



IN SAFFRON WALDEN

**Minutes of the meeting  
held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

**Present:** John Goddard, Jonathan Burton, Jean Mead, Tony Attwood, Margaret Hurst, Doris Stacey, Elizabeth Tindley, Stephen Rapkin, Glenys Goodwin, Gill Gunsell and Emma Turner.

John Goddard opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Jeremy Trew, Shawn Martin, John Capper, Kathryn Fiddick, Val Bowtle and Julia Attwood.

2. **Consideration of the Agenda**  
Nothing additional was raised.

3. **Minutes of last meeting**  
Minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

5. **Review of Easter 2023 – Including publicity in Walden Local**

Tony Attwood asked if contact details and website addresses could be added to the adverts at Easter and Christmas. It was agreed that we would try and ensure that the Churches Together website will be added which will direct people to contact details for the individual churches. It was felt that otherwise the advert would become very wordy. Gill informed the meeting that the URL can be added in a 'tiny' format by typing the full URL in and then it gives you a 'tiny URL'.

It was felt that the Good Friday Walk of Witness went well and that numbers were back to pre-Covid numbers. URC had provided refreshments; this was well received so they will look into continuing this next year. Our thanks go to them for this.

6. **Regular events**

a) **Christian Aid Week**

John Capper emailed Emma the following which was read to the meeting:

In Christian Aid week the Street Collection raised £567.40 and collections through the churches a further £1964.89.

A further £277.50 will be claimed by Christian Aid from those who completed Gift Aid forms.

Please, on my behalf, thank all those who helped with the street and church collections.

Stephen Rapkin asked if there would be any interest in a Christian Aid service at the beginning of Christian Aid Week at URC. He would like to bill it as a United Service. Some were interested and some were not sure how much interest there would be from their church. It was felt that it would be worth trying so Stephen will look into this.

7. **Finance**

The Yearly Statement of Accounts was emailed to everyone before the meeting. All were happy with them, and our thanks go to John Capper for these and for changing our account from Barclays to Saffron Walden Building Society.

**World Day of Prayer:** Elizabeth Tindley explained that she normally holds a coffee morning to raise money for the order of service books for this but wondered if CTSW would be willing to make a donation towards the cost. The cost is around £30-40. Everyone was happy to support this. Elizabeth is planning to hold a coffee morning in the Garden Room but is struggling to get a response from the council regarding a booking. Jonathan Burton will pass on contact details that he has to Elizabeth.

## **8. News from Churches**

**Community Church:** In September, due to an increase in their numbers, they will be using the Garden Room as well as their church building for a month. Some of the service will be live streamed and will have a slightly less formal structure. They have recently finished an Alpha Course and a Connect Course. New House Groups are starting, and they will have prayer walks. Baptist Minister Chris Duffet will be creating some art in the Market Square.

**Baptist:** The Warm Welcome in conjunction with Touchpoint Foodshare is well attended and has great fellowship. They have welcomed a local Ukrainian family and a Sudanese family. Jean Mead has been teaching English to the Sudanese mother but asked for prayers for the family as the children are struggling with their health from spending time in a refugee camp.

The Baptist Church will be celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year with events throughout the year. John hopes to talk about this at the United Service which will be at the Baptist Church.

**Salvation Army:** The Oasis drop-in has changed its time to 11.30am – 3pm. St. Claires Hospice runs a café for the bereaved and seriously ill every Thursday. Tony and Julia's daughter Patsy is not yet a Minister but will be made an officer in July before heading to Sudbury. Tony asked for prayers for Patsy to pass her driving test as she will be in rural Suffolk. Our love and prayers go with Patsy.

**Society of Friends:** An open invitation was given to all to spend time in the two gardens association with the Quakers. The first is the garden to the rear of their building which is full of wildflowers but is tranquil and even though it is in the High Street the traffic cannot be heard. The second garden is at 2 Springhill Road which is a community allotment used by Mind and social subscribers. It is used to grow vegetables which is then shared, and any excess is given to Cornells Café.

**Our Lady of Compassion:** They have recently had many first Communions, Confirmations and New Members. They are also about to undertake a large amount of work to their building including new heating, work on a kitchen, toilets, disabled access among other structural work needed. They are in the last stages of the planning and applications which has been made more difficult due to the listed building nature and the legalities this brings but it is hoped that they will start work in the New Year.

**URC:** They are still without a Minister but are continuing to seek guidance with the process. They recently enjoyed a Bible Study with the Salvation Army. A Quinquennial survey has taken place and they are looking at securing the car park with railings and a gate as they have suffered from anti-social behaviour causing some broken windows. We were asked to remember Val Bowtle in our prayers as she is in poor health.

**St. Mary's:** There were no representatives, but it was mentioned that they are undergoing some repairs following the local lightening strikes. Others had also been affected.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was none.

## **10. Future meetings**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm with refreshments from 1.45 pm, either in the Vestry or the hall.

The meeting closed in prayer remembering those that we had mentioned.