edmund's Church.**

**Present:** Heather Corbell (Horringer), David Wakeford (Trinity), Steven Gray (St. John's), Gill Shaw (Christ Church), Paul Doswell (Salvation Army), Chris Whittingham (Salvation Army), Mike Coleman ('Hope into Action'), Geoff Birkby (Cathedral), Claire Greaves (Cathedral/Quakers), Pam Pitts (Cathedral), Regina Collender (St. Edmund's), Rosemary Clare (Garland St.), Claire McMillan (Garland St.), Richard Shore (Seventh Day Adventists), Nic Wright (Quakers), Marian Shaw (Suffolk Historic Churches' Trust), Mallie Sharp (St. Peter's), Claire Rose (All Saints'), Gabriele Corfe (German Lutheran Church), Nicola Trask (St. Edmund's), Robert Green (Garland St.), Thomas Mundell ('Relevant'), Duane Hall (Bury Christian Youth), Julie Farrant (Whepstead Baptist Church), Sharon Steven (Whepstead Baptist Church), Anna Parmiter (St. Edmund's), Catrin Diverres (Trinity), Andrew Soman (Westley Community Church), Matt Selman (North Bury/Lark Valley Team), Fr Mark Hackeson (St. Edmund's) Fr Jay Magpuyo (St. Edmund's), Kevin Bullock (West Road Church), Carol Richardson (Southgate Church), Ian Howells (West Suffolk Hospital Chaplaincy), Andrew Caldecott (Christ Church/CVM), Susan Buckle (Bury Drop-In).

**1 Welcome** Heather thanked St. Edmund's for refreshments, then explained that Jenny was unable to be with us, and introduced Carol Richardson (Southgate Church) as taking the minutes. Heather thanked Carol for stepping in to do this.

**Prayer & Bible Reading.** Heather read from Jer 21:33, John 3:16 and Gal 2:20 about the love of God, followed by a prayer.

**2 Apologies:** Mary Soman (West Road Church), Nick Alexander (St Peter's), Jonathan Ford (Christ Church), Mark Haworth (NBT/LVT), Debbie Borda (Trinity), Christopher Griffiths (Horringer), Gerda Tooley (Southgate), Martin Tilley (United Reformed Church), Elaine Colechin (United Reformed Church), Liz and Bob Huddlestone (Southgate), Susan Quay (Whepstead).

**3 Minutes of last meeting of 17th July 2018**

Item 4 Churches Together leaflet was being circulated in Surgeries, Tourist Office and churches. Thanks to Pam.

Item 9 'Open the doors' should have been 'Open the Book.'  
The minutes were agreed and signed by Heather.

**4 Matters arising**

Church greeting. This had been changed to Michaelmas (Harvest) and had been very successful with positive feedback from various churches. 22 churches out of 32 had taken

part. Many thanks to Geoff Birkby and Regina for organising it. Date for next year **29<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Care Homes Grid. Representatives filled this in at the end of the meeting indicating which care homes their church visit to take services.

## 5. Finance report

Claire Rose handed out the income and expenditure report. Finances are in a healthy state due to a larger Good Friday collection than expected. Claire has asked churches to report to her how many people attend on a Sunday so subscriptions could be fairer and based on a sliding scale dependant on average attendance size. A minimum subscription of £30. Church representatives agreed to do this. It was expressed again that Churches together needs another Treasurer as Claire will be retiring from the post. Heather thanked Claire for all her work.

## 6 Outreach

'Relevant' Thomas Mundell advised that this event for Youth is on **16<sup>th</sup> November 2018**. Flyers have been produced. It is partnered with Bury Christian Youth and is an evening of worship. It has been advertised in schools and is focussed on the unchurched in a "soul survivor style."

Advent Service at the Christmas Fayre This will take place on **25<sup>th</sup> November 2018** on the Angel Hill Stage at 4pm until 4:45pm. Salvation Army band and Southgate's drama team are taking part. Fr Mark will give the talk. THERE IS A NEED FOR SINGERS AND STEWARDS. Please let Heather know. We are grateful to St. Edmund's for the order of service sheets.

