



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held via zoom on Thursday 11th November 2021

Present: Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Rev. Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Kathryn Fiddock, Val Bowtle, Penelope Cummins, Tony Attwood, Elizabeth Tindley, Jean Mead, Doris Stacey, Margaret Hurst. and Rosemary Timms.

1. Apologies: were received from, Father David Clemens, Rev. Jeremy Trew, Rev. John Goddard and Helen O'Neill who has stood down as a representative from St. Mary's.

2. Consideration of the Agenda.
Nothing was added.

Katrina opened the meeting with the poem "Say No to Peace - Rev. Francis Ritchie".

3. Minutes of last meeting.
Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th September were approved.

4. Events

- **Remembrance Day Parade:** Some confusion around the communication this year. Not everyone received the usual notice/confirmation.
- **Late Night Shopping (3rd December):** Street Pastors were expected to contact Katrina with a view to having a presence at the event alongside Churches Together stall. Uncertainties last year and again this year meant nothing had been formally planned for the evening and it was not clear who might be available on the day. **(Post meeting confirmation has been received from Street Pastors that they will take the stall).**
- **Christmas Services:** Katrina would contact Lisa Knight to check whether she would be willing to pull together a joint advert again for the churches. Individual churches would need to then liaise with her to publicise their services.
- **URC Winter Fair:** Val confirmed their Christmas Fair is going ahead this Saturday (13 November).
- **St. Mary's Advent Carol Service:** This would be going ahead this year at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 28th November.
- **The Salvation Army Toy Appeal:** Katrina shared that they would be having an appeal for new unwrapped toys and the deadline for donations would be 11th December. Donation to the SA hall 27 Nov, 4 & 11 Dec 11-3pm.
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 2022):** There continue to be a significant number of COVID cases and so the decision had again been taken not to arrange a large united service and an Agape meal. Individual churches would be encouraged to mark the Week of Prayer in some way themselves and a zoom prayer event was suggested.

5. Christian Aid

John had circulated a poster advertising the talk by Alex Cassidy at Abbey Lane church hall on Saturday 11th December at 10.00 a.m when Alex will be talking about the work of Christian Aid.

6. Interfaith Work
Katrina had been asked whether we wished someone to come to one of our council meetings and the leaders would discuss this when they next meet.

7. Chair and Vice-chair
Katrina confirmed she was willing to continue as chair in 2022 and the council members were grateful and wished to confirm her appointment. This would also be on the agenda at the next leaders meeting.

8. Finance
John shared that there was nothing to report and the balance remains £863.27 with £75 more to come in.

4. News from Churches
BAPTIST : Rosemary shared that morning worship is now live streamed and includes singing (behind face coverings). BB and other uniformed organisations using the premises have re-started.

OUR LADY OF COMPASSION : Elizabeth shared that services and prayer meetings continue much as before. They intend to support a refugee family and this is currently at the planning stage.

COMMUNITY CHURCH : Jean shared that the outreach in the Market Square has been suspended for the winter months but should re-start in April.

ST. MARY'S : Kathryn mentioned: that they are just having one live YouTube service each Sunday and more people are in church. The choir is singing at services and the children's' group (Joyful Noise) has re-started. Repairs to the roof of the chancel are underway, hence the scaffolding and this should be completed by Christmas. The Christmas Fair will not take place this year, but there will be small sales of goods each Sunday morning.

THE SALVATION ARMY : Tony shared that they are to be the lead church for a Hope into Action Church house in Saffron Walden. There will be various opportunities for people to support this work although not much will happen until next year. They are also partnering with St Clare Hospice to offer bereavement support locally starting on Thursday 18th November and every 3rd Thursday in the month thereafter.

- Community Hub 10.00 – 3.00 p.m. offering advice and emotional support.
- Bereavement Café 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. an informal event for people to meet and support one another.

Abbey Lane URC : Val shared that Rev Nigel Uden will be their Interim Moderator during their vacancy. He is a Minister elsewhere at the same time.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS : Meetings are continuing and children are also coming along. There is a new banner outside.

9. Any Other Business
Nothing was raised.

10. Future Meetings
The next meeting was normally in February. Katrina and the leaders would pull together the diary dates for 2022 and circulate in due course.

The meeting closed with prayers.