



IN SAFFRON WALDEN

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Present:** Jeremy Trew, John Goddard, John Capper, Julia Attwood, Tony Attwood, Margaret Hurst, Jill Gunsell, Kathryn Fiddick, Elizabeth Tindley and Emma Turner.

Jeremy opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Jonathan Burton, Shawn Martin, Val Bowtle, Jean Mead and Doris Stacey.

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

3. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 were approved but Tony asked that if anyone is providing the website for CTSW that they contact him regarding the URL as per item 5 in the minutes.

4. **Chairman and Vice Chairman 2024**

It had been previously agreed that the current Chairman would stand for 2 years and then the Vice Chairman would take over. John Goddard had originally said he would stand for 1 year until a replacement could be found but said at the meeting that he could continue if necessary. Jeremy is unable to stand for a second year as the Diocese is short staffed and so his commitments have increased. It was agreed that the Chair does not need to be a member of the Clergy. Tony agreed to stand from 2024 as Chairman with John as Vice Chairman.

5. **Coming Events 2023**

- a) Christian Aid Street Collection: This happened in May and will take place again in May 2024.
- b) Advent Service Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, St. Mary's: All churches are invited to attend and the leaders are invited to take part with readings.
- c) Late Night Shopping Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December: With no forthcoming ideas we will not take part.

6. **Proposals for 2024**

- a) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service: This will take place at the Baptist Church on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 10.30 am. Jeremy will be preaching.
- b) Agape Meal: This will be hosted by URC during the week 18-25<sup>th</sup> January. They will inform us of the date when it is confirmed.
- c) World Day of Prayer: Elizabeth reported that they currently have a profit from their fundraising coffee morning of over £60 which will cover their costs for the next few years. Elizabeth will inform the meeting of the venue for the next WDP and would welcome offers of help.
- d) Easter: It was agreed to continue with arrangements for the Walk of Witness followed by a service at St. Mary's on 29<sup>th</sup> March. We will also advertise in the local press.
- e) Lent: There was discussion about how to organise Lent groups but it was decided that representatives will consider how they would like it to work and report back to the November meeting.

## 7. Christian Aid Week

As reported at the last meeting, URC are looking into hosting a service for this.

## 8. Finance

All subscriptions have been paid, although some were paid into the Barclays account and not the new Building Society one which means we will have to keep it open another year. Our balance stands at £1229.80.

## 9. Future meeting dates 2024

Tony will get some dates together.

## 10. News from Churches

**Salvation Army:** Julia reported that they are partnered with Hope into Action and are purchasing a house which will be available to someone who would otherwise be homeless. They will need offers of furniture in the future. It was suggested that Julia speak to Arthur Coote and/or Isabelle Paige who can offer some help with the housing department at the Council. Their drop-in group continues as well as their bereavement group in partnership with St. Clares.

Please continue to pray for Julia and Tony's daughter for her ministry in Sudbury and her driving test.

**Baptist:** John reported that the Mind and Touchpoint groups are continuing and doing well. 2024 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church and they have events planned throughout the year including a joint service with URC and the General Secretary of the Baptist Union preaching. This month sees a baptism which is always a blessing.

**URC:** Margaret reported that they recently raised enough money for 4 generators for the Ukraine. Their youth numbers are increasing but unfortunately are no further forward in appointing a Minister but they are enjoying a variety of visiting speakers.

**Our Lady of Compassion:** Jill reported that their lay ministers are visiting those unable to get out and they are training more for the role. Youth groups are about to begin again after a summer hiatus.

**St. Mary's:** Jeremy reported that he is very busy as they have 2 members of staff leaving, one of which is an administrator for which they are advertising. They also have reason to celebrate as Ella and Hilary are due to be ordained. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 10-4pm they have an open day to celebrate 90 years of Friends of St. Mary's.

**Society of Friends:** John reported that they are holding a climate vigil in October. Also, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September they will be holding a memorial meeting. A memorial service is held in the manner of Friends. Lasting about 45 minutes it is based on silence with anyone who feels called to do so able to speak about the person who died. For long standing Friends it may be agreed that a Testimonial should be prepared "To the Grace of God as shown in the life of...". This is done in consultation with the family as a kind of eulogy and is kept as a record.

## 11. Any Other Business

**Nativity:** Tony asked if we could consider for next year putting on a Nativity in the Town Hall as a CTSW event which is all-age.

**Website:** Tony asked if a contribution could be made toward the running of website. It costs approximately £30 every two years. He has been happy to pay in the past but is now retired and would welcome a contribution. Every was happy for him to be paid for this service. John Capper said that any expenses should be claimed to give us a true idea of our costs. Even if you don't want to keep the money you can donate it back (with gift aid) or donate it elsewhere.

## 12. Future meetings

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm with refreshments from 1.45 pm. Venue TBC but likely URC.