

MINUTES OF CHURCHES TOGETHER MEETING:

MONDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2019

The Salvation Army Hall, St John's St, Bury St Edmunds, at 7.30pm

Present: Steven Gray (St John's) Miriam Webb (All Saints) Clare Rose (All Saints) Paul Doswell (Salvation Army) Olivia Arthur (St Marys) Mike Coleman (Hope into Action) Andrew Soman (Westley CC) Elaine Green (Quakers) Jim Herrington (St Mary's) Catrin Diverres (Trinity Methodist) Ian Howells (WSH Chaplaincy) Andrew Caldecott (CVM) Anna Parminter (St Edmunds) Gerda Tooley (Southgate) Sharon Steven (Whepstead Baptist Church) Helen Moore (Southgate) Thomas Mundell (Relevant) Kevin Bullock (West Rd. Church) Rosemary Clare (Garland St B.C.) Simon Goddard (Rivertree Ltd) David Wakeford (Trinity Methodist) Heather Corbell (Horringer Benefice) Eilish Heath (St Edmund's RC) Pam Pitts (Cathedral) Mike Brookes (St Edmund's RC) John Coates (Operation Christmas Child) Marilyn Coates (Operation CC).

- 1. Prayer:** Heather Corbell welcomed everyone to the meeting, then read Revelation 1:12-18, and led the meeting in prayer.
- 2. Apologies** were received from Jonathan Ford, Regina Collender, Val Gagen, Debbie Borda, Mallie Sharp, Simon Harvey, David Bonnett, Susan Quay, Colleen Antrobus, Robert Green, Martin Tilley, Elaine Colechin.
- 3. The minutes** of the meeting of 15th July 2019 had been circulated and Claire Rose proposed that they be accepted as an accurate report. This was seconded by Andrew Soman and signed by the Chair. HC thanked Eilish Heath for all her work in doing the Minutes.
- 4. Matters Arising:** (5) the proposed increase in the annual subscription was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

(7) On the matter of communication, it was agreed that all members of the churches be encouraged to attend CT meetings and information to be displayed on notice boards and in church notices.

(9) Annual Church Greeting - It was agreed that any Sunday in Sept/Oct could be suitable for this, and CR cautioned against always changing with the same church. Some churches were already making connections and this was welcomed.

(11) on the subject of children's meals in the school holidays, DW reported that Southgate were already engaged in supporting families in need over the summer holidays.

5. **Finance Report** was given by Elaine Green, the treasurer, who explained in detail both outgoings and income and showed how our turnover had doubled in the past year. HC thanked EG for all her work on this.

6. **Communication:** There was a long and interesting discussion on how CT communicates at present, and how this could be improved and make better use of social media. Facebook was discussed as a means of reaching more people, with many ideas being explored and anxieties voiced. It was generally felt that the administration of a Facebook page would require a great deal of work, so a small group - PD, JH, OA and AC will explore this idea.

7. **Annual Church Greeting** will continue throughout September and October, some churches already sharing greetings.

8. **Prayer Walking** will be suspended for a month as HC is away.

9. Reports:

(i) Mike Coleman spoke about **Hope into Action**, the housing project providing houses for people who have been homeless. To date donations of £250,000 have been received and the first house will be purchased on the Westley estate. Mike spoke of the effect he has witnessed in people who have been allocated a home and encouraged investment in the scheme.

(ii) Marilynne Coates explained how **Operation Christmas Child** works and how the 'shoe box appeal' is very successful and is supported by many churches in the area. She had brought a book - 'The Greatest Journey' which was available for us all to see.

(iii) Pam Pitts brought a report from the Dean on the progress of re-housing **The Cathedral Library**, and it is hoped that the most relevant books may be accessible to a wider readership in the Library of the Eastern Ministerial Course at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre. More information will be available in the future.

(iv) In the absence of David Bonnett, Kevin Bullock reported on **The Bury Drop In** and **'Table 1'** - a new development which offers and encourages Drop-In clients to run sessions on a Tuesday at the URC.

(v) Thomas Mundell reported that between 30 - 60 young people attend the **Relevant** events. The next meeting will be at West Road Church on 29th Nov and he asked for prayer for the work.

10. Forward Events:

(i) HC and AC said the planning for the **Advent Service at the Christmas Fair on 24th Nov** is well in hand. Southgate Church will provide an 'Open the Book' dramatisation, Stephen Griffiths will give the talk, and requests for singers for the choir, and stewards is being circulated.

(ii) The next **Prayer Breakfast** will be at West Road Church from 8.15 am - 9.45 am on 16th November. Prayer will be focused on The Advent Service and future events.

(iii) **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will begin with a United Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 19th January 2020, led by Simon Harvey, [preacher - Graham Jack] Lunchtime prayer sessions will continue as usual throughout the week in the different churches. DW asked if the material for prayer would be available and AC will order these.

11. Date of next meeting will be Monday 3rd February 2020. Venue yet to be agreed. [The meeting will be at Trinity Methodist Church]

12. A. O.B

(i) Andrew Caldecott reported that feedback from the **Summer Event** had been very positive. Planning for 2020 in well in hand - the date will be 28th June 2020. Planning for the Good Friday Walk of Witness 2020 was going ahead, and as always there is a need for stewards and singers for all events.

(ii) AC also reported that a meeting had been held concerning 'Wellbeing in the Workplace' with some good suggestions being put forward. He will be meeting with the council to discuss this and the idea of 'Men's Sheds'. We are encouraged to pray for a chaplain in the workplace to be appointed.

(iii) Ian Howells spoke about the project 'Making Connections' taking place at the W.S.Hospital on 17th October. This offers the opportunity for staff and others to engage informally with the chaplains. He will forward the publicity about this for the Google group.

(iv) AS asked for prayer for a Bury Christian Youth meeting taking place this evening.

The meeting concluded with prayer being led by Sharon Steven, Andrew Soman , and Paul Doswell.

Eilish Heath / HC.