



IN SAFFRON WALDEN

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023

Present: Jeremy Trew, John Goddard, Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Tony Attwood, Val Bowtle, Margaret Hurst, Kathryn Fiddick, Elizabeth Tindley, Glenys Goodwin and Emma Turner.

Jeremy opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Jean Mead, Julia Attwood, Father David, Jill Gunsell and Doris Stacey.

2. Consideration of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda: VBS Funds, Warm Spaces, Christmas Nativity and Christmas Advert.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th September 2023 were agreed.

4. Coming Events 2023

- a) Advent Service Sunday 3rd December, St. Mary's, 6.30 pm.
- b) Late Night Shopping Friday 8th December.
- c) Christmas Advert. Emma will contact Lisa Knight. We will ask Lisa to use a link to the CTSW website. It was also agreed that Emma will provide individual contacts to Lisa so that she can contact them directly rather than the CTSW group. People would also like to be able to proofread the advert before it goes to print.

Coming events for 2024

- a) Nativity: All are asked to take this idea away to their churches to consider if they would be interested in putting it on. Tony will investigate the potential availability of the Town Hall.
- b) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service: This will take place at the Baptist Church on 21st January, 10.30 am. Jeremy will be preaching.
- c) Agape Meal: 22nd January, URC 7pm for 7.30pm. Let Val know numbers by 14th January.
- d) World Day of Prayer: 1st March at the Baptist Church. Time TBA but will be afternoon.
- e) Easter: Arrangements as previously agreed.
- f) Lent: After a discussion we agreed that those who are holding Lent talks will open them up if appropriate.

5. Finance

The balance stands at £1289.79. The Christmas Advert cost will come out soon.

6. Future meeting dates 2024

Tony will get some dates together, but we agreed the first meeting will be on 8th February, 2pm at URC. Once the dates are available Emma will document them and other agreed dates and distribute them.

7. News from Churches

URC: They continue in the process of appointing a Minister, so they are using a rotation of visiting speakers. They have employed an administrator. They have their Winter Fair on 18th November and

on 10th December is Messy Church with SWBC. They have a carol service on 17th December and are joining with SWBC on Christmas Day. Their recent Fossils and Faith youth event went well.

Salvation Army: Their partnership with St. Clare is now just the bereavement café. A creative group is being piloted with a view to becoming a Bible Journalling group. Tony asked for continued prayers for Patsy and her driving as the hour journey to church is becoming a bit much.

Society of Friends: They held a vigil for climate justice and other things continue as normal.

Baptist: The Induction of the Regional Minister is taking place at SWBC soon. Saffron Walden Town Band will be at the Carol Service on 17th December and the EACH carol service will be on 19th December. The front grass of the church will have a Nativity scene on it which will then be repurposed as a tomb for Easter.

Our Lady of Compassion: Weekend services are now streamed. In the New Year communion and confirmation classes will take place. The refurbishment is planned to start in February.

Community: Home Groups are going well, and the Jubilee Hub is growing. There is a theme of the Covenant for next year to seek where they should be going. Their stall on the market is less often but for a longer amount of time due to a change of location.

St. Mary's: Ella was ordained to the Priesthood and Hilary as a Deacon. They have a new administrator and have a post drawn up for further team members. There are new youth plans including a Mother and Toddler group. Their youth choir has grown immensely. They have their Christmas Fair on 25th November and have plans for Confirmation classes in the New Year.

8. Any Other Business

VBS Funds: It was agreed that the funds left over in the VBS account, £9,882.20, will be split between Holiday Bible Club (Bishops Stortford), Scripture Union, CPAS Venture and Falcon Holidays and Dreaming the Impossible (Vineyard). The report that Jonathan gave is filed with the minutes.

Warm Spaces: Although The Hub is now open each day some churches still hold coffee mornings.

9. Date of next meeting

8th February 2024, 2pm at URC Vestry.