Good Friday Walk of Witness This has been excellent but we need more people to stay to the Market Square activities. Can churches please make sure their congregations know this, because if numbers at the Market square were as large as in the Cathedral, we would make a tremendous impact. In 2019 **Good Friday is 19<sup>th</sup> April** and there will be A3 posters in surgeries, shops and churches to publicize the event. Stewards are needed, as are cross carriers and maybe a choir.

Celebratory Summer Event Andrew laid out the various options for this event – on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**. It was decided to have a local church led event in the Abbey Gardens with picnic, games, musical performances, and gazebos erected. There could be a Songs of Praise worship service at the end. Proposed timings are 1 – 5:00pm. It was noted that summer is a busy time of the year and we would need to check that churches have the time to commit to this. A steering group could be set up in January. In 2020 it is 1,000 years since the Abbey was founded so a larger event could be planned to celebrate that.

## 7 Prayer Breakfast

This will be on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November** at 8:30-9.45 am at St Edmunds crypt, to pray in general for the town, but especially for the outreach events.

## 8 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Launch Service at Garland Street Baptist 6:30pm on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019** with Robert Green leading and Bishop Mike Harrison preaching. Lunchtime prayer meetings at 12:30-1:30: Mon. – St Mary's; Tues. – Christ Church Moreton Hall; Wed – Trinity Methodist; Thur – St Edmund's; Fri – URC; Sat – St John's.

## 9 Reports

Bury Drop-In. Robert Green reported that the Drop-In is very busy with 80-100 meals served each day. Since the August break the team has been reviewing certain procedures to try to learn from their experience. More volunteers are needed. At present either breakfast or lunch is being offered and menus are being simplified. The Drop-In has the respect of the whole town and Robert gave his thanks to all the churches and the wide number of people involved. There is a Course on Freedom from Addictions being held by West Road Church.

BCY. Duane Hall reported that he is settling into Bury quickly and his goal is to visit more churches to conduct Q & A sessions or preach. He has been working in KEUS, CUS, St Benedict's with CUs, assemblies and lessons. In addition, he has been invited to Ixworth School to conduct Ethical Debates. The meeting expressed their thanks to Duane and promised to pray for him.

Fair Trade David Wakeford reported that the shop in St John's has new products and menus but needs support. Just Trade need to re-certificate with the FairTrade Foundation which is not easy to achieve. Suggestions were given that churches could have Fairtrade Breakfasts with Traidcraft stalls in order to support the charity. Thanks were given to Pam Pitts and Mallie Sharpe.

Chaplaincy Ian Howells reported that the Chaplaincy is very active in caring for vulnerable people at the West Suffolk Hospital and acts as a bridge back to the churches. They are also starting new initiatives of working in Drs surgeries and want to develop their work with the staff of the hospital. Many Church members already volunteer, and Ian expressed his thanks to those people and asked the churches to pray for the Chaplaincy Team as it is an exciting place to show God's practical love and care.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Marian Shaw explained that any church from any denomination can apply for a grant. This year 37 churches were open for the Sponsored Bike Ride and although fewer people are being sponsored the finance raised remains at the same level. In 2017 £8,600 was raised in this region and grants were given to St Lawrence at Lackford, Wepstead Baptist Church and the Cathedral. Many thanks to all who supported the trust.

BLIP Kevin Bullock has published a book about the Nativity with proceeds going to East Anglian Children's Hospices.

**Date of next meeting is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 at Trinity Methodist Church.**

AOB

- 'Hope into Action.' Mike Coleman explained there is a meeting at Friends Meeting House St John's Street on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 at 6pm to discuss the possibility of purchasing property to help people needing accommodation.
- Nic Wright is collecting clothes and necessities for refugees in Calais but a volunteer is needed to take over this role.
- Men's weekend at Sizewell next year is 15/17<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- The booklet about 'Who Cares?' is due to be printed soon.

The meeting was closed by Heather with prayer, at 9.40.pm.