



**Minutes of the meeting
held on Thursday 8th September 2022**

Present: Rev. Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Rev. John Goddard, Rev. Jeremy Trew, Val Bowtle, Julia Attwood, Tony Attwood, Kathryn Fiddock, Glenys Goodwin, Jill Gunsell, Margaret Hurst, Shawn Martin, Doris Stacey, Elizabeth Tindley, Tina Wilson and Emma Turner.

John Capper explained that he is stepping in as chair for Katrina as she has been seconded and Julia Attwood has taken over as leader at the Salvation Army. Julia is grateful for John taking this on as she is unable to be chair as well as all she has taken on in her new role.

Emma Turner was welcomed to the meeting taking on the role of secretary as Rosemary Timms is enjoying time with her granddaughter.

John opened the meeting with a period of silence followed by reading from their yearly meeting minutes and a further time of silence. As there were a few new people at the meeting John invited everyone to introduce themselves.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Penelope Cummins.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda**
Nothing was raised.
3. **Minutes of last meeting**
Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April were approved.
4. **Chairman and Vice Chariman 2023**
Jeremy Trew will take on role of Chair next year with John Goddard as Vice Chair. John will not however take over as chair at the end of the year and an alternative will be sought.
5. **Coming Events**
 - a) **Christian Aid street collection:** Saturday 8th October
 - b) **Advent Service:** Sunday 27th November, St. Mary's
 - c) **Late Night Shopping, Early December:** John Capper explained that when the Town Council contacts us to see if we would like a stall, he will ask Emma to contact everyone to see if someone has a vision for it and will organise it. If no-one comes forward, we will not go ahead with it. Jonathan confirmed that Street Pastors will have a stall.
6. **Proposals for 2023**
 - a) **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service: 22nd January, St. Mary's.** Jeremy says they are looking at a 10.30am start but will confirm this.

b) Agape Meal: Monday 23rd January, Baptist Church, 7 for 7.30 pm. Please note that this is the Monday and not Thursday as is the tradition.

c) World Day of Prayer: Friday 3rd March, Friends Meeting House, 2.30 pm.

d) Easter: Arrangements will be as this year.

e) Lent: Churches are to open their meetings etc. to other churches.

7. Christian Aid Week

Some envelopes were delivered to houses but the majority were distributed and collected in the churches. James Jewellers are a collection point for envelopes in the town but as so few were delivered, they asked for donation from their customers which was very worthwhile. It is hoped that the house deliveries will be back up and running next year.

8. Finance: Change of Bank

Barclays Bank has held the accounts of CTSW and Christian Aid but with our local branch being closed down John Capper has spoken to Saffron Walden Building Society who are able to handle our accounts. All were happy to move the accounts to SWBS which will require 2 signatures for withdrawals. John will make the necessary arrangements and will ask that the signatories be the roles of Secretary and Chair and two church leaders rather than individuals.

9. Relationship between CTSW Council and Church Leaders Meeting

Jeremy Trew explained that he felt that there is a lot of overlap between the two meetings and that a lot of items that come to the council are not queried which means that the Ministers are making all the decisions. So far, in this meeting, nothing has been queried. John Goddard explained that the Ministers used to take on a more senior role but were not at many Council meetings, but this has changed, and we have allowed the issue to develop. Some items do still go to Ministers meetings for decisions but it's not happening often. Jonathan Burton said that the Council cannot make decisions for their churches. It was agreed to go away to discuss this with our churches and report back. ***This item will go on the next agenda.**

10. Can CTSW offer a warm meeting place?

Val Bowtle asked the Council if we can offer our churches as a warm place for folk to go during the day. We could offer refreshments of some kind as well as a warm welcome.

Tina Wilson says that there is a model being used elsewhere in Essex and it was agreed that she would share information about this with the Council. Many expressed a willingness to be involved in this, but it would need to work around church bookings, and some were not going to be available to help until later in the year. We also need to be aware that the churches would need to absorb the costs for this. It was also suggested that we try and do some set times as this will make advertising easier.

Jeremy suggested that with households soon to receive a £400 rebate, maybe we could speak to the Citizens Advice Bureau about asking households to make donations towards other struggling households. Elizabeth Tindley said that the community space in town (Garden Room/Day Centre) is very underused, and this could be used as a warm space. John Goddard said that there are complicated issues regarding ownership and some legalities.

Everyone is asked to look at their church availability for a warm space and when they can start and let John Capper know. Tina will email Emma the model that she has.

11. Future meetings – day, time, in person or zoom?

The meeting was asked to think about these things and let the next meeting know. Some discussion was had regarding a blended meeting of in-person and zoom. There were differing views of whether this can work or not, but it was agreed that Shaun Martin will try and organise

this for the next meeting as it gives those the opportunity to attend even if they can't get out, especially as we go into winter.

12. News from Churches

Baptist: John shared that a mid-week fellowship is in its early days and also that he is in conversation with URC about a joint Messy Church group. John was at the Boys' Brigade camp in August, which was really successful, except for 4 cases of Covid! BB continues to thrive with Company Section (Secondary school age) has 27 lads.

St. Mary's: Jeremy informed the meeting that their Curate, Ella, is being ordained at the weekend. With fewer Vicars we will likely see less of him. They are spending time, until the end of November, listening to God. They have an increasing young choir which is great. Youthwork is re-starting and numbers in church are picking up to pre-covid.

Society of Friends: Doris reported that they have opened their Peace Garden, behind the meeting house, which is also an eco-garden with bird boxes, wildflowers and homes to encourage wildlife. It is always open and all are welcome.

Our Lady of Compassion: Elizabeth reported that their sewing and knitting group has restarted. All are welcome even without the skills! Their Bible Group has restarted, and numbers are increasing. Father David is very busy with the Diocese and as an advisor to many. They are looking into how to make their building more accessible to the disabled.

Salvation Army: Julia reported that they have increased their Bereavement Cafe to twice monthly and it is going well. The weekly drop in, called Oasis, continues as does the monthly Christian meditation called TakeTime. Their aim is to be as active as possible in our community.

Community Church: Jean reported that most activities have resumed after Covid and the summer break; youth and children's work, toddler group, Monday pop in coffee mornings, Weldon Wellbeing Walk ins.

Listening to God outreach in the market has been well received with some worthwhile conversations and prayers with people. It is finishing for the winter now. They plan an Alpha course starting October 12 on Wednesday evenings. They also plan to run a second day of Walking Through the Bible, and a Parenting Teenagers course.

13. Any Other Business

Email group: Tony Attwood offered to create an e-mail group for members of the Council, which was accepted.

Contacts list: There was a request for an up-to-date contact list. It was agreed that the best way to update this would be to send the current one out to everyone and ask churches to let you know of any changes so that a corrected one can then be sent out.

World Cup Final: It was noted that the World Cup Final will be from 3:00pm on Sunday Dec 18. If there is extra time this could go on to 5:30pm. This may affect what churches do on that day.

14. Next meeting

Thursday 10th November, 11.30 am. Coffee and cake available from 11.15 am.

The meeting closed with a reading from 'Quaker Faith and Practice' and a short period of silence