



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held via zoom on Thursday 28th April 2022

Present: Capt. Katrina Thurlow, Rev. Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Rev. John Goddard Kathryn Fiddock, Val Bowtle, Penelope Cummins, Tony Attwood, Elizabeth Tindley, Doris Stacey, Shawn Martin and Rosemary Timms.

Katrina welcomed Shawn Martin, a representative from St Mary's, to his first meeting and Isabelle Page representing Walden Community Action for Refugees.

Katrina led opening devotions on the theme of "Open Our Eyes"

1. Apologies: were received from, Father David Clemens, Rev. Jeremy Trew, Margaret Hurst, Glenys Goodwin and Jean Mead.
2. Walden Community Action for Refugees
Isabelle shared that this group was an initiative launched in 2021 within the local Catholic church but has since expanded. They have a core team of 16 volunteers who all feel passionately about the refugee crisis in the middle east. The Community Sponsorship scheme they are applying through does not cover the Ukraine. However, the framework they need to put in place is comprehensive and sustainable, as they have to make commitments to help a family find education, housing, work and engage with the community etc for at least two years. Their aim is to welcome a family, chosen and screened by the UNHCR, to Saffron Walden by January 2023. It is highly likely they will come from Syria or Afghanistan. They are currently looking for a house in Saffron Walden to rent and this is a matter for prayer as there is not much available. They are also committed to raise £9,000 and have so far raised £3,000. They have an auction of promises on 21st May for example. Please see their website and latest newsletter for more details. www.wcar.org.uk. Isabelle can be contacted by email on info@wcar.org.uk

Katrina thanked Isabelle for speaking to us and Isabelle then left the meeting.
3. Consideration of the Agenda.
Saffron Walden Assembly Team – added by Val Bowtle
Ukraine support – added by Jonathan Burton.
4. Minutes of last meeting.
Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th February were approved.
4. Matters Arising
Nothing raised
5. Regular Events
 - **World Day of Prayer (4th March):** This had been welcomed and appreciated.

- **Easter:** John Goddard thanked everyone who had helped with the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Unfortunately he had not been able to write something for the local paper to explain the purpose of this event.
- **Christian Aid Week (15th – 21st May):** John Capper shared that it would be up to individual churches to decide whether they would use the delivery only envelopes that are available. Two churches so far have asked for them. There will be another opportunity as there is a collection in Saffron Walden planned for 8th October and John would appreciate help with that.

6. Finance

The 2021 account statements for the Main CTSW account and the Christian Aid account had been reviewed by Ged Pearce and circulated with the agenda. Expenditure has been quite low recently and John wondered if at a future meeting we might consider whether to reduce the subs that churches pay to CTSW or use the balance in hand in some way.

7. News from Churches

BAPTIST : John shared that this has been a challenging time with many recently having COVID and struggling to get to church members meetings. Has been good to be working with Tina Wilson, a URC Minister in training. Hope to arrange an event in September – details in due course.

Abbey Lane URC : Val shared that they are having equipment installed to allow them to project the words of hymns and songs and show video clips. They are currently in an interregnum period and looking for additional elders as well as exploring how they can reach out to young people again.

COMMUNITY CHURCH : Jonathan shared that their “Listening to God” outreach in the market square has re-started. They had a baptismal service on Easter Sunday and have another on 1st May. Numbers coming to church are back up as far as adults are concerned. They too are exploring what they can offer young people.

SOCIETY of FRIENDS : Last Sunday, although live streaming continues to be offered no one used it and attendance in person was very encouraging. Penelope shared something of a local initiative and then offered her apologies as she had to leave for another commitment. John added that the National Meeting for Worship on 29th May is going to be via zoom this year.

OUR LADY OF COMPASSION : Elizabeth shared that they are serving coffee after mass on Thursdays which is appreciated. Ken Lowe is starting up their youth work again. On the subject of the Synod on Synodality Elizabeth shared that questionnaires are being forwarded to Rome and this is being supported with prayer.

ST. MARY’S : Kathryn shared that they will serving coffee between 10.15 – 12 noon on Wednesdays in May and lunchtime concerts are planned for June and July on Wednesdays. They are having a FairTrade stall at 11.15 on the first Sunday in the month. They have held a number of successful fundraising events for Ukraine recently.

THE SALVATION ARMY : Tony shared that their Lent Group was well attended and that the partnership with St Clare Hospice to offer bereavement support locally continues with the Community Hub, offering advice and emotional support and the Bereavement Café on the third Thursday of the month. Julia Attwood is the lead for the local Hope into Action project.

9. Any Other Business

- **Saffron Walden Assembly Team:** Val shared that she is not currently able to be involved so the team is reduced to two at the moment. They go into 7 local primary schools twice a term and could do with some more people to join them.
- **Ukraine Refugees:** Jonathan asked if at the next meeting we could have news of the progress in settling refugees with families in Saffron Walden and what support they might be looking for. We understand there may be 20 already here and Lisa from the Town Council may be the person to ask.

10. Future Meetings

One or two people asked when we might revert to meeting in person. However, it was clear that zoom was more convenient for many including those with mobility issues. It was suggested we might consider having meetings alternately in person (with coffee and cake) and then via zoom. The next meeting would be on 23rd June.

The meeting closed with prayer.