



**Minutes of the meeting
held on Thursday 9th February 2023**

Present: Jeremy Trew, Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Jean Mead, Val Bowtle, Julia Attwood, Tony Attwood, Kathryn Fiddock, Margaret Hurst, Shawn Martin, Doris Stacey, Elizabeth Tindley and Emma Turner.

Jeremy opened the meeting by reading from Mark Chapter 7 followed by a prayer.

Apologies: Rev. John Goddard, Glenys Goodwin, Jill Gunsell and Father David Clemens

1. Consideration of the Agenda

Kathryn asked if churches were going to be marking the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine. John Capper had also circulated an email from Christian Aid and DEC asking churches and the community to mark the occasion with a time of prayer or some other mark of unity with Ukraine between 24th and 26th February. There seemed to be a consensus that this will be observed by many.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th November 2022 were approved.

3. Matters arising

United Service: Val and Jonathan had both received comments about the service asking if it was a United Service or if we were just joining St. Mary's as in the past other churches have been asked to take part. Jeremy had previously asked for suggestions for the service and received none, but he was happy to include others in the future. Tony said it was lovely to see so many people and to be able to chat with them which made it united. It was suggested that we use St. Mary's each year but with a different church leader but there was a comment that some found it difficult to get to St. Mary's. It was agreed to continue rotating between the Baptist Church and URC. 2024 will be at the Baptist Church.

Agape meal: Val had heard from the Scouts to say that they had an important meeting that clashed with it and asked if it would always be on that day. It tends to be on whatever day that suits the host church, so this is likely to change. The evening went well and it was great to meet and chat with others. URC will host in 2024. Shawn suggested that we could use the resources for the Week of Christian Unity from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website. Plans will take shape in Autumn.

4. Regular events

a) **Lent:** Salvation Army will running a six week TakeTime Lent Course starting on 23rd February at 7.30 pm.

St. Mary's course starts on Tuesday 28th February at 2pm and is focussed around the Eucharist.

If you are running Lent Courses please let Tony know and he can put them on the CTSW website.

- b) World Day of Prayer 2023:** This event is open to all and will be held at Friends' Meeting House starting at 2pm and will be followed by refreshments. The theme is chosen by the women of Taiwan.
- c) Easter:** The Good Friday Walk of Witness is normally organised by John Goddard but we will need to confirm with him that he's happy to do this for us again. We will need to arrange for the cross to be collected from St. Mary's. The service will be at St. Mary's following the Walk of Witness (10.30am) and will finish around 12pm.
 URC usually puts a cross outside with a crown of thorns and then on Easter Sunday they change it to a crown of daffodils.
 The Catholic Church will have a 3 hour service, starting at 3pm on Good Friday. Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7pm.
 St. Mary's have a concert in the evening of Good Friday at 7.30 pm.
Please let Tony have all your Easter services and events for the CTSW website.
 Emma will contact Lisa Knight to see if she will collate the Easter advert for the Walden Local.
- d) Christian Aid Week:** John Capper advised that each church make a decision as to whether they collect just within their church or if they deliver envelopes to local houses. He suggests that you only deliver to houses if you are able to then collect them. There will be a street collection at the end of Christian Aid Week on 28th May rather than October.

5. Finance

John reported that we have £829.50 in the account as of the end of the year. He has recently managed to open two accounts, one for CTSW and one for Christian Aid, at the Saffron Walden Building Society as Barclays has closed in the town. Once he is sure that all churches are paying their subscriptions into the Building Society, he will close the Barclays accounts.

6. News from Churches

Baptist: Emma reported on behalf of John Goddard that the Friday morning warm space and Foodshare is going well.

URC: Val reported that they had shared a lovely service with the Salvation Army on Sunday. They have their next Messy Church on 26th February and unfortunately there is no update yet on a Minister. They are looking forward to meeting a moderator soon.

Salvation Army: They too enjoyed the service with URC. Their warm hub on a Wednesday is also going well.

Catholics: Their house for refugees is currently still empty. They have had two refusals as they want to be nearer the Mosque in Cambridge.

St. Mary's: They continue to support folk into recruitment, and it is going well. They have a new member of the clergy joining the team and they will be based in Ashdon. They are also trying out different forms of worship.

Community Church: They have just finished the Alpha Course and have a Leadership Retreat looking at the vision for the church. They are also looking at ways of utilising their space as they are full on a Sunday.

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

8. Future meetings

Thursday 27th April, 2pm with refreshments from 1.45 pm.

The meeting closed by sharing The Grace.