



Churches Together Meeting on Monday 11th February 2019
at West Road Church, Bury St. Edmunds at 7.30.pm.

AGENDA:

- **Welcome**, Bible reading, Prayer. Isaiah 55
- **Apologies** Gerda (Southgate), Geoff Birkby, Marion Shaw, Andrew Caldecott, Martin Tilly, Barrow Benefice, Claire Rose, Victor Jack
- **Minutes** of last meeting – 8.10.18. amended / agreed
Item 9 *Bury St Edmunds Fairtrade Partnership not Just Trade*

Matters arising:

- Review Advent service at the Christmas Fayre
- Care Homes Grid – please complete 25 homes that churches visit is it up to date.
- Review Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - we had double the number of people and double the offering. Unity service was on 20th Jan at Garland Street. Prayers in the week of unity had been very successful.
- **Communication:** Churches together information not getting through to the churches – can we put this information into the notices please. Heather asked people to join the google group. To do this you have to accept invitation from Claire Rose. Heather feels she sometimes sends out too much information, but different things are interesting to different people. Please put Churches Together stuff in church/village magazines. HC has written an article that can be used. HC asked that churches use the prayer sheets in church services - they are produced every six weeks.
It is difficult to cover all 50 churches and make sure that everyone feels part of Churches Together. Rural churches need encouragement from the town churches. Would be good to visit them. C of E doing a lot to encourage rural church life through the work of the Archdeacon for Rural mission – Sally Gaze

- **Finance report** – the treasurer, Claire has sent this out. The Accounts seem healthy. At present only one benefice cannot afford the subscription. HC proposed they still be accepted, for this year, as members of CT. This was voted on and carried. Claire wants to step down as treasurer in July, small tasks. Can church representatives please be active in trying to recruit someone?

Russell Miller – ex treasurer of CT has passed away. We give thanks to God for his work and witness.

- **Outreach: Good Friday Walk of Witness.**

Similar to previous years, 10:30am at Cathedral. Gideons have offered at least 300 New Testaments to give away on the procession or that weekend. Encourage people to stay to the market square as well as going on procession. Singers needed and Sheila Mitchell may be able to co-ordinate the *Drop-In* choir and World of Worship at St John's would like to ask others to join on Good Friday. Max of 20 singers and 5-6 musicians to lead everyone. Salvation Army band will also play. Stewards also needed. Dramatisation Reading – church representatives please offer people who can be involved – or even a group who can organise this. Steve Gray and Salvation Army are happy to co-ordinate music. Andrew Soman and Hannah Morgan to organise singers. One criticism of last year was that some people on the walk were disrespectful – need to be careful of impression we give - that it is respectful (but mustn't look miserable). Graham Jack and Andrew Soman to co-ordinate Westley Community Church are happy to bear the cross. People can bring their own cross and banners. Hot Cross buns at Garland Street Baptist church afterwards

Abbey Gardens Summer Event – June 30th. Medium size stage. Toilets/ security tape/ water.

The organisers need to know the size of the bands for the microphones – both music or singing. Churches need to bring groups for the music slots which will be 15 mins each. Church groups will introduce songs and explain why they are chosen.

1 pm start Picnic / Banner / gazebo / celebratory. No food/drinks will be provided but water will be available.

Give out invitations for the S of P.- we could have gazebo for anyone who wants to chat. This hopefully will give people an idea what church is. Try to change perception. The whole event needs to be done well.

Celebrate what we have in common – and it would be good to use The Lord's Prayer

4.15 pm a Songs of Praise Service in Abbey Gardens. To end at 5.00 We have a pianist and a leader. Printed song sheets. Hannah Morgan – will organise to approach church schools who could have a spot on the stage. Parents are responsible – no unaccompanied children. Public liability insurance. Set song to sing together at the end. Duane to help Hannah to promote this in the schools. Wide variety of music – faith songs. Salvation Army band / Pianist to play for the hymns in the Songs of Praise. Name: The Big Picnic - voted on. Steering group: Andrew, Hannah, Heather, Duane,

Prayer Breakfast 16th March 2019 Southgate 8:15 for 8:30 until 9:45. HC asked that we be committed to prayer.

Prayer walks. 2:30pm Mondays – outside Moyses Hall. Cover all the town churches over a few weeks

- **Reports:** Eco- churches: sustainability. Elaine Green. Clerk of Trustees. Eco church website (excellent). St Edmundsbury is registered as an eco-diocese. The Quaker's have been registered as an eco-church - their traditional meeting house has been updated. It is possible to do an eco-audit online – gives all kinds of ideas to find out what can be done better for environment. Can we share ideas of how we can be more environmentally friendly as a church?
 - Suffolk Historic Churches Trust - Marian Shaw.
 - **'Relevant'** 25/ 1 62 people (14-25 yr olds) from 8 different churches. The Next *Relevant* is at St Peters 22/3 7:45pm a very successful event – with a great atmosphere
 - **BCY** – The work continues to be very busy. Duane would love to visit more churches so please contact him.
- In schools – so much happening! Duane has done several lessons and Q and A sessions. Nicola continues to do Rock Solid. Many churches are involved in linking their local schools to the churches. There are two new

posts as part-time administrator and schools' worker. Email Duane if interested.

- **Drop-in** Currently feeding 60 each session. They are working wide range people, many with mental health issues. The Community Psychiatric nurse and community dentist visit. Busy sessions on Tues and Fridays.
- **Date of next Meeting** Monday 29th April 7:30 at Trinity Methodist Church (TBC)

- **A.O.B.**

- **Share and study groups** in May – three Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd.

God's world God's people God's mission

- **The Women's World Day of Prayer** – Now called World Day of Prayer - March 1st 10:3am Garland Street Baptist and 7:30pm Salvation Army Venue. Also there is a service at 6:30pm at Wkepstead Baptist church.
- **Chaplaincy Report** – opportunity of mission in hospital work. Training is offered. Offer to churches talks and training on health issues - many lonely people come into hospital. Developing friends of the chaplaincy that can visit when people leave the hospital
- **Cathedral Library** - Margaret Hartley explained this is not just for the Cathedral. It is open on Tues, Thursdays and Saturdays. Located in Abbey House on Angel Hill. Wide range of Christian and spiritual books. Membership is £10.
- Please let **Hannah** know if there is a school linked to your church.
- **Christian Aid Week** is 12 – 18 May 2019. There will be a joint service at the Cathedral.

Andrew Soman thanked Heather and we prayed for Andrew C.

Father Mark has resigned due to ill health. Appreciation for his work with CT. On 28th Feb there is a Retiring Mass for Father Mark.

- Closing Prayers